

Pine Barren Modelers R/C Club



June 2018 Newsletter

PINE BARREN MODELERS

Pine Barren Modelers RC Club is a local organization in Ocean County, NJ. Our primary goals are to fly RC planes, promote the hobby, and be involved in the local communities.

CLUB OFFICERS

President - [Rich Bombardier](#)
Vice President - [Ron Pinksaw](#)
Treasurer - [Ralph Ferrara](#)
Secretary - [Bill Martin](#)
Safety Officer - [Pat Lovenstein](#)

PINE BARREN MODELERS RC CLUB – CONTACT INFO

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Find us on FACEBOOK!

QUESTIONS / FEEDBACK:

We always welcome Members, Guests, Questions, and Feedback. Please feel free to Contact or Join Us at our Monthly Meeting!

*Come meet with us @
Barnegat Rec. Center!*

*Come fly with us @ Coyle
Field!*



Short Bursts

- ▶ **Newsletter Contents:** Message from the President, Meeting Highlights, Bill's Corner-Meteorology and Modeling, Sponsors/Advertisers
- ▶ Next meeting is 6 June 2018, 7:30 P.M., at the Barnegat Rec Center.
- ▶ **Save the Dates:** Annual Club Picnic - September 16

Message From The President

June 2018

I feel like a man without a home now that we are not allowed to fly at Brick Wall until further notice. Fortunately we still have Coyle (as long as the military doesn't take it over) and Berkeley has opened up Johnsons Pit off of route 9 for flying until our main field is completed. Hopefully, we will have the temporary field ready for Sunday, June 3rd. Keep an eye out for a follow up email indicating that it's open for use.

The officers are extremely positive with the way the new field is progressing. Pat and I had the opportunity to speak with them on Saturday and they are truly committed to providing us with a beautiful flying field. They are hoping to have much of their work completed by the beginning of June, at least enough for us to come in and start what we need to do to prepare the field. Although the town had to make some last minute changes to the layout of the field, it looks to be a plus for us. Please bear in mind that it may take at least another year to fully have this field complete.

Please be sure to give a big thank you to the Ocean County RC Modelers if and when you see them. When they heard that we had lost our field at Brick Wall, the club officers opened up their field for our members. I hope that our club can return the favor one day and allow them to come and fly off of our new field.

I must apologize, I have not had the opportunity to work on the August Water Fun Fly due to all the recent issues with losing Brick Wall, coordinating the work at the new field and finding us a temporary flying. Now, with the new field coming to completion, we will have a lot of work that will need to be done. If anyone else would like to take control of the August Water Fun Fly, please contact me and I will provide you with the necessary information and contacts in Lacey. Otherwise, I do not have the time and we will have to wait until next year to schedule this.

We'll see you all out at the field and be safe.
Richard Bombardier

Meeting Highlights – 2 May 2018

Officers Present:

P- Richard Bombardier **VP-** Ron Pinksaw **T-** Ralph Ferrara **S-** Bill Martin **SO-** Pat Lovenstein

Attendance:

Club Members:20, , Runtime: ~70min.

New Member(s): Guest Tommy Swieder, son of former member Hank Swieder.

Field Conditions:

Coyle: The contract renewal for the field is pending.

Brick Wall: ~~Tom Powers reported that the field had been rolled on Monday and that conditions were beautiful. He also reported that two of the chairs have come up missing and that the termites are going after the sign.~~

Closed on May 16.

Safety:

There have been no incidents or accidents reported on the fields. Pat Lovenstein took the opportunity to remind everyone that it is their responsibility to call take-offs and landing. More importantly the pilot on the ground must be sure that everyone in the air acknowledges the take-off call. He further stated that if traffic is busy, flyers should have spotters. Anyone in the club will be happy to spot for you. Lastly, he reminded everyone to use up the available runway. There is no need to rush take-offs. You need ground speed to get smoothly into the air without stalling.

Old Business:

- The April Float Fun Fly was a great success. The weather did not fully cooperate, it was a cold morning with a pretty brisk wind, but fearless pilots filled the sky. The addition of the RC Boats really added to the fun. We stopped local traffic with gawkers and at many points during the day the parking lot was completely full. Thanks to everyone who participated.
- The new club raffle is for a Spektrum DX8 transmitter system. Tickets are \$10.00 and only available to club members - see Ron Pinksaw. The drawing will be held at the August meeting.
- Hobby Town will be hosting a swap meet on June 24th for anything RC. There is no charge to setup if you bring your own table, otherwise it is \$5.00 fee to rent a table. Rich has asked them to reserve five table spaces for PBM members.
- Rich recounted his most recent conversation with Mayor Amato regarding the new field. The mayor reiterated his expectation that the field will be ready soon .

New Business:

- Club members were asked if they would like to do another Float Fun Fly at the end of August and the response was a resounding yes planning to begin at next meeting.
- Rich began a discussion about moving the location of the monthly meetings.
- Two past members were remembered. Don Thatcher is currently in a nursing home and club members recently picked up some of his equipment to sell for the family at the Ocean County Modelers' Auction. Long time members will remember Don as the club's 'Chili Man'. Then Pat Lovenstein introduced Hank Swieder's son, Tommy, who brought in a bunch of Hank's old equipment for the members. Pat recalled Hank as a "great guy to fly with and lots of fun." He always wanted everyone to be happy and enjoy flying. Both gentlemen will be sorely missed.

Bill's Corner – Meteorology and Modeling

Water is wonderful stuff. Without it, we wouldn't have life as we know it. But, water can be dangerous, too. Oh, I'm not talking about drowning in it, I'm talking about what happens when water evaporates and re-condenses in midair. I'm talking about what can lead to thunderstorms and lightning.

You see, water is great at absorbing heat. That's why it takes so long to boil water. When water evaporates, that heat turns it into a gas, making the bubble of air it's in moister. To turn it back into water, all you need to do is cool that bubble of air, either by expanding it or by moving it to where the temperature is less. The easiest way to do both is by lifting the bubble of air to a higher altitude, where the temperature and pressure are lower.

There are several ways to start the moist air on its upward trek. It can be forced upwards by an advancing cold front, by being blown against a hill, or by being heated by the sun until it expands and rises like a balloon. The first is more common in spring and fall, whilst the latter two are more common in the summertime (especially in the late afternoon).

When some of the water in the air cools enough return to a liquid state, it releases the heat that had evaporated it, warming the air around it. If that heat makes the bubble warmer than the air around it, the bubble will keep rising, expanding, and cooling, and water will keep condensing and warming the air. Eventually, the bubble will either run out of water vapor or else it'll reach a level where it's no longer warmer than the surrounding air.

If the bubble tops out fairly shortly after condensation starts, then we get some nice, puffy cumulus clouds. Those are the little cotton balls that often show up in the middle of a summer's day. But, if the bubble keeps growing and is joined by other bubbles, eventually the moisture that has condensed will grow until droplets form. Those droplets can then combine and grow until they become too heavy for the rising air to keep them up. Then, they fall as raindrops.

That's still not too bad. We need rain. Without it, balsa wouldn't grow, and where would the hobby be without balsa (You foamy fliers, just be quiet!)? The problems start when the rising bubbles get high enough to form ice crystals. You can tell that's happening when the puffy cloud starts to spread out and form the classic anvil shape. When the ice crystals form, the cloud starts to develop areas of different electrical charge (Exactly how is still a mystery, argued over by a multitude of meteorologists and grad students). This is when we start seeing flashes within the clouds, as charges try to equalize each other within the cloud.

Meanwhile, as the electrical charges grow in the cloud, a similar (but opposite) charge starts to form in sort of a "shadow" on the ground below. That "shadow" will follow the cloud as the cloud drifts along. The big problems start when the charges in the cloud and the "shadow" on the ground start reaching feelers towards each other. You see, air is a wonderful insulator, so it takes a strong charge difference between the cloud and the ground before the air separating the two charges can be bridged. So, when the bridge is made, the spark is a big, powerful flood of electricity, not a little seepage. That's the big spark of cloud to ground (or ground to cloud) lightning. The lightning stroke can travel miles through the air to find an opposite charge. It can easily strike up to ten miles away from the storm and can hit in areas where the rain hasn't even started or has already ended.

Lightning isn't malicious, it just wants to seek ground; the source of the opposite charge. If something like a guy flying a model airplane just happens to be in the way, that's just too bad for the guy (When you drive down the Turnpike, do you seek out the butterfly that flutters in front of you? Heck, no, but it's still fatal for the butterfly...).

To make it worse, the “shadow” charge will try to climb the tallest conductor it can find, so it can get closer to the bottom of the cloud charge. And, if the tallest object is a person holding an R/C transmitter, well....(No, Rich, not even you would be safe!).

Oh, and one myth I'd like to dispel right now. You are not safe in your car because the tires insulate you. Air is a much better insulator than rubber. A lightning bolt that has just traveled through thousands of feet of air is not going to be deterred by the one-foot gap between your car and the ground it so dearly seeks. The tires aren't even a factor. What protects you is what is called a “Faraday Cage”. The electrons in the stroke all repel each other, so they try to travel as far apart from each other as they can. When a car gets in the way of a bolt, the electrons travel along the surface of the car, then to ground. The people inside the car are bypassed by the power of the lightning as it pursues its path to the ground.

All of that power, all due to the ability of water to evaporate and condense. It's amazing how much that liquid we take for granted can do. And we haven't even begun to talk about tornadoes, micro-bursts, or hurricanes!

The summer Thunderstorm Season is rapidly approaching, when afternoon heating generates those majestic – but deadly – anvil clouds. Our primary worry from them is lightning, which can easily reach 5 to 10 miles from the cloud.

If you can hear thunder, land immediately and take cover, even if the cloud isn't overhead. Lightning can easily reach 5 to 10 miles away from the cloud base. So, just because the storm seems to have passed, don't consider it to be time to go back up. Wait until you're SURE it's over.

Lightning isn't like a laser-guided bomb. It's more of area weapon. If it were to strike our flagpole, for example, the “bloom” from it would still have the ability to injure or kill everyone within several dozen yards of the pole. So, don't expect the flagpole to protect you.

What if you see showers, but haven't heard any thunder? There *does* have to be a first rumble-- but it could be from the strike that fries you. So, if you feel your hair standing on end or if you feel a “prickly” sensation, you are feeling that charge “shadow” move over you. You may be within seconds of being hit! Either lay flat on the ground or dive into your car IMMEDIATELY. Don't take the time to clean off your plane, etc., as you may not have that much time left.

For humans, the speed of light is so fast as to be essentially instantaneous. But, the speed of sound is a measly 1100 feet per second at sea level. So, if you see a flash and hear the rumble about 5 seconds later, you can assume the stroke was about a mile away. What you have to ask yourself is “Am I SURE that rumble was the sound from THAT flash?” and “Was the rumble from the near end of the flash or from the far end?” If in doubt, err on the side of caution – No model airplane is worth dying for!

On a less dangerous note, thunderstorms also generate strong, gusty winds (usually a sort of mini-cold front). Those winds can arrive several minutes *before* the storm, making for another reason to land and pack up before the wind ruins your landing approach or even blows your models, stands (and some of our lighter modelers!) away!

Bill Bowne

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