

# Pine Barren Modelers R/C Club

February 2025



## Club Meeting Highlights

*(Remember, these are NOT the minutes, so they don't contain sensitive information. The complete minutes will be sent out before the next meeting).*

### 5 February 2025

#### Club Officers

President—Dennis Spatcher  
Vice Pres.—Mark Tilton  
Treasurer—Ralph Ferrara  
Secretary—Micki Bowne  
Safety Officer—Pat Lovenstein

#### Contact Us:

For website, classified ads, or  
any other club information, visit  
our web site at:

<https://pbm1727.org>

or our Facebook group:

**PBM on Facebook**

Links to club officer and other  
e-mails are via the website.

You can also mail us at:

Pine Barren Modelers RC Club  
P.O. Box 38  
Bayville, NJ 08721

All officers and 22 regular members were present.

#### Field Reports:

**Coyle:** No report, and there hasn't been enough sunlight to keep the camera charged.

**Temporary Field (Johnson's Pit):** Tom Powers was there today and says it looks good. Truck tracks are visible in the snow, so we still have trespassers. Mark Tilton made and honchoed installing the new club sign. Looks great!

**Safety Report:** Some of us are still flying well past Locker St. Pat reported seeing two planes fly more than half-way between Locker St. and Rt. 9 as he was turning off Mizzen Ave. That's WAY too far out, even for fast models.

*(As a side note, whilst looking for the water tower in Google Maps, I found that the Pine Barrens R/C field is listed on Google Maps. I didn't know that! Makes it easier to vector people to our field. Ed. Bill)*

**Instructors' Report:** Gary Santaniello reminded everyone that Instructors are a resource we should all use. If you have a new or repaired model, ask an instructor to take a look at it. Even we long-time builders welcome extra eyes checking over our models. I know I'd rather have someone spot a missing wheel collar, cracked prop, etc., than have to walk the Walk of Shame with a crashed model.

Gary also reminded us that Spektrum has issued new firmware updates.

**Treasurer:** Ralph reports we now have car magnets (same size as the window stickers) to add to our inventory, plus plenty of tee and sweat shirts.

### Old Business

- The red (flight) line has been painted, but another coat is needed
- Dennis has ordered a new weather station. We hope it'll be installed by the end of March.
- Indoor flying's been doing well, but we've had a few mid-airs. Please, if 4 folks are already flying, wait until one lands before you launch.
- Rich B. (Who's that? ;-)) will check into when the next Middle School Fair will be.
- We aren't satisfied with our club website and are looking for a new, more reliable host. At this time, "Dual Rates.com" looks to be pretty good. The site is aimed towards R/Cers and is priced about the same as our current provider.
- Rich B has spoken with town maintenance about our new field gate, but it looks like it won't be installed until spring
- We still need a 20 ft pole for the wind sock and transportation for the pole. The pole will have to be permanently mounted, so it won't be easily destroyed. If you can help, see VP Mark.
- We got paid \$500 for last Fall's Locker Street cleanup.
- Dennis looked at our club laptop computer and thinks he can save it with a new hard-drive. We use the laptop for club business and to run a simulator at public events, so this is a good investment.

### New Business

- The club presented ex-President Rich Bombardier with a plaque, in thanks for his years of service to the club.
- Rich B. will check if we can get an electronic sign from the township for our open house.
- Mark Tilton asked if the club is interested in a pig roast. See him for details (*and condiments ;-)*)
- Ron FPV, honcho of our Eagle Flies, wants to scale back to mere Chickens for Spring "Turn-Your clocks-Ahead day. Again, if you're interested, please see Ron.
- Our 2025 Christmas Party is set for Kristy's Diner in Waretown. It'll be a sit-down dinner on 13 Dec. The price will go up to \$43 per person, but with more food choices and a LOT quieter environment.
- The Scouts have asked PBM provide a guest speaker at a meeting. We discussed having them come to the field to fly with buddy boxes and, maybe, have a meeting at our field.
- The Lacey Women's Club is having a Hobby Fair on 30 March, at their community center. We bought two tables (\$20 each) and will set up the simulator (using the club laptop) and put planes on display. Dennis plans to show videos from an evening fly, plus we welcome (need) models for show.
- The club raffle returns, with an E-Flite Sportix 1.1m BnF. Drawing will be in May or June, depending on when all the tickets are sold.
- It's time to revise the club By-Laws. Have ideas you want to propose? Contact Ron Jasper, Gary Santaniello, Rich Bombardier, Dennis Spatcher, or Ralph Ferrara.
- We talked about becoming an AMA Leader Club. We're almost there, but need to make a few changes to our field layout (such as a protected spectator area) to qualify. It's an honor to be recognized as a Leader Club!

### Model of the Month

Gary Santaniello showed us his beautiful Spitfire Mk IX, built by Paul Hammond from the Great Planes kit. Gary converted it to Electric, using a very creative 3-D printed ballast weight mount that goes AROUND the motor.

Bill Bowne showed off a Futaba Single-Stick transmitter, converted from 72 MhZ to 2.4 GhZ by Radio South.

(Right) The new club officers presented outgoing (in more ways than one!) ex-President Rich with a “Thank You” plaque for his many years of service to the PBM club. (Micki is behind the camera, blocking Rich’s escape route).



(Left) Gary Santeniello, his Spitfire Mk IX, and his innovative 3-D printed ballast system.

(Right) Bill Bowne and the Futaba single-stick transmitter he had converted to 2.4 GHz.





## Bill's Corner

As it's Building (or Repairing) Season for some of us, I thought I'd share some (hopefully) helpful hints and gadgetry I use in my workshop.

I needed to sand the fin slot in my newest model. The slot's only 1/4" wide, so I needed a sanding 'block' narrower than that. Perfect place for a Sanding Stick (left) and in use (right).



Sanding Sticks (above) are Popsicle sticks, with different grades of sandpaper glued to them. Like emery boards (nail files), sanding sticks can get into close spots. Unlike Emery boards, which are usually very fine grit, sanding sticks can be whatever grit you want. In this case, I used one with 60 grit sandpaper glued to each side.

Another handy tool (right) is a steadying jack. Simply, they're pine blocks drilled and tapped for 1/4 X 20 bolts. Blocked up on other wood scraps, they allow fine adjustments of whatever is being blocked up.



(left) Now, for the two spray bottles (from the beauty care aisle at Wal-Mart) and the red-capped, re-purposed spice bottle. We'll start with the bottle of white powder.

That's Baking Soda, i.e. Sodium Bicarbonate. Wetted with thin CA, it forms a rock-hard mass, useful for some repairs. Be cautious when using it, though, as it also accelerates CA curing.

The yellow bottle contains rubbing (Isopropyl) alcohol. Rubbing alcohol will dissolve many of the glues used on decals, sticker, and bottle labels. It'll also remove Sharpie pen ink. If you're shrinking tissue on a model, it's better than water mist as it evaporates faster, reducing balsa warping.

Finally, the pink bottle contains...water (mostly).

A fine mist of water helps Gorilla glue cure faster. It'll also lubricate stickers and decals, without leaving any soapy film.

Mostly? I added about a half-tablespoon of plain white vinegar, about a half-tablespoon to the water in that little bottle. It keeps strange life forms from evolving in the spray bottle as it sits on my workbench! Problem is, using it spreads that delicious vinegar smell into the air and makes me think about breaking for lunch!

# Instructor's Insights By Gary Santaniello

## Suggestions for Beginner Helicopters

Choosing the best beginner RC helicopter depends on several factors like ease of control, durability, and budget. Here are some great options for beginners, balancing stability, simplicity, and performance:

### 1. Blade 120 S2

- **Type:** Fixed-pitch, flybarless
- **Features:**
  - **SAFE Technology:** Stabilization feature that helps level the helicopter and prevent crashes, ideal for beginners.
  - **Durable Design:** Made to withstand crashes, with flexible rotor blades and durable construction.
  - **Multiple Flight Modes:** Beginner, intermediate, and experienced modes to help you progress as you learn.
- **Why it's great:** The Blade 120 S2 offers stability and ease of use, with beginner-friendly features like self-leveling and panic recovery.

### 2. Syma S107G

- **Type:** Coaxial (two sets of main rotor blades for extra stability)
- **Features:**
  - **Ease of Use:** Designed specifically for beginners, with stable flight and simple controls.
  - **Durability:** Lightweight and durable, so it can handle crashes well.
  - **Indoor Flight:** Best suited for indoor flying due to its size and lightweight design.
- **Why it's great:** One of the most affordable and beginner-friendly helicopters on the market, perfect for those just getting started with minimal risk.

### 3. Blade mCP S

- **Type:** Collective pitch
- **Features:**
  - **SAFE Technology:** Offers self-leveling and panic recovery.
  - **Durability:** Highly crash-resistant, making it a good choice for new pilots who want to learn aerobatics.
  - **Advanced Features:** As a collective pitch helicopter, it allows you to grow from basic flight to 3D aerobatics.
- **Why it's great:** It's beginner-friendly but also a good platform for advancing into more complex flying, making it a long-term option.

### 4. E-flite Blade Nano S3

- **Type:** Collective pitch, flybarless

- **Features:**

- **Stability:** Uses SAFE technology and a self-leveling mode that makes it easy for beginners to control.
- **Durability:** Tough design that can handle crashes, perfect for learning.
- **Panic Recovery:** If you lose control, a quick switch will bring the helicopter back to a stable hover.
- **Why it's great:** Ideal for both beginners and intermediate pilots, allowing for skill progression while maintaining a forgiving flight experience.

## 5. WLtoys V911S

- **Type:** Fixed pitch, flybarless

- **Features:**

- **Budget-Friendly:** One of the most affordable options for beginners.
- **Stability:** Fixed pitch and flybarless design ensures smooth and stable flight.
- **Outdoor Capable:** Can handle mild outdoor conditions better than many small helicopters.
- **Why it's great:** Offers a balance between performance and price, perfect for someone starting out but also interested in learning more complex flight techniques.

## 6. E-flite Blade 230 S V2

- **Type:** Collective pitch, flybarless

- **Features:**

- **SAFE Technology:** Self-leveling, panic recovery, and three flight modes (beginner to advanced).
- **Advanced Capabilities:** Great for progressing into aerobatic maneuvers like flips and rolls.
- **Durable Design:** Built to survive crashes, with easily replaceable parts.
- **Why it's great:** While not the cheapest, the Blade 230 S V2 is perfect for a beginner looking to progress into more advanced RC helicopter flying.

Factors to Consider for a Beginner Helicopter:

1. **Stability:** Look for helicopters with stabilization features like coaxial rotors or SAFE technology.
2. **Durability:** Crashes are inevitable, so choose a helicopter known for durability and having affordable replacement parts.
3. **Flight Modes:** Many beginner helicopters offer different flight modes, allowing you to start with a more stable configuration and progress to more advanced controls.
4. **Size:** Start with smaller models, which are more affordable, easier to control, and less prone to damage in crashes.
5. **Indoor vs. Outdoor:** Beginners may want to start indoors with smaller models to avoid wind interference and obstacles.

### Best Overall for Beginners:

If you're looking for the best all-around beginner RC helicopter, Blade 120 S2 is an excellent choice. It offers stability, durability, and a variety of flight modes that will help you learn quickly and confidently.