Pine Barren Modelers R/C Club
September 2024

From the President's Desk

I guess we can say that summer is officially over and hope everyone had a great Labor Day holiday. However, this does NOT mean that the flying is over by any means. We still have plenty of flying ahead of us, including our indoor flying later this year.

We still have our annual picnic coming up this month along with our last pylon race for the season. This year, the club opted to have the picnic at our main flying field in Bayville and I hope to see everyone there. As always, the club will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs, along with the (non-alcoholic) beverages. Everyone is asked to bring something to share, whether it's your famous recipe or just a bag of chips.

Also, we have our annual Fall flea market in October, which is a great time to sell a plane you no longer fly or maybe find something new for your collection. Please call or see Ralph to reserve your table.

Stay safe and have fun!

Richard Bombardier

Club President

September Club Events:

Warbirds - 14 Sep

Pylon & Picnic - 22 Sep

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).
4 September 2024

Note: Due to a scheduling mistake, club secretary Micki was unable to be at the meeting. President Rich graciously volunteered to fill in for her, so the highlights and official minutes won't be in their usual format.

18 members were at the meeting

Field Reports:

Coyle: Coyle field looks good, Fire service rolled the field.

Temporary Field (Johnson's Pit): Johnson's Pit is in good shape. Paul will finish up with the ground clear on the runway.

Safety Report: Nothing to report

Instructors' Report: None

Treasurer's Report: Read and approved

Website: 1,941 views for the month of August. Facebook up to 508 members.

New Members: Jeff Fernandez and Chris Bellman

Probationary Members: Three were voted in. Welcome Jim Abarro, Joe Gross, and Ricardo Martinez. (As most of you know, Joe is a returning member and a past club president)

Old Business:

✈ Indoor flying. The club agreed to spend $500 for another winter of indoor flying.

✈ Just a reminder that the dues will automatically go up to $80 for 2025.

New Business:

✈ Ron Pinksaw will honcho getting the community grant set up with the township to clean Locker Street. We've done this for a few years. It only takes about an hour of volunteer effort, the township provides tools, bags, etc., and the club earns a nice sum.

✈ There club approved a motion to spend between $500 and $600 for the 2024 Christmas party.

✈ There was no Model of the Month

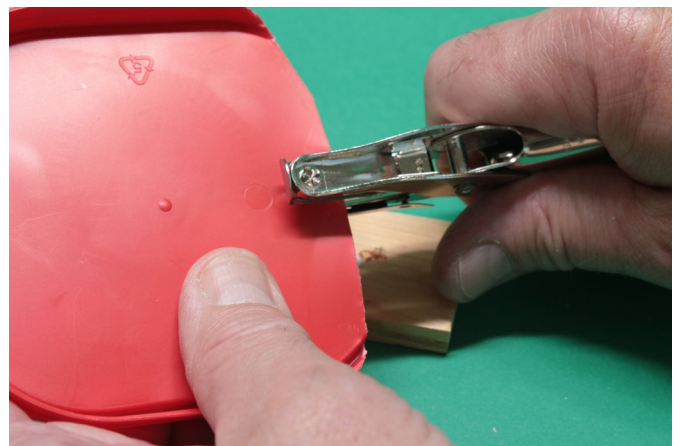Again, Micki and I thank President Rich for doing double duty!

Bill's Corner

Once again, Gary Santanello's Spektrum programming articles are at the end of the newsletter, for easy printing and saving.
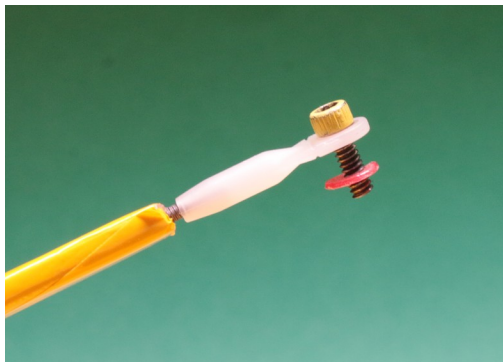
A few simple ideas this month...

1) When drilling for the wing bolts, drill for one bolt, then remove the wing and tap the bolt hole. Next, re-attach the wing, using a bolt in the drilled and tapped hole. Now, drill and tap the second hole. Much easier than trying to do both holes at once! When the bolt holes are drilled and tapped, remove the wing and dribble a little thin CA into the tapped holes. Let it cure, then run the tap back through them to clean up the threads.

2) Most kits don't include the wing rib patterns. But, if you really crunch a wing, you'll need to rebuild those shattered ribs. So, before you start building a wing, take a sharp pencil and trace each (different) rib. You can trace them onto the back of the plans or on separate sheets of paper, BUT, if you use separate sheets, make sure you staple them to the plans. If you don't, Murphy's law states that they'll disappear!

3) Micki's ARF Cub came with small, metal wing and strut retaining machine screws. I knew that any of those screws that got dropped would probably be lost forever, so I made these simple retainers. Being made of soft plastic, they'll stay on the screw, yet the machine screw can be tightened securely. Here's how I made a set for Micki's Cub (One caveat – please, make sure any retainers added to your wing bolts don't alter the wing's incidence!).

Step 1 (*left*): Using a soft plastic lid (yes, I like raisins in my breakfast oatmeal!), drill a series holes slightly smaller in diameter than your machine screws' thickness.

Step 2 (*right*): Use a hole punch to punch out a disc of plastic containing the hole.

Step 3 (*left*): Thread the retainer onto the machine screw. Done!

Using the Model Utility Function on Spektrum Transmitters
By Gary Santaniello

Introduction:
Spektrum transmitters are highly regarded in the RC community for their robust features and intuitive design. One of the standout features is the model utility function, which offers a suite of tools for managing and customizing your model settings. This article will delve into the various aspects of the model utility function, providing a comprehensive guide to help you make the most of your Spektrum transmitter.

What is the Model Utility Function? The model utility function is a set of tools within Spektrum transmitters that allows users to manage, organize, and customize their model settings. These tools include model select, model copy, model reset, model delete, and more. By mastering these functions, users can efficiently handle multiple models, ensuring optimal performance and convenience.

Key Features of the Model Utility Function

1. Model Select
- **Purpose**: Quickly switch between different models stored on your transmitter.
- **How to Use:** Navigate to the 'Model Select' option in the main menu. A list of all saved models will appear. Select the desired model and confirm your choice. The transmitter will load the settings for the chosen model.

2. Model Copy
- **Purpose:** Create a duplicate of an existing model, useful for experimenting with new settings without altering the original configuration.
- **How to Use:** Go to 'Model Utilities' and select 'Model Copy.' Choose the model you want to copy and then select the destination slot for the new model. Confirm to complete the copy process.

3. Model Reset
- **Purpose:** Reset a model to its default settings, erasing all custom configurations.
- **How to Use:** In the 'Model Utilities' menu, select 'Model Reset.' Choose the model you want to reset and confirm. Be cautious as this action cannot be undone.

4. Model Delete
- **Purpose:** Remove a model from the transmitter's memory to free up space.
- **How to Use:** Navigate to 'Model Utilities' and select 'Model Delete.' Choose the model you wish to delete and confirm the deletion. Ensure you have backed up any important settings before deleting.

5. Model Name
- **Purpose:** Rename your models for easy identification.
- **How to Use:** Go to 'Model Utilities' and select 'Model Name.' Use the transmitter's interface to input a new name for the selected model. Save the changes once completed.

6. Model Transfer
- **Purpose:** Transfer model settings between different transmitters or to an SD card.
- **How to Use:** In the 'Model Utilities' menu, select 'Transfer SD Card.' Follow the prompts to either save or load model settings to/from an SD card. This is useful for backing up data or sharing configurations with other pilots.

Practical Applications of the Model Utility Function

1. Organizing Multiple Models
　◦ For pilots who operate various RC models, the model utility function provides an efficient way to organize and manage different settings. Label each model appropriately and use the model select feature to switch between them effortlessly.

2. Experimentation and Fine-Tuning
　◦ Use the model copy function to create duplicates of your models. This allows you to experiment with different settings and configurations without risking your original setup. Once you find the optimal settings, you can make them permanent or use them as a new baseline.

3. Simplifying Firmware Updates
　◦ When updating firmware, the model utility function can help ensure your models are correctly backed up. Use the model transfer feature to save your settings to an SD card before performing an update, then reload them afterward to restore your configurations.

4. Collaborative Projects
　◦ The model transfer function is perfect for collaborative projects where settings need to be shared among different pilots. Save your model settings to an SD card and pass them to a fellow pilot, ensuring consistency and saving time on reconfiguration.

　5. NOTE: Models can be transferred between like transmitters (DX to DX, NX to NX, IX to IX) or from older to newer generations (DX to NX or IX, NX to IX) but not newer to older.

Tips for Effective Use

1. Regular Backups
　◦ Regularly back up your model settings to an SD card to prevent data loss. This is particularly important before making significant changes or performing firmware updates.

2. Clear Naming Conventions
　◦ Use clear and descriptive names for your models. This will make it easier to identify and select the correct model, especially if you manage a large number of models.

3. Utilize Model Copy for Testing
　◦ Take advantage of the model copy function to test new configurations. This allows you to make adjustments and see their effects without jeopardizing your original settings.

Conclusion: The model utility function on Spektrum transmitters is a powerful toolset that enhances the management and customization of your RC models. By mastering these functions, you can efficiently organize your models, experiment with new settings, and ensure your configurations are always backed up and secure. Embrace the full potential of your Spektrum transmitter and enjoy a more streamlined and enjoyable RC experience.