



BARNSTORMERS NEWS

DECEMBER 2009



Barnstormers News is a publication of the Vermont Modelers Club Inc. providing ideas, information and news about models, model building and Club activities.
©12/1/09 President-Robert Doyon; Vice President-Michael Hickory; Treasurer-Alan Zaur; Safety Coordinator-Mike Pecue; Secretary/Newsletter Editor-Dennis Benjamin

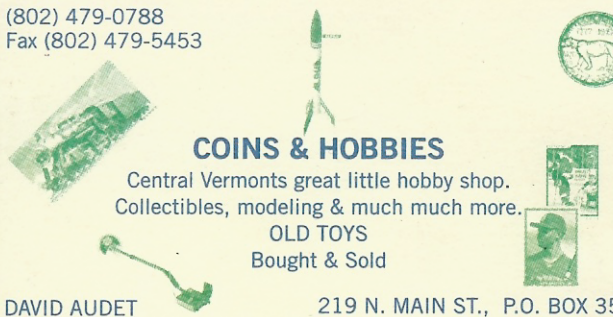
To learn more about the VMC, see pictures of Club activities and find maps to our flying sites, visit www.vtmodelers.com

MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

The November meeting of the VMC was held at the National Guard Armory in Northfield. President Bob Doyon called the meeting to order at 7PM with 13 members and 2 guests in attendance. Minutes and reports were waived. Old Business: Secretary Dennis Benjamin asked for a final decision on the winter schedule of activities. He reviewed options previously discussed, including adding more indoor sessions at Central VT Academy and moving the meetings back to the Academy to accommodate members who prefer to travel during daylight hours. Charlie Sjobeck reminded the members that low attendance at recent years indoor sessions has been a concern. Bob suggested including special activities at each event such as: tech-talks, how-to presentations, helicopter skills / rubber power duration or other types of contests. Dennis suggested that returning winter meetings to the Academy might also boost attendance. It was agreed that an additional indoor fly will be added to Jan Feb & Mar and that meetings will be held at the Academy on the first session each month and that our events schedule will be published. Bob asked the members to be thinking about activities or features that could be added to future events in keeping with the "High Five" theme. For instance: a lap-top flight-sim, a hobby video, a tech session, and a contest could be added to a fun fly, resulting in Five features per event. New Business:

Bob reopened discussion of planning for 2010 incorporating the "High Five" theme. He proposed that every member should do some

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thinking about what hobby skills he wants to develop and what activities he would enjoy over the next year; as well as how the Club can help him and how he can help the Club. Bob would like each of us to develop and write down "High Five" goals that we believe we can actually achieve next year. For example: participate in at least Five Club events; fly at least Five different models (not necessarily all your own); assist at least Five other members; give a VMC business/contact card to at least Five people interested in the hobby; participate in at least Five training sessions, either as a trainer or as a student; mow or do some work at the flying field at least Five times; etc.. Bob asked us to imagine how excellent it would be if every member achieved Five goals, we could be happily celebrating 250 or more accomplishments by this time next year. The members were inspired and suggested several more goals such as: visit at least Five other clubs in the region, attend events or at least fly a model at Five or more different sites. [Reminder: the VMC has Five flying sites: Wrightsville, Orange, Airport Road, Central VT Academy and the National Guard Armory. No other club in the region can match us for variety!] Bob advised the members that several of the officers and 'frequent flyer' members have been thinking about the layout of our flying field on Airport Road. Last year several of our members made a special effort to get out and visit other clubs in the region and we enjoyed having visitors from other Clubs at our field. Many R/C hobbyists carry their large models in trailers. We had several trailers on our field last summer and it was observed that we could use a little more room for maneuvering, parking and improved observer safety/comfort. Bob asked Safety Officer Mike Pecue to describe the idea that has developed as a result of several months of conversation. Mike described the concerns and ideas that have been discussed and the improvements that are recommended. In

summary: more room is needed between the road and the pits for vehicles to move/park and for people to set up gear and wander; flying activity should be farther from the road and parking areas; flying activity is currently oriented west of the mid-point of the main runway. Moving the pit safety fence forward to the current catch net location will provide ample parking and people space. Moving the catch nets and pilot stations forward will provide more space and improve safety by moving the flying zone farther from the road and parking area. Moving the windsock pole, frequency board, pit tables and sun shelter toward the midpoint of the main runway will orient flying closer to the center of runway and will improve takeoff and landing and sight lines. The existing runway is wide enough to accommodate the change without difficulty, however it is proposed that an equal sized strip of the current 'taller grass' triangle be improved and kept mowed to keep the useable runway the same width as currently exists. Mike reminded the members that we have arranged for a portable toilet and it will be located around the west end of the shed. Access to the spot must be kept open for the service truck which means that the current sun shelter location must change anyway. The cost of the changes will be minimal since we already own all the materials except some replacement PVC pipe for new sockets and some soil/sand/gravel to improve some ground surfaces. Therefore, the recommendation/proposal is to: relocate pit safety fence to current catch net location; establish new pit area by relocating catch nets to new sockets further from road; relocate windsock pole, frequency board and sun shelter nearer to midpoint of main runway; improve and keep mowed a sufficient portion of the 'tall grass' triangle area to keep runway width essentially unchanged. Mike made a motion requesting approval of the proposal. The motion passed. Bob reopened discussion of the new Club website.

Gregg Banse reported that he has created a 'base camp' site for the project on the 7th Pixel host server and that members wishing to contribute suggestions, photos, helpful articles or other material as 'candidates' for site content, can contact him for access permission. Bob advised the members that Dave O'Donnell has found a website that offers both free and low cost options for developing business cards. Dave showed the members a few examples developed using the Vista Print websites free access software. Bob reminded Dave of a suggestion made earlier that creating small batches of cards with coming events listed on the backside would be a very good way to get folks to come visit us. Also a contact name and number should be on each. Dennis volunteered to serve in that capacity as he is Club Secretary. Dave advised that he will continue to develop possible designs. Mike Pecue advised the members that plans are solidly underway for a national level AMA event to be held at in POwnal VT at the former greyhound racetrack next June 11,12&13th. Several very famous R/C pilots and numerous vendors have already signed up for the event. The old racetrack has sufficient space and facilities to accommodate thousands of spectators and

hundreds of participants and vendors. The event will be the first Major R/C event in Vermont, surpassing even the annual NE region Jet Rallies which ended several years ago with loss of the Middlebury airport site. There being no further business offered for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 and flying resumed in the drill hall. The next regular meeting of the VMC will be held at 7PM at the National Guard Armory in Northfield on December 9th. Members are encouraged to come as early as 6PM and fly in the drill hall.



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

The December meeting will be held on **Wednesday the 9th** in the Break Room at the National Guard Armory on General Cram Drive adjacent to Norwich University in Northfield commencing at 7PM.

First Fly 2010 will be held on New Years day commencing at **9AM** at the **Flying Field on Airport Road** in Barre Town.

The **January Meeting and Fun Fly** will be held on **Saturday the 10th** commencing at **Noon** in the **Bryant & Daley gymnasium** at **Central Vermont Academy** on Vine St. in Berlin.