



Club Newsletter

AMA CHAPTER 172, CIRCA 1960,
FAIRFIELD CA

December 2010 Issue 12

<http://www.vacavalleyrc.com>

The Pres Says.....

3 ready to fly planes added to the raffle on
Dec 11th at the Blue Frog Grill

- 1: Ready to fly Revolver (engine and stuff)
- 2: ARF Trainer ready to set up!!!!!!1
- 3: A mystery Plane

plus \$600 dollars worth of other stuff
Make your reservations for the XMAS Party
....Come out Saturday night for a good time
talking airplanes and eating some great
food. And then there's the raffle....

Monty "Crash & Burn" Welch

Nov 9th 2010 Meeting Minutes: Called to order @ 7:30. 15 members in attendance, Dave Hawkins as a guest whom later joined the club.

Committee Reports:

Flying site: Looking good. Mike needs money for gas. Jason will take care of that.

Membership: 72 members

Safety: A long discussion ensued about how the three batteries on charge started a contained fire. The charger was set up with three different battery sizes. All were wired to a balancing circuit. This setup will not allow the charger to properly detect the proper current and voltage. Plus this may allow one battery to go into thermal overload as it can take all of the volts and current. Li-Po batteries are very finicky and need to be watched carefully during charging. Marshall brought up that Jim Adams had a plane that someone left on his doorstep. This plane was a trainer. It needed extensive repairs to make it safe to fly. If you agree to fly a student's airplane please check it out carefully, and do not hesitate to refuse to let it fly if it isn't safe.

Events: Dec 11 Xmas dinner Blue Frog in Fairfield. Woodland mall show and swap meet 11-12.

Old Business: Raffle monies are as follows \$200 for the Ladies and \$800 for the rest. The money will come from the general fund for the difference.

Nominations: Monty Welch president
New Business: Can we help support the WDA mall show? Since we have no event director we will have to determine what events we as a club want to have.

Toilet Seat Award: Ben Jonsson for flying his airplane off the wrong radio programming.

Show and Tell: None

Raffle: Some fuel and other stuff were won.

Secretaries' Colum Oren Redsun

The Li-Po battery incident at the field could have turned into a very big fire. We are lucky to have some real quick thinking members. Most chargers that have an external or internal balancing circuit are only designed to charge one battery per balancing circuit. I have a mixture of balanced and un-balanced batteries. I only charge these while I'm near them. One member has had his whole garage go up in smoke from a bad charger not the battery. This newer technology requires careful use.

Here are some links:

http://www.metacafe.com/watch/3442874/li_po_battery_overcharged_and_burning_lots_of_smoke_and_fire

http://www.metacafe.com/watch/yt-B-AoAYrEy-o/lipo_battery_fire/

<http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=209187>

A good article on care and feeding of Li-Po's....

I will be setting up 3 Realfight and FS One simulators at the WDA Mall show. If anyone is willing to help monitor and teach that would be great. I should be setting up by 10am.

See you at the field SOON
Oren

[At64me @yahoo.com](mailto:At64me@yahoo.com)

Emails sent to me about the charging incident. To and from Frank Martin and allerc.com.

From: info@allerc.com

To: fskymartin@hotmail.com

Date: Thu, 21 Oct 2010 11:46:34 -0700

Frank, it sounds like the guy wasn't well-versed in the care and treatment of LiPoly packs. Although most manufacturers don't recommend multi-pack charging (CYA), it has been done successfully as long as certain rules are followed and the user has basic understanding of electronics. On www.rcgroups.com in the "Batteries and Chargers" forums, there are a number of recommended ways to go about it, but as always, "let the tryer beware". The biggest problem with series- or parallel-charging multiple packs is fooling the charger into thinking it's really one bigger pack, and making sure the connections are proper (including the balance connectors). Also, the charger must be capable of handling the power required. If the charging leads are correctly set up but the balance taps are not, you may get exactly what you described.

For example: Charging two 3S packs in series.... The packs must have their power leads connected in series, making it appear to the charger as a single 6S pack. The charger must then be set to 6S. The two packs' balance connectors must also be 'merged' so that the charger sees all 6 cells. Otherwise, if you're lucky the charger will signal an error and shut down... worst case, the packs will be charged without monitoring each cell's voltage, and anything could happen.

Parallel charging two 3S packs: power leads wired in parallel, balance taps wired in parallel, charger set to 3S but twice the charge current. Sounds pretty simple, but the catch is that the two

packs must be almost identically charged and balanced before being connected... otherwise, the higher-voltage pack will try to charge the lower-voltage pack, with ABSOLUTELY NO LIMIT on current flow (before the charger even enters the picture). Best and safest approach: If ya wanna charge two packs at once, get a Hyperion Duo charger (two complete chargers in one box).

Regards..

Bob

ALL e RC

----- Original Message -----

To: [David Sobel](#)

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 16:06 PM

Hi Dave,

It was nice to meet you at Reno.

I have a situation that concerns Li poly battery charging that caused a battery to ignite like a blow torch. The person that charged the battery had a pig tail or splitter that had a single set of banana plugs leading to six sets of deans connectors. After the fire I tried to explain to the person that you can't charge multiple packs while only having one battery being connected to the balance port of a single charger and use multiple leads off a splitter. The person involved still believes that current will seek the path of least resistance and that all batteries can be safely charged while only one is connected to a balance port.

As one of a few electric fliers at our field I don't want to see a repeat of this and the possible ban of Li-Poly batteries at our site.

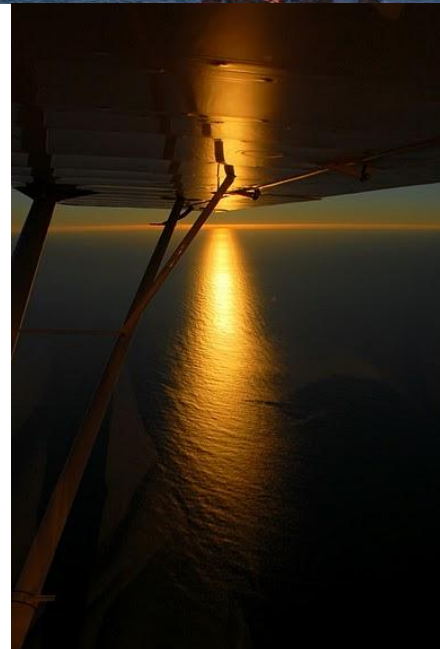
Your comments on this would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Frank

Thanks Don Prosser for the Pictures

<http://picasaweb.google.com/machineplanet/MagicHourOnTheCoast#slideshow/5543741882644213730>

Over Half Moon Bay





WOODLAND DAVIS AEROMODELER'S

ANNUAL

MALL SHOW & SWAP MEET

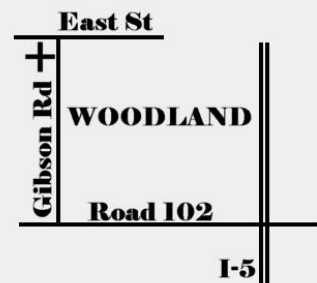


Director: George Miller
(916) 992-8465



DECEMBER 11 - 12

County Fair Mall
1264 E. Gibson Rd
Woodland, CA



Awards: Military, Civilian, Sport, Peoples Choice
\$10.00 per selling table and bring your own table

**VACA VALLEY RADIO
CONTROLLERS, INC.**

Current Flight Instructors

Current Flight Instructors

Mornings *

***Paul Gundolff 707 452-0960**
Jim Adams 707 446-0648
Marshall Ostrom 707 488-1509
Pat Lively 707 483-0246
Jim Williams 707 447-0719
Scott Rowan 707 446-6982
Oren Redsun 707 718-2797
Chuck Roundy 707 425-1402
Monty Welch 707 451-1842
(mode 1 only)

Event List

**Meetings: (Second Tuesday of every
month except December)
Nut Tree Airport Vacaville. @7:30PM**

2010 Meeting Schedule

December 11 Christmas Party

**C/O VACA-VALLEY R/C
Oren Redsun
4909 Summer Grove Circle
Fairfield, CA 94534**



**December 11 Xmas Party
Dec 18 Fun Fly**