March 2003

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Ampeer subscriptions are  
$10 a year US & Canada  
and $17 a year world wide.

The Next Meeting:  
Date: Thursday, March 6  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Ken’s house: 1911 Bradshaw Ct., Walled Lake

What’s In The March 2003 Issue:  

Hobby Lobby FILIP 600 + Ailerons  
From: Larry Bailey lnbailey@cox.net

My Filip uses a Speed 500 Gear Plus. (speed 500, 2.8:1 gear box, speed controller), 4 servos and JR radio.

The aircraft flew very well. It had a good climb with an 11x8 folding prop and seven x 1800 mAh cells. A 12x10 would cause the speed controller to "miss". Overall, it is a very nice flier and meets the Hobby Lobby high standard in ARF's. Rating 5(*****)

One note, read the speed control instructions covering the number of servos the BEC will handle. The 500+ is rated for three servos. I thought, well one more will be OK. During the Sept, 02 EISSL meet at Blakesburg, IA, my FILIP spun into a wooded area from about 400 feet. The tree landing was impressive! Shredded one wing, the battery pack launched out of the fuselage as designed, never to be seen again, but the aircraft remained in the tree. Prior to the spin, several observers said they noticed control surfaces flutter. The cause was never pinned down, but over loading the BEC with the fourth servo can't be ruled out.

With the permission of the field owners, we cut the tree down the following day and recovered the remains.

"Getting Started"  
From: Dave Segal Ddavesegal@aol.com

I just read your piece "Getting Started...." and it is the best thing I have ever read on the subject. I meet beginners and I feel frustrated that in a couple of sentences I can't tell them what they should do.

I spent a great deal of time trying to think of the most simplified set of guidelines intended to keep a beginner from failing. I boiled them down into a generalized set of principles which (I think) were printed in the KRC newsletter last year. For what it's worth:

How to Succeed in R/C Flying

The Goal:  
To learn how to fly R/C in a reasonable
amount of time and with the least pain.

**The Guiding Principle:**
EVERY DECISION AND ACTION YOU TAKE SHOULD AIM AT INCREASING THE PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS.

1. Go with the mainstream practices recommended for students.
2. Keep it simple.
3. See number 2.

Here are a few examples of steps that increase the probability of success:

- Use a trainer with a low wing loading.
- Get a buddy box and fly with a qualified instructor.
- Practice on a computer flight simulator.
- Buy a brand new radio system.
- Break-in your engine.
- Do your homework; read what the experts have written to guide you.

And now for the actions that will diminish your probability of success:

- Get a fast model with a high wing loading.
- Try to learn to fly on your own.
- Use your uncle Harry's 17 year old radio system.
- Never run the engine until your first flight.
- Follow the principle that "Everything will come to you naturally."

Success is cumulative. The more times that you choose an action likely to be successful, the more likely you will be to achieve the goal of qualifying as an R/C pilot. If this seems like a rather simple idea, it is. But to ignore it is to invite failure.

Dave Segal  
Keystone RC Club

**How to Plan Build**  
By Dave Segal  
Ddavesegal@aol.com

I offer this article if it can be of use to readers of your web site. I did a presentation last year to KRC summarizing all that I had read and learned of building from plans. Probably the key point is various methods of creating patterns. It is posted on the KRC web site now. You are welcome to reprint it.

Regards for the new year,  
Dave

**Building From Plans**

**Why build from plans?**
- Not limited to current kits on the market.
- Many thousands of plans are still in print.

**Where to find plans:**

**Magazines**
Catalogs are available from Radio Control Modeler, Model Airplane News, Model Aviation, Flying Models and others including British magazines.

**Vendors**
Bill Northrop's Plan Service and Cleveland Model and Supply Company.

**Construction Articles**
Some magazines will provide a photocopy of the original construction article when a plan is purchased. The AMA Library contains 250 titles of magazines and can supply photocopies.

**How to do it?**
The main difference in such a project is that you have to create your own kit. Once that is done you can proceed just as you would with a purchased kit.

**Steps to follow:**
1.) Create a list of the materials needed.
   With a ruler and notebook in hand, study each component of the model and list the type and sizes of material needed and the quantities.
2.) Buy the materials listed
   This means that if you are careful you won't be stuck with poor quality wood.
3.) Layout the parts
   This is probably the most intimidating aspect of the whole process and will be the focus of this presentation.
4.) Cut out the parts
   Isn't this fun?
5.) Now you can start building.

**How To Create Patterns on Wood**
Layout the pattern directly onto the wood.  
Use a pencil, straightedge and drafting tools such as
a compass and French curves. This is simplest with straight line shapes.

**Pinpricks**

Place the plan atop the wood and use a pin to make a series of holes through the plan and into the wood. Remove the plan and then "connect the dots" on the wood. This seems a low-tech method but in practice is very accurate, especially for curves.

**Tracing shapes**

**Tracing paper**

Tablets of tracing paper are available from CVS and Staples stores. Place the paper over the plan and trace with a pencil or pen. The pattern can be fixed to the wood by applying a glue stick to its back or using a removable-type spray cement. The pinprick method can be used or you can simply cut directly through the paper into the wood. This is a fragile pattern not intended for multiple parts. For greater durability the tracing can be glued to light card stock and then cut out for a template.

**Mylar drafting film**

This is a sturdy plastic with a roughened surface to take pencil and ink. A brand called "See - Temp" is sometimes advertised in modeling magazines. The Mylar is easily cut with scissors or knife and can then be placed on the wood and traced around the edges.

**Photocopying**

This sounds like a great way to go but there is a hidden danger in the inability of the ordinary office copier to make an accurate same-size copy. If you use a copying machine, first place a scale on the glass window and make a copy. Then place the scale alongside its photo image and measure the discrepancy. Even a one percent error means you will be off by 1/4 inch over 25 inches. Try to adjust the copying magnification on the machine to get the most accurate result. If you come back and choose another machine at the print shop you will have to do the calibration test all over again.

Once you have made the photocopy it can be copied to the wood by pinpricks, cutting through the paper or transferring the ink onto the wood.

**Ink transfer**

Tests must be made for any brand of copying machine due to variations in their technology. And practice on scrap will avoid waste of good wood.

**Heat transfer**

The common process employed by copiers uses heat to fuse a powdered toner onto the paper. By placing the photocopy face down on the wood it may be possible to transfer the image, in reverse, onto the wood. Use a household iron for this.

**Solvent transfer**

The toner may be soluble in thinner such as lacquer thinner or dope thinner. Place the copy on the wood, image side down, and then dip a cotton swab into the solvent. Don't use too much liquid. Then draw the swab around the outline of the part and while pressing the swab down. The liquid will briefly make the paper transparent so you can see what you are doing. Then lift the copy off. It may be possible to repeat this if enough toner remains on the paper.

**Rib templates**

When many identical pieces such as wing ribs must be cut it is useful to produce a rigid template. Lite - ply works well as it is cheap and easy to cut.. The pattern can be transferred from a photocopy by using a solvent - dipped swab. Then cut out the template - an electric scroll is perfect for this. Sand the edges to the final shape. If desired, the edges can be hardened by dribbling thin CyA adhesive. Place the template onto the balsa and draw the knife around the edges. Finger pressure is adequate to hold the template in place but pins can be pressed through the template to secure it. Note: omit the spar notches from the template so that the cutting movement with the knife will go more smoothly. Afterwards, the ribs can be stacked and pinned together so that the spar notches can be marked and then cut out.

Dave Segal  
Keystone RC Club  

**Comments on “Getting Started” Editorial**  
January 2003 Ampeer  
Richard Flinchbaugh  
7 Avon Ln.  
South Dennis, MA 02660-2929  

I was delighted to have you get the load off your chest regarding so many of the offerings that are just terrible and definitely turn good folks away from our hobby. I gave Xxxxx Xxxxxx management a piece of my mind on this subject. For some stupid reason, in a weak moment, I purchased one of Xxxxx Xxxxxxs’ Sxx Rxxxx outfits from their scratch and dent sale for half price, still about $150. This after having built about 5 successful electric planes. It was a disaster from the start.

1. It had no motor control  
2. Wouldn’t even gain altitude with the batteries supplied. Would not even begin to takeoff.  

I was finally able to get 1 flight, using 2 additional batteries. After landing the motor failed to restart. I ended up sending it back for a credit, but what happened
woodworker clamps we sometimes use, but which are usually too robust for our needs. They come in a round tube and cost less than three bucks. The tube includes 4 one inch and 18 3/4 inch clamps. I’ve measured the jaw opening and the one inch opens to about 1 1/2 in., the 1 1/2 inch to nearly two inches. The jaws have neat little swivel pad ends so they work on angled surfaces. The spring tension is heavy enough to hold most stuff and light enough not to crush the balsa. The square jaw pads also spread the load over a larger area. and they come in cool psychedelic colors that don’t get lost on your workbench!

I’ve smeared some silicon rubber on some of mine so they grip better on slippery surfaces.

They are a great find.

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Universal Motor Mount?

Multi Plane Power Plant

From: Armand Hadife armand_hadife@emi.co.ae

Hello Ken,

Very useful site.

My new project is to make a "Multi plane Power Plant" let me explain:

I have several 40" planes and would like to use the same Promax 400 Motor and Esc. It MUST be quickly removable and quickly installed from a plane to another. Like a cartridge if you want.

Any suggestions?

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Armand Hadife

(Okay folks, can we help him out? I’d love to print any suggestions with or without drawings. This could be an interesting “homework“ assignment for you. KM)

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Cool Clamps

From: Walter Thyng docwt@lightfirst.com

Hi Ken,

I’m taking a break from trying to structure the stupefying stacks of sticks that was supposed to be a Giant Lazy Bee into a humongous Stagger Bee (resulting in a Lazy Giant Staggering Bee?? <V BG>). Anyway, I’m really appreciating the new spring clamps I picked up from Menard’s (a giant hardware/building supply store).

They are Tool Shop 22 piece miniature Spring Clamp Set #244-5579. They are similar in design to the
I was lucky enough to start out in 1988, with a Leisure Amptique, geared motor, 7-cell, 800 mAh packs, and small servos. 95% of my learning was self-taught, (3 Amptiques) before I found out about washout in wing tips, it really cut down on "death spirals " for no reason and dropping off on one wing while turning on final.

I haven't flown your other recommendations, but I am familiar with all but the Cutie and would put them all ahead of the Amptique for first airplanes if for no other reason than durability, (survivability?)

Right now I am flying a Great Planes Spirit wing, little bit of dihedral, ailerons, rudder, elevator, Astro 15g on 10 1250 mAh, 12x8 Master Airscrew folder, (durable) on my own fuse and tail. Really like it, slowest rolls in the world but fun and a good glide ratio.

Take care.

I enjoy your site,
Howard Hilton

(Thanks for the kind words. I've flown a dozen or more Amptiques over years, and never experienced the problems you've described, but I do know they can exist. All of the Amptiques I've flown were built by others, and all worked very well as trainers. Again, having an instructor would have probably helped quite a bit, but you made it, and that is the important part. Thanks so much for your input. KM)

**John Lewis** shows off his 20-cell Sig Somethin’ Extra. Hacker B50 11XL 5.2:1 with 18x12 APC thin electric. Has an Ultimate BEC. Weighs 112 oz. Approx. 45 amp draw.

23 folks attending the meeting. It was a very interesting meeting with a lot information shared on many topics relating to eflight. Thanks to all of those who attended and for putting up with the “cramped quarters”. It was really good to see the increased interest in electrically powered planes. Big to small, we had ‘em all.

I still can’t believe that John Lewis drove up from Kansas City just for this meeting. It was a real pleasure to meet John and his wife.

**February EFO Meeting**
**Oh Whatta Night!**

The February EFO meeting was the largest ever with

**Keith Shaw** shows his newly recovered and repowered Bücker Jungmann. It’s beautiful, but also has a unique personal history for Keith and myself. When it was powered by a ST .56, he flew it in pattern. There’s an interesting story here. Ask us sometime.

**Roger Wilfong** shows off his Estrellita, made from a John Fotiu JM GlasCraft kit. Glass fuselage with foam wing and balsa tail surfaces.
Joe Bileti shared several of his foam prototypes he’s built over the years.

Joe Bileti

Rick Sawicki shared his Tiny.

Rick Sawicki

Norm Dmuchowski shared his knowledge of Li-Poly batteries. I’ve asked Norm to write up what he told us. He flies a lot of small models, for a long, long time using these batteries.

Starting in April, we will be meeting at the Midwest R/C field on a weekend day, so be sure to check the Ampeer for date and time. It will not necessarily be the first weekend of the month. Also, check with Ken if the weather is iffy, as it may be called off for that day and changed to another.

If you are in the area, or want to drive several hundred miles ( ;-) ), feel free to join us.

Upcoming March Meeting

The last indoor meeting for the year will be held at Ken’s house on March 6 at 7:30 p.m. If we need to get a larger meeting place, it will be in the fall, after the flying season.

Richard Utkan shared this flying tiny wing.

Richard Utkan

Rich Flinchaugh’s Dreamboat
South Dennis, MA 02660

Rich scratch built this Dreamboat Flying Boat. It has a 42” wing span and is powered by a MEGA ACn 16/15/5 brushless motor with a 7x4 prop. I uses a Castle Creations Phoenix 25 Brushless Sensorless Speed Control and 8 Sanyo AR 4/5 AUP NiMH 1700 mAh cells. It has a flying weight of 34.5 ounces and a wing loading of 17.3 oz./sq.ft. It is already for Spring’s Flying Season!

Stephen Carella, age 12, holds Rich’s Dreamboat. Rich hopes that his grandson will be a great R/C modeler too.
Dear Ken,

Sir, I don't think you are being quite fair to Tower Hobbies when describing their customer service upon the "803V" problem.

The Tower site declared the motor which they had in stock as the "old" sensor version, but you chose to ignore that. It seemed that you assumed the "803V" Astro designation covered only the sensorless version. This is not so.

My own Astro 803V is sensorless, ordered about the same time as yours, but it says "803V Sensorless Motor/ w control" on the Astro box! Even the manufacturer doesn't get it right! At various times Astro has offered sensored and sensorless versions of this motor.

Please don't spoil your wonderful website with slanted vendettas against a retailer trying their best! It sounds to me like they were liberal in their interpretation of your problem - they could have said "You ordered the sensored at that price, you keep it!" They didn't, and I think that you do them a disservice in posting such negative comments.

That aside, keep up the great site, there are such sound ideas there to promote our wonderful fascination with flight. I agree wholeheartedly with your comments regarding the "right" motivation for this hobby, long may that philosophy prevail. Mother Nature and Gravity have a way of ensuring that it be so!

Regards
Charles Todd
Canada

My response to Charles follows:

Hi Charles,

Thanks for sharing your thoughts about the 803V problem. I honestly didn't try to slant it at all, and in response, I'll be happy to print yours, and anyone else's, thoughts and ideas on the topic. I thought that I quite clearly explained that the Tower Hobbies Web site part description was 803V, but that the text description was for the 802. I'll be sure to clear that up. The box I received was for the 802. I was only, and I mean only, trying to point out that when part numbers and descriptions don't match, it is difficult to place an
accurate order on the Web. I was sure that I pointed out that they exchanged it for the correct one. As you point out, I do try to be absolutely fair and equal to everyone and everything on our site, which I hope makes for a better resource than the magazines where the review and ad appear on the same or facing pages! Thanks again,
Ken

Not in my response to Charles:

Tower is a great resource for all of us modelers. I use Tower Hobbies for purchases and have always been satisfied with their customer service. I hope that I did not indicate that I was unsatisfied. I only wished that someone had dropped me an email and let me know what was happening. Thanks for “keeping me honest”, Charles! I’ll try to be as careful and impartial as I possibly can to keep our great hobby moving forward.

Receivers, Air Hogs motors & More
From: Cawley, Bernard bernard.e.cawley@boeing.com

Ken,

I see my Tiny-X is in there (Feb. Ampeer)...... I am having a ball with that airplane, but I should send you another picture now that it has some graphics on it (from Vinyl Graphics by Greg as always).

Besides the cul-de-sac we in the Seattle area now have access to a big hangar on a regular basis for indoor flying on Thursday nights. A new club has formed for this purpose, which Ben Almojuela has dubbed the Barn Owls. Plenty of room in there (86000 sq. ft) for Tiny-X and more though the ceiling height isn't what one would expect for the floor area. Some info here: http://groups.msn.com/BarnOwls/

On receiver weights. I finally weighed a bunch of them and posted the info on the Ezone. Here is my latest thread which has a link to the earlier one (that was triggered by the 0.4 ounce M5). http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?s=&threadid=88830

(We weighed David’s M5 and my Extreme 5 at the February EFO meeting. I don’t have the most accurate scale, but it is digital and reasonable. Both weighed 0.4 ounces, but the M5 was a couple of grams lighter when we weighed them in grams. Let me make it perfectly clear that there is nothing wrong at all with the M5. All the reports I’ve had from folks in the club are very positive. They are thrilled with its performance in the Oakland Yard’s crowded environment. It is an excellent receiver, with just a small discrepancy in the weight as posted by the manufacturer. Posting the weights in grams would probably be more accurate. It’s not a big deal. M5 or Extreme 5, you should be very pleased with the functioning of your receiver. KM)

I’m looking forward to seeing if this new Plantraco four channel that has a license-build Sirius GFS! speed control in it lives up to the hype. If so, it’s going to be a dynamite value. I also am very much looking forward to flying the new little Berg 4. At a quarter ounce for a full range receiver, it looks almost unbeatable (except that there’s no positive shift version).

As for the motors from the Air Hogs Intruder - these are suitable for RFFS-100 controlled micro flyers that run on one 145 mAh Li-poly cell. See Bob Selman's site and also Dan Hurd's, among others. I have a tiny version of the Idealair Elf-1 that will be so powered when I get it finished.....24 inch span, expected all up weight a little over an ounce.

There is, of course, the Wright Flyer designed by Pat Tritle in Albuquerque and kitted by Dare. http://www.darehobby.com/Wright_Flyer.htm

Bernard

R/C Photography
From: Kent Williby kwilliby@yahoo.com

Ken,

I see in your February newsletter you talk about using the pencam and mustek cameras for aerial photography. I have been playing around with the Pencam 1.3 camera and it is a blast! I have found that an electric sailplane is a perfect fit for taking pictures. I launch my GP Spectra up to about 700', shut off the motor and take some great pictures! With no motor vibration and very high altitude you can get some great shots. Some of my pictures are posted at www.geocities.com/kwilliby. These are some of my first pictures and quality isn't perfect but I'm getting better with practice. There is a ton of info on ezonemag.com and I would be happy to share any information I have with anyone interested.

Regards,
Kent Williby

GD600 Gearbox Repair
From: Robert Comerford flyelectric@dodo.com.au

Ken,
I recently purchased a GD600 gearbox. I was happy with the unit. It ran very smoothly and quietly and tests showed it to be efficient. Running at 200 + watts input the first gear ran well for several flights until a prop strike on a touch and go into a horse hoof hole broke the driven gear. The next two replacement gears lasted about 3 and 1 flights respectively. I could not find any reason for this. I, at one stage, suspected a frame warp of the gearbox in dynamic conditions, but I am fairly satisfied it is strong enough at this and perhaps greater power levels. This leads me to believe the driven gear material is simply too hard and subject to breakage when throttling up or down (I don’t have the brake engaged - it is in a sports model not a glider). If I am correct I hope the manufacturer fixes the problem.

I never had such problems in years of using the old Leisure gearboxes. This brings me to a solution I am trying and may be of use to others. I still had an old 38 tooth Leisure gear. I removed the GD600 driven gear, and punched out the drive shaft in a vice. The gear shattered easily. I pressed the old Leisure gear onto the GD600 shaft to line up over the ‘ears’ on the shaft. I superglued the rear ballrace into the back housing and made a spacer from a suitable nut and washer to keep the gear central and reused the plastic thrust washer to run up against the front ball race. The photo shows the assembly.

I did think of epoxying the gear onto the shaft but tests so far have not proved it unnecessary. Once again this is a recent event without long term trial but may help someone. Long term tests may reveal a flaw, but if someone has the necessary parts this fix may be of some use. On my motor this was only suitable to achieve a 2.5:1 reduction, not enough movement to make use of the small pinion for the 3.8:1. Of course every grubbscrew was locked with paint and the prop holder has a spring washer added to stop propellers floating off in the air. Most silencers on IC motors seem to remove themselves also due to lack of a spring washer or two. Spring washers must be so expensive!! Hope this is of use to someone. Also if someone tries this and has a failure let us know. There may be something to learn.

regards
Bob Comerford
Glen Innes
Australia

My response to Robert follows:

Hi Robert,

It seems odd that the first driven gear lasted several flights until the prop strike and the two replacements only lasted 1 and 3 flights. I too wonder if it might be a "materials" problem. It sure sounds like it, especially if the Leisure driven gear is holding up well in the same unit "frame", as that would indicate that there isn’t a problem with the "frame" itself.

Many, many, years ago, (1988) there was a supplier that imported gear-drive units into the US for several years. They worked but were vulnerable to prop strikes and would break just by touching the prop to the ground slightly. That unit is no longer available here. I wonder how many others have seen this failure with a unit like you’ve been using? I’ll ask that question in the Ampeer. Maybe, if there are more reported failures of the driven gear in this unit, we can help out the supplier by letting them know about the problem.

Sincerely,
Ken

Since I wrote to Robert, I found more information on this unit. If you’d like to read other’s comments on this unit, visit the e-Zone magazine at http://www.ezonomag.com and join the discussion forum. You’ll find a link on the homepage, in the left column listed “discussion”. After joining the forum, use the Search feature for the following threads:

E3D + GD-600
Mounting an Endo with a GD-600 GB?
GD600 or Astro 3.5:1
gd600 problem
Best 30-40 amp ESC?
Up Coming Events
2003

May 31, 2003 & June 1, 2003 FIRST ANNUAL INDOOR R/C CHAMPIONSHIP, Oakland Yard, Waterford, Michigan, 6 events planned, with trophies to third place + overall high point Championship Award, CD: Dave Robelen aplusfarm@hovac.com, more info: www.nirac.org

June 7 Skymasters Small Fry, Electric & Sailplane Skymaster's field Pete Foss 248.236.0676

July 12 & 13 Mid-Am 2003, hosted by the Electric Flyers Only, Inc. & Ann Arbor Falcons. Tentative site: Midwest R/C field, 5 Mi. Rd., Northville Twp., MI Contact Ken Myers kmyersefo@aol.com or Phone: 248.669.8124

August 9 & 10 Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club Electric Fun Fly, PMAC field near Pontiac, MI, More Info: Sterling Smith smitty559@comcast.net

August 23 &amp; 24 Riverside Aero Modelers Electric Fun Fly, at their field in King, NC which is near Winston-Salem, NC CD: Randy Covington Covington Randy

Switchback Framing
From: Michael Pad michaelpad@comcast.net

Hi Ken,

Got my Switchback and I am enjoying the building process. Just taking my time, it is my first balsa kit. look forward to flying it with you. Should be ready to cover soon.

Michael

The Ampeer/Ken Myers
1911 Bradshaw Ct.
Walled Lake, MI 48390
http://members.aol.com/KMyersEFO

The Next Meeting:
Date: Thursday, March 6 Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Ken Myers’s house: 1911 Bradshaw Ct., Walled Lake, MI
All interested folks are welcome to join us