



Whirlwind



Newsletter of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society

September, 2017

COCKPIT CORNER – by Brian Sherman, did4ways@aol.com

The temperature has started to cool down indicating the 2017 season is starting to draw to close. The season has been one of changes. Both in people and technology. New and prospective members have been added including referrals from the park office. I have received several referred calls from drone users inquiring about the use of the field for taking pictures of the park lands. I have to explain to them that the park does not allow any type of flying in the park except at the field and that those flights must be within line of sight even for FPV users as required by the AMA safety code. Clearly this discouraged some people.

Drone use amongst our current membership is becoming ever more popular with Larry and Wayne leading the charge. Most certainly that trend will continue as the hobby itself is heavily promoting sales and activities of drones and FPV drone racing events. I hope the BFMS members continue to embrace the trend, and think about guidelines to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all members.

The “Wall of Pain” has fewer contributions this season than past seasons and that is a good thing. But there are still lessons to be learned from each “*contribution*”. This month’s contribution comes courtesy of low cost 2.4GHz receivers promoting themselves as suitable for full scale flyers. In this case a \$25 Rx caused a loss of signal to the man that wears the star. (The club safety officer’s star.) Another potential contributor was the failure to use separate batteries for the ignition module and the Rx. The plane is a total loss.



Another technological innovation that hit the scene a few years ago is the ROTO tank. For those that are not familiar with it, the ROTO tank uses all copper tubing a swivel clunk/pickup. The advantage was to avoid the annual replacement of of the gas

hardened Tygon tubing in the fuel tank. Club members, however, have experienced three fatal shortcomings with the ROTO tank.

- 1) The oil thickens in the off season causing the clunk to stick and not rotate freely. Because the tank is permanently sealed, there is no way to prevent this from happening or to fix it when it does.
- 2) The brass tubing has corroded in at least one tank causing the clunk to freeze in one spot.
- 3) Another tank was clogged with a solder ball in the clunk where the tubing was soldered to the clunk. As result no fuel could be drawn at all.

Your experience may be different but as these tanks are fairly expensive, the affected members felt it was important to share our experiences with you.

One last item for this month's article concerns the gate lock. This past weekend several members had difficulty opening the lock. It seems the combination of wear and rust causes a small misalignment with the key profile. Both locks were heavily saturated with CP Buster and the locks will open, but you may need to push down on the shackle slightly and/or wiggle the key. Your key will likely come out with some lubricant on it for the next few weeks so have a paper towel handy.

See you at Saturday's meeting.

Until next time, keep the cockpit up and be safe.

Calendar of Events

BFMS Annual Picnic, Sunday, September 17, 2017, all day.

The club will provide Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, along with liquid refreshments. This is a basket social, and you are invited to bring along your favorite salad, desert or other picnic item you desire to share with the members attending. Be sure to bring chairs for your comfort, as well as, a canopy for shade. Oh, don't forget your airplanes, this is a Fun Fly event.

Any questions or comments
should be directed to
John Carrigan
at
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The next meeting
of the
BFMS
will be at the
Field
12:00 PM (noon)
on
Saturday,
September 9, 2017