



AMA Chapter 534,
Medford, Oregon



June 2001

Agate Float Fly Is Another Success



Beautiful weather and a good turnout made for a fantastic Spring 2001 Float Fly at Agate Lake. Sixteen pilots with a combination of 21 float planes or flying boats participated in the event. **Thank You, Bill Grove** for setting up and conducting this event.



The participants and some of their flying machines.

Teaching R/C Flying

By Mike Lynch

Copyright © 2000 All Rights Reserved by Mike Lynch

What happens if the engine quits? - Most planes designed for beginners will glide quite well. In the hands of an experienced flier, a plane can be safely landed even if the engine quits. Of course the altitude and attitude of the airplane at the time of the engine failure has a lot to do with how difficult it is to safely land the airplane. The higher the plane, the more time the flier will have to plan the landing. (Landings without power are called dead-stick landings.)

How far away can the airplane fly? - The rule of thumb is: if you can see it you have control of it! Generally speaking, your radio will have control of the airplane for up to distances of more than a mile. The higher the plane, the greater the range.

How fast do they go? - This depends on the style of airplane as well as the size of the engine. Trainers will fly at speeds of about 20-40 miles per hour, depending on the maneuver. More aerobatic sport planes can reach speeds of well over 90 MPH. Pylon racers designed for speed can go as fast as 150 MPH.

How high can they go? - As high as you can see them. Again, if you can see it, you have control of it! However, flying fields that are located in close proximity to airports usually have some height limitations. Instructors: be sure to relate any rules related to height and position flying.

Is flying an RC airplane like flying a real (full scale) airplane? - In essence, yes. You'll have the same basic controls a full scale pilot has of a real airplane. However, full scale pilots that have learned to fly RC airplanes tell me that there is quite a difference in actual flying technique. They say an RC airplane responds much faster than a real airplane. They also say that learning to fly RC can be awkward, since there is no feel for the planes maneuvers. RC flying requires much more hand/eye coordination since you must respond to what you see.

Is it hard to learn to fly? - This is a tough question to answer. Everyone has a different aptitude level for learning RC. This much is certain. RC flying is hard enough to learn that you will not want to try to learn by yourself. In over 30 years of flying experience, I have never seen anyone learn by themselves that did not go through several airplanes (or at least several crashes) in the process! Fixing airplanes is not nearly as much fun as flying. If you want to learn to fly with the least amount of problems, join the club and work with one of our instructors. He'll flight test and trim your plane, take off and land for you, give you pointers, and stand close by, ready to take control if you get into trouble in the air. While we can't promise your instructor will never crash, you will have a much better chance of keeping your plane in one piece with an instructor than without one.

How long does it take to learn to fly? - Like the previous question, this is tough to answer. It depends upon the student's aptitude. It also depends on how often you practice. The more often you practice, the shorter the time it will take to master. You know the saying, "If you don't use it, you lose it!" It truly applies to RC flying. If you only fly once a week, it may take quite a long time. You'll be struggling to remember what was learned in the last session. We have seen people solo (fly by themselves for an entire flight) in as little as two weeks of practice (every day for several flights). Others make take the whole flying season to learn to fly. Yet others may take more than one flying season. With a good instructor, even the learning stage is fun and rewarding. So this period should seem to go quite quickly, regardless of how long it takes.

What's the hardest part of flying? - Landing. Your instructor will first teach you how to keep the plane in the air, making simple turns. Then you'll progress to flying figure eight patterns. Once you can keep the plane in the air by yourself without any problems, you'll learn to take-off. Finally, once you have mastered all other phases of flying, you'll learn how to land.

How much wind can there be? - Experienced flyers can fly (sport planes) in winds well over 20 MPH. However, the more wind, the harder (and less enjoyable) it is to fly. Beginners won't want to fly in winds much over 5 MPH until they have mastered the first step of learning how to fly.

What is the best size for learning? - Generally speaking, the smaller the airplane, the less expensive it will be. Unfortunately, the smaller the airplane, the less stable it is and the worse it handles in the wind. Keep in mind that all size RC airplanes perform nicely on calm days. I recommend starting with an airplane large enough to handle the wind you get.

Here are the approximate engine sizes as well as the approximate wingspan and weight of several standard classes of RC airplane:

Engine	Wingspan	Weight
.20-.25	40-45"	2-3 lbs.
.40-.46	45-60"	4-6 lbs
.60	60-70"	6-8 lbs.
.90	70-75"	8-10 lbs.
1.20-1.50	75-85"	10-14 lbs.

I recommend starting with a plane in the .40 engine size class. It will be large enough to easily get off the ground and fly nicely in some wind. If cost is prohibitive, .20 size is good too, but wind will be more of a problem.

NEXT TIME - How Much Do they Cost?

2001 Club Officers And Coordinators

President:

Danny Stanton 664-8734

Vice President:

Clark Wolf 773-4270

Secretary:

Danny Watson 488-2179

Treasurer:

Roger Hebner

Board Members at large:

Stan Willems 772-9328

Jerry Sivin jsivin@aol.com

Bill Grove 955-0634

Newsletter Editor:

Werner Bruckner 664-2549

wkbruck@gateway.net

Webmaster:

Danny Watson 488-2179

webmaster@rogue-eagles.com

Events Coordinator:

Clark Wolf 773-4270

Public Relations Officer:

Richard Schwegerl 773-5479

Safety Field Marshall:

Bob Knudsen 779-9109

Field Maintenance Supervisor:

Sam Arrigo 597-4573

Chief Flight Instructor:

Jay Strickland 855-7161

Flight instructors:

Jim Warner 560-4099

Richard Schwegerl 773-5479

Bill Grove 955-0634

Robert McLane 479-1919

Video Librarian:

Clark Wolf 773-4270

Air Show CD:

Bill Grove 955-0634



Fred Sargent shows his beautiful, 88 inch wing span Hawker Sea Fury. Fred made this plane from a kit by Dave's Custom Models. A 3W70cc 2-stroke engine turning a 20x12 prop powers it. Eleven servos move the usual control surfaces, plus several other moveable parts including flaps and landing gear. The model weights 31 to 32 pounds, and Fred says it flies very well. Fred covered the plane with cloth fiberglass and painted it very attractively.

2001 Events

April 7 – Spring Fun Fly Potluck

May 5-6 – Agate Float Fly

OMPRA Racing - May 12

May 19 – Builders Contest

May 20 – Ashland, OR EAA

June 2 – Lee Renauld

June 23 – Military Fly In

July 7-8 – Big Bird Fly In

August – Hawthorne Kids Day

August 11-12 – Airshow

September 8 – Fun Fly Potluck

October 13-14 – Agate Float Fly

Rogue Eagles R/C Club,
P.O. Box 8332
Medford, OR 97504

Stamp

To:

NEXT MEETING is June 12. Mike Reed will show us the ins and outs of cutting foam wings. This will be an interesting demonstration. Also, bring your projects for show and tell.

NOTICE!

Memebers, we would like to keep you better informed of various club events such as activities at the field, meeting reminders, etc., but on a more timely basis than we can achieve with a once-a-month newsletter. Therefore, we would like to have your e-mail address in order to do so. We will not use your e-mail address to notify you of the newsletter's availability on the web site, unless you previously asked to receive it via e-mail notification. In other words, you will continue to receive your newsletter by regular mail, if that's what you wanted. Just give one of the club officers your e-mail address if you want to be notified of special events. Thanks.

FOR SALE

1/3 scale Fly Baby Bibe, Q-50 Expert radio, Stearman PT-17, blue and yellow, flies great. Ready to fly - \$600.00. Contact Richard Schwegerl, 773-5479.

Notice! Notice! Notice!

In order to streamline and reduce club expenses distributing the monthly newsletter, the Board of Directors asks that you complete the following questionnaire and bring it to the next meeting at **07:30 PM, June 12, at the Lions Sight and Hearing Center, 228 N Holly, Medford, Oregon**. If you can not attend, please e-mail the Editor (wkbruck@gateway.net) to inform him of your choices. **IF YOU SUBMITTED THIS QUESTIONNAIRE BEFORE, DO NOT SUBMIT IT AGAIN!**

1) **Would you prefer to see the newsletter in living color on the club web site?** Circle **Yes**, or **No**.

2) **If 'Yes' please give your name and e-mail address:** _____