

Thrustline

Newsletter of the Sky Streakers R/C Club #1165 New Gloucester, Maine
July 2007 Edition

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Visit the club web site at:
www.skystreakers.org

We can add pages to the newsletter for your article. Submit them to John by the first of the month.

From the President

Here's hoping everyone is having a great summer. It has been a windy one so far and I am looking forward to some of those warm calm dog days when the air is as smooth as it gets. It is just such a pleasure to fly on days like that. You may have caught some this year but I haven't been lucky enough yet. My fingers are crossed.

The 4th of July found me at the field enjoying the day. There were many planes there with pilots who joined them there. There was a call from home that a neighbor on the ridge was having planes flying over her property. When I talked to her I found out that it was a large plane and it was much closer than the normal small planes. I suggested to her that because it was a large plane that it is possible it appeared to be much closer but may not have been. She was very grateful that I had been there and responded to her concern. I told her that we do have rules about flying in her direction and that I would investigate and inform the pilot that he may have over flown the ridge. In talking with the pilots present, one thought that he may have gone long on his last approach for landing. Please keep in mind that we must be more than careful about the west (left) end of the field. There hasn't been many complaints in the last couple years and I would like to keep it that way.

I recently got into electric heli's. They all pretty much use the new LiPo batteries. After a short flight with my new T-Rex 450 SE V2 the other day I found the battery pack swelled up. After it cooled, it remained swelled. I didn't charge it and took it to the Hobby Shop for advice. They told me that it was moments from possibly catching on fire. If charged in that condition, it probably would have. It's pretty scary how close it was to costing me hundreds maybe thousands of dollars worth of damage. It seems that the pack was probably low when I flew it and it went below the minimum voltage. LiPo's are very sensitive to charging and discharge. You should check every pack before flying it (I didn't). Do not discharge any pack below 3 volts per cell. Do not charge any pack that is below 3 volts per cell. Do not leave any pack charging unattended. Absolutely do not charge any pack in your vehicle unattended. These packs are great when used correctly but they demand a lot of respect.

The next meeting is at the field on Wednesday July 11, 2007 at 7PM. We will have a short break in trainer night to hold the meeting and get back to flying as soon as business is complete. Remember there is not plane of the month or fuel raffle at summer meetings.

I need another club officer to fill in for me Wednesday night for the meeting. If Mac can't make it, I would appreciate it if someone else could step up.

Thanks,
Nelson

Have you taken a kid flying lately?