



THE INVERTED FLYER

NEWS of the BOULDER AEROMODELING SOCIETY
AMA Charter # 906

August 2010 Edition

Ken Miller Editor #25



Welcome back, I missed you Guys...

Landing

“Touch-and-go” is a great way to practice landings. It’s a sure way to rapidly improve your technique. Even the best of us, however, will bring one down a little too hard once in a while, and the inevitable result will be a bounce.

There are however, a couple of ways you could recover from a bad bounce and keep your dignity intact. One is to maintain “full back pressure” on the stick (i.e. full up elevator) in the hopes that there is enough flying speed to cushion the second bounce. If the bounce is more of a high-speed skip, this method works well.

The second method is to immediately apply power and return to level flight.

I’ve tried both methods, and a “bounce-and-go” with quick application of power will usually result in a more positive recovery from a bad bounce. If performed with finesse, you might even make it look as though you did it on purpose.

The best landing procedure is to hold the aircraft off the deck a foot high with idle power and try “not to land.” The airplane will slow and “sink in” in spite of you, giving you a smooth transition from air to ground.

With the re-opening of the field we scheduled a work day for **Saturday, August 7th beginning at 9AM.**

Due to the field lying dormant the past few weeks, the weeds have taken over somewhat and we need to get the field in shipshape condition for the 'Grand Re-opening Picnic' to be held on **Saturday, August 14th starting at 10AM.** As usual, all BAS members and their families are invited for some good food and drink combined with some relaxing flying.

For the work day we plan to cut down/spray the weeds, stain the safety benches and do some general field maintenance. We will have one or two riding mowers and already have the stain, brushes and paint cans as well as the weed suppressant. What we need are a lot of hands so we can finish the job that morning. We also need some weed whackers, leaf blowers, rakes, brooms, pump sprayers and water. We need a total of about 25 gallons of water so if you have some containers please bring them along (filled!).

Everyone realizes that this has been a difficult season but a little sprucing up will get us back in shape and should hold us through the coming of winter. So come on out to both the work day and picnic. Renew some old friendships, show off your latest project and get in some great flying not to mention some free food!

See you out there,

Augie B.

BAS MEETING MINUTES 7/14/2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at Hobbytown by President Rich Anderson. 22 members were present with no guests. Rich asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was made, seconded and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Dean Ehn, Rich presented a summary of the Club finances.

1st VP's Report

Augie Bruno reported that we have 2 new members bringing the yearly total to 107. Doug Looker from Ft. Lupton is the Club's latest new member. Welcome Doug!

2nd VP's Report

Due to the current field closure, VP Dave Goodnow had nothing new to report.

Old Business

President Anderson followed up on the concerns he voiced at the last meeting concerning the quality of the new asphalt on the taxiway. Rich met with the paving company and they agreed the surface was somewhat rough, probably due to a low temperature during the rolling operation. The company agreed to seal the asphalt after the field is re-opened and has extended the warranty to two years.

A discussion was held as a reminder that we still have a motion pending to bring in several loads of gravel. Additionally, an estimate to fill the cracks in the runway in the amount of approx. \$1300 has been obtained. The implementation of these two projects/expenditures will be reviewed pending the outcome of the field situation.

New Business

The situation involving the field closure has been adequately documented in the previous minutes and in the July 2010 newsletter. The Boulder Aeromodelers Society Preservation Committee (BASPC) has been formed under the direction of Skip Miller. Contact has been made with Ranger Matt Claussen and messages left for his superior Mr. Kincannon to have a meeting to discuss our concerns for the present field closure and the long term implications for future flying seasons. It is hoped the meeting will be accomplished prior to our next Club meeting. We have reason to believe that the field will be re-opened within the next 2-3 weeks.

With that re-opening in mind, we have scheduled a work day for Saturday, August 7th at 9:00 AM. With the field lying dormant the weeds have taken over and some additional work needs to be done. Please try to attend if at all possible. We can use lawn mowers, portable sprayers, leaf blowers, rakes and brooms and about 25 gallons of water. We should have 2 riding mowers available and the weed killer is in hand. We will also be staining the benches and have the stain, brushes and paint cans already available.

Assuming we can complete the maintenance work the morning of the 7th, our 'Grand Re-opening PICNIC' will be held on Saturday, August 14th beginning at 10AM. Food and beverages will be provided by the Club so you need only to bring a plane and come on out for some flying and a lot of eating. As always, members, their families and guests are welcome. So come on out and we can renew **some old** friendships!

In the interim, remember that the LEAF, LAMA and Arvada clubs have provided open invitations to fly at their facilities so if you haven't visited their fields, why not give them a try. I've visited LAMA a number of times and found their hospitality to be fantastic. Hearty THANK YOU to all 3 of those clubs.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55PM. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, August 11th at CHANDLER FIELD @ 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Augie Bruno

Presidents Message

All of you should have received the e-mail from Skip Miller reporting on the meeting with the City of Boulder about our field closure. In addition to the message from Skip I wanted to share with you the points that we took into that meeting. James Mack drafted the document below from discussions that the committee held and this was used as our reference point as we meet with the Boulder City Parks and Recreation Director, Kirk Kincannon. I concur with Skip in that it was a positive meeting and we did receive a commitment from Mr. Kincannon to continue meeting with us to work regarding future wildlife issues and how we can work together.

I would like to thank Skip, James and all the members of the BAPC (Boulder Aeromodelers Preservation Committee) for their efforts in getting our field re-opened and trying to prevent future occurrences from happening.

Our field is in need of a Major cleanup to take care of the overgrown weed population. Please come out on the 7th to help get our field back in good condition and to be ready for our annual picnic on the 14th.

Rich Anderson

Boulder Aeromodeling Society

Meeting Between The Boulder Aeromodeling Society And The City Of Boulder Parks And Rec.
On The Issue Of Field Closures Of The Boulder Model Airport

July 23, 2010, 2:00 PM

Boulder Aeromodeling Society's position (five bullet points)

- We, the users of the Boulder Model Airport, 200+ people strong, strongly oppose any seasonal closures to flying activity, because we think those restrictions are not necessary to protect the wildlife populations at the reservoir.
- Model aircraft flying is, to the best of our knowledge, a neutral impact on the nesting raptor populations at the reservoir. We have been there for over 35 years, and the nesting sites have only expanded during that time.
- Seasonal closures would put this site at serious risk for a permanent closure due to a loss of due-paying members. A permanent closure would deprive Boulder of this vibrant, community-building activity, where people of all ages, backgrounds, and fitness levels can share in their passion.
- We propose that, as an alternative to seasonal closures to flying, we have only seasonal closures to foot traffic. During the nesting seasons, we would require an escort to retrieve downed aircraft or any other activity that would bring people in the vicinity of sensitive areas. We are better coordinated than the other open space users (including climbers, hikers, and bikers), so we can enforce a set of rules instead of shutting it down completely.
- We're eager to work with Parks and Recreation towards any solution that keeps the airport open to flying year round.

Data showing we can have a neutral impact on the raptors

- Model airplanes don't chase birds. Because of the relative agility of a bird versus plane, and because of a pilot's terrible depth perception, this isn't even something we COULD do if we wanted to. If a bird and a model plane are in the same airspace, it's by the bird's choice, not ours. But, just to be sure, propose that the club aggressively self-police any bird chasing by posting informative signs at the field and warning anyone who might appear to be chasing.
- Steve Jones' original 1993 paper, commissioned by the city of Boulder, showed no instance of planes chasing birds, as well as no instances of birds being noticeably distraught by the airplanes' presence. His conclusion was that there was no reason to think we had any effect on the ability of raptors to successfully nest.

- These birds have chosen to nest here with a consistent R/C airplane presence. They have probably expanded from the nearby Dry Creek area, where they were surely aware of the presence of model airplanes at this site. The osprey have successfully nested in close proximity to the field for a few years now. There has been an active northern harrier nest at the LAMA (Longmont Aeromodelers') field for years now. On a national level, these species may be in decline due to loss of habitat, but in the vicinity of the R/C airfield, these birds are thriving.
- There's a chance, albeit slim, that our presence actually discourages the ground based predators (foxes, coyotes, etc) that tend to prey on nesting harriers. We provide a nice barrier between the harriers and those predators.

Great things about the model aircraft community

- We have an active community of a couple hundred who use this facility on at least a semi-regular basis. This is about the right number, because the field isn't so heavily used that we tax the site, but it's enough to maintain a nice community.
- This is a constructive activity for young kids. They learn how to use their hands and the pride of a job well done. They learn the consequence of their actions, and that they must be mindful of their actions to be successful. They get to spend time bonding with their fathers in a shared activity. I know personally that my aptitude as an engineer is mostly attributable to the time I have spent building and flying model aircraft, and I'm much closer to my Dad as a result.
- This is a valuable activity for the senior members of our community. The site is easily accessible, and the activity doesn't require a lot of physical exertion. And everyone, young and old, benefits from their participation in this community. This has been a lifelong passion for so many of the pilots who use this field, and is a key activity during the popular mid-summer flying season.
- This is a valuable resource for the University of Colorado engineering programs. For the last 5 years, the University has averaged 2 engineering projects each year that made use of the facilities to help train future aerospace engineers. The lab manager and chief pilot for CU's center for unmanned vehicles uses this field to keep his skills sharp. Loss of use of this field would impact these opportunities in the future.

Things we can do to help be good stewards to the land

- Seasonal closures to foot traffic in sensitive areas. If an airplane goes down in a sensitive location, call for an escort to recover the plane. There's a large body of evidence showing that wildlife is disturbed by close human activity, so we want to be certain to keep our physical distance from the birds.
- The BAS offers to help self-police the facility. We encourage people to be observant of the regulations and inform others. We are better coordinated than the other open space users in the area (including climbers, hikers, and bikers), so we can enforce a set of rules instead of shutting it down completely.

Members Birthdays for the Month of August

Sarek Lee

Larry Gamble

Robert Linhart

Jeff Johnson

Mike Broadstreet

Ferdinand Schmid

Erick Metzner

Jeff Campbell

See Web Page for Event Listings
www.boulderaero.org

NOTICE

BAS Meeting, August 11th,
 6:30 PM Chandler Field