



# Texas City Wings



Volume 12, Issue 11

November 2010

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## The Internet: Friend or Foe?

By Frank Geisler, Chairman  
Leader Member Program Development Committee

Many new people have joined the information revolution by purchasing personal computers for a variety of reasons. Whatever the reason, they soon realized there is a great big world out there called the World Wide Web (WWW). To them I say welcome to the WWW and I'm glad to see you here.

Of course there is another group of folks that have been "surfing" the Internet for many years now and are professionals at finding things that even Google has a tough time tracking down. From the brand new guy to the "old hat," we all know one thing about the Internet: there is a ton of information

available to us just by clicking the mouse or by typing a few letters in a search block. There is more information out there than any of us will ever have time to read or see in our lifetime. As most of us know, not all that you see or read on the internet is true or accurate. Some will laugh at that, but the fact is that many believe what they read on the internet is true. One look at some of the sites that debunk urban legends will tell us that there is a plethora of misinformation floating out there in the WWW.

Which brings me to the point of this article; is the Internet our friend or foe when it comes to model aviation and the Academy? I would like to submit to you that it can be both at times, but overall, the Internet can definitely be our friend when we

come to realize what we can do with it to help promote model aviation and the Academy on a daily basis. Never before have we been able to touch so many people in such a short amount of time. All it takes is a little effort on our part to submit ideas and/or concerns to your club webmaster, your district webmaster, or even send an e-mail to the other LMs in your district or DVP. You have the ability to let many people know what you think very quickly. Communication is very important and the Internet is a quick and easy way to share with others.

An excellent way to share your thoughts and ideas as well as to help others in our sport is through the use of RC forums. RC forums have

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## Texas City Radio Club Meeting Minutes November 2010—by Kevin Furman

These are the minutes for the Texas City Radio Control Club meeting for November 20th 2010. The meeting at the TCRCC flying field was called to order at 9am by Vice President James Grassmuck. There were 15 members in attendance and 1 visitor.

### Secretary's Report – Kevin Furman:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes as presented in the October Newsletter.

### Treasurer's Report – Ray Saenz:

Ray stated that the beginning balance in August was xxxxxxxx and ending balance was xxxxxxxx

### President's Report – Randy Brown

Nothing to report

### Vice President's Report – James Grassmuck:

Nothing to report

### Safety Officer's Report – Butch McEachern:

Nothing to report

### Pilot Instruction – Harvey Cappel:

Instructors currently have 2 students in training.

### Field Marshalls Report – Mike Grassmuck:

Field is in good shape. The field was rolled to flatten the fire ant mounds.

### Events Section

The 2010 Christmas party will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm

It has been discussed to have a Warbird, Helicopter and Big bird event in addition to pylon racing and fun fly events. A motion was made seconded and approved to proceed with the events as described above

### OLD Business –

No old business

### NEW Business –

It was suggested to have name tags for the Christmas party.

For show and tell James Grassmuck did a safety demo on electric fail safes

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.

## ARF Tips

*(Continued from page 1)*

become very popular these days since they allow users to share thoughts, photos, videos, tips, and advice with thousands of people across the US and the world in a matter of seconds. Some of the popular RC forums have many thousands of members with millions of posts in them. Just think of all the positive influence you could have when using those forums to help promote the Academy and the sport of model aviation. I mentioned the AMA forum in my first Leader to Leader article which is another forum that is growing more and more each day. As of last count they have topped more than 1,800 members and the number keeps growing. I encourage you to have a look and sign up when you can. We certainly welcome you to share your knowledge and experience, and who knows, you might even learn a thing or two also.

Unfortunately this deluge of information and the ability to buy product online is reducing the positive impact of the local hobby shop (LHS) that we have all enjoyed over the years. At one time, your source for information and modeling equipment, tools, and aircraft parts all came from your LHS where you would meet up with friends and talk aeromodeling and learn all about the latest gadgets and kits on the market today. There you would find the

store's owner or employees guiding modelers in the right direction on what to buy, how to fly, and anything else in between.

They would let you know where to fly, which usually meant your local AMA chartered club where newcomers would learn about the AMA and how to safely fly their new airplane without the crashes involved with teaching yourself how to fly. Many times, hooking up with a club and meeting new people turned into lifelong friendships. These opportunities are slowly fading as stores are closing or switching their emphasis to something other than model aviation. What a loss to modelers of all experience levels and interests! You could encourage new modelers to balance their input between the Internet and the LHS so that they get the best of both worlds by broadening the input to the new modeler and perhaps saving the LHS from extinction.

Beyond encouraging your club members to shop at your LHS, I also suggest that you as LMs get involved with your favorite modeling forum and help with new folks coming into this sport. Provide them with guidance to get them off on the right foot and, when questions about the AMA come up, you will be there to give them accurate information rather than them trying to sort through the tons of posts that have inaccurate or distorted views of the AMA. Those newcomers need help and who better to help than LMs with their experience and

background?

Let's use the WWW to our advantage to inspire and teach newcomers to our sport and promote the Academy and model aviation. I look forward to seeing you on the WWW whether on the forums or via e-mail; I appreciate any time you may give sharing your knowledge and wisdom.

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Texas City RC Club  
P.O. Box 1265  
Dickinson, Texas 77539

**Visit us on the web**  
**[www.tcrcc.org](http://www.tcrcc.org)**

AMA Charter #1075



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## Tips and Tricks

*From the newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Modelers, Ft. Collins, Colorado*

### Vinegar

To remove epoxy from yourself safely, use white vinegar. It's smelly, safe, and very cheap!

### Flexible sanding block

A flexible sanding block can be made by contact cementing sandpaper to one side of a urethane sponge. Your sanding block can conform to any curve.

### Handy soldering jig

Here's an easy way to solder a threaded coupler. Place the coupler in the jaw of a wire stripper and stretch a rubber band around the handle. This provides the needed tension to hold the coupler (or whatever else) in place while soldering.

—Mel Marcum, Eugene, Oregon

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