

Soaring News



Vol. 1 Issue 6

"Newsletter of the Orlando Buzzards R/C Soaring Society"

November 1996

CLUB OFFICERS

Rick Eckel, President
Don Cleveland, Vice President
Lewis Gray, Treasurer
Andy Harrell, Secretary

NEXT MEETING

Dec 8th, Noon at Club Field
Jan 5th, Noon at Club Field

Corner

Rick Eckel

"Rick, I need your farewell President's Corner"

How would you like to receive that in your email! Like its going to be the end of me. Maybe I should write a short obituary. Thanks Terry. You really know how to make a guy feel finished (*done, well done!*)(grin)

Time is indeed short. This is my last opportunity to harangue you guys with my personal opinions, pet peeves, grievances and general malcontent. But I think Rich Kiburis has already staked out that territory for this newsletter. (It's a joke Rich - really!) I'm tempted to look back at what we've done this year. Seems like a lot of good things have happened. Probably the highlight was this newsletter - ramrodded into existence by Rob Pierson and carried on by Terry Cusack. Then there is the winch trailer that Don Cleveland was so adamant about that we finally let him do it. Between Ed White and Rich Kiburis I think we really improved our battery and winch situation. And while all this was going on we have hosted three two day FSS contests, two HLG contests, a Gentle Lady contest and we will be having the three day Tangerine in a couple weeks. John Masiello put together several great computer scoring programs and just wait til you see how Lewis Gray has organized Tangerine registration! I'm getting tired just thinking about it all! Its been a great year thanks to the efforts of all you guys! But we still have the Tangerine to get through. Although the planning and work is going very well there is one area that is always the most difficult. We need help during the contest. Three days of

scoring, winch operation, maintenance, set up and tear down are required to make the contest work. We need every member to devote at least a half day to providing manpower during the contest. A whole day would be much better! Lets remember that the contestants will remember a well run contest with plenty of club participation long after they've forgotten who won or lost!

In the year ahead I see a variety of new challenges. The Snow Hill Road field will probably continue to be a shifty proposition, we may have some opportunity to interact with the Boy Scouts and plant some seeds of interest. We really could use some new members too. The sportsman classes in the last couple FSS contests were mighty thin. (My congratulations to all the guys who have "moved up" this year. Great flying!) Beyond that there will always be the need for ongoing meandering of new members, training on the equipment and perhaps some community outreach. A president's work is never done. (Ya hear that Don? heh, heh)

So that's it from me from this bully pulpit. Its time for me to make sure I make time for my kids. They won't be around forever - probably be gone before I know it. I've enjoyed my term as President. Its been rewarding and not as much work as I'd feared. I'll still be around and active in the club. Maybe I'll even have time to learn how to fly!

See Ya at the field!

(It may be early but its my last chance to use a really good one:)

Til next time - Rick "Have Yourself a Thermal Little Christmas" Eckel



This Month's Safety First Column combines the subjects of etiquette and safety. These may not appear to be related, but make no mistake about it, safety and etiquette go hand-in-hand.

Ever wonder why the same guys usually win at each contest? Because they PRACTICE! They practice every time they step up to the winch. The pilots that win come out almost every weekend, constantly tuning their sailplanes and most importantly, practicing landings. Do you know how hard it is to concentrate on those "100" pointers when there are three guys standing in front of the tape? When you launch your airplane, fly away from the launch zone and move away from the winch. Be aware of the landing zone and give landing aircraft the right of way. Don't, repeat DON'T fly over the winch line. You are not only endangering your aircraft, but you could bring down the guy who just launched if you snag the line. Everyone occasionally gets into trouble and may have to cross the line to get back to the field; but make it the exception, not the rule.

Want to get chased off the field faster than Don Cleveland can eat a bucket of chicken? (ED: Author's personal observation and opinion only! I saw Don take all day to consume a whole bucket by himself!) Fly erratically or low over parked cars and airplanes. If you have an insatiable desire to destroy something, please make it your own stuff. Try to pile your airplane into the middle of the field, not through the roof of your buddy's new van. Remember, the "C" in R/C Soaring stands for Control.

What do you think your friend would say if he handed you the transmitter to let you fly his new "super X Thermal Killer" and you worked the sticks with your feet? You wouldn't think of doing this would you? But people routinely operate retrievers by stepping on the switch. This

stuff is expensive. When the switches break, someone has to buy and replace them. Use your finger, not your foot. Enuff said.

Even under the best conditions, winches occasionally act up. It's the nature of the beast. Lines break or backlash, drum brakes screw up, swivels stop rotating, etc. If you're not sure how to fix such problems, get a more experienced club member to help. This is one of those deals where there is no strength in numbers. One guy with experience will get you up and running in minutes, while a repair committee might take half an hour. Everyone comes to the field to fly, right? So let the experienced guys fix things fast. By watching and asking questions you too can soon be one of those "experts" and can spend the day fixing stuff instead of flying.

One last etiquette item. If you get to the field late and all the equipment is set up, look for the turn-around and winch lines in the grass BEFORE driving onto the field. Running over the lines or turn-around could ruin everybody's day!

Concerning safety; you know that simple motor thing that pulls your plane into the air? Treat it with the same respect you give to a screaming chain saw. The winch line can and will cut through pants, legs, arms or just about anything that it touches in less than a second. Don't stand directly behind the winch. A breaking 200 lb test line has a lot of stored energy.

Our batteries are another device that requires our respect. Batteries are a nasty concoction of lead and sulfuric acid. The acid will burn your skin, not to mention ventilate your shoes or clothing. Use caution to avoid direct contact. Charging batteries also offers a reasonable amount of danger. While being charged, batteries give off hydrogen gas which is very explosive (remember the Hindenburg?). If you are working in the battery shed, do not connect or disconnect the charger clips while the charger is ON. The resulting spark could cause an explosion! I Don't want to scare anyone out of this sport. This soaring stuff is fairly safe. Just use a little common sense; help as much as you can; and most importantly, have fun!

Happy Thermals, and remember: "SAFETY FIRST".

TANGERINE CONTEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Lots of openings are still available for volunteers to work Tangerine. We need people for winch operation and repair, tent buildup/teardown, and battery charging. Persons with their own chargers could be especially helpful to ensure enough batteries are ready on day two and three. If interested in volunteering, contact Ed White at 321-1863 or Garnett White at 322-7881 or Don Cleveland 696-7516. Some volunteers will meet on Thanksgiving to setup. This is A VERY BIG Contest and we are a small Club. Please help maintain the tradition and success of this event.



There were two FSS contests, one hosted by the Buzzards at the Snowhill Road field and one hosted by the OWLS at Morriston. Be sure to read the enclosed announcement about the Tangerine Nationals being held this month. (*Hint: Preregister now to gain an advantage!*)

FSS#9 CONTEST RESULTS		
PLACE/CLASS	EVENT	NAME
1-Sportsman	2meter	RICH KIBURIS
2-Sportsman	2meter	LARRY SQUIRE
3-Sportsman	2meter	ROB RIERSON
1-Expert	2meter	RICK ECKEL
2-Expert	2meter	MIKE WILLIAMS
3-Expert	2meter	DON CLEVELAND
1-Master	2meter	JOE WELLMAN
2-Master	2meter	CHARLES BRECHT
3-Master	2meter	MARK KUMMFROW
1-Sportsman	unltd	JOHN MASIELLO
2-Sportsman	unltd	TOM GALLOWAY
3-Sportsman	unltd	DWIGHT HANEY
1-Expert	unltd	DON CLEVELAND
2-Expert	unltd	RICH KIBURIS
3-Expert	unltd	JOHN VARGO
1-Master	unltd	ED WHITE
2-Master	unltd	MARK ATZEL
3-Master	unltd	CHARLIE BRECHT

FSS#9. Held September 21/22 and was managed by CDs Julius Wagner and Rick Eckel. Sunday turned into a real challenge as weather set in and limited the contest to four rounds. But as usual, the participating Buzzards scored their share of the wins. Rob Rierson placed for the second time in two months (*keep an eye on him!*). Rich Kiburis graduated to the Expert Class on Saturday

and then proceeded to conquer second place in Expert on Sunday. John Masiello seems to be hot on his heels as he accumulates points with his Super Vees. John has earned the nickname "Thermal King" and scored first place in open class with fellow club member Tom Galloway in second. Ed White, Don Cleveland, and Rick Eckel continue to demonstrate what consistency is all about. Congratulations to all the participating Buzzards!

FSS#10. October 19/20 marked the return to Kenny's World and the Buzzards were there too. Again, John Masiello, Rich Kiburis, and Don Cleveland had the hot sticks. But Scott Hunt wasn't going home empty handed as he nipped at Don's heels in unlimited. Here are the results.

FSS#10 CONTEST RESULTS		
PLACE/CLASS	EVENT	NAME
1-Sportsman	2meter	JOHN MASIELLO
2-Sportsman	2meter	DON PORTER
3-Sportsman	2meter	LARRY SQUIRE
1-Expert	2meter	RICH KIBURIS
2-Expert	2meter	DON CLEVELAND
3-Expert	2meter	ART MILLER
1-Master	2meter	BRIAN AGNEW
2-Master	2meter	DICK TYMIC
3-Master	2meter	MARK ATZEL
1-Sportsman	unltd	JOHN VARGO
2-Sportsman	unltd	DWIGHT HANEY
3-Sportsman	unltd	KEITH McCORMICK
1-Expert	unltd	VIC MAGNET
2-Expert	unltd	DON CLEVELAND
3-Expert	unltd	SCOTT HUNT
1-Master	unltd	MIKE AGNEW
2-Master	unltd	DERRICK KHAW
3-Master	unltd	MARK ATZEL

FSS ANNUAL POINTS RACE. The annual tally of FSS contest points just arrived. Congratulations to Rich Kiburis (Sportsman, 2nd in Unlimited and 1st in 2meter), John Masiello (Sportsman, 2nd in 2meter), Jerre Ferguson (Sportsman, 5th in Unlimited), Rob Rierson (Sportsman, 5th in 2meter), Ed White (Master, 2nd in Unlimited and 3rd in 2meter), and Don Cleveland (Expert, 1st in Unlimited and 2nd in 2meter). By the way, this means that Don will now be competing in Masters. Way to go guys!

ODDS-N-ENDS

☐ **SPECIAL THANKS.** We all appreciate the effort that John Masiello, Don Cleveland, Ed White, and Rob Rier-son did in acquiring raffle items for Tangerine. John was instrumental in getting an Airtronics Infinity Radio Set and Rob was the coordinator for obtaining both the raffle prizes and the Tangerine T-shirts.

☐ **NEW CLUB OFFICERS ELECTED.** We have elected new officers and wish them all luck and lots of hard work in 1997. Here are the lucky winners:

1997 CLUB OFFICERS	Don Cleveland, President John Masiello, Vice President Lewis Gray, Treasurer Rich Kiburis, Secretary
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☐ **CONGRATULATIONS TO RICH KIBURIS!!**

Rich leaped out of the Sportsman Class on Saturday (Sept 21) only to stomp on all the Experts on Sunday. Something tells me that Rich will not be in the Expert Class for very long either. Way to go Rich!

☐ **DUES ARE DUE!** Are YOU a 1997 Buzzard Club Member? It's that time of year again and 1997 promises to have more contests and related "fun" events than ever before. The club provides launch equipment, an isolated flying location, and access to veteran pilots that can help you achieve any level of competition you aspire to reach.

But wait, that's not all. If you renew soon, you'll receive more of SOARING NEWS as a bonus. What more could you ask for? (*a Super Vee!?...Get real.*)

☐ **REGISTER NOW FOR TANGERINE SOARING NATS!** There are a LOT of benefits associated with early registration for the Tangerine Nationals Contest. To name a few: \$5 discount for multi-events, engraved name tags, easy sign-in the day of the contest, pre-printed score cards, refund for "no-shows", and automatic notification for registration of next year's Tangerine Nationals. So hurry and get that registration in the mail!



**Give us a hand
Jot it down!**

Your words could appear in SOARING NEWS! If you have news, safety issues, technical ideas, or equipment to sell, write it up and mail to: Terry Cusack, SOARING NEWS
1471 San Carlos Ave
Dellona, FL 32738-9771
or call: (904) 789-0323. I can accept disk copies in MS WORD, WORDPERFECT, WORDSTAR...or you name it. Watch for email address in near future.

TECH-TIPS

RADIO EQUIPMENT COMPATIBILITY

Wondering if you can mix radio control equipment from different manufacturers? Here is a small list of DO's and DON'Ts that might save some grief:

1. Avoid mixing txer and rxer brands or types. You can't mix AM with FM and FM with PCM. After-market rxers are OK, but any other mix is an experiment. Get Advice!
2. If you mix FM airborne equipment, ensure that the negative (black or brown) lead on the battery and servos are inserted on the same side as the original manufacturer's equipment (Usually the outside edge of the rxer, ex-

cept on Airtronics.) Futaba and HiTec RCD use a negative shift signal, while Airtronics and JR use a positive shift signal.

3. Never use a JR Txer charger to charge a HiTec RCD Txer or vice versa. They look the same, but are reversed polarity.
4. Never use a HiTec RCD crystal in any other brand of radio. Their crystal is actually a tuning circuit and is in no way similar to other common crystals.
5. Make no assumptions when substituting different brands of equipment. Call the manufacturer or HiTec.

Support Your Local Hobby Shop

AERO HOBBY AND CRAFTS

Location: Woodland Blvd, Downtown Deland.

Phone: (904) 740-0858

Hours: 10-6, Th-Sat til 9, closed Sun.

Comments: Sole owner/operator knows her stuff! Selection is still building, but worth a look.

BOB'S HOBBY CENTER

Location: Corner of Lk Underhill and Goldenrod, Orlando

Phone: 277-1248

Hours: 10-6, Fri to 8pm, closed Sun.

Comments: Bob gets a thumbs up for being well stocked, knowledgeable staff, and fair prices.

J & B HOBBY CENTER

Location: Alafaya Commons, corner of 50 and Alafaya, East Orlando

Phone: 381-0395

Hours: 10-7, 12-5 Sun, closed Wed.

Comments: Closest Shop to our club field and open on Sunday. Sole Owner/Operator does it all. (Has the good Iobbico #64 rubberbands)

TNR BATTERY STORE

Location: New location 0.7 miles from Seminole Towne Mall on 46, Sanford.

Phone: 321-3011

Hours: 9-5, closed all weekend.

Comments: THE place for Txr, Rxr, and electric power pack Nicads.

COLONIAL PHOTO & HOBBY

Location: 634 N. Mills Ave, downtown Orlando

Phone: 841-1485

Hours: 9-7:30, Fri to 9pm, Sat to 6pm, closed Sun.

Comments: In the heart of Downtown. Oldest Shop, long-standing support.

GRAVE'S HOBBY CENTER

Location: on OBT, just north of Loo Road, NorthWest Orlando

Phone: 294-5699

Hours: 8-7, closed Sun.

Comments: Great selection of new/used/RTF planes/equipt. Prices are very negotiable.

Classified Advertisements

ESTATE SALE.

Monkole Iron \$4.00

Sagitta 600 w/HiTec Radio \$125.00

2 Fiberglass fusclages \$25.00ea

Cristy Mixer \$20.00

Call Ben Cleveland (904) 589-1866

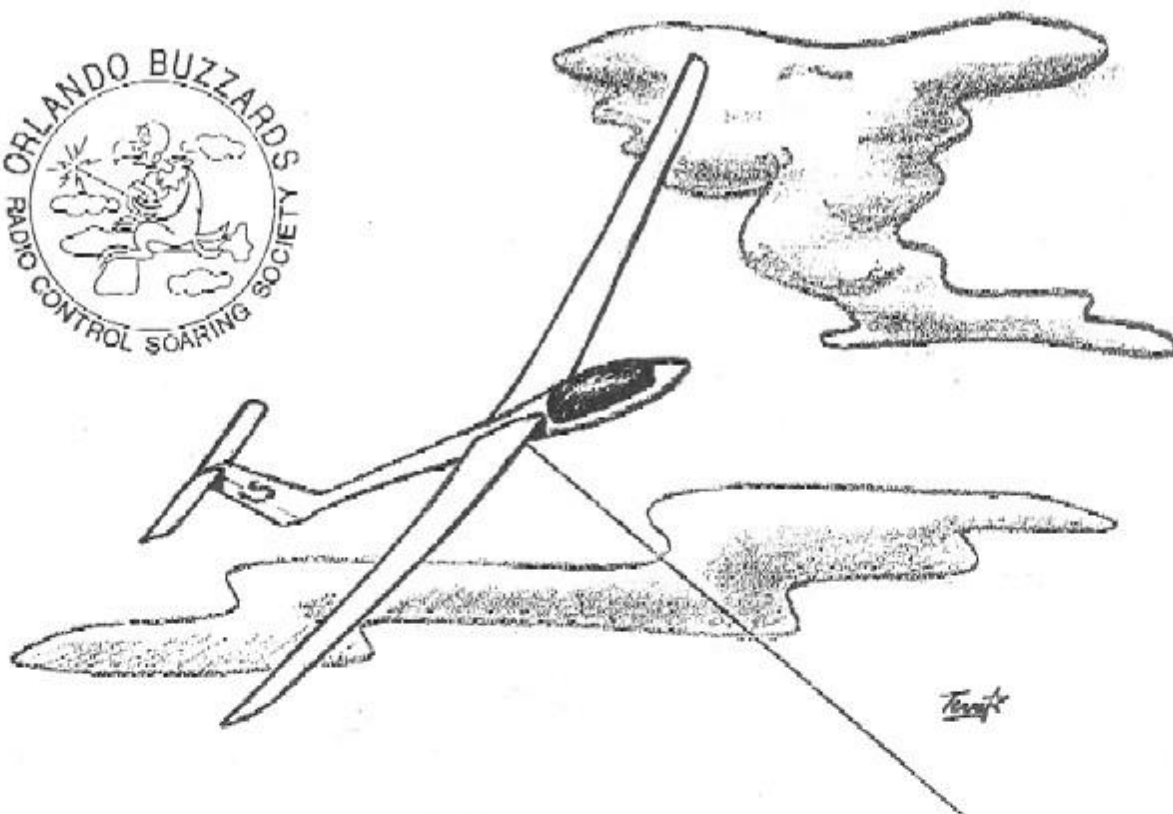
or Don Cleveland 9407) 696-7516

Tangerine Soaring Championship Information

For information concerning the contest contact Rick Eckel (407) 365-9757 or Terry Cusack (904) 789-0323. Before calling, please review the enclosed entry forms for answers to your questions. NOTICE: Mailed Entries must be postmarked by November 15. Save time and money, Register NOW!

★ Watch for 1997 Contest Dates in the Next Issue of Soaring News ★

The 1996 Tangerine Soaring Nationals have arrived!!!



Soaring News
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Deltona, FL 32738-9771

