



# The Radio Flyer

The Monthly News Bulletin of the Iowa City Aerohawks Radio Control Flying Club  
March 2021, No. 344 P.O. Box 25, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 [www.iowacityaerohawks.com](http://www.iowacityaerohawks.com)

## Post-Winter Preflight

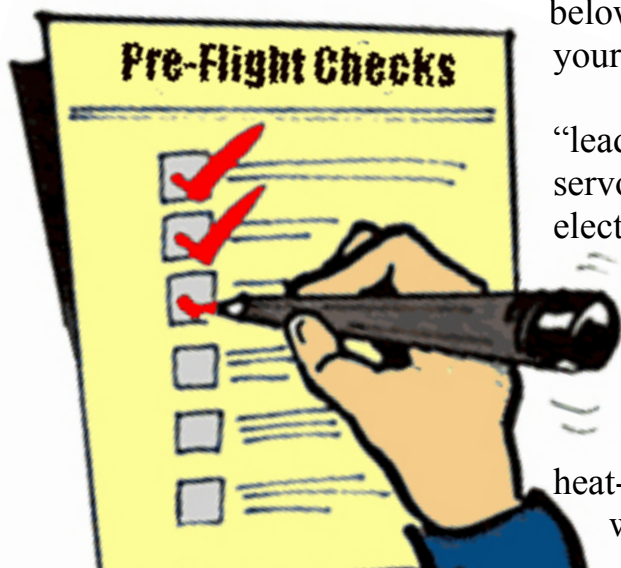
With the flying season here and for those of you that haven't been flying all winter, most of us are getting our winter projects ready to maiden. Brand new servos, receivers, engines, batteries and etc. While others of us are getting a plane that hasn't flown for a while or was just willy-nilly placed on the shelf for the winter. Either new or used, a good pre-flight checklist is always in order, especially for that plane that's been sitting around for awhile. Disclaimer, what comes to follow is "general" in nature...there are MANY opinions and ways of making sure your plane is good-to-go. I'm just hoping this might spur you to take a second to look over your plane, however you look it over.

So let's start with the most simple straight forward items and the first thing to be turned on, the batteries. Is that pack on the other side of the switch going to supply power...and supply it the whole time. NiMH are fairly easy to check and are slowly going away but if you still have a pack and after a full slow charge, if the pack is good it should hold its charge under load after some time. When it comes to LiPo batteries, things become a little more involved. As a broad general, LiPo's shouldn't appear swollen, after a full charge battery capacity should be no less than 80% of new and no single cell should be

below 3 volts. Anything short of that, you need to ask yourself "Is your plane worth replacing a \$15 battery?"

Which "leads" me to ALL your connections...get it, "leads". Battery to switch, switch to receiver, receiver to servos and servos to controls. Regardless if its an electrical or a mechanical connection, over time things slowly shake loose. This also includes all those screws, bolts, collars and anything else that over time could shake itself free. This would also be a good time to add "keepers" to your servo leads or a dab of loctite next to those screws and bolts. I like to use heat-shrink tubing but even a simple piece of tape will work. Its great to find these loose connections on the

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The Radio Flyer is published monthly by the Iowa City Aerohawks, a radio control flying club, and distributed free to members, by e-mail and USPS mail. Non-members may receive the newsletter by e-mail as a PDF file, by request.

Spectators are welcome at the Aerohawks' flying field and clubhouse on Hebl Avenue, west on Melrose, west of HWY 218, on manicured, reclaimed land near the entrance to the Landfill. New members are welcome at any time, at any level of skill.

The Club has an active, free instructional program for beginners. Membership is \$60 annually, and the Club also requires that members volunteer help with work projects from time to time. Members must also join the Academy of Model Aeronautics, (the Iowa City Aerohawks are Chapter 824).

# Iowa City Aerohawks

## General Meeting

### February 2nd, 2021

Meeting brought to order by President  
Zoom @ 7:04 PM

Treasurers report from – Mary Curtis  
Motion to accept – Rich VeDepo  
2nd – Marc Niehus...Passed

Meeting Minutes – Bill Kiesel  
Motion to accept – Gerald Hollander  
2nd – Joe Shurson...Passed

## OLD BUSINESS

We are going to check with Jim Jarus's family and see about getting a picture. Bill Kiesel will design a memorial board that can be used for various reasons and having it dedicated from the Jarus family.

We reviewed the roster and went of current and past members. Discussed how we list current good standing members, and members still needing to pay.

We reviewed the calendar laid forth by the board and new events coming up.



## NEW BUSINESS

We learned that the website will no longer be hosted by Shiloh Jennings. We discussed our options for the website and where it could possibly be hosted. This is yet to be determined.

Next meeting will be March 2nd – 7:00 PM via  
Zoom

Motion to adjourn by Rich VeDepo  
2nd by Lonny Louvar...Passed

Zoom meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM



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work bench verses finding out in flight.

Let's not forget the engine and its associated parts. If you'r like me, at the end of the season you drain your tank and run your engine till the fuel tank/lines and carb clears itself out. If most of us just put the plane away for the winter, all should be good but if you'r thinking about flying a plane that has been in storage of a couple years, you might want to take some time to check the above for mentioned. I have seen a fuel tank that sat for just over a year to develop a sludge in the tank. If you can get to the tank, great...just clean it out. If not, you might want to think about filling and draining the tank a few times using a filter both on the fill and vent line and then checking the filter, repeating till its clean.

One of the reasons I am writing this is because all the above are things that have happened to me and could have been preventable. I'v lost a plane (early in my RC days) because of a battery and I almost lost a couple others because of a loose/broken clevis, servo connection and what not. I know we all go through a mental checklist at the field before we fly...but this is with some distractions. Be it a friend asking you about your plane, you watching someone pull off an amazing acrobatic routine or someone making a dead stick landing...vs a pre-flight in your workshop, on a bench with no distractions. The second seems most desirable.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 10th - 1st Ditch Clean-Up

May 9th - Club Kickoff Day

June 6th - Tailgate Swap Meet

June 19th - 1st Float Fly

July 18th - Fun Fly

Aug 7th - 2nd Float Fly

Aug 26th-29th - Night Fly

Sep12th - Airshow

Oct 16th - 3rd Float Fly

Nov 6th - 2nd Ditch Clean-up

Dec 8th - Holiday Party