

## Tail Spin

By: David DeWitt, President

Rick Ruede and Scott Smith did a great job with the "Mulberry 500" pylon race on October 7 & 8, 2006. Thanks to all the club members who helped to make the event a great success.

The IRCC Helicopter Spectacular is just around the corner, it starts on Saturday November 11, 2006. Doug Bruns and Darrell Sprayberry will be working with the scale pilots along with anyone else who is interested in getting into scale by running a weekend long seminar on how to prepare a scale helicopter for competition. They will also be flying demo Scale 518 flights with an experienced Helicopter NATS judge explaining the correct way to fly the 518 maneuvers.

Mike Zellars will help monitor the pod and boom pilots with the fun fly. We will have several pilot stations designated along the front line for the pilots to fly from. We want to have a fun & safe event. We have some real top notch competition pilots that will attend the fly in - you just won't believe what they can do with their 3 D helicopters. Make sure you take time to come out and watch them fly.

Pilots will arrive on Thursday afternoon and Friday for setup and to start flying. The gates will be open by 8:00 AM but we normally have several motor homes that spend the night so we will leave the gate unlocked for the event so pilots can come and go as needed. I have been contacted by several vendors requesting setup space so we will probably have them set up their tents along the back of the spectator parking area.

There are a lot of new products coming out for the conversion of gas helicopters to electric, these range in size from the big scale machines to the pod & boom heli's. There will be several of these conversions at the event performing demos so you can learn about the best motor and battery combinations.

I will need a couple of members to help on Thursday to monitor the field and help the pilots set up. Anyone who is available, please get in touch with me. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday we need transmitter impound, frequency control and registration help. Joe Devine has volunteered to do the food concession and could use a couple of

helpers. Please email me at [benz425@aol.com](mailto:benz425@aol.com) to let me know when you can lend a hand.

It's great to see all the activity at the flying field on the weekends; 10 to 20 pilots bringing out their planes and having a great time and we now have over 10% of our club members flying helicopters - never a dull moment. Come on out and join us!

*See you at the flying field.*

## New Members

*Proposed at the September Meeting*

Paul Douglass  
Tim Reed  
Joe Wederman  
John Wederman

## Please Keep Us Updated

One very important thing that all members need to do is to notify either Rick Ruede or John Burdin if you have a change in your Email address or other contact information. Some members do this which is greatly appreciated, but some don't. The only way we can be sure you are getting club info is to have the proper contact information.

If you do make a change please contact us as soon as possible so we may update our records. Rick and John's contact info is located on page two of the Newsletter.

Contributions to the IRCC newsletter by club members are always welcome. Hobby related are best, and both humorous and general information about R/C may be used. Please forward your material to the newsletter editor via Email so we can use our member's ideas.

**All contributions** for the Newsletter should be submitted no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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*Courtesy and  
common sense  
makes R/C modeling  
fun for everyone.*

*Here is another multipart article for our members. This information was sent to me by Dave DeWitt. This is a Q & A format about electrics, charging, etc. We are not sure who the author is, but we certainly thank him.*

**Here's the answers to our most frequently asked questions regarding care, feeding, technology types and system applications\***

**Q: What's up with 'Formation Charging'? Can't I just charge and fly a new pack?**

A: The term 'Formation Charging' describes the initial charge/discharge 'forming' process that fully activates the 'chemical engine' and balances the cells in a new pack. NiMH packs have a particular need for repetitive c/10 charge/cycle conditioning, a 'break-in' procedure needed to get them to full rated capacity. Both NiMH and Nicad packs benefit from the process and the intent is to make sure that any new pack has been verified to be fully operational and that a 'start-up' capacity number is established for the pack before it's put into service. To 'Form' a new NiMH pack do **three** 10% 16-24 hour charges followed by a 300 to 500 ma discharge routine between each charge. In other words: Do a slow charge at the slow charge rate (or as close to it as you can reasonably get with your equipment) as shown on the pack label. Charge till the pack is warm, followed by a controlled discharge with a cycler. Do it 3 times. **The recommended Formation Charge/ Slow Charge rate for our packs is printed right on the label of the pack as well as on the data card the pack was shipped with.** New Nicad packs should get at least one slow charge followed by a 300 to 500ma discharge. Record the capacity numbers reported by your equipment for comparison cycling as the pack ages. *Never* check your brain at the door! As one respected modeler put it, "There's nothing more suspect than a new battery pack." Before you fly anybody's pack be certain it's fully operational and safe to fly.

**Q: I have a programmable charger. What discharge rate and voltage cutoff value should I use for the Formation Process?**

A: Most programmable charger/cyclers allow programming the discharge current and the low voltage cutoff level for the discharge. If using a 250-300ma (.3) discharge rate set the cutoff voltage value at 1.0v per cell. If using a 500ma (.5) discharge rate set it at .8v

per cell. For formation charge/discharge routines on Rx and Tx packs we don't recommend using a discharge rate higher than 500ma (.5) and DON'T discharge under any circumstances below .8v per cell !! **Packs with cell impedance ratings below 10 mOhms CAN be discharged at 1.0 amps AFTER going through the formation process.. BUT NOT BEFORE.**

**Q: What's 'cycling' and why do I need to do it?**

A: Battery 'cycling' in it's simple form is the two step process of charging and then discharging the battery under controlled conditions. Normally the purpose of the procedure is to 'condition' or 'format' a new pack or to verify the capacity or check the condition of a pack that's been in service. 'Routine' cycling, or discharging before recharging a pack after every use is not necessary for either NiMH or Nicad packs, and discharging to 'zero' voltage under load is in fact harmful. A 'cycler' or controlled discharger will limit the discharge voltage level to prevent damage to the pack, whereas 'leaving the switch on' in your radio system to discharge a pack is very poor practice and may result in damage your radio system components or the battery.

Most 'hobby' cyclers or dischargers operate at a predetermined load and cutoff level that is different than the cell mfg's rating system. This leads to discrepancies that can be a high as 10-15% of rated capacity between the mfg's rating and the rating presented by the cycler or discharger you are using. If your cycler or discharger system's numbers are lower than the comfort zone described above then you need to verify the calibration of the cycler and check the charge rate and charge time to insure the pack did indeed get a full charge before the discharge function began. If the numbers are still uncomfortably low after re-running the test with your new pack, we suggest you contact the assembler or retailer for evaluation assistance in determining what the cause is before using the pack in a critical application. Any pack cycling more than 25% below the mfg's rating or the original numbers established for the pack with your equipment when it was new should be removed from critical application service.

The IRCC monthly club meeting will be held at FTE near the Lakeland Airport. The next meeting will be on Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> and starts promptly at 7:30pm. Bring a chair - if you want to have a seat.

Minutes from October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Club Meeting  
*Allen Sale, Secretary*

The Imperial RC Club held its October regular meeting Thursday October 5th, 2006 at FTE.

President David DeWitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Present were:

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as mailed.

Rick Ruede gave the treasures report which was approved as presented.

Membership: 86 members including 12 juniors. Proposed new member applications on Paul Douglass, Joe Wederman, John Wederman and Tim Reed.

Field Maintenance: Almost time to recharge Fire Extinguisher- Rick Ruede to take care of, will probably buy a new one. Need to resupply first aid kit with QR powder, Dale Anderson to take care of since he used the most of the old supply.

Instructors report- everyone who needs an instructor seems to be getting one. Rick to start instructing on helis.

Events- Pylons Oct 7th & 8th. Results will be in Newsletter.

New Business: need to make sure that when you remove your card from frequency board, that you bring the "peg" down to the not in use position.  
Rick Ruede reported that IRCC has been requested to host the Tangerine Pylon Event December of 2007. Over a year away. Will talk more about it next meeting. Could be great fund raiser.

Sportsmanship Award went to David DeWitt for his work on the frequency board.

Aircraft of the month was Rick Ruede Raptor 30 electric conversion (2500 watt)

Larry Loucks won the 50/50

The nominating committee has made the following recommendations for next years officers and directors:

President- David DeWitt  
Vice President- Dale Anderson  
Treasurer- Rick Ruede  
Secretary- Allen Sale  
Board Members- Chris Smith

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

It never hurts to bend over and pick up a piece of trash laying on the ground, empty the trash cans when they are full or take care of other small task when you are at the field.  
*"It's our house"*

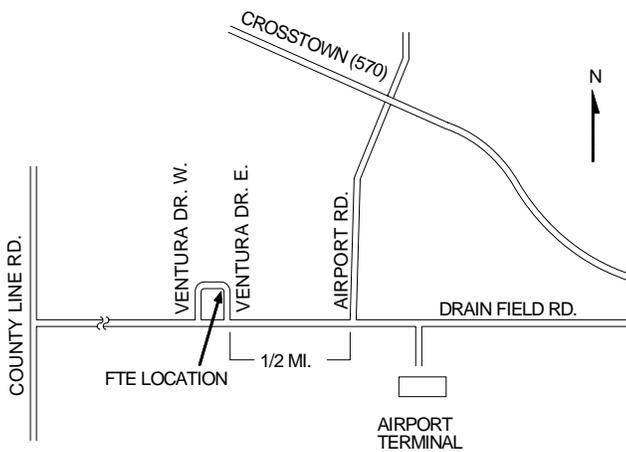
**Fall Pylon Race Re-Cap**  
*By: Rock Ruede*

First and foremost I want to thank all of the members who came out to support this event with their time over the 3 days. We had plenty of volunteers for both days which allowed some interaction between the different areas. It also allowed us to monitor the fuel usage and weigh each heat winner. **YOU ARE THE BEST AND WITHOUT YOU, WE COULD NOT HAVE AN EVENT LIKE THIS.....**

Oh what a weekend!! We had a great weekend of racing for the kick off for the 2007 SEMPRA season. On Saturday, there were 20 pilots and we had 24 pilots for Sunday so the turnout was a little bigger than some of our other races.

Both days contained some very exciting racing action. Not very many crashes (sorry guys) this year as there has been. However, the racing was never closer than at this race. Many of the heats were decided within a second between first and second place. Club members Allen Sale, Scott Smith and myself had a very good weekend. Scott took second place due to my great calling on Saturday. I took second place on Sunday thanks to Scotts great calling for me. Allen showed great improvement since our last races and improved each and every race.

This race was very successful for the club as well. Thanks to your efforts, we had a very good financial outcome for this event. I can't wait until our next race!!



There is a vacant lot across the street from FTE which is a good place to park. There is another facility to the west of FTE which has parking. Please **DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS** at FTE or his neighbors.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS:  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Check out the directions to our meeting place.*

**October Meeting Agenda**

Pylon Race Wrap Up

Future Events

Just around the corner!!  
IRCC "Heli" Spectacular  
IMAA Winter Rally

Planning for 2007

What would you like see next year??

Put in your three cents worth

Who's Building What??

Bring your latest creation, and show the other members what you are doing.

*If you have a topic for discussion let Dave DeWitt know so he can put it on the agenda*

**Coming Area Events**

Florida International Jet Rally

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Lake Wales Airport  
www.floridajetflyers.com

IRCC "Heli Spectacular"

November 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>  
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IRCC / IMAA Winter Rally

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
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*Here are a couple of pictures from the Pylon Race provided by Rick Ruede. More will be posted on the website in the near future.*



