

# *Plane Talk*

August 2008



<http://www.qcskyraiders.com>

## ***Next Meeting***

Wednesday August 13, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

At the Flying Field

In case of rain at the

Deere Wiman Carriage House

817 11th Avenue

Moline, Illinois



## 2008 Officers

President Rockne Brosman 269-2023

(rbrosman@hotmail.com)

V. President Les Schjelderup 799-5678

Secretary Kelly Bryant 787-5984

Treasurer Mark Chronister 236-3324

P.R. Dennis Witt 797-2893

Newsletter Mike Cobert 788-1132

[mcobert@mchsi.com](mailto:mcobert@mchsi.com)

## ***OUR FLY-IN HAS BEEN CANCELLED***

***Due to the flooding, our fly-in scheduled for  
August 10<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled***

### **Minutes of the July 9th, 2008 meeting**

President Rockne Brosman called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

12 Members were present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

#### **Announcements and Business:**

1. The water has receded at the flying field, mowing will resume as soon as possible. The gate is closed but you can enter using our combination lock. Please close the gate after you enter.
2. Mark Chronister will call the Porta-Potty company to have the outhouse serviced
3. The RC Flying exhibition at the Milan fireworks was a big success. We have been invited back next year.
4. Field cleanup has been scheduled for Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 8AM. Please come out and help if you can.
5. New flyer night will start again on July 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 6PM.
6. Rockne will attend the Park Board meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup> to ask for permission to construct a pavilion, get electricity, and change part of the access road. This was voted on and approved by the attending members.

## Show and Tell

Mike Cobert showed a 14 gram airplane called the Vapor made by Etomic.

John Youngberg showed a T-34 electric airplane he just purchased. It is made by Eflite.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM

*Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Bryant - Secretary*

## Calendar of Events

Aug 10	QCSR Fly-In 10am to 4pm at the Flying Field <b>CANCELLED</b>
Aug 10	Tri State Modelers Fun Fly Dubuque Iowa
Aug 13	QCSR Meeting 7pm at the Flying Field (weather permitting)
Aug 17	Erie Contest Flyin Hillsdale, IL 9a.m.
Aug 24	QCSR Float Fly 10am to 4pm at Cambells Island
Sept 6-7	E-FLI-OWA Seven Cities Sod farm Davenport, IA 8:30a.m.
Sept 10	QCSR Meeting 7pm at the Flying Field (weather permitting)
Sept 13	Bud Miller Fly In Davenport, IA 10 a.m.
Oct 8	QCSR Meeting 7pm at the Flying Field (weather permitting)
Oct 11	DRCS Night Fly Davenport, IA 6 p.m.

## **NOTICE:**

Due to our field being flooded for most of the summer, it was decided to cancel our fly-in this year. Hopefully we will eventually be able to clean up the field and have some flying time yet this year.

We thank all our neighboring RC Clubs have been very 'helpful' to our members during this time. The Erie club had offered to let us use their field for the fly-in, but due to time constraints of changing the sanctioning, we were not able to accept.

The Dubuque club has sent an invitation to all our members to come and join them at their fly-in on August 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a contest fly-in with practice flying from 11 a.m. until 1p.m. The contests will begin a 1 p.m. They are waving the \$5.00 entrance fee to any of our members who wish to attend. If you are interested in attending, please contact Glen Williams as soon as possible, ph. 309-738-9034.

Don't forget to check out the events calendar; there are still several fly-ins and contests coming up in the next several weeks. This may be the perfect excuse to pack up your plane(s) and meet some other

modelers, while participating in one of these activities. I am sure that the other clubs would appreciate your participation.

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## Fourth of July fun



On July 3, at the invitation of the Milan Festival committee, several members took part in a flying exhibition prior to their fireworks display. Everyone in attendance seemed to have a good time. Some members of the committee were very impressed with those who were flying and have tentatively asked us back next year.

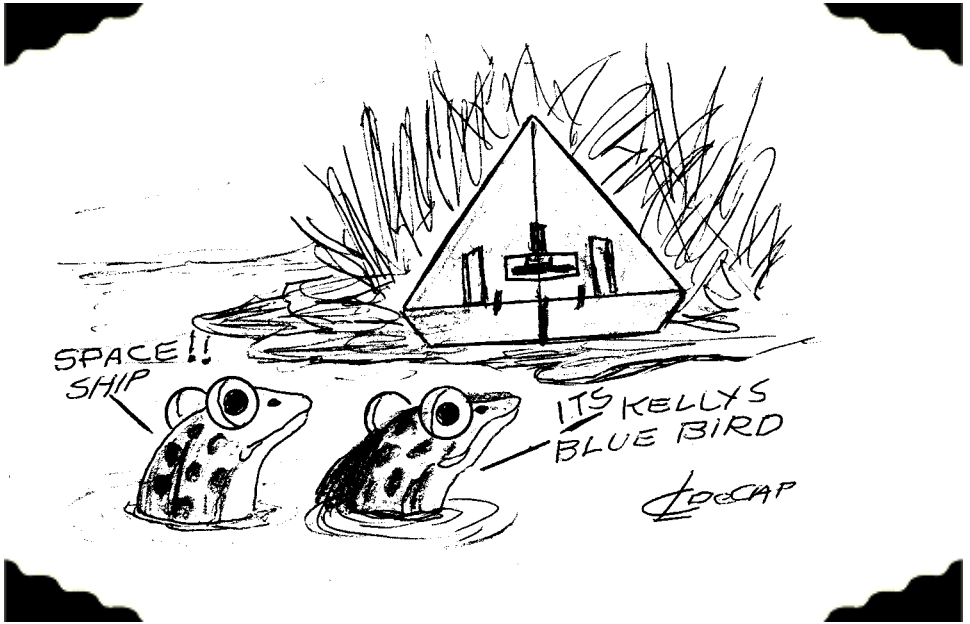
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### **For Sale Corner**

Keith Hanna still has a few of his planes left. He'd like to move them out. He indicated that he will accept any "reasonable" offer for these planes. He has a Robinhood 99, Playmate, Sig Wonder, Tigate Bibe, and Giant Stinger. Anyone interested can contact Keith at [khanne@mchsi.com](mailto:khanne@mchsi.com).

Brett Colwell has a Goldberg Edge 540 ARF; 77" wingspan new in box - \$250.00. Please call Brent at (309) 856-5013 after 5:00 pm.



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*From RCadvisor.com*

### **A123 Cells**

By Carlos Reyes

Electric model airplanes have been around for roughly three decades. A huge problem in the early days was battery energy density. In other words, they simply weighed too much for the amount of juice you could get out of them. This situation has improved dramatically in recent years with the advent of Li-Poly cells, but a battery pack for a larger model can easily cost hundreds of dollars. The advent of electric cars, such as the Toyota Prius has spurred an enormous amount of research into new battery technologies. In this article, I will describe an alternative to Li-Poly batteries that offers intriguing possibilities.

A123 Systems ([www.a123systems.com](http://www.a123systems.com)) produces Lithium-Ion Nanophosphate cells. These cells have a nominal voltage of 3.3 volts and can withstand continuous discharge rates of 30C. They can be safely discharged down to 2.0 volts. The voltage remains fairly constant through the discharge cycle, but they do have a sharp drop-off at the end. Expect 300 cycles before you notice any reduction in capacity while at

1,000 cycles you'll have 75% of the original capacity. They are very safe. Overcharging or over discharging will not cause an explosion and will have little effect on the life of the battery. Balancing the cells when they are charged is still a good idea, but not absolutely required. They can be charged immediately after use in 15 minutes.

The cells are available in two sizes. The original M1 cell has a capacity of 2.3 Ah and weighs 70 grams (2.47 oz). A newer, smaller size can hold 1.1 Ah and weighs 40 grams (1.41 oz).

The primary source for A123 M1 cells has been DeWalt 36-volt portable power-tool battery packs. Each pack contains 10 cells. I purchased two of these for \$100 each through Ebay. The prices appear to have gone up recently to the \$120-\$130 range. Single cells can also be purchased online for \$15 from a growing variety of vendors. You can find two of the smaller cells in a Black & Decker VPX battery pack which sells for about \$15. The smaller cells can also be had for \$12.50 each.

There are many Li-Poly chargers that support or can be modified to support the charging of these A123 cells. Because of the sharp voltage drop-off when discharged, you are probably better off using a timer when you fly. Otherwise you need your ESC to shut off the motor when 2.0 volts per cell is reached.

Bottom line? These cells give you 70% the energy density of Li-Polys for about 45% of the price. For many of us, that is a good trade-off. They are extremely safe and can be charged in 15 minutes. If you end up buying half as many battery packs because of the shorter charge time, then they become a much better value. →

## **Tips and Tricks**

### **Instrument Panels**

An easy and cheap way to obtain an instrument panel for that sport model is to look through a full-scale airplane magazine for an advertisement showing instruments. I found one I liked and used my scanner to scan the image into the computer, and then pasted it into my word processor, scaling it to different sizes. This could also be done using a copy machine that will reduce. If using the computer any size can be easily scaled. I printed out several different sizes to have on hand. The ones I made were all in black and white, but if you have access to a color scanner and color printer, some really nice instrument panels could be created this way. You could also add color to black-and-white copy instruments using markers or colored pencils so they look more realistic.

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## **Membership Application**

If you cannot attend the meeting you can fill out the following application and send it, your check, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Treasurer to receive your access instructions, membership card and a copy of the by-laws.

### **Application for Membership Quad-City SkyRaiders**

Name .....  
Address .....  
City .....  
State & Zip Code .....  
Phone .....  
Email.....  
AMA# (required).....  
Frequency #s .....

### **Make check payable to:**

Quad-City SkyRaiders  
Mail this application along with your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Mark Chronister  
402 - 2nd Ave C  
Silvis, IL 61282

Single membership - - - - - \$20  
Senior membership - - - - - \$15  
Junior membership - - - - - \$10  
Family membership - - - - - \$20  
for each dependent - - - - - \$ 5  
Associate membership - - - - - \$ 5  
Initiation fee - - - - - \$10  
Junior initiation fee - - - - - \$ 5



c/o Rick Haney  
2042 - 52nd St  
Moline, IL 61265