

NPMAC NEWSLETTER

February 9, 2010



Pat (Senior, right) gets some airbrush help from Lou. The event marked the first demonstrator the club hosted. Jan 20, 2010

February is almost over... Not really, but let's just consider it.

Our spring 2010 event schedule is filling up rapidly. Two events will take place in March.

1. Lebanon Flea Market
 - a. March 13th
2. Hamburg Swap Meet
 - a. March 27th

Both events provide an opportunity to visit some interesting places and meet other RC pilots, vendors, and enthusiasts. If you would like to go to either of them, I have a few spaces available for each event. Please see me if you would like to ride along in our district van. At the Hamburg event, I reserved two tables to sell our old and donated items. In order to get to Hamburg with enough time to set

up, that van leaves NP at 6am. Yikes! The Lebanon trip will also involve a NP van, but leaves the high school around 7:45am. We will not be selling our equipment there this year. Their tables were sold out before the beginning of January.

Our next fun-fly is scheduled for April 24th. Please clear your Saturday schedule completely. If you're available, clear Friday night for set up. The winter 2009 fun-fly was mostly set up on Friday night. Our spring fun-fly will include more flying time, a regulated flight line, and a few other minor changes. We need to see our program change to successfully attract the type of

indoor RC pilot we would like to attend.

Lou's airbrushing demonstration led me to purchase an airbrush for the club. We don't have paint, an air line, nor the rest of the required materials. The club meeting room has a air line connection running from the air compressor in the boiler area across the hall. I'd like to get that set up by middle March. Adding more equipment will require more attention to storage and organization. I would like to set up liaisons to keep track of our equipment. Talk to me about that one at the next meeting. -Mr. V

Check out [our website](#) for links to the two events described in this article.

Where do we go from here? The club's newest ventures...

By Mr.Voicheck

I think it's vital for any organization to change something, or add something new to their repertoire. Here are a few propositions I have for the 2010 and 2011 school years.

Airbrushing. The airbrushing demonstration was a fantastic display of the simplicity to decorate an aircraft, and at the same time, keep the weight down. Many of the modern RC foam airplanes are airbrushed and we need to keep up with the times. I will order [paints](#) and the rest of the equipment to get us running. Does anyone want to 'spearhead' this operation to get us running? I already bought an [airbrush](#) and airbrush hose. [Harbor freight](#) sells them for \$15.

Depron. Many modern foam airplanes use Depron foam, instead of bluecor. Depron is similar to bluecor, but more consistent in texture, and more expensive. It is an insulation foam designed for underlayment in hardwood flooring. The product is popular in Europe. It's not readily available from our local hobby stores. Right now websites are selling 27" x 39" sheets by the case (40 sheets per case) at \$170 per case, not including the extra \$15 for shipping. At that price, the foam is almost \$5 per sheet! We will stick to bluecor for now, but look to use depron for our advanced student's planes. It all ends up in the landfill anyway!

Carbon Fiber. Modern model aircraft also use carbon fiber (aka. CF) to reinforce their planes. It is much more expensive than the K'Nex and bamboo pieces we



Modern RC foam planes, like the [BlingBlingV3](#) are made with 3mm Depron. This plane is outfitted with the same servos and a similar motor we use in our club planes. Free plans were found on RC Groups.

were using. It is also much stronger and lighter. Our goal is to teach students how to build and fly model aircraft using current trends in the model aircraft field. However, the CF at the local hobby stores is limited in selection and a bit pricy. We need to adapt to survive.

RC Groups. If you haven't done so yet, please sign up for an account on [RC Groups.com](#). The website is filled with free plans, amazing videos, and more knowledge about the RC hobby than you know what to do with. A few of our members recently signed up and created their own [RC blogs](#), including pictures and videos. It's a great way to stay in touch with other hobbyists from all over the world, that have similar interests as us. Did I mention that it's free, and NP recently unblocked it from their list of banned sites. Sign up soon, and send me a message. My username is [mikeythey](#).

That's all for now, but please let me know if I missed something, or if you have any suggestions for future articles. -Mr.V voicheck@northpenn.org

Links:

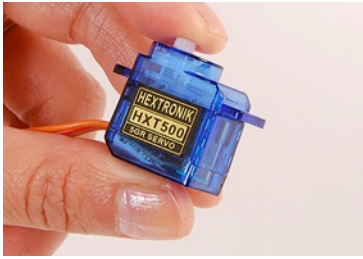
Youtube [Airbrushing Video](#)

Youtube Winter 2009 [Fun-Fly Video Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)



The Airbrush Master
Lou started in the RC airplane hobby just a few years ago. His fleet comprises some very pretty foam electric planes, to very large gas powered planes.



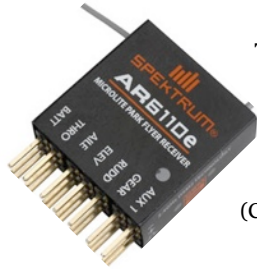


The servos make the control surfaces move. They connect to the receiver. When you move the 'sticks' on the transmitter, the servo moves too. (Cost \$4-10)

Components are usually purchased individually. It is nearly impossible to find all the items you need in one package, at one store. Ask around before purchasing these items.



Transmitters (radios) can cost as little as \$30. The Spektrum brand is very common right now because they communicate on 2.4GHz, and generally have no interference. Current price, \$99 with a receiver. They are the most affordable 2.4GHz radio system.



The receivers are usually included with the radio. Make sure you stick to the same brand. Spektrum only works with Spektrum. (Cost \$50-100)



The Lithium Polymer (LiPo) batteries carry a lot of energy for their size and weight. They power the motor, receiver, and servos. (Cost \$3-10)



The speed control (ESC) distributes power to the servos, and the motor. It converts the DC voltage from the battery to an AC waveform to power the brushless motors we use. (Cost \$12-15)



Brushless motors are very powerful for their size. They run off electromagnetism and are generally inexpensive. (Cost \$7-15)

What to buy?

A quick guide to purchasing RC parts

By Mr.Voicheck

Every component on your plane is important. The foam and plastic parts are cheap. The electronics are not. However, the electronic components should last through quite a few crashes, and not require frequent replacement. Let's discuss the basics.

Every plane needs a transmitter, receiver, servos, motor, speed control, and battery. Components are usually purchased individually. It is nearly impossible to find all the items you need in one package, at one store. Ask around before purchasing these items.

The plane needs a motor, battery, servos, and speed control that match it's flight characteristics. The fancy 3D planes (like the ones Lou brought in) require fast responding servos, a light battery, very quick servos, and a motor which pulls the plane straight up. Depending on your configuration, you can spend a lot of money getting the perfect components for the plane. It is

much easier on the wallet to purchase the expendable items (servos, motors, propellers, speed controls, wheels, etc...) from off-brand companies.

Websites like HobbyKing sell equipment for very inexpensive. They are a Hong Kong based website which sells directly from China. Their shipping charges can get pricey, but the products are priced so low, it's worth the extra shipping charges. I primarily buy my expendable items from them in bulk. I usually buy my radios from US based companies, or directly from the local hobby stores. Unfortunately, the local hobby stores do not stock the items I want.

These sites also sell chargers, wires, heat shrink, carbon fiber, and other needed items. I recommend purchasing some of them locally, as well as through the internet. If you want to outfit yourself with the necessary components to build a foamy plane, please talk to me before you purchase anything. -Mr.V

[HobbyKing list of items needed to create your own plane](#)
(list created by Mr.Voicheck)