



Larks-RC Newsletter

February 2026

13251 Frankies Road, Tavares Florida



Larks Club Officers

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Editor Notes

If you are interested in providing an article of contribution for the newsletter or content for the web site, please contact the newsletter editor. Share a story about a build, flight, aircraft, anything interesting.

Send articles and information to editor@larks-rc.com

Upcoming Notable Events

- *Club Meeting - February 26th, Tavares Civic Center, 6:30 pm.*
- *Swap Meet, February 14 2026*
- *DLG Event, February 20 - 22 2026, field closed to open flying*

Membership

The grace period for membership renewal ended on January 31 2026. New memberships may be available. If you know someone who is looking to join, now would be a good time to contact the club secretary for more information. secretary@larks-rc.com.

Junior Membership Applications are always accepted.

LARKS Membership, Rates and Age Details

LARKS has a limit of 100 **adult** members (youth members do not count against the 100 limit)

As of Jan 1st 2026, the adult membership fee is \$130, the initiation fee is \$130 and the youth membership fee is \$20 (no initiation fee)

Adult Membership: An adult member is anyone that is 19 (on July 1st of the membership year) or older (no senior rates).

Rates: For a **new** member the annual rate is based on what time of year the individual joins

Jan 1st thru March 30th: \$130 (100%)

April 1st thru June 30th: \$98 (75%)

July 1ST thru Sept 30th: \$65 (50%)

Oct 1st thru Dec 31st: \$130 (includes the next calendar year)

Initiation Fee: \$130 (regardless of what month they join)

Rate for an existing member to renew:

\$130 if paid by Dec 31st

If paid between Jan 1st and Jan 31st:
\$155 (\$130 dues plus \$25 late fee)

Note: If the member has not renewed before Feb 1st they are no longer considered as member and are subject to the new member rates. They are also subject to the club member limit i.e. if the membership is at maximum, then they would go on the wait list, same as a new member.

Youth Member: To be a youth member they must be 18 or younger on July 1st (this mirrors the AMA youth policy) of the dues year.

Rate: The rate is \$20/year regardless of what month they join.

Existing youth renewal policy: If a current youth member is 19 on July 1st of the renewal year they must join as an adult member and are subject to the rates for a new member including initiation fee.

Note: Even if the Club member limit has been met i.e. at 100, the youth member will be allowed to join as an adult member.

Family Membership:

A family member is a member over the age of 18 that lives at the same address as the adult member. A youth membership does not afford an adult to receive family membership rate i.e. to qualify as a family member there must be an adult member living at the same address. It is the family members obligation to advise the Club Secretary should they no longer reside at the adult members' home.

Rates: For a new family member, the annual rate is based on what time of year the family member joins.

Jan 1st thru March 30th: \$65 (50%)

April 1st thru June 30th: \$49 (37.5%)

July 1ST thru Sept 30th: \$33 (25%)

Oct 1st thru Dec 31st: \$65 (includes the next calendar year)

Initiation Fee: \$130 (regardless of what month they join)

Larks - RC Membership Information - Web Site Page.
<https://larks-rc.com/membership/>

To be a member of the Larks RC flying club you need to be an active and up to date member of the AMA. Your AMA membership also provides many benefits that you may not be aware of. Below are some links to the AMA web site and what they are all about.

About the AMA - <https://www.modelaircraft.org/about-ama>

Membership Applications - <https://www.modelaircraft.org/membership/enroll>

Membership Programs - <https://www.modelaircraft.org/member-programs>

AMA Flight School - <https://www.amaflightschool.org/>

AMA Safety Program - <https://www.modelaircraft.org/safety>

AMA safety Handbook - <https://www.modelaircraft.org/sites/default/files/documents/100.pdf>

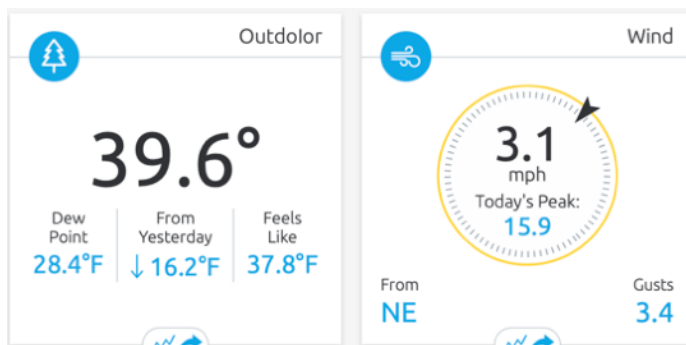
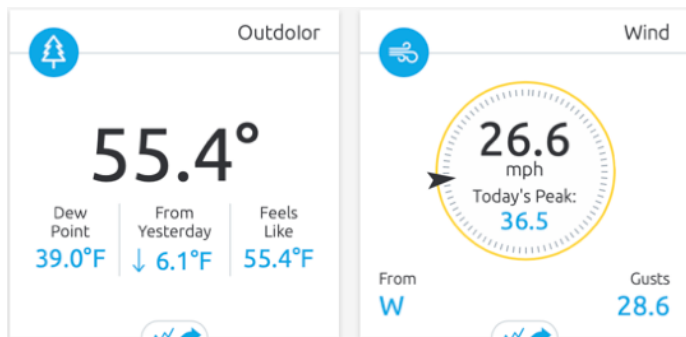
AMA Find a Flying Club - <https://www.modelaircraft.org/club-finder>

AMA Events Calendar - <https://www.modelaircraft.org/event-calendar>



Thursday and Friday January 15 and 16 brought some nasty weather making it almost impossible to fly.

Data from our flying site weather station, January 15 and 16 2026.



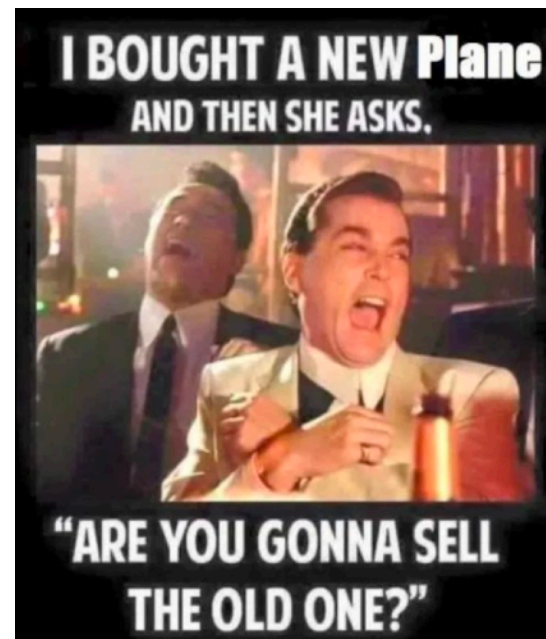
Larks RC – Runway Upgrade

Runway upgrade was completed in January. The cross X and center line have been painted. The fabric has stretched in place and will only get better.



You can see the Runway UpGrade progress from start to finish on the club web site. Click the link below.

<https://larks-rc.com/larks-rc-runway-upgrade/>



Club Web Site

www.larks-rc.com

The club web site has gone thru many changes over the past year, with more to come.

A members only area was created for all active members. Access requires an active membership of the club and a user name and password. Your user name is your AMA number and your password is the one you set up. If you have forgotten your password and need a password reset, you can use the link on the sign in page, or contact the editor and request a password reset. |

Within the members area, you can view the club information, including, by-laws, meeting minutes and much more. You can also edit your personal profile. You cannot change the User Name, AMA Number. If you make any changes to your personal profile, please contact the club secretary and let him know of the changes, so that he can update his files. Especially your email address. To ensure you receive club correspondence, the secretary must have your preferred email address. The member login can be found at the bottom of any page on the club website.

Member Login

AMA Number

Password

Remember Me

Log In

[Forgot Password?](#)

After a successful log in, you will be redirected to the Members Area Page where you can select where to go next.

2026 Membership Renewal

Club Information and Meeting Minutes

Member Profile

Password Reset

Larks Forum

Membership renewal link will be removed until December 2026.

Select any of the red buttons by pointing your mouse at the button and executing a left click.

You will be redirected to the section you chose.

Recently we have added a Forum section. This section can be used to create a Topic, ask a question, and contribute to a thread or conversation. You must log in, accept the terms of use prior to accessing this section. The Forums are monitored and any misuse, or violations of the terms of use by a member, will result in that members posts, being deleted and a message being sent to the club executive. Please be respectful and responsible for what you post.

The Items for Sale section is monitored by the editor.

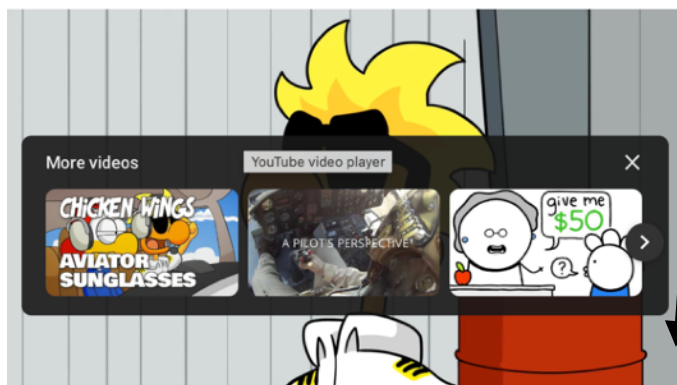
Items for Sale

To Post an item for sale, send an email to the editor with a description of the item, contact information and price. Include any pictures as well. If an item is sold, please contact the editor and have it removed. If you need to edit an item for sale, send the information to the editor and the changes will be made. All items for sale or wanted adds will be removed after 3 months.



ALL I CARE ABOUT IS
RC PLANES
AND WHICH WAY
**the wind
is blowing**

As the saying goes, “every landing you can walk away from is a good landing.” Legend has it this phrase was coined shortly after the invention of the airplane, when early pilots perfected the art of touching down, bouncing skyward, and pretending it was all part of the plan. A tradition Chuck seems determined to honor to this day ... much to the chagrin of Julio who has to inspect the landing gear after one of Chuck’s many “happy landings”. Click the link arrow in the bottom right of the graphic.



RC flying ability involves mastering control inputs for smooth maneuvers, understanding aerodynamics, and developing quick reflexes, progressing from basic takeoffs/landings to complex aerobatics, often with the help of simulators, clubs, and experienced mentors using systems like buddy boxes to manage skill progression and FAA, AMA and Larks-RC Club rules.

<https://larks-rc.com/about/operation-and-safety-rules/>

Read on for more information.

Key Aspects of RC Flying Ability

1. Coordination & Reflexes: Quick reactions to wind, unexpected events, and controlling multiple surfaces (ailerons, rudder, elevator) simultaneously are crucial for preventing crashes.
2. Aerodynamic Understanding: Knowing how your aircraft flies, stalls, or turns helps you anticipate and correct errors, moving beyond just toy-grade controls.
3. Control System Knowledge: Understanding how your transmitter, receiver, ESC, and servos work together to control flight surfaces (ailerons, rudder, elevator) is fundamental.

Progression of Skills

- Beginner: Focus on basic orientation (knowing which way is up/down), smooth throttle control, and gentle stick inputs for straight flight and simple turns.
- Intermediate: Practice landings, takeoffs (especially from grass), basic aerobatics like loops, and handling wind.
- Advanced: Master complex maneuvers, precision flying (pattern flying), 3D aerobatics (inverted flight, harriers), and faster jets.

How to Improve

- Mentorship & Clubs: Join local RC clubs for guidance, often using a "buddy box" system where a mentor can take over if you get into trouble.
- RC Simulators: Use software like RealFlight to practice complex maneuvers and build muscle memory without damaging your actual plane.
- Start Simple: Begin with trainer aircraft designed for learning, not high-speed, complex models.
- Practice Consistently: Short, frequent practice sessions (2-3 times a week) are more effective than long, infrequent ones.

CHICKEN WINGS®

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



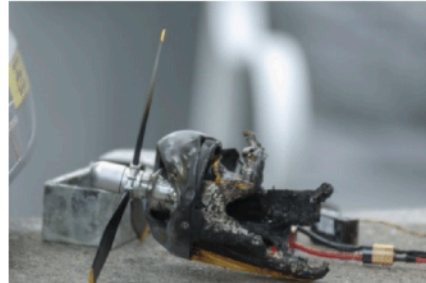
Shop Safety

R. Scott Page

Overview: The most important safety tool in the shop is your brain. The most dangerous thing in the shop is hubris. If one allows manly pride to get in the way of common sense in the shop the result can be a sudden injury or a more insidious gradual loss of hearing, breathing, or even cognition.

Eye protection can be purchased at most hardware stores, home improvement centers or where tools are sold. Wrap around eye protection is superior to standard eye glasses. Consider wearing eye protection at all times when working in your shop — especially when operating a model aircraft engine/motor or power tools.

Fire extinguishers can be purchased from most hardware stores and home improvement centers. It is a good idea to have one in your shop and another as part of your field equipment. Many of the chemicals and fuels we use are highly flammable. Don't keep the fire extinguisher adjacent to your lipo charging station as you'll want to be able to access it in the event of a fire.



Smoke detectors are extremely useful directly over lipo charging areas as well as someplace else in the shop.

Hearing protection can be purchased in sporting goods departments and gun shops. Often hearing loss advances as an incremental change. You won't notice the change, but one day you'll

realize that you don't seem to get the gist of many conversations and people seem confused by your responses. With progressive hearing loss you'll be at increased risk in everyday activities such as driving or even just crossing the street. This is also problematic when pilots are communicating on the flight line.

Ventilation is extremely important. If you are using solvents or solvent based products then you can be doing a great deal of damage to your respiratory system and brain. If you have gotten to the point where the solvents do not make you want to leave the room then you have been around them for too long and have developed a tolerance. That's a bad thing. Even things such as Epoxy should be used with great caution.

“Breathing epoxy fumes can affect the respiratory system. Typical symptoms of respiratory harm include inflammation of the nose, throat, and lungs, causing irritation. High amounts of exposure to epoxy fumes before and during the curing process can lead to sensitization and asthma.”¹ Asthma, COPD and other lung damage are also progressive processes. You may not notice a change in lung capacity or efficiency occurring until you pass some tipping point after which it progresses quickly to severe disability or worse.

Masks: Particle and dust masks come in a variety of capabilities. Always read the packaging so you know what you are getting. If the packaging does not specifically tell you what the mask is supposed to protect you from and just as importantly, what it can't protect you from, then do not buy the mask.



Particle masks are usually intended to protect you from inhaling dry airborne particles such as sawdust. Exposure to wood dust has long been associated with a variety of adverse health effects, including dermatitis, allergic respiratory effects, mucosal and nonallergic respiratory effects, and cancer. Contact with the irritant compounds in wood sap can cause dermatitis and other allergic reactions. The respiratory effects of wood dust exposure include asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and chronic bronchitis 2.

A Particle or Dust Mask including N95 will not protect you from vapor. For that you need a chemical protection cartridge mask. Chemical Protection Systems can be purchased at many hardware stores and home improvement centers. Protection should always be worn when using liquid chemicals that are toxic. Currently these masks are in short supply, but that will change in the future.

Some chemicals and paints require the use of a simple chemical mask that uses charcoal or similar canisters to filter out the chemical. Canisters have a short shelf life after the packaging has been opened. You must replace the canisters per the manufacturer's recommendation for the mask to continue protecting you.

Always consult with the manufacturer of the chemical for their recommendation to protect yourself.

Note that if you are wearing a mask and can smell fumes it is not protecting you. Just because you can't smell fumes doesn't mean you are protected but smelling them means you definitely aren't protected.

First Aid kits can be purchased at hardware stores and stores that carry home safety equipment.

Use the right tool for the job. Any time you use a tool to do something it wasn't designed to do, you risk injury to yourself, your model and the tool.

Knives should be capped if possible and should never have the blade exposed and hanging past an edge of a shelf or workbench. Don't store knives in cups with the blade pointed up. If you want to store knives in a cup cover the bottom of the cut with modelers putty to protect the blade. Additionally, make sure knives are out of reach of children and are unable to roll off the workbench. I heat shrink a small linkage wire or piece of carbon fiber to the handle of my Xacto knives so they won't roll... you get the idea.

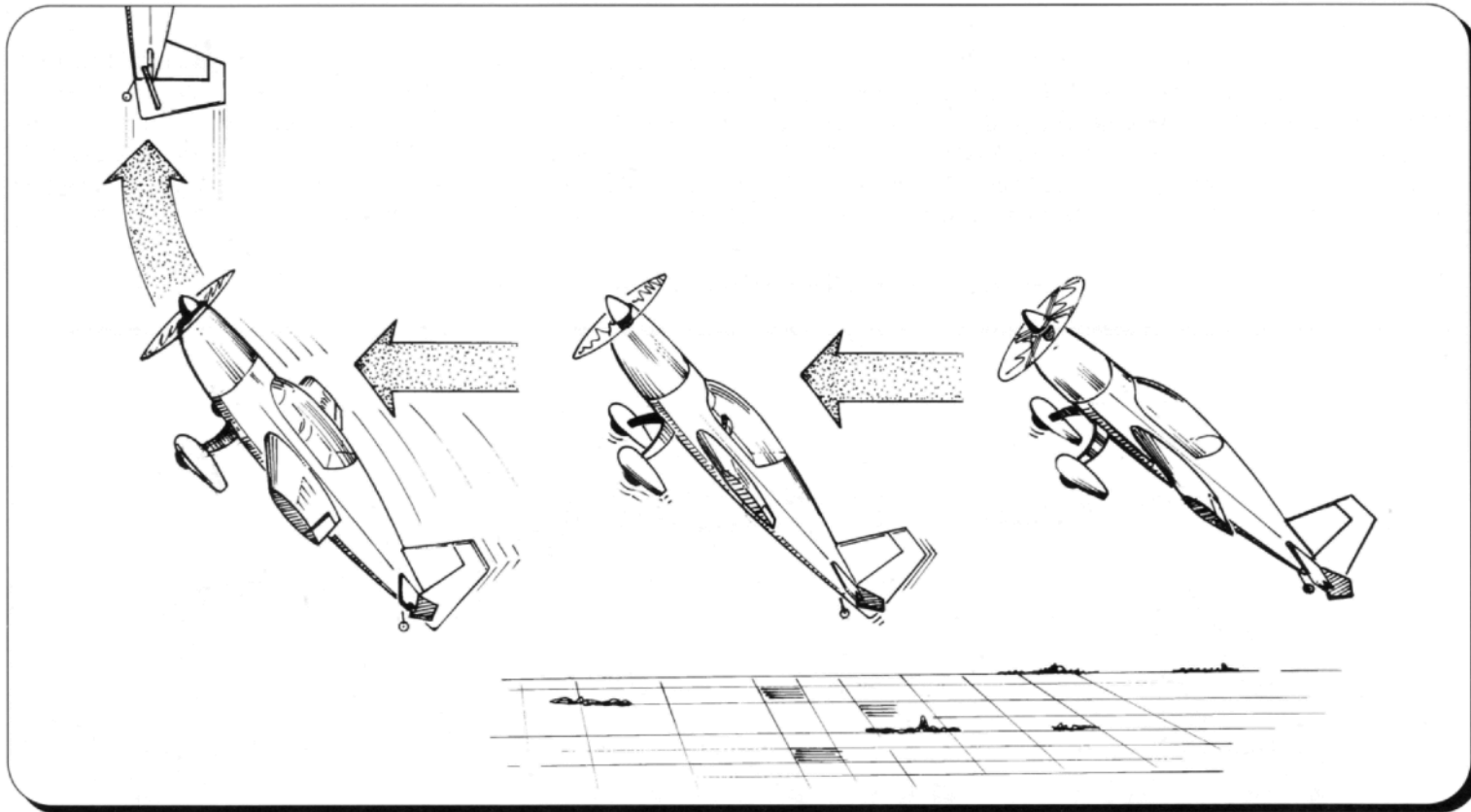
Eliminate clutter. Clutter is a great way to create accidents such as tripping over extension cords, getting items caught up in power tools, or inadvertently catching flammable materials on fire with a heat producing tool. For example, the tiny 50-watt light bulbs on my Lipo discharger get sufficiently hot enough to cause a discarded tissue to combust.

Be sure you have a stable position while you work. If you have to use your feet to move you to a place where you have better stability then do it. Do not put yourself in a precarious position trying to reach something that is too far away or too high.

Affix to the workbench tools such as bench grinders, drill press, vices.

Finally: Engage your brain and set your manly pride aside before working in the shop.





HARRIER

The Harrier is a really exciting slow speed 3D aerobatic maneuver. The model is performing well below its minimum flying airspeed and is entirely stalled. Because of this, we recommend you practice this maneuver at high altitudes and have a spotter to help you keep oriented on what the aircraft is doing at all times. Some aerobats are better at this maneuver than others. For example, the Extra 330L is very honest in a Harrier, but it will "walk" the wings back and forth slightly during this maneuver. This is normal and should not concern you. Fly the aircraft at a low throttle setting straight and level, gradually feeding in full elevator. When the nose drops, apply throttle gently while still holding full elevator until the tail tucks under and the aircraft is in a high angle of attack. Adjust throttle until the model is flying forward very slowly in a straight, horizontal line with the nose at or near the 45 degree angle of attack! DO NOT attempt to use aileron in this maneuver, as aileron response will vary dramatically by throttle setting, etc, and is even REVERSED at times. Adding throttle will roll the aircraft left slightly, decreasing throttle allows the model to roll right, so use this and rudder to adjust the model's roll orientation rather than aileron. The safest exit from this maneuver is to apply power, pitch the model to vertical and fly straight out vertically.

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the month February 2026*

Discount available to all readers of the LARKS Newsletter.
Discount do not apply to already discounted or reduced items.
Simply go to RCBATTERY.COM and enter the discount code on the payment page.

Click the code below to be redirected to RC Battery Web Site

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