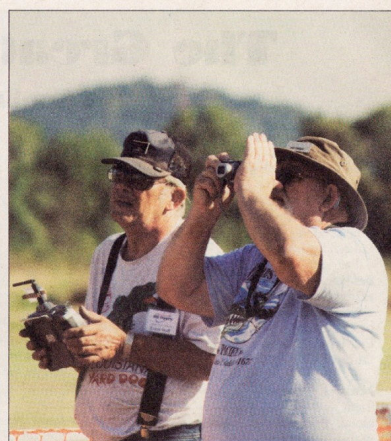




An orange Futaba by Carl Goldberg Models, Inc., modeled after a MiG 27, climbing through the air just after takeoff, soon to be a target for paintball gun shooters below. Photo Victoria DeLeon



"[This activity] keeps us old guys off the streets and out of bars," jokes Joe Owens (right), as Jim Corbett steers a plane. Photo Victoria DeLeon

## Fun Fly is first event for local R/C flyers' club

By Gini Davis

The CRCF Fun Fly 2011, hosted by the Creswell R/C Flyers (CRCF), a local group of model airplane pilots, drew seven pilots and about 40 spectators to Walker Field, located between Creswell and Saginaw on Hwy 99 South, on Sunday, Aug. 21.

It was the first public event hosted by the CRCF, a new club that just got its Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) certification and Walker Field lease earlier this year.

"This was our first maiden run, and we actually had a pretty good turnout for what advertising we did," said CRCF Vice President Brad McEntire of Creswell.

The CRCF Fun Fly, which was open to the public, started at 9 a.m. and included a hamburger and hotdog barbecue that was free for all pilots, as well as a 50/50 raffle.

A fundraiser was also held that required entrants to shoot paint balls at a drone propjet with a six-foot wingspan. The target propjet was a replica of an actual MiG 27 drone used by the US Army as a shooting target.

Two shooters at a time fired semiautomatic paintball guns at the drone, from a range of about 50 to 100 feet. Balls were sold at 10 for \$2.

"We shot between 1,000 and 1,200 paint balls, so we had lots of shooters, and eight or nine of them actually hit the target planes," McEntire said.

A grand prize drawing was held for those who hit the target planes.

Bill Swacker of Creswell claimed the target-shooting prize and was awarded a new Ultrafly Ultimate Biplane.

A participants' drawing for those who did not hit the target was also held, awarding a \$20 prize.

Approximately \$500 was raised during the target shoot to benefit the CRCF club.

"We wanted to raise some money for ongoing expenses of the club, such as lease payments, and to make improvements to the field," McEntire said.

A pilots' drawing, with one ticket entered for pilots each time they flew their planes, awarded prizes that included a Super Chipmunk airplane kit as the grand prize, as well as a tool kit, a gallon of gasoline and another airplane kit.

Schneider won the 50/50 raffle of about \$60.

Membership in the AMA was required to pilot a plane during the event. Any and all 2.4 GHz planes were welcome to fly, and to do any kind of flying, with a \$10 landing fee charged to all pilots.



John Risbrough kicks off the Fun Fly with a few instructions. Photo Victoria DeLeon

Some participating planes included a P51D Mustang, an Extra 300, a U-Can-Do 60, a SIG Something Special, and two Yaks.

Some planes ran on gas, some ran on nitro, there were two-stroke and four-stroke engines, and a couple of electric engines," McEntire said.

Creswell I-5 Tire Factory was the Silver Sponsor for the 2011 Fun Fly, donating \$250, and Paintball Palace of Eugene loaned four paint ball guns for use in the target shooting contest.

The CRCF hopes to make the Fun Fly "at least an annual event," McEntire said. "It was a learning experience for us, and we'll have to see how successful we were (financially), but we were happy with it," he said.

"It's tough to get a new club up and running, and lots of us have donated a lot of time and money to get it up and running," said CRCF club treasurer Bill Schneider. "So hopefully we'll get the word out and get some more sponsors and get it built up a little each year."

The next remote controlled airplane event at Walker Field will be the National Society of Radio Controlled Aerobatics' 25th Annual Emerald Air Corps Pattern Contest, slated for Sept. 3 and 4.

"That's (being hosted by) a different club from us; they fly out of the north end of the field and we fly out of the south end," McEntire said.

Open to Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters and P11 FAI flyers, the AMA sanctioned contest will award trophies for first through third place, and a prize raffle will take place on Sept. 4 following the awards ceremony.

"Pattern flying is a little bit different from what we do," McEntire said, drawing an analogy with figure skating to explain the difference.

"Pattern flying is more like the compulsories: everybody flies the same specific pattern and each pilot is graded on how well they flew the pattern," McEntire said. "We're more like freestyle; just get out there and fly."

The CRCF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the hobby of radio-controlled model aircraft.

Members of the CRCF fly scaled, remote-controlled model airplanes that are operated via pilot-held remote-control devices that transmit radio signals to the planes, each of which is equipped with a receiver.

The group, which currently has about 15 members, holds club meetings monthly, with individual members flying out of Walker Field whenever they wish.

"We have some members who are retired, so they might fly during the week, and other members who still work might fly on the weekends," McEntire said.

The next regular club meeting of the CRCF is on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. at Walker Field.

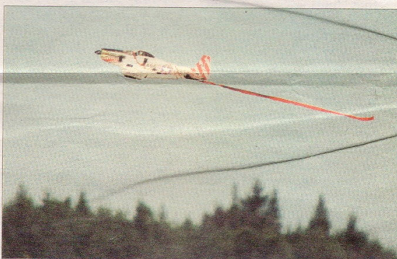
Other CRCF club officers include President Khoi Tran, Secretary John Risbrough, Field Marshall Bill Hastings and Webmaster Jim Corbett.

The club is accepting new members, but prospective new members must be sponsored by a current club member.

For more information about the club, visit [creswellrcflyers.org](http://creswellrcflyers.org) or contact Tran at [kmtranmd@hotmail.com](mailto:kmtranmd@hotmail.com).



Paintball supplies for a plane-shooting game. Photo Victoria DeLeon



Jim Corbett's foam plane is a low-cost alternative for model airplaning. Photo Victoria DeLeon



A purple and orange model lands on the field. Photo Victoria DeLeon



One of many patriotic models waits on the field as the Fun Fly events begin. Photo Victoria DeLeon



Khoi Tran (right) sits by his Yak 54 with son Jonathan Tran. Photo Victoria DeLeon