

RC Bees New Flier Training Program

The RC Bees of Santa Cruz County welcomes new people to the hobby of building and flying radio controlled airplanes and helicopters. We have a training program that is available to newcomers to the hobby, however in order to make the training experience safe and enjoyable for the newcomer, instructor pilots, and other club members there are some requirements that new pilots must meet:

1. New pilots who would like to experience the thrill of flying radio controlled model airplanes are welcome to try it out at our field using a club provided trainer. The trainer can be made available by coordinating your visit with one of our instructor pilots whose contact information is listed below.
2. It is expected that the new pilot will assist in normal maintenance of the model at the field, such as fueling and cleaning it after a flight.
3. The club trainer can be made available to a newcomer for 3 visits to the field, which is consistent with the club rule designating the number of visits a guest may fly at our field without having to join the club.
4. After 3 visits the new flier is expected to join the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) and the RC Bees in order to continue training.
5. After 3 visits the new flier is also expected to provide his or her own equipment, including model and radio. The radio equipment must be compatible with club radio equipment to enable "buddy-boxing". The model should also be compatible with the skills of new fliers; i.e. a scale P-51 Mustang would not be an appropriate model as a trainer. Airplanes deemed inappropriate will not be used for training. Contact an instructor if you need suggestions for a model and supporting equipment (see the last page).
6. Instructor pilots can also assist in answering questions regarding the building and set-up of models as well check out any model prior to its first flight to ensure proper setup and safety.
7. Training sessions should be coordinated with one of the instructor pilots listed below. Instructors may rotate to offer a new flier different perspectives on the art of model flying.
8. The RC Bees Training course consists of an orientation and four phases (see below). At the successful completion of each phase, the instructor pilot at his discretion will sign off on that phase. At a point where the new flier has obtained sufficient proficiency in flying, the instructor will sign off on the new flyer's ability to fly solo.
9. After sign-off and soloing a trainer plane a student is allowed to fly solo with similar type/weight/power airplanes. In the interest of safety, however, if the student wants to fly a faster, heavier, or more powerful aircraft, the student is required to be checked out by an instructor for that level of aircraft prior to flying it solo.

RC Bees Training Course.

Orientation.

1. AMA and RC Bee's Rules, Field Procedures and Etiquette
2. Safety Tips.
3. Preflight Checks and Starting or Arming Procedures.

Instructor. _____

Phase One.

1. Control Familiarization.
2. Level Flight.
3. Turns
4. Figure Eights

Instructor. _____

Phase Two.

1. Straight and level Flight
2. Procedure Turns.
3. Rectangular Patterns.
4. Climbing and Descending Turns.

Instructor. _____

Phase Three.

1. Stalls.
2. Slow Flight.
3. Power Off Glides.
4. Take Off.

Instructor. _____

Phase Four.

1. High Passes in Landing Pattern.
2. Approach Line Up and Go Around.
3. Landings.
4. Solo With Instructor Present.

Instructor. _____

Solo Evaluation and Certification Flight.

Congratulations!

Student. _____ Instructor. _____ Date. _____

For general club information:

Email: info@rcbees.org

RC Trainers Quick Start Guide

Here is a short list of a few trainers that will get you started in the hobby as quickly as possible. These particular packages were picked because most of the club training staff has the equipment to set up a “Buddy Box” and are also familiar with these products. A buddy box is two transmitters electronically linked together, one for the student and one for the instructor that allows the instructor to take control of the aircraft in an instant and hopefully save it from a mishap.

Although the few we are going to list are all available from Horizon Hobby there are many other options including local hobby shops and other Internet sites. There are also many other reputable, quality brands of radios and planes that will work just as well for our purpose but the list would get rather long and confusing for a beginner. Like my dad used to say, “KISS, Keep It Simple Stupid”. Please be aware that there are also a lot of planes and radio equipment being sold on the Internet these days that borderline as being junk. If you have any questions please feel free to contact any of the club training staff or come out to the field, ask some questions and see what the club members are using.

All of these recommendations can be found at
<http://www.horizonhobby.com/>

Glow Fuel Powered

Alpha 40 DSM2 RTF by Hanger 9

The Alpha 40 is a 63 inch wingspan trainer powered by a glow fuel engine. It would require purchase of some additional support equipment such as a starting battery, fuel pump, glow plug wrench and also fuel. An electric starter is not required but highly recommended. The fuel can be purchased from the club and we can also make recommendations on what tools, starter and other support equipment that will be needed.

Electric Powered

Super Cub DSM RTF by Hobby Zone

The Super Cub is a 48 inch wingspan trainer that is power by an electric motor. Although this package comes with everything needed to fly it we would like to recommend that you buy one or two extra battery packs. You don't want to be waiting for your battery to charge when you could be flying do you?

Electric Powered Sailplane

Radian RTF by Park Zone

The Radian is a 78 inch wingspan sailplane that is powered by an electric motor. Just like the Super Cub it comes with everything that you need but we would recommend a couple of extra battery packs.