

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where does TCRC fly?

A: We have two fields. We fly behind Thomas Edison Park, on Mill Rd. in Edison (http://www.tricountyrc.com/pages_directions/edison_field.htm). Proceed on the main driveway to the far end of the Park and past the “Authorized Vehicles Only” sign. Middlesex County requires that you have a permit to fly there. Permits are \$12 for residents, \$24 for non-residents.

Our other field is at Heavenly Farms Park on Dunham’s Corner rd. in East Brunswick. (http://www.tricountyrc.com/pages_directions/eb_field.htm). We fly in the field across from the soccer/football fields at the northwest corner of the park. The park rangers and police will allow you to park along the road only long enough to unpack. You must park in the parking lot.

Q: When and where are your meetings held?

A: East Brunswick Public Library in the meeting rooms in the rear-left corner of the building. (http://www.tricountyrc.com/pages_directions/meeting_location.htm) Meetings are typically at 8pm on the last Thursday of each month, except November and December. There is no meeting at all in November, and the December meeting is usually the first Thursday of the month depending on the libraries’ availability. This year, the December meeting will be held on the 10th.

Q: How do I become a Member?

A: Prospective members must attend two consecutive meetings. At the first meeting, introduce yourself and hand in your Membership application. You can print one from our website: (http://www.tricountyrc.com/pages_forms/application.htm) or ask for one at the meeting.

At the Second meeting, Prospective members will be asked for proof of their AMA Membership (see below) and then will be asked to leave the room for the voting. After you’ve been voted in, you pay the initiation fee and your first year’s dues. You will receive your Membership card in the mail a week or two later.

Q: What does it cost to join?

A: For adults there is a \$50 initiation Fee and \$25 yearly dues. For anyone under 18, the Initiation Fee is \$25 and the yearly dues are \$12.50

Q: What is the AMA and why do I need to join it?

A: The Academy of Model Aeronautics is the organization that promotes and regulates all aspects of Model Aviation in the US. For more details, go to <http://www.modelaircraft.org/aboutama/whatisama.aspx>

Tri County RC is an AMA-sanctioned club (Club #434), and therefore all our members must also be a ‘Full’ (sometimes called ‘Open’) member of the AMA.

Q: When are the Dues Due?

A: The dues should be paid at the beginning of each year. If you are not paid up by the end of the March meeting, then you will be dropped from the roster and have to

apply as a new member and pay the Initiation fee again. New members pay for a full years dues up-front when they join, and at the beginning of the next calendar year they will only be asked to pay a pro-rated amount. For instance, an adult who becomes a member in July will have to pay \$25 dues in July. The following January, you will only have to pay for 5 months. ($\$25 \text{ per year} / 12 \text{ months} = \sim \2 per month)

Q: When are we allowed fly?

A: Every day, from dawn to dusk. For fuel-powered planes, the Noise ordinances require you to wait until 9am before starting the motor.

Q: Can someone teach me to fly?

A: Absolutely. We are very beginner-friendly and we have several active Instructors. There is **no charge** for instruction, but Beginners must have a radio transmitter that's compatible with our instructors Buddy-Box.

Q: Ok, What's a Buddy-Box?

A: Most radio transmitters sold today can be connected to another radio with a cable.



The Instructor holds one radio and the Student holds the other. The Instructor holds a spring-loaded switch (upper-left corner) to allow the student to operate the plane or helicopter. If the student gets in trouble, the Instructor lets go of the switch and takes over.

Q: When are the flying lessons?

A: Our instructors typically have regular scheduled classes every Tuesday evening from mid-spring to mid autumn – weather permitting. Often, the Instructors are available on other days as well. It is each student's responsibility to contact their instructor and work out their schedule. *They won't call you – You have to call them!*

Q: Who should I talk to about getting Flying Lessons?

A: Our primary Instructors are Dr. Alex Szemere (email tcrcy2k@aol.com), Rich Dvorin (email rmdvorin@comcast.net) and Mike Korb (email korb048@optonline.net). There are several other members who help out with instruction as well depending on the demand.

Q: How do you pronounce Alex's last name?

A: I believe the proper pronunciation is 'Zemery', but its more fun to think up a new pronunciation every time you say it. Be creative.

Q: What plane should I get?

A: There are many good beginner planes available these days. The instructors prefer to teach using a .40 sized glow fueled high-wing trainer like the Midwest Aerostar or the Great Planes PT-40. If you would prefer an electric plane, it should be reasonably

large like the Multiplex Mentor or the Hobbico Superstar EP. Smaller ‘Parkflyers’ aren’t appropriate because they are difficult to see when they are at a safe altitude.

Q: What radio should I get?

A: There are countless to choose from. Stay with quality brand names like Futaba, JR, Airtronics or Hitec. Speak with your Instructor to find out what radios will be compatible with his Buddy Box radio. In most cases, you will also need to buy the Buddy-Box cable as well. Here’s a few: <http://www3.towerhobbies.com/cgi-bin/wti0095p?FVPROFIL=&FVSEARCH=trainer+cable>

If you’re buying your first plane in a packaged deal, you will typically get stuck with a basic 4-channel cheapie radio like this one:



These generally work OK, and cost almost nothing when you compare the prices of the package deal vs. the prices of buying everything separately. These are fine for a first-plane and often can be used as a buddy-box in the years to come when you’ve mastered flying and want to teach others. If you do wish to buy your plane a la carte, then I suggest starting off with a quality computer radio with at least 6 channels and 6-model memory. Additionally, you should go with a Spread Spectrum radio as opposed to a regular FM. See below.

Q: What’s Spread Spectrum?

A: Introduced in 2007~2008, Spread Spectrum radios have quickly become *the* Thing to have. Most manufacturers offer every one of their radios in either FM or Spread Spectrum today. Before, even very expensive radios had to rely on a simple radio signal to control your model. They are highly susceptible to interference like nearby power lines, broadcast towers, even an old car with a bad alternator driving past could swamp your radio and cause a crash. Additionally, another flyer with the same frequency radio could show up at the field and forget to ask what channel you’re on. If you’re both on the same channel, you’ll lose control the instant they flip their radio on.

What’s interesting about Spread Spectrum is that *every* radio uses *every* channel in the 2.4ghz spectrum - but only for a hundredth of a second at a time. They digitally jump from one channel to another constantly, and only in a pre-determined code. The individual channel-jumping code is built into each transmitter at the factory and no two radios have the same code. When you buy a new receiver, you actually have to go through a short procedure called ‘Binding’ to teach the code to the receiver. Once ‘Bound’, or taught the code, the radio receiver in your plane will never hear another radio’s signal again – for more than a hundredth of a second anyways. Every

manufacturer has their own marketing name for it, like Futaba for instance calls it FASST, but they are all work the same. The only physical difference between a regular and a 2.4ghz radio is the short, bent plastic antenna. The FM radio pictured above has a long, shiny antenna. The radio below has a 2.4ghz antenna. Since “two-

Point-Four” radios do not interfere with each other or any FM radios, they are exempt from the frequency control rules that most fields and competitions have.



Q: What are the Clubs rules?

A: Aside from Safety, Courtesy and Common Sense, the rules are posted here:
http://www.tricountyrc.com/pages_forms/const_bylaws.htm

Q: What if I can't make it to any of the Clubs meetings?

A: Aside from the first two meetings to get voted in, attendance isn't mandatory. You can still keep up with the Clubs business with our Newsletter, email and our Yahoo! Groups site.

Q: What's a Yahoo! Groups site?

A: It's a tool for communicating where group members can post questions, comments, pictures and videos, For Sale items, and upcoming events. Its free, and fairly easy to use. Click on the purple button at the bottom of our Homepage to sign up.

Q: How do I get the Newsletter?

A: When you fill out the Membership Application, just include your email address. The Editor posts the Flypaper once a month to the Homepage and sends out an email notification, or can mail a paper copy to anyone without email. You can also get the current and archived Flypapers from the link on our Homepage.
http://www.tricountyrc.com/pages_newsletters/current_newsletter.htm

Q: What kinds of planes are we allowed to fly?

A: Anything that's RC, and meets the noise regulations. Anything with an un-muffled engine, a tuned pipe, Jetex rocket etc, will have to be tested first to be sure it is under 93db at 25 feet. All other types of aircraft - including Helicopters – are welcome. No launchable items, fireworks or guns are permitted.