AMA GOLD LEADER CLUB

RC Propbusters of Salem CT

www.rcpropbusters.com

AMA Club No 191
Founded 1937

Jim Holzworth, Newsletter Editor
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January 2026 Newsletter

RC Propbusters Club officers for 2026. See page 2.
Renew your RC Propbusters membership online at: http://rcpropbusters.com/ See page 3.
Please take the solar charging station interest survey if you have not already done so. See page 5.
Register/Renew the FAA registration for your RC aircraft. See page 10.
Take The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST), required by FAA. See page 10.

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Len Buffintin is currently building a Zirolli Beechcraft 18. See page 16-19 for details and pictures.

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RC Propbusters meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month @ **7:30 PM**. Meeting location is the historic Salem Center School at 250 Hartford Road (Route 85), about one mile north of Salem Four Corners (Circle).

Learn to Fly!

If you have an interest, come to our field. There is usually a member there who will give you the opportunity to try flying a trainer type model either powered by an electric motor or fueled engine. The gentlemen listed below have generously offered to help you learn to fly r/c airplanes, helicopters, drones, and gliders.

INSTRUCTORS

TOM VERNON	CHIEF PILOT	JOE COMEROSKI	HELICOPTERS
DENNIS DUPLICE	FIXED WING	ED DEMING	BOTH
ROBERT LARSON	BOTH	LEN BUFFINTON	* GLIDERS
DAVE GRAINGER	FPV RACING	RICHARD CROOKS	FIXED WING
DAVE PRATT	FIXED WING	STEVE CHRISTLEY	FIXED WING
RAY GILBERT	BOTH	STEVE PICKERING	FIXED WING

* Len Buffinton is a Glider and Aerotow expert who can also help you with fixed wing flying.

If you are a student, hook up with one of these members and get trained.

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R/C Propbusters, LLC. Officers for 2026

President:	Ed Deming
Vice President:	Steve Pickering
Treasurer:	John Banks
Secretary:	Bill Fries
Asst. Secretary:	John Greenwood
Safety officer:	Tom Vernon
Newsletter Editor:	Jim Holzworth
Field Marshal:	Shane Duffy
Asst. Field Marshal:	Ray Gilbert
Board of Directors:	Chris Osborne, Mike Likar, Mike Carabillo, and Peter Nosal

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
http://rcpropbusters.com/

Please submit ideas and tips for the newsletter to Jim Holzworth at jimholzworth@gmail.com

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Propbusters Meeting Location

Regularly scheduled Propbusters monthly meetings are held at the Salem *Center School*, 250 Hartford Rd Salem, CT 06420. The *Center School* is in the Salem CT historic district.

https://historicbuildingsct.com/center-school-salem-1885/
41.491289, -72.275949

Monthly meetings will simultaneously be conducted electronically using Zoom.

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General Reminders for all RC Propbusters

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE (https://rcpropbusters.com) REGULARLY, particularly the NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS section up front for current notices and information. It is updated at least weekly.

All members are required to fill out the new membership application for 2026 to certify agreement to follow all RC Propbuster, AMA and FAA rules/regulations as a condition of membership and flying privileges. John Banks asks us to **PLEASE press the Submit button only once** after completing the online registration form.

When opening and closing the flying field for the day, leave gate locked without displaying the combination.

Strict observance of FRIA application boundaries, particularly the northern tree line by Route 82. This is especially important with our new 1200' ceiling waiver.

Mark all your models with required FAA and AMA markings.

All pilots must have FAA registration cards and proof of TRUST completion at the field while flying.

Noise control efforts will still be required when flying gassers/glow – careful observance of northern boundary and use of spotters recommended.

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2026 Propbuster Event Schedule (tentative)

Proposed 2026 Events – Steve Pickering:

Field Cleanup	April 11 (rain date, 4/12)
Memorial Funfly	June 13 (rain date, 6/14)
Electric Funfly & Swap Meet	July 18 (rain date, 7/19)
Neighborhood Funfly	August 8 (rain date, 8/9)
Club Funfly / Picnic	September 12 (rain date, 9/13)

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COMMON SENSE, RESPECT FOR OTHER PILOTS, AND GOOD FIELD ETIQUETTE ALL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MINIMIZING REQUIRED RULES. REMEMBER: IT'S ALL ABOUT HAVING FUN WITH AVIATION MODELING IN A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE MANNER. SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THESE RULES, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK YOUR CLUB SAFETY OFFICER, ANY CLUB OFFICER, OR ANY EXPERIENCED PILOT FOR CLARIFICATION.

R/C Propbusters Flying Field Rules, Page 6, Updated 9.6.2023

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January Aviation Events & Milestones

19 January 1784 (France) — The largest hot-air balloon ever made, called "*Le Flesselle*" by the Montgolfier brothers, makes an ascent at Lyons, France. The balloon's capacity is 700,000 cubic feet and it goes up to 3,000 feet.

7 January 1785 (England/France) — The English Channel is crossed for the first time by air as Jean-Pierre Blanchard and John Jeffries fly their hydrogen balloon from Dover, England to a forest near Calais, France.

18 January 1909 (France) — The first book to treat the work and accomplishments of the Wright brothers, "*Les Premiers Hommes-Oiseaux: Wilbur et Orville Wright,*" is written by François Peyrey (1873-1934) and published in France.

23 January 1909 (France) — The first flight of the French Blériot XI, one of the most successful monoplanes designed and built before World War I, is made.

19 January 1910 (USA) — Three two-pound sandbags were dropped in the first simulated bomb drop experiment.

1 January 1914 (USA) — The world's first scheduled airplane passenger service operated by an airline company, the "Airboat Line," begins at 10:00 A.M. when Anthony Janus flies his first passenger from St. Petersburg to Tampa, Florida. The fare for the 22-mile over-water flight was $5 with a surcharge if the passenger weighs more than 200 lbs.

1 January 1914 (USA) — The United States Weather Bureau begins daily publication of a weather map of the Northern Hemisphere designed specifically as an aid to aviation.

12 January 1929 (USA) — The first United States Air Mail stamped envelopes are available for sale.

11 January 1935 (Hawaii/California) — Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman pilot to fly solo between Hawaii and the United States. She takes off from Wheeler Field, Oahu, Honolulu, to fly her Lockheed "Vega" across the eastern Pacific to Oakland, California. Earhart lands after 18 hours 15 minutes.

2 January 1942 (USA) — General H. H. Arnold directed establishment of new Air Force later designated 8th AF.

6 January 1943 (England) — Major General James Doolittle assumed command of the 8th Air Force.

29 January 1959 (USA) — The first jet passenger service across the United States is begun by American Airlines using Boeing 707 jet airliners.

27 January 1967 (USA) — Astronauts Grissom, Chafee and White are killed in Apollo 1 fire.

15 January 1991 (Japan/Canada) — The first hot-air balloon to cross the Pacific Ocean takes off from Japan and eventually lands in Canada.

27 January 2002 (USA) — Boeing's 737, the world's most widely use twin jet, becomes the first jetliner in history to amass more than 100 million flying hours. The 737 was launched onto the market in 1965.

https://www.skytamer.com/January.html

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Reminder to Take the Solar Charging Station Interest Survey

PLEASE TAKE THE SOLAR CHARGING STATION INTEREST SURVEY if you have not already done so. You can find the survey on our club website. It takes only a few minutes and is an important step in determining whether we pursue this project or not. So far only 45 of 115 members have completed the survey with 35 in favor and 10 against.

If we do move forward with the project (there will be several steps and votes prior to committing funds) it will be funded by a club Special Assessment (likely between $30-$50 per member) to all regular members (not junior members), possibly over a two year period. As a reminder - per club By-Laws, continued membership and flying privileges are contingent upon being current with club dues AND any special assessments, so we need all members to weigh in and make their wishes known.

Please take the survey prior to the February club meeting on 2/17.

Best Regards,
Ed Deming
President - RC Propbusters AMA Club 191

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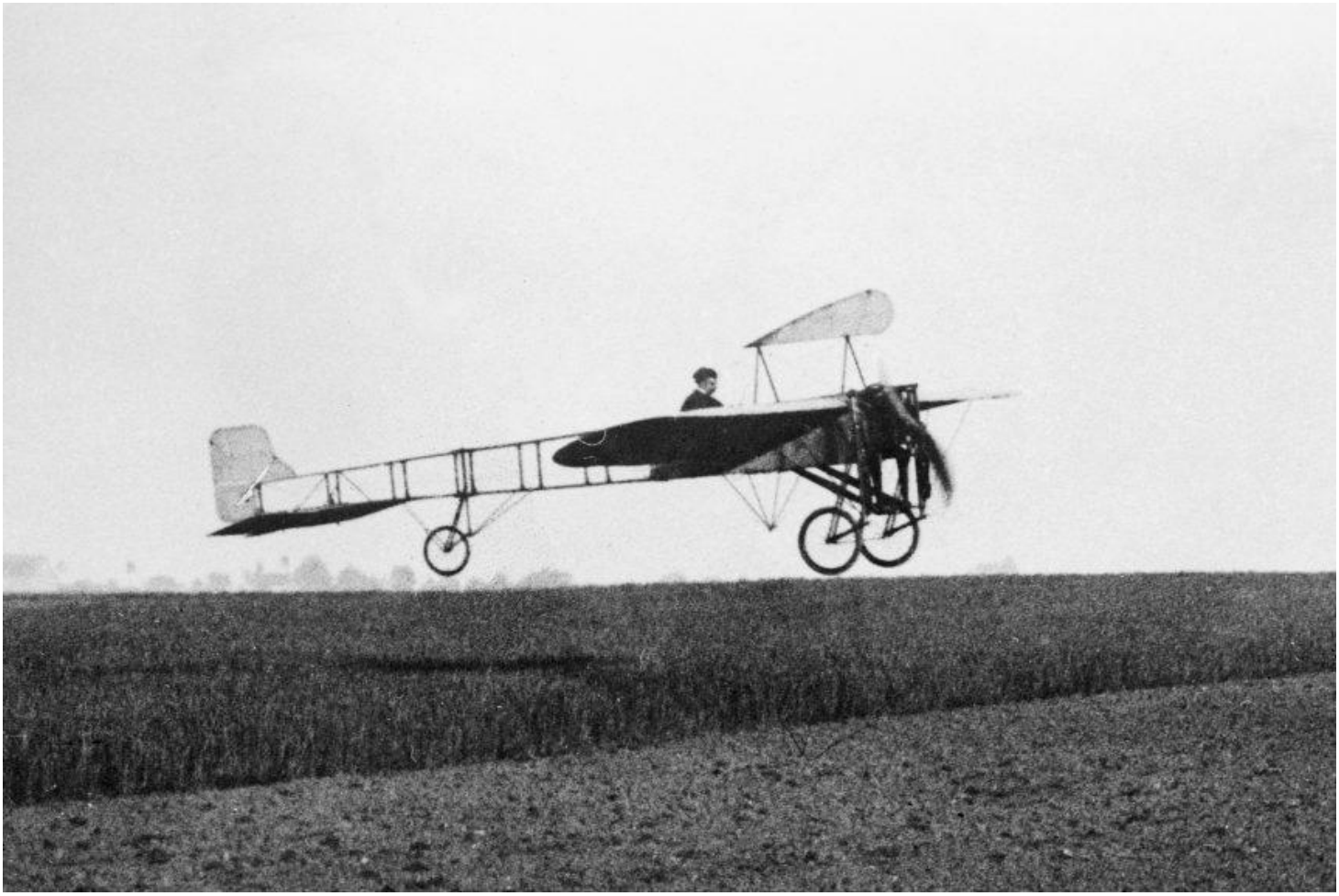
January 23, 1909
Today in Aviation History: First Flight of the Blériot XI

The Blériot XI remains one of the most important aircraft in the history of aviation, with the record-setting flights across the English Channel launching inspiration for aviators around the world.

Adam Estes January 23, 2025



Louis Bleriot flying a Bleriot XI in May 1909 (Library of Congress)

On this day in aviation history, January 23, 1909, the Blériot XI made its first flight. This pioneering aircraft was developed less than ten years after the Wright Brothers flew at Kittyhawk, and became one of the most widely-used and produced aircraft of the pre-WWI era, setting records in both civil and military aviation.

The man behind the Blériot XI was Louis Blériot, an engineer who graduated from the prestigious École Centrale school of engineering, and later developed a modest fortune by developing the world's first practical headlamp for automobiles. But by the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, Blériot turned his attention to the skies. He met fellow pioneering French aviators such as the brothers Charles and Gabriel Voisin, who helped him design and build gliders and powered aircraft of biplane, monoplane, tandem wing, and canard configurations.

By 1908, Blériot developed the Blériot VIII, the first airplane to combine a hand-operated joystick for the aircraft's pitch and roll axis and foot-operated rudder controls for the yaw axis. Seeking to merge this breakthrough with a new design, he worked with Raymond Saulnier, co-founder of Morane-Saulnier, on a new design that became the Blériot XI, a tractor-configuration monoplane with a partially covered wooden box-girder fuselage with wire cross-bracing and a sparse open cockpit. Lateral control was achieved through wing warping, where the ends of a plane's wings are twisted by control wires to make the aircraft turn, while the tail held a horizontal stabilizer for the elevators and an all-moving vertical surface for the rudder. A cabane fin was also installed above the cockpit for lateral stability.

The prototype Blériot XI made its first flight on January 23, 1909, at Issy-les-Moulineaux, a suburb of Paris. It was powered by a 35 hp seven-cylinder semi-radial engine designed by Robert Esnault-Pelterie (known as an R.E.P. engine) that turned a four-bladed paddle propeller. Although the airplane's controls responded well, the engine proved unreliable. At the suggestion of his mechanic, Ferdinand Collin, Blériot made contact with Italian-born motorcycle racer and engine designer Alessandro Anzani, who had recently begun manufacturing aero-engines.

Bleriot XI N60094, the second-oldest flying airplane in the world and the oldest flying aircraft in the USA, flying at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, New York (Photo by Warren W. Disbrow)

Read this entire article at: https://vintageaviationnews.com/warbird-articles/today-in-aviation-history/today-in-aviation-history-first-flight-of-the-bleriot-xi.html

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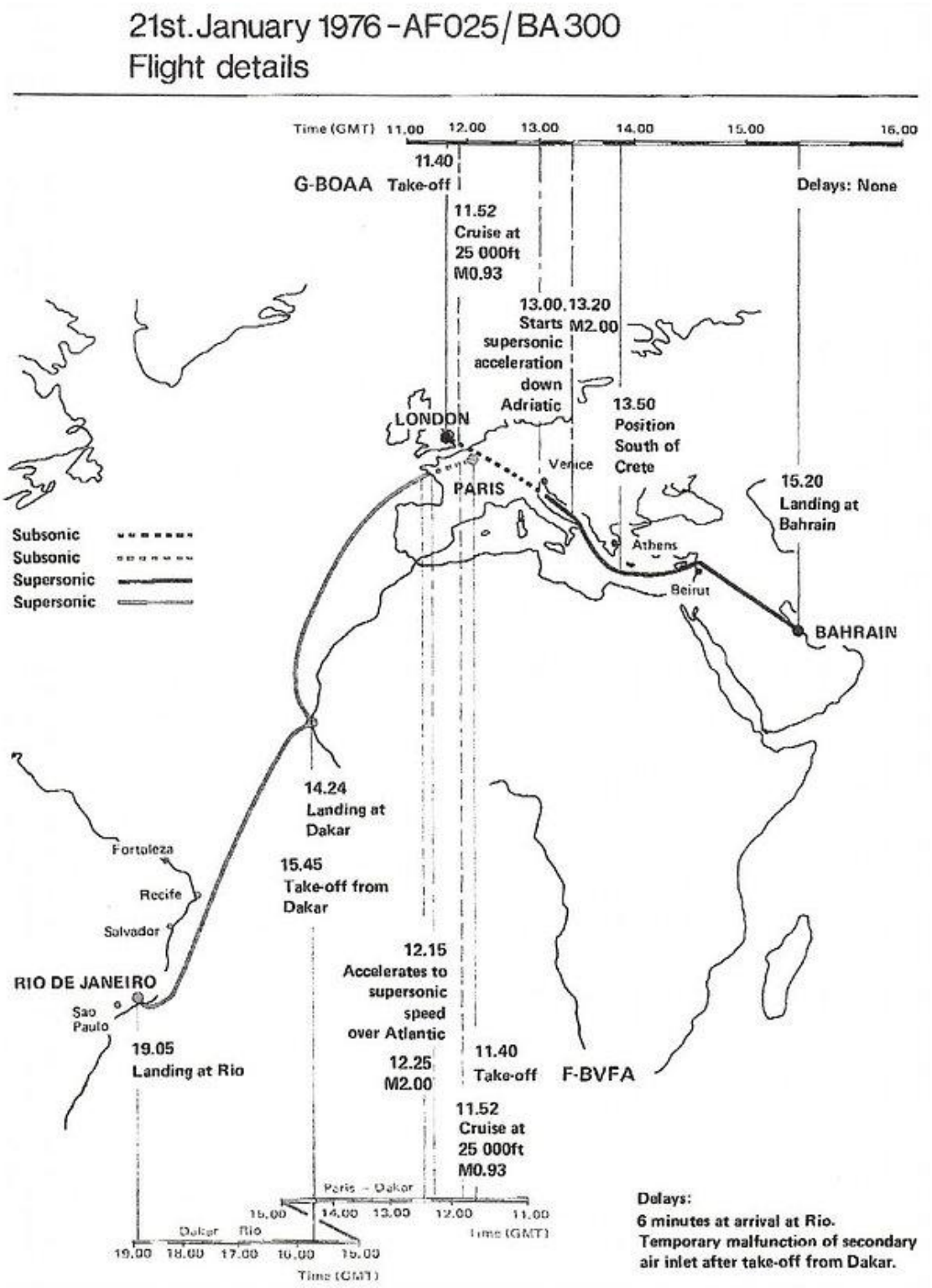
21 January 1976

British Airways' Concorde G-BOAA departing Heathrow, 11:40 a.m., 21 January 1976. (Adrian Meredith/British Airways)

21 January 1976: The first scheduled supersonic passenger airliners, Air France's Concorde F-BVFA, and British Airways' Concorde G-BOAA, took off simultaneously at 11:40 a.m. F-BVFA departed Paris en route Rio de Janero, with a stop at Dakar, and G-BOAA departed London Heathrow en route Bahrain.

AIR FRANCE Air France Flight AF 085 was flown by *Commandant de bord*, Captain Pierre Jean Louis Chanoine-Martiel, with Captain Pierre Dudal, Chief Pilot, Concorde Division, as co-pilot; and *Officier Mécanicien Navigant* (Flight Engineer) André Blanc.

British airways The British Airways' flight, BA 300, using the call sign "Speedbird Concorde," was crewed by Captain Norman Victor Todd, Captain Brian James Calvert and Flight Engineer John Lidiard. The British Aircraft Corporation's Chief Test Pilot, Ernest Brian Trubshaw, C.B.E., M.V.O., was also aboard.



Concorde inaugural flights, 21 January 1976. (Heritage Concorde)
G-BOAA arrived on time at 15:20. F-BVFA, after a delay at Dakar, arrived at Rio de Janeiro at 19:00.

Read this entire article at: https://www.thisdayinaviation.com/2025/01/21/

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FAA Recreational Flyer Registration

Register your RC aircraft at:
https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/register
Renew your RC aircraft registration at:
https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/

How much does it cost to renew a registration?
$5 through the FAADroneZone.

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The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST)

All Propbusters are now required to take and pass The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST),
… but don't worry!

The Academy of Model Aeronautics is an FAA-approved Test Administrator of The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST). TRUST is a collaboration between the FAA and industry to provide TRUST and educational safety material to Recreational Flyers.

https://www.modelaircraft.org/trust

The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) FAQ

June 22, 2021, UPDATED TRUST INFORMATION:
The AMA has now been approved to administer The Recreational UAS Safety Test, or TRUST. AMA has worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), ensuring that TRUST meets the intent of Congress without placing an undue burden on our hobby community.

Since 1936, the AMA has been dedicated to the hobby of model aviation, to educational programming, and safety in the airspace. We are offering the TRUST to the entire community of model aviation enthusiasts free of charge.

Q: What is "TRUST"?
A: "TRUST" stands for **T**he **R**ecreational **U**AS **S**afety **T**est

Q: Why do I need to take TRUST?
A: The Knowledge and Safety Test is a congressional mandate in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. **All UAS users** must pass the test in order to operate a recreational model aircraft (UAS) within the National Airspace System (NAS).

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Your Editor asked Google Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assistant Gemini "What is needed to build an RC airplane?"

Conversation with Gemini

Building an RC airplane requires three main categories of items: **structural materials** for the airframe, **onboard electronics** for power and control, and **assembly tools**. For beginners, the easiest way to start is with a **Ready-To-Fly (RTF)** bundle, which includes everything in one package.

1. Essential Electronics

These components are the "brains and muscles" of the aircraft:

- **Transmitter (Radio) & Receiver:** The transmitter is the handheld remote, while the receiver sits inside the plane to relay your commands.
- **Brushless Motor & ESC:** The motor spins the propeller, and the **Electronic Speed Controller (ESC)** regulates its power.
- **Servos:** Small motors that move the control surfaces (rudder, elevator, ailerons) to steer the plane.
- **LiPo Battery & Charger:** High-power Lithium Polymer batteries are the standard for electric flight.

2. Airframe Materials

Depending on your build style, you will need:

- **Balsa Wood or Foam:** Balsa is traditional and lightweight; **EPP or Depron foam** is popular for its durability and ease of repair.
- **Adhesives: Cyanoacrylate (CA) glue** (super glue) is standard for balsa, while **hot glue** or specialized foam-safe glue is used for foam models.
- **Covering Film:** Heat-shrink plastic (like UltraCote) to give balsa planes a smooth, aerodynamic skin.

3. Builder Tools

A precision toolkit is necessary for accurate assembly and maintenance:

- **Cutting Tools:** A hobby knife with extra #11 blades and a self-healing cutting mat.
- **Precision Drivers:** Small **hex and nut drivers** for the tiny fasteners used in RC models.
- **Measuring Gear:** A **steel ruler** and **drafting triangles** to ensure the wings and tail are perfectly square.

Recommended Starter Kits

If you are building your first plane, these complete bundles eliminate guesswork by including compatible electronics and airframes:

FT Tiny Trainer Complete Starter Bundle: A comprehensive set designed specifically for beginners. It can be built into four different designs that grow with your skill level.

ft Tiny Trainer Complete Starter Bundle
$197.99
Flite Test
Opens in a new window

FT Tutor Complete Starter Bundle: Modeled after classic training aircraft, this kit provides stable flight and includes all necessary servos, motor, and radio gear.

ft Tutor Complete Starter Bundle
$223.99
Flite Test
Opens in a new window

EZ First Flyers Complete Starter Bundle: A budget-friendly option for very simple foam builds, including power packs and even LED lights for night flying.

EZ First Flyers Complete Starter Bundle
$89.99
Flite Test
Opens in a new window

For the tools, the **Integy 18pcs RC Tool Set** is a great all-in-one choice that includes a carrying bag to keep your workspace organized.

Integy Complete 18pcs RC Tool Set with Carrying Bag
$99.99
Integy
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Flying a Drone in Winter

5 Things You Must Know

Winter drone flying can sometimes be challenging in extreme conditions. Low temperatures can impact flight performance, and weather can be unpredictable. It's possible that you will encounter rain, fog, or snow during flight.

So how can you have a safe flight and capture great shots during the winter months? Here are some safety and camera settings tips* to keep in mind when flying your drone during winter.

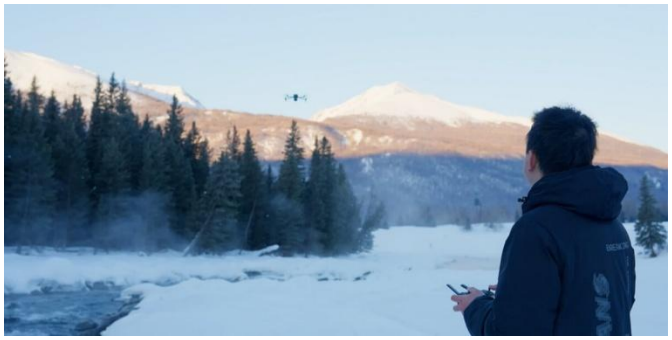
Battery

Like many of the latest portable devices, DJI drones use Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries. Cold temperatures can put your batteries out of their comfort zone, decreasing the chemical activity within batteries. Follow the tips below to ensure a safe flight:

battery status during flight.

- Only use fully charged batteries.
- The battery should be used in an environment ranging from -10°C to 40°C. When the flight environment is below 5°C, the battery should be preheated in a room temperature environment in advance, thoroughly heated to above 20°C. Use a battery heater if one is available for your product.
- Hover for about a minute to allow the battery to warm up.
- Only push the control sticks gently to prevent any battery voltage drops.
- Batteries drain faster in cold temperatures. Always check your drone's

Environment



Reduced visibility and the moisture of snow can be the hidden dangers behind shooting spectacular winter scenery. It's essential to take the right precautions:

- Before flying your drone, check the weather conditions. Avoid strong wind, rain, and snow.
- Do not fly in temperatures below 0°C (32°F).
- Avoid contact with snow. Moisture can damage the motors. It's recommended to use a landing pad for taking off and landing your drone.
- Ensure that the GPS signal is strong.

Stay Warm

Ever experienced your mobile device unexpectedly shutting down from the cold? As explained at the beginning, cold temperatures can shorten a Li-ion battery's life. So, while taking good care of your Intelligent Flight Batteries, don't forget to keep your mobile device warm.

Additionally, watch out for frostbite. Operating a remote controller with numb hands is dangerous. It's a good idea to wear gloves when flying outdoors during winter months.

Camera Settings – Exposure and White Balance

To capture the beauty of snow, you need to manually set camera exposure and white balance. Shooting in Auto mode can result in dark images. This is because the camera's exposure system can sometimes underexpose snow, tricked by its brightness.

By adding additional stops, you will slightly overexpose your photos but get the right compensation for snow shots. Similarly, you need to adjust the white balance accordingly to get the right color balance of the snowy landscape. Otherwise, the snow may look grey.

Storage

If your drone is idle for a long time, its performance might be affected. Storing it properly is key to a safe flight. Make sure to:

- Fully charge and discharge the battery once every three months to maintain battery health.
- Remove the propellers and attach storage cover when storing your drone.
- Store your drone in a dry, non-magnetic place at around 25°C (77°F).

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is crucial to prioritize the maintenance of your drone during the winter season. And if you're a beginner just starting out in the drone world, you can even opt for our exceptional drone models with enhanced wind resistance, allowing you to breeze through your winter drone adventures with ease.

So, go ahead and embrace the beauty of winter and don't forget to share your photos with us on our Official Owners Facebook group and SkyPixel.

*These recommendations are aimed at ensuring maximum protection for the battery and body of your DJI drone during winter storage, in order to extend its lifespan. Please note that these suggestions may vary depending on the different models of drones, so it is advisable to refer to the user manual or official guide of your DJI drone to obtain specific storage guidelines.

Reference: https://store.dji.com/content/winter-drone-flying-tips

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Practice, Practice, Practice

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HOW TO REPAIR AND MAINTAIN YOUR RC AIRPLANES

by FliteTest | November 24, 2017

Repairing and maintaining is a skill you'll want to have in your metaphorical RC toolbox! This article aims to provide you with some advice and inspiration for looking after your radio controlled planes so that you can have great experiences and memories with them for longer.

Check out this video at: https://www.flitetest.com/articles/how-to-maintain-rc-airplanes

Watch this video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aV7bH1M4N0

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RC Plane Repair

by RC Jim
playlist·59 videos

Yes, accidents do happen! But it's OK to stretch the boundaries of your flying abilities if you also can handle the inevitable repairs. Watch Jim as he repairs both foam and balsa RC aircraft.

Watch this video at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxxXi2c63PIBFxBgVUNI8RDd2_FOWLL9D

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Tips & Tricks

DU-BRO
A Name You Can Count On.

DU-BRO RC Building Supplies provide hobbyists, builders, and seasoned modelers with the premium tools and materials needed to create, repair, and perfect radio-controlled aircraft, cars, boats, and specialty projects. Known for exceptional quality and reliability, DU-BRO's extensive line of building supplies helps ensure every stage of model construction is precise, secure, and long-lasting.

https://www.dubro.com/collections/building-supplies

TOWER HOBBIES®

RC Building Materials – Airplanes

https://www.towerhobbies.com/airplanes/supplies-and-bench-accessories/building-materials/

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Models of the Month

Look what we have to look forward to this Spring!

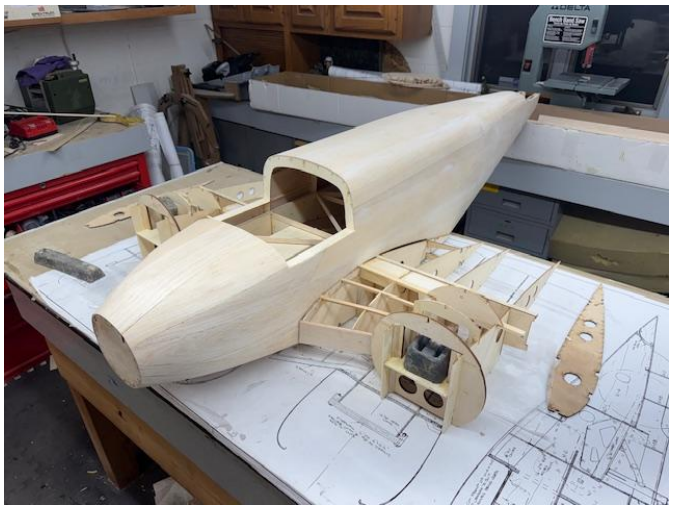
Our members will be repairing, building, and assembling aircraft this winter. Works in progress were shown at our December meeting. Len Buffintin makes the point that "maybe it's fun to see what's coming out next year and it keeps people motivated to keep building.". Here is what some members are working on:

Len Buffintin is currently building as a Zirolli Beechcraft 18,
Wing Span 114,
Power twin 3 cylinder Radial (Saito)
EST weight 40/45 lb
Building from plans/ laser cut parts.

Below (and next two pages) are photos of current stage of build provided by Len.

THANKS, Len!

Photo may not exactly represent Len's model.



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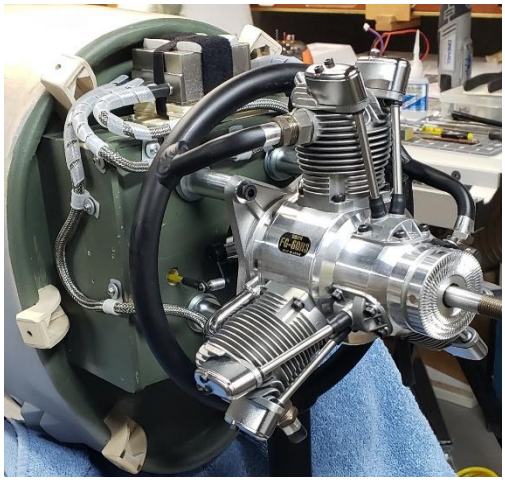
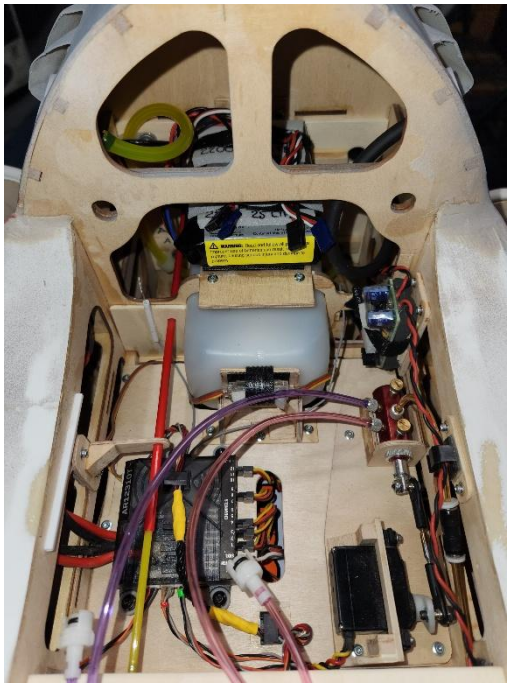
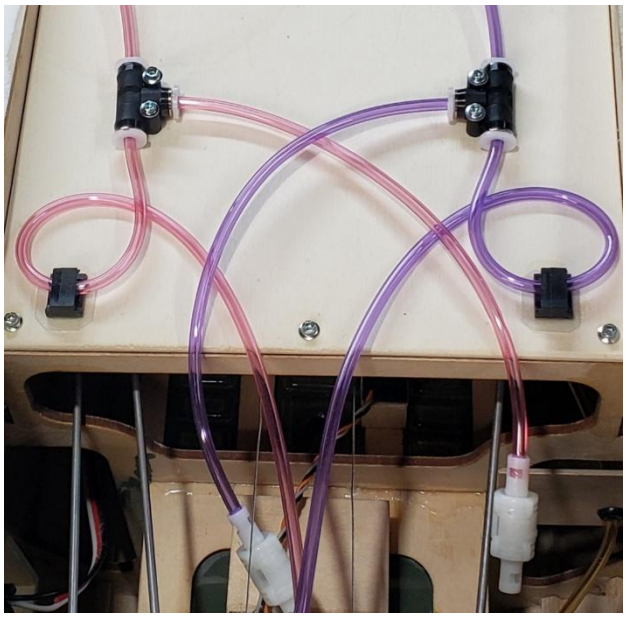
Dave Pratt is working on a P-47. Dave says "This is a Top Flite Giant Scale P-47 that I got from Mr. Lombardi. He did all the glassing and I'm finishing her up. Installing everything and then paint when the weather allows. This is my first go with air retreat and it's been interesting trying to get them all working properly and in a scale manner." Below (and next page) are some pics taken by Dave. Thanks, Dave!

Photo may not exactly represent Dave's model.







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Rob Larson is building a 1/3 scale Balsa USA Steerman,
150cc 5 cylinder radial
Wing Span 116”

As reported in the recent December 2025 Newsletter, other pilots continue working on the following beautiful and exciting aircraft:

Ed Deming - P-47D Thunderbolt 2259mm (88.9") Wingspan from Black Horse

Steve Pickering - The Hangar 9® J-3 Cub 10cc and EF - 70CC Peregrine Biplane - Green/White

Chris Osborne - Extreme Flight Turbo Bushmaster V2 - 84"

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Minutes of the January 20th 2026 RC Propbusters Meeting

There was no January 2026 Meeting; therefore, no minutes..

Our January club meeting was canceled due to the unavailability of several club officers and the fact that there were no pressing business items for this month. Regular monthly meetings will resume in February.

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