



Newsletter of The River Valley Flyers

Club #948

April 2020

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From the President: The world around us has changed very quickly in the past month, and hopefully, all will get back to normal soon. Even after things start to settle down some, it may be a while before all is normal again. In the meantime, I hope that everyone is staying as safe as they can, and are avoiding situations that could make things worse for you and your loved ones. Just use your good judgement and follow the guidelines for this event as they are changed, and I think we will all get

through this. I want everyone to work at staying as safe as possible through these challenging times, and know that we will get through this current situation alright.

With all the challenges that we are all facing at a personal level during this time, I would hope that occupying some free time with this hobby may be a good distraction and a way to get some positivity back into your day, or at least give you something a bit more uplifting to fill your daily routine. Give it a try and see if the distraction will help make things feel a little better.

With the emphasis on social distancing now and for the foreseeable future, it is necessary to look at how we are going to approach field usage for the flying season that will start up again very soon. We are told to not group in anything greater than ten people, and to keep at least six feet

of distance between ourselves. I think this is doable with a little consideration toward each other as we have always done in the past, and I think that it will be fine if we use this approach when we do get out there again. The problem will be if we want to help one another to fix or assemble aircraft or other things like that, where we might have to come in close contact with another club member or visitor. Another thing to consider is how many can be out in the space provided out there before we have too many people just too close together. Please use good judgement with that if and when you think about using the field. If it looks like there are already a sizable number out there if you go out, you may want to turn around and come again another time. This is the practice that I plan on using until all of this is over. Please help practice keeping everyone safe by maintaining your distance and keeping the crowd size small if you venture out to the field this spring. I can't wait to get out to the field to fly again with you this year, but I'll exercise caution for a while before I do finally make a decision on when to start going out there on a regular basis. I hope you do the same. In the period between now and then, I have expanded my yard flying area by removing some trees that were taking up a lot of usable flying space. This was something I had thought about doing for a while, and I just so happened to start doing it in late February before everything else happened. My plan is to make a small helicopter flying area in the space I created in my backyard. There will only be enough room for the smaller helis, but at least I will be able to get in some flying. I will have to save my bigger machines and fixed wing aircraft for use at the flying field whenever I finally do get out there.

I've also tried dabbling in some aerial photography with drones during the last few months, and find a whole new set of challenges with it compared to my other flying models. It's a different type of flying machine than what I am familiar with flying, and it can be flown in squares unlike my other rc aircraft. Learning the flight characteristics and technology that goes along with it is a bit different, but I find the avionics used are quite a bit advanced from what I currently fly. I will include some aerial photos in this newsletter that I took over the past few months at the field. With all that is happening, we will not have any club meetings or formal gatherings until further notice. I don't think that the Brat Fry in May will happen this year either. I am not quite sure how we should handle the spring maintenance at the field this year, and I am open to any suggestions from the members on how and when we should get these functions done. I think we need will to stay in contact by telephone and email. Maybe we all need to follow the advice from our safety officer in his wise and to the point safety article below. That's all I have for now without making stuff up, stay safe and hope to see you all soon.

Don

A Word from Our Safety Officer

Hi guys,

Very short and simple for this month,

STAY HOME! STAY HOME! STAY HOME!

See you at the field maybe in May.

Larry Chamberlin Safety Officer RVFRC

During the winter, I shot a few aerial camera photos at the field with a drone on loan that I borrowed from a fellow club member. It was a new experience for me, and I found that it takes a bit of practice to get the perfect shot. Here are some of the photos I took



Took off near the creek, and flew north. The field is still in the distance.



Heading back to where I started from near the creek



Coming in to land on a temporary platform near the creek (snow was still deep)

Then I returned in mid March to try it again. This time I made it past the field a tad before I decided turn it back around and fly it back to where I started. Here are some photos of that day. The photos look better on a bigger viewing screen.



Flying over the Flying Field in March



Getting past the Flying Field and turning around to head home



Coming in to land near the creek