



NARCA Eagle



May 2025

Next Meeting

Place: Epps Field
Date: Thursday May 08, 2025
Time: 6:30 PM
Program: Radios Today by Al Clark

North Alabama Radio
Control Association
P.O. Box 173 Harvest, AL
35749

Next Club Events

- Cub Day (May 10) Epps Field
- Exec Meeting (Jun 2)
- Jun General Meeting (Jun 12) Epps Field

Eagle's Nest



It was with a heavy heart that we learned of Bob Stewart's recent unexpected passing. Bob served as our president and was a dedicated member of NARCA, always striving to improve our club. He cared deeply about increasing member participation, ensuring smooth administration, and fostering a strong sense of community. His enthusiasm for RC flying and his commitment to safety were evident in his monthly messages. As we acknowledge this significant loss, let us also remember his hopes for NARCA and continue to build on the foundation he helped to strengthen. Looking ahead to May, we have the annual Cub Fly on May 10th, Mother's Day on the 11th, and during the May's meeting, Al Clark will share some of his extensive experience and knowledge about radios. I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to participate in these upcoming events, and as Bob often said, "happy flying!"

NARCA General Meeting Minutes 10 Apr 2025



Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by President Bob Stewart at Pineview Church in Harvest. He thanked everyone for coming noting the terrible weather outside. He also thanked Ray and his family for catering. Everyone enjoyed Taco Bar. Since this was the Duane Black show and Dinner the only formal business conducted was a first vote for Tom Agalsoff. He was accepted unanimously as an introductory member. The formal meeting was closed at 7:05 and Greg presented his Flitetest Styrofoam combat plane and demonstrated some of the build techniques used. Data can be obtained at Flitetest.com. He called his plane a copy of Washington Combat plane.

NARCA General Meeting Minutes 10 Mar 2025 (still need approval)



Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by President Bob Stewart at IHOP Madison.

Attendees: Cliff Lanham, Archie Phillips, Chuck Pierce, Wayne Post, Bob Stewart, Greg Wiren, Roy Zant, Rick Nelson, Ray Canada, Tony Royer, Michael Anderson, Michael Krebs, Ernie Duffey, Ed Denny, Tony Royer

A quorum of members was not present.

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to vote on the February minutes as published, motion was seconded. The vote was approved without discussion.

Officer Reports:

President - Robert Stewart. Welcomed everyone. Looking forward to improving weather and seeing more folks at the field over the next months. He welcomed Dr Bill Cooke, a NASA asteroid expert, who provided an excellent presentation on telescopes, orbital space junk and space debris.

Vice president - Frank Garcia. Absent, No report.

Treasurer - Greg Wiren. Finances are in good shape. Noted WLRH (NPR) cashed their check, Harvest EMS/Fire has not. Budget for April 25 – Apr 26 was nominated for the second vote and unanimously approved.

Secretary - Wayne Post. Received some comments saying member contact list from webpage doesn't print well. A couple of members have requested to reconsider sending one with newsletters. Will bring up at Exec Committee.

Committee reports:

Field – Michael Krebs. Will need to start mowing pretty soon. The mowers are in pretty good shape and ready to go.

Rules and Safety – Archie Phillips. Reminded members to fly the prescribed pattern in the same direction. If you want to maneuver, go up in altitude. A discussion followed about one of the neighbors complaining about planes crashing in his yard. A member noticed the complaint on our Facebook page. The Executive Committee will discuss further.

Finance – Open. No report (Greg covered in Treasurer report)

Contests and Events – Open.

Duane Black Dinner and Meeting: April 10th at the Pineview Baptist Church. A survey will be posted on the website to narrow meal choices for catering. Please take the survey.

Cub Day: May 10th at Epps Field. Greg Wiren plans to lead this event and will be getting more info out in the future.

Membership/PR – Ray Canada. One new member is joining this month. Ray will be putting out some Cub Day emails to other clubs hoping to generate some outside interest.

Training – Rick Nelson. Going well. He's been working with Tony flying the Apprentice.

Programs – Frank Garcia. Absent, No report.

Newsletter – Wayne Post. Please continue to submit articles and pictures.

Web Presence – Micah Greaves. Absent. No report.

Old business:

Budget: The current year budget was unanimously approved at the March meeting via second vote.

New business:

Membership votes Mar: Mike Anderson – first vote – approved as introductory member (Ray Canada as sponsor)

Meeting Location: There was a discussion about finding a new meeting location in the fall after our meetings at the field end. Some locations suggested were Gigaparts classroom, a different IHOP, and Valentinos Pizza. Members were asked to think about this over the next few months.

Rocketry at Epps: There was a question on whether NARCA allowed rocketry and rocket launched radio-controlled glide vehicles. The conclusion was that it would be allowed if rocketeer is member of NARCA and rockets don't exceed ceiling of 400ft. It was also noted that the shape of the field with the trees isn't ideal for rockets.

Combat Event: Some members have been formulating a combat event for the club this summer or fall. Cliff and Greg discussed it briefly but the primary sponsors didn't make this meeting so it will be on the agenda at the Duane Black meeting.

A call was made for any other business. There being none, a motion was made to adjourn, seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Post
NARCA Secretary

Membership Votes at May Meeting



Congratulations to Mike Anderson who became an introductory member with a unanimous vote at the March meeting.

- **First Votes:**
 - Al Kretz
- **Second Votes:**
 - None

Announcements

Duane Black Meeting: The Duane Black meeting went well despite the bad weather. We had a good turnout and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. Thanks to Ray and his family for catering and John Bush for arranging the venue. Also, thanks to those who set up and cleaned up. Greg was the only member to bring a project to talk about – shown later in the newsletter.

May General Meeting: May 8, 2025. Back to the field for meetings. Al Clark will give a presentation on Radios. See his bio later in the newsletter.

Search for new Club President: We will all miss Bob. He gave a lot to the club and was out at the field a lot. A tough thing we need to do is pick a new President. Frank will fill the Presidency as long as is necessary but would really prefer to remain Vice President. We are looking for folks who would serve as President until the Annual Meeting vote.

Upcoming NARCA Events: After Cub Day, NARCA has a few more events on the calendar for Summer and early Fall. If we are to make these successful, we need volunteers to lead and support.

NARCA Cub Day Fun Fly - Saturday May 10, 2025

Public Welcome
9AM to 4PM
@ Epps Field
1230 Carroll Rd
Harvest AL., 35749

No Landing Fee
Free Hot Dogs/Chips/Sodas while it lasts
AMA required to fly



Come on out, bring an RC Cub if you have one (any plane will do). Enjoy spending the day with like-minded RC enthusiasts.

POCs: Greg Wiren & Ray Canada
Contact: cubdayfunfly@narca.club

June 21: NARCA Fun Fly

September 13: NARCA Invitational Fly-in

Al Clark's Modelling Bio



I've loved airplanes since seeing my first one at around 3 years of age in 1955.

When I was very young, I'd spend any money I got on the Testors balsa planes that were hand launched. Just like this one.

They cost 10 cents back then and they also had a much larger version which cost 25 cents but that was a lot of money for a kid then and I rarely managed to save enough to buy one of those big ones.

From about 5 to 7 years of age I flew rubber band powered balsa models like the North Pacific Sleek Streak and Jim Walker A-J (American Junior) Hornet. The Hornet was a great flyer:



When I was 6 years old my Dad decided to build several U Control (Ukies we called them) models and a freeflight model. This was very exciting to me because I was just a kid growing up in the sticks in Iowa, and I loved the thought of flying something that could be controlled. A photo of me in the basement of our house with my Dad's models in 1958:



The plane nearest me is a Midwest Sniffer freeflight that had a Cox .020 Pee Wee engine. The ukies, going clockwise from nearest me - Sterling F-51 Mustang; Quicker combat wing; and two Sterling Ringmasters. The ukies all had .35 glow engines - O.S and Fox.version which cost 25 cents but that was a lot of money for a kid then and I rarely managed to save enough to buy one of those big ones.

I soloed on one of the Ringmasters when I was 7 years old. These were flown on 60 foot long lines, and Dad always angled the motors out some to add more line pull. I was a lot smaller than the average kid when I was 7 years old and I recall being barely able to hang onto the control handle for the entire tank of fuel when I soloed! Here's a photo of my solo flight taken at the Laurens, Iowa airport:



When I was 8 years old I discovered a guy who was flying an RC model in a field that was only a mile or so from our house, and after that I begged my Dad to go out and watch him and some other guys whenever I heard the model engines. Back then engines had no mufflers and they could be heard for a long distance. The guy I first met was named Donny Jones. Donny became a good friend and RC mentor. I still stay in touch with him and he is still flying RC models at 91 years old! I was thrilled with the RC models and it was my dream to get one someday. I tried to talk my Dad into getting RC but he said it was too expensive, which it was because in 1965 a Citizenship proportional 4 channel radio cost \$450 which is \$4568 today!

When I turned 9 years old I built my own Ringmaster ukie and flew it with a McCoy .35 engine which was all I could afford then. The McCoy turned out to be a crappy engine and I didn't have enough money to replace it with a better one, so my Ringmaster got mothballed after a short time.



Not long after I built my Ringmaster we moved to another town and I didn't do any more model flying until I was 14 years old and I built a Goldberg 1/2A Viking freeflight powered by a Cox .049.

The Viking hooked a good thermal on its first test flight and went out of sight. My Dad figured it was a goner but I insisted we go looking for it. So we started stopping at farmhouses asking if they had seen a model plane, and amazingly we found a farmer who had seen it land in front of him while he was on his tractor, and I got it back!

From the time I was 14 until I was in college, I built quite a few 1/2A control line models such as the Top Flight Baby Flite Streak and the Goldberg Lil' Satan, which I flew in the lot next to our house. I also built several scale rubber powered and gas powered freeflight models.

I still wanted to get into radio control and I was keeping an eye on the radio gear prices. By the time I was 19 years old I had saved enough money to get my first radio control system. Digital proportional radios had been developed but they were still far beyond my budget so I bought an Ace R/C Galloping Ghost (GG) Single Channel radio which would give me rudder and elevator control and a 3 position throttle. In a Galloping Ghost system the rudder and elevator flap back and forth continuously and the amount they flap on one side or the other is controlled by the transmitter control stick – this was known as Pulse Proportional radio control. Pretty rudimentary but much cheaper than a digital proportional radio. I chose a SIG Manufacturing DeHavilland Beaver kit for my first RC plane and put an Enya .09 engine in it. I never got a successful flight with it because even though the GG radio always worked great on the workbench, it only seemed to have about 100' of usable range in the air. After several attempts with the Beaver and one other model with no success I sent the radio back to Ace R/C for a refund and bought a single channel rudder only pulse proportional radio which I installed into a Midwest Whiz Kid model that I built. I had great success with the rudder only radio and the Whiz Kid, and that was my start in RC.



Here's a photo of the SIG Beaver with the GG radio and Enya .09 engine, taken in March 1971 (with typical Iowa March weather)



Not long after I got the Whiz Kid flying, Kraft came out with a 2 channel brick radio that had a nice single stick transmitter and a reasonable price for the time, so I bought. I built a number of 1/2A Cox powered models, including a couple of my own designs, and had good success with those. I also used the Kraft radio in a couple of gliders including the renowned Graupner Cirrus which was a fantastic glider.

Photo of the Cirrus in 1973.

I graduated from college in 1974 with an Aerospace Engineering degree and ended up at the U.S. Army Missile Command in Huntsville, AL in early 1975. The first thing I did was locate the local hobby shop which was Wilson's Hobby back then. Then I joined the Rocket City Radio Controllers (RCRC) club where I met and flew with a lot of great modelers. I built a lot of different planes, helicopters, and gliders over the years and flew in many glider contests from 1975 through 1991, including the National Glider Championships in 1975 and 1976 where I was lucky enough to get 2nd place in 1976 in Standard Class Precision.

Since I started flying RC in 1971 I've built and flown many types of models including boats, cars, helicopters, autogyros, glow powered planes, gas powered planes, electric powered planes, quadcopters, rocket powered planes, and gliders. So far I've built 215 RC models (I've kept a build log) and expect to build many more. Being an Aerospace Engineer I like to design models so 58 of those were my own design. 9 of my designs have been published in various model magazines and 5 of my designs are currently kitted by Manzano Laser Works. Since I started flying RC I've owned 48 different radios, and currently own 22 different radios. A number of those are vintage radios that I've converted to 2.4 GHz with all new electronics.

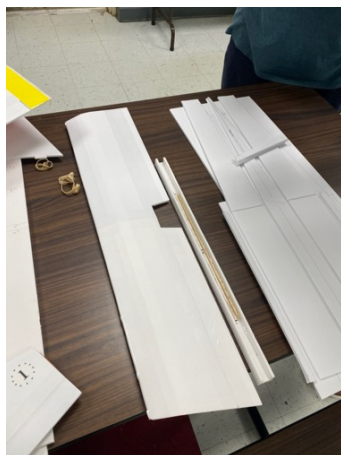
Over the years I've belonged to six RC clubs including RCRC, NARCA, Huntsville Helicopter Club, Huntsville Aeromodelers, NASF (North Alabama Silent Flyers), and MARS Micro Modelers (NASA/MSFC indoor RC club). I started the NASF glider club, the MARS Micro Modelers indoor RC club, and the Huntsville Helicopter Club (started along with Drew Thigpen). I've been past President of RCRC and MARS Micro Modelers, Vice President of the Huntsville Helicopter Club, Treasurer of Huntsville Aeromodelers, and newsletter editor of NARCA.

Currently I'm a sport flyer and I fly mostly electric powered planes and EDFs, gliders, rocket gliders, and DLGs (discus launch gliders). I also like to run boats and fly seaplanes on our neighborhood pond across the street from our house. I usually build several models each year and still manage to design a new model every few years. I'm looking forward to a lot more building and flying in the years to come. It has been, and continues to be, a great hobby!

What's Going on at NARCA

This column is dedicated to photos of NARCA member's activities. Please snap a photo of whatever you're doing at the field and email it to newsletter@narca.club. Include a brief note about it and I will put it into the newsletter. Thanks for the inputs this month. Keep 'em coming.

Greg shows Latest Build at Duane Black Meeting



Greg's plane is built primarily out of posterboard and hot glue. Plans and instructions can be obtained at www.Flitetest.com. He called his plane a copy of Washington Combat plane.

16 April Flyers





Michael's VTO



Al's Biplane

Bob, Jack, Scott and Cliff



Michael preps Tri Plane for Test Flight



**Bob & Michael discuss the meaning of Life
Or maybe the Tri Plane**



Bob getting transmitter for flight



Ad Hoc Biplane Day



Al's Gasser



Ray Teaching the next Generation

NARCA 2025 Calendar

Wednesday, Jan 1	Friday, Jul 4
9:00am New Years Day Flying	Epps Picnic - Field closed
Monday, Jan 6	Thursday, Jul 10
6:30pm Exec Mtg	6:30pm General Mtg (Epps Field)
Thursday, Jan 9	Monday, Jul 28
6:30pm General Mtg (IHOP)	6:30pm Exec Mtg
Monday, Jan 27	Thursday, Aug 14
6:30pm Exec Mtg	6:30pm General Mtg (Epps Field)
Thursday, Feb 13	Monday, Aug 25
6:30pm General Mtg (IHOP)	6:30pm Exec Mtg
Monday, Feb 24	Thursday, Sep 11
6:30pm Exec Mtg	6:30pm General Mtg
Thursday, Mar 13	Saturday, Sep 13
6:30pm General Mtg (IHOP)	NARCA Invitational Fly-in. (All AMA members welcome)
Monday, Mar 31	Monday, Sep 29
6:30pm Exec Mtg	6:30pm Exec Mtg
Thursday, Apr 10	Thursday, Oct 9
6:30pm Gen Mtg/ Duane Black Show	6:30pm General Mtg
Monday, Apr 28	Monday, Oct 27
6:30pm Exec Mtg	6:30pm Exec Mtg
Thursday, May 8	Thursday, Nov 13
6:30pm General Mtg	6:30pm ANNUAL Mtg
Saturday, May 10	Monday, Nov 24
NARCA Cub Day	6:30pm Exec Mtg
Sunday, May 11	Thursday Nov 27
Mothers Day	Thanksgiving
Monday, Jun 2	Thursday, Dec 11
6:30pm Exec Mtg	6:30pm General Mtg/Dinner
Thursday, Jun 12	Thursday, Jan 1
6:30pm General Mtg	9:00am New Years Day Flying
Saturday, Jun 21	Monday, Jan 5
NARCA Fun Fly	6:30pm Exec Mtg
Monday, Jun 30	Thursday, Jan 8
6:30pm Exec Mtg	6:30pm General Mtg

Activities at Other Clubs



WARBIRDS OVER CLEVELAND

HOSTED BY

BRADLEY COUNTY R/C MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB
AMA SANCTIONED EVENT #17927

MAY 17, 2025
STARTS 9:00AM TIL ?
Pilots fee \$10.00
all pilots must show proof of AMA

1200 FRANCISCO RD / GEORGETOWN TN





DIRECTIONS TO FIELD: TAKE HWY 60 TOWARDS HWY 58.
WHEN YOU GET TO GEORGETOWN,
TN TAKE 1ST RIGHT ON FRANCISCO RD. FIELD
IS 1/2 MILE ON LEFT

FREE ADMISSION FOR SPECTATORS AND PARKING
FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE , FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL Contest Director JAMES PATTERSON 423-310-1237

Rocket City Radio Controllers

RCRC

June 7, 2025

SWAP MEET

9am - 12pm

- General Admission is FREE.
- Selling permits are \$10 prior to event and \$15 the day of the event.
- Cash or **PayPal**
(payments@rocketcityrc.com)

EVENT RULES:

- Flying will only be permitted after event has concluded.
- Running of engines will only be permitted in designated areas.

Information is available at:
<http://RocketCityRC.com>
<http://Facebook.com/RocketCityRC>

Contest Director:
Gene Hauck
treasurer@rocketcityrc.com
(256) 684-5111

Location:
Capt. Trey Wilbourn Field, Huntsville, AL
GPS Location: 34.685171, -86.592244

Directions:
From the west at I-65/I-565 intersection, take I-565 East, then Memorial Parkway South, then exit right on Airport Road, then left on Leeman Ferry Way SW



Comments or Suggestions

If you have inputs, comments, or suggestions regarding the Newsletter please send them to me at newsletter@narca.club →

Thanks for all the input for this edition.

Wayne Post, Newsletter Editor

NARCA Membership List

The membership list is available to members on the website at www.NARCA.club.

NARCA's Facebook Page and Facebook Group

NARCA Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/flynarca>

NARCA Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/344777265930162>

We encourage all NARCA Members to join the Facebook Page and Facebook Group – it's easy to do and the Facebook Group is a very convenient way to communicate among club members, especially for going flying. →