



The FLYER

Devoted to the Building and Flying of Radio Controlled Aircraft

Vol. 2026, Issue 8

The Monthly Newsletter of the Livermore Flying Electrons RC Club

August 2026

Everyone is Welcome to LFE Meetings!

LFE club meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at the LFE field.

2026 LFE Board of Directors

Group A (2025/2026 term):

Jay Raimondi (510)459-5185
Julius Bertolucci (925)373-1687
Doug Clarke (925)789-7542
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Group B (2026/2027 term):

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Newsletter Deadline: Any information to be included in The Flyer should be submitted to the email listed above no later than the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. All submissions should be in plain text or Microsoft Word format in 12-point Arial. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce any part of "The Flyer" provided source credit is given.

2026 LFE Club Officers & Flight Instructors

President	Jay Raimondi
Vice President	Julius Bertolucci
Treasurer	Tom Bilotti
Assistant Treasurer	Ken Butler
Secretary	
Membership Chairman	Terry O'Rourke
Events Coordinator	Billy Truelove
Safety Officer	Jeff Stern
Field Maintenance Chairman	Tom Bennett
Quartermaster	Doug Clarke
Chief Flight Instructor	Tom Bennett
Flight Instructors	Jeff Hollfelder
	Lou Rodriguez
	Mark Freseman

Club Information:

Real-time weather and field cameras – www.lferc.com and select "Weather & Cameras"

Board of Directors: directors@lferc.com

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From The Editor
By Ed Becker
LFE Newsletter Editor



Greetings LFE club members! I hope that you and your families had a great 4th of July Holiday!

The club's annual warbird event, Warbirds Over Livermore 2026 is coming up on Friday and Saturday, August 21st and 22nd. Club members can fly any type of model on Friday morning and then we will switch over to warbirds around 12pm. Continuing the tradition from last year, there will be a Night Fly event on Friday.

As in prior years, the warbird event (flyer [here](#)) is a warbird Fly-In format with open flying all day, and all military aircraft of any type or size may be flown. All skill levels are welcome, and new pilots are invited to bring out that warbird that you've been waiting to fly. There will be plenty of experienced pilots available to help and everyone who wants to fly will get an opportunity to fly!

The event is free for everyone, and there will be a free pilots raffle and a special surprise for all registered pilots who fly. Lunch will be \$10 for non-LFE members to help with the rising cost of food. While the event is not a competition, there will be awards for Best WWI, Best WWII, Best EDF Jet and Pilot's Choice.

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From a prior year, here is a photo of Daryl Rolla's fantastic model. Do any of you know what it is? It looks similar to a Spitfire you say? Well that's right, it's a Supermarine Seafire in a steep bank! Yes, it's a Seafire, a cousin of the Spitfire. For those of you who have seen Daryl's models you know that he is an extraordinary craftsman and painter, and his airbrushing is fantastic!



Please join us for a fun day of flying warbirds!

-Ed Becker

President's Column
By Jay Raimondi
LFE President



From 9 to 90+ — LFE Is Truly a Club for Everyone



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We've always said, "Our future is our junior members." Today, I'm proud to say that Livermore Flying Electronics has never been a more complete club.

From our youngest flyers to members in their 90s, LFE is thriving. With approximately 25% of our membership made up of junior members, and new youth flyers joining us regularly, we have so much to be proud of.

Mentoring the youngest among us has become the mission of our entire club. Whether it's helping a child take the controls for the very first time or encouraging a teenager to build confidence and skills, our members are always there with a smile, a trainer aircraft, or a helping hand.

One member recently shared something that perfectly captures what LFE is all about:

"I may not be a great athlete, but I found a home at LFE thanks to all the help and mentorship the club has provided."

Those words remind us that this club is about much more than airplanes. It's about friendship, belonging, and creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Our senior members contribute in ways that are truly priceless. Many entered the hobby as children during the 1950s and 1960s, when the only way to participate was to scratch-build a free-flight or control-line aircraft. They became master builders, skilled craftsmen, innovators, and mentors. Today, those same members are the reason we have trainer aircraft, loaner radios, spare parts, building knowledge, and experienced hands always ready to help the next generation succeed.

The partnership between our youth and our senior members is one of the greatest strengths of Livermore Flying Electronics. The enthusiasm of our youngest pilots, combined with the wisdom and experience of our most seasoned members, creates something truly special.

To everyone who has volunteered your time, donated equipment, supported our youth programs, contributed financially to improve the club, or simply made a new member feel welcome—thank you. You have helped build a club where everyone, from 9 to 90+, can discover the joy of model aviation.

That may be the greatest gift we've ever given ourselves.

Jay

Learning the Art of Model Building

From the Westlake RC Club, Inc., North
Olmstead, Ohio

Building model airplanes, like any other artistic medium such as sculpture, landscape, painting, or flower arranging, is an art form in its own right. And like any other art form, it's a learned skill that takes time and dedication to master.

I try to bring a new model to the meetings every chance I get, and I always hear many who look at them say, "I could never do that," or "it would take me 10 years to build that." For the less experienced modelers among us, I can certainly understand how that could come to mind. However, those models are a culmination of more than 45 years at the drawing board and work bench, with the last 12 years having been "full time." It's safe to say that I have been fortunate enough to have packed a dozen average modelers' lifetime achievements into my last five years of modeling!

With that being said, we all must understand that mastering the art of modeling will span a lifetime, and we can't expect to start out where those who have been doing it for many years have aspired to. The good news is that modeling skills are not difficult to learn, it just takes practice. The main thing is that someone new to modeling must begin with a project simple enough to complete successfully—after all, there's no better motivator than success!

So where does one begin? Most of us in the club are RC fliers that fly Almost-Ready-to-Fly (ARFs) models; so naturally, the first thought would be to build an RC model. There are those among us who could accomplish this task just fine. However, that depends on many factors, such as wood-working skills, plans reading ability and so forth. For most, all of those skills will have to be learned right from the start, which might seem like a monumental undertaking! So here's how I'd suggest going about it.

First: Keep the main objective in mind—learning to build models!

Second: Start simple!! The fact that your primary interest is flying RC models doesn't mean your limited to building only RC models. Remember, the goal is learning to build. If you're flying ARF's now, you can still hone your flying skills while you're learning to build. Then when you do build your first RC model, your flying skills will be in good shape too.

Third: Don't get in a hurry, and don't get discouraged. There are no time limits on any project that are not self induced! And remember, this is a hobby and hobbies are about filling our time with enjoyable activities.

Here's a suggestion for, shall we say, testing the water! Start out with a simple stick-and-tissue type Free Flight kit. The investment is minimal—\$15.00 will go a long way in that realm, and the skills required to complete the model are really pretty minimal, but will go a long way toward building your skills. Then when you get it done, take it out and fly it. Learning to trim these models will also go a very long way in understanding RC models and what makes them tick. Then with each step, move up to something a bit more complex, and through just a few small steps, you will have learned the basic building and plans reading skills required to build an RC model.

Now, don't expect the first try to produce a world-class model. Keep in mind that this is a series of small steps toward the larger goal of mastering the art of modeling, and with each step, work toward improving something, not everything, on your next model. Give special attention to the areas that were the most difficult on the first one, and before you know it, your basic skills will be forming nicely.

And finally, if you find yourself in a little over your head, ask questions of those of us who do build. Modelers by nature are a pretty good bunch of folks, and I haven't met many who are not willing to help someone who is truly interested in learning the art of modeling.

Tips & Tricks

Recycling Masking Tape

I use the clear backing on the MonoKote film to recycle my masking tape if it is still in fairly good condition. It keeps the adhesive from going bad.

When I need the tape, I just peel it off.

Protecting Hinges

Petroleum jelly often has been used on pinned hinges to prevent epoxy glue from sticking to the hinge joint; however, it is difficult to get just the right amount on the hinge and to make sure the hinge is completely coated. A very cool way is to melt the petroleum jelly in a small dish such as a dessert dish (an oven safe type, of course). Use only enough to melt to a depth of about 1/6 of an inch. Fold the hinge and dip the pinned end into the melted jelly. Remove and touch the hinge and dip the pinned end into the melted jelly. Remove and touch the hinge to a paper towel to remove excess. In a couple seconds, the petroleum jelly cools and has penetrated the hinge. You now have a completely coated hinge joint that epoxy will not stick to.

—both from Schoolcraft Skyhawks R/C Airplane Club, Schoolcraft, Michigan.

Stir Sticks (Popsicle sticks)

Next time you are in the craft shop, pick up some Popsicle sticks. They come in boxes of 100, 500, or 1,000 and they are cheap. You will be able to use these for all kinds of things like servo rails, reinforcing splices, skids, fuel tank stops, mixing epoxy—any place where you are going to put in screws. You will find all kinds of uses for them.

—From the Niagara County Radio Controlled Model Flying Club, Lockport, New York.

Waterfall

Continuous tail-over-nose descending flip. It's not a loop, but the aircraft actually flops around its canopy. Start relatively high. At low throttle, gradually pull the nose up until its near vertical. Just before it stalls, add full down and full power at the same time. You have to continuously “fly” the rudder and ailerons to keep the airplane

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flipping over in a straight line. To do consecutive Waterfalls, continue to hold full down and “fly” rudder and ailerons, and chop the throttle as the nose comes back up to vertical, then add full power as it flips straight down.

—Mike McConville, the Suffolk Aero Modelers, Bay Shore, New York.

**The Secretary's
Report**

By TBD
LFE Secretary

LFE is looking for a club Secretary. In the meantime, here are summary minutes from the July meeting:

Membership 192

- Treasurer report reviewed
- Events (reviewed)
- Technology investments pending (new networking etc.)
- Safety reviewed procedures
- field maintenance (not discussed)
- instructor report (updated)
- Quartermaster- (All good)
- Thanks to the BBQ team

Next Meeting August 1st