



THE COASTLAND TIMES

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Radio Control Flying Event Supports Food Pantry, Educates Participants

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By Staff Reports

Manteo, NC, November 7, 2023—Members of Dare County Radio Control Flyers, our local radio control model aviation club, held the Outer Banks Festival of Model Aviation at their field in Manns Harbor in October to provide local residents with an opportunity to learn about the hobby by flying a radio control aircraft, assisted by one of the club's flight instructors.

According to the club's president, Jim Davis, this was the third consecutive year for this event, and despite threatening weather conditions, it was the best-attended so far with thirty-two participants successfully completing their no-cost introductory flight.

The club used this event to educate the public about the exciting hobby of model aviation, and to assist the Beach Food Pantry by asking attendees to bring at least one non-perishable food item per person as admission. The items collected proved to be enough to feed eight people for two-weeks, according to Elisabeth Silverthorne, executive director of the Beach Food Pantry. Both Davis and Silverthorne expressed their gratitude to those who attended and made this so successful by donating to help their fellow residents who are less fortunate.

Following flying activities, the day's long-awaited event was held, in which four radio control planes were to be awarded by raffle drawings. Three of these planes included everything needed to fly, as well as one-year memberships in the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), and in the case of the grand-prize winner, membership in the club. Tickets for this raffle could not be purchased and were only issued to guests who had performed a flight that day. Sean McCarron's ticket was drawn as our grand-prize winner, while Brandon Fregans and Shannon Castillo won the second and third place prizes respectively. A second raffle, in which tickets were sold to anyone for a powered-glider prize, was also held, with club-member Allen Massey's name being drawn to take home the prize.

As a result of this public flying event, fourteen people became club members after deciding to continue the model aviation experience they were afforded, including a middle school and two elementary school students. "I'm so pleased to see young people getting into the hobby and I'm encouraged by the fact that nine of our newest members will be flying with at least one family member," stated Davis. "Model aircraft are not only educational and fun, they can be a way for family members to share some good times together and make lasting memories," he added.

The club wished to recognize and thank the AMA Foundation, and online hobby retailer, Horizon

Hobby, for the funding and donations they provided, as it allowed them to be able to offer the four raffle prizes with a combined value of over \$1,600, and undoubtedly contributed to the overall success of the event.

As a self-supporting, nonprofit organization, Dare County Radio Control Flyers is always looking for new members to share in their family-friendly model aviation activities. The club was chartered in 1989 by the AMA and promotes aeromodeling as a recreational activity to residents of the Outer Banks and surrounding areas. The club's current membership of thirty-six, includes those from a variety of educational and life-experience backgrounds, ranging from 4 to 93 years of age.

Membership is open to anyone, regardless of experience level, and to encourage families to enjoy the hobby together, family memberships at a discounted rate are available.

Further information is available on the club's website at dcrf.club, their Facebook page, or by contacting them by phone or text-message at 252-656-2FLY (2359).



Stephen Yanacek worked with the youngest pilot who attended the Outer Banks Festival of Model Aviation event.



Grand prize winner Sean and Quinn McCarron.



Guests view a large model biplane at the Outer Banks Festival of Model Aviation event.