



Let our instructors teach you to fly... It's Free!

If you purchased an RC aircraft or are thinking about it, here are some things to consider. Flying is not a difficult skill to acquire, but it is nearly impossible to learn on your own. If you make the attempt to fly without assistance it is guaranteed that you will crash. Crashes can cause a lot of damage and may even destroy your (expensive) model.

Trial and error doesn't work in this case because there are many factors which you will not be aware of that can affect a model in flight. For example: wind speed and direction, engine torque, weather-cocking, propeller gyroscopic effects, radio interference, stall speed, inertia, aircraft flying characteristics, to name a few. There is a phenomenon known as 'disorientation' where you lose track of the heading, orientation and direction that your model is flying due to shadows and lighting effects. This may cause you to operate the controls in the wrong direction, which would lead to a crash. If the model is flying towards you, or you are flying upside down, certain controls must be operated in reverse.

An instructor can tell you what to do, and how to practice it. They can also teach you how to fly in a controlled manner, one maneuver at a time. Often this is done through the use of a 'buddy' cable which allows the instructor to connect their radio to yours. This allows the instructor to take control of the flight and fly the model into position. They can pass control to you with the flip of a switch so that you can practice your lesson. If you get tired or nervous and need a break, or if the instructor sees that you are getting into trouble, they can flip the switch and take control of the flight. Sometimes a manual system is used, where the student and instructor pass the transmitter back and forth in a controlled manner. With either system, the chances of a crash are virtually eliminated, and the chances of succeeding to learn how to fly are greatly increased.

We realize that the last thing you may have been thinking about is joining a club or getting into any sort of organized flying, and that you really would like to learn on your own. Many people feel the same way.

Why Join A Club?

Do you have liability insurance to cover injuries or property damage? Do you have a safe place to fly? Do you know of any other transmitters in the area that might cause radio interference that could lead to a crash? Do you know how to start a glow fuel or gas engine safely? Do you know how to handle an electric model so that it doesn't start up accidentally and injure someone?

When you join a local club like the Kingston RC Modellers (KRCM), you get liability insurance, a safe place to fly, and a qualified flying instructor to help you get started in the hobby. Instructors are club members who volunteer their time for free to help others learn to fly. At the flying field the use of transmitters is controlled to prevent radios that transmit on the same frequency from being used at the same time, which would cause radio interference that could lead to a crash. And, you can get advice from some very knowledgeable people who have been in the hobby for years. In addition, there are fun fly events, seminars, and other club activities that you can attend.

KRCM holds meetings, third Monday of each month. More information is available at our Web site at: www.krcm.org