

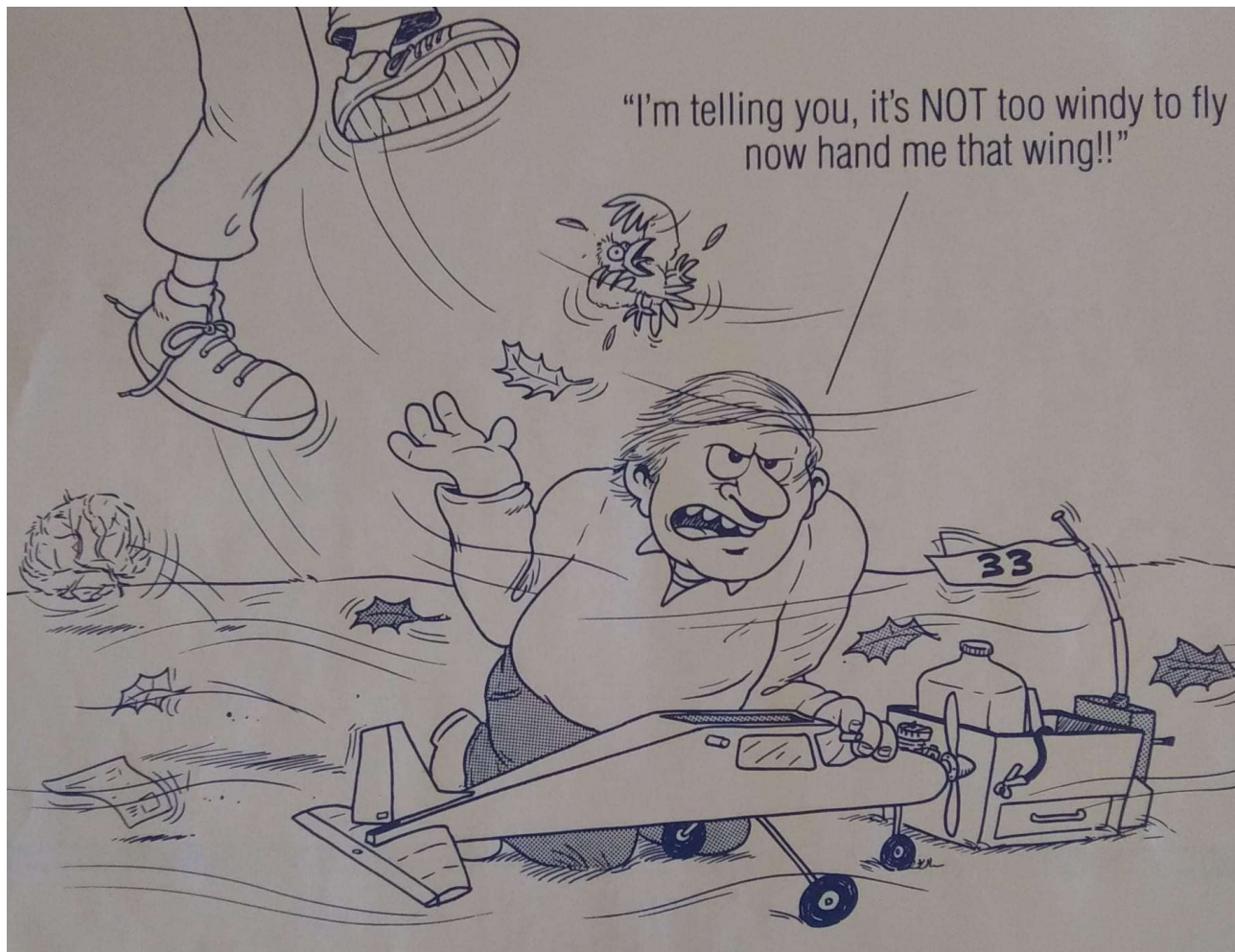
HCRC Flyer



February 2021



AMA Charter #341



No wind, no matter how fast, how slow, how “cross-windy” is too much for a rc plane enthusiast. Always learn how to fly in the wind, it will teach you things about your aircraft that you would never know otherwise. It will also sharpen your skills and reflexes.



CLUB DUES

The deadline for 2021 club dues is at the February business meeting on 2/4 at the Florence VFW 7:00PM. Please bring cash or check. The President will be accepting payment in absence of the Treasurer. Members not in good standing will not receive the new code for the gate planned for 3/1/2021.

CLUB MERCHANDISE ORDERS

The deadline to order club merchandise is on March 1st. Watch your emails for more details.

HCRC Meeting Notes from Thursday, January 1st, 2021

Quorum Present. 15 Members including 4 Executive Members present

Executive Members present: Ron Paul, Mike Shaw, Santiago Mercado and Bill Ewers

Members present: Dan Kapinos, Alan Crawford Sr. Alan Crawford Jr. Al Ritchotte, Andre Bouchard, Pat O'Grady, Dave Sherman, Mike Booth, Dennis Walker, Gordie Lauder and Bob Prosciak.

Guests: Juan Delgado, Juan Ortiz

Club finances for the month of December and 2020 were reported and approved.

2021 Renewals have been mailed and are due before the February meeting. The club is looking to receive renewals as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that we have not been able to hold several money making club events this year.

Two new fire extinguishers donated and \$50 donated for a new fire extinguisher.

Flight tables have been moved under the sun shade. Please return them if you pull them out to use them this fall/winter/early spring.

Alan Crawford is stepping down as lead flight instructor. We are looking for a volunteer to lead the flight instruction program next year. Alan will be available for guidance.

Mike Shaw is preparing an order for club merchandise - hats and shirts. There will be an order sheet on the website and the all orders are due to MIke by March 1st.

2020 donations - \$980 from club members and \$1000 matched by an anonymous donor. The same donor will match up to \$3000 in 2021.

The New Years day fly-in was well attended and the weather was nice - no snow, low winds, over a dozen attendees. There was a bonfire and hot food available.

The old mower has been sold for \$500.

The gate code will be changed on March first. Paid up members will receive the new code before the change. This is priviledged information and not to be given out to anyone. If you forget the code, please call or email one of the officers and request it.

We will be posting No Parking signs in front of the gate.

Newsletter to be mailed to 3 local hobby shops. Several members do not have emails and the executive committee will reach out to them and request their email addresses.

Ron Paul has applied for an AMA club field improvement grant.

The project and maintenance team is looking for volunteers. The major push this year is to get 10 mowing volunteers and to paint everything behind the flightline.

Dan Kapinos was voted in as Vice-President. Santiago Mercado was voted in as an member of the board directors. Mike Shaw, Ron Paul and Bill Ewers were re-elected to their current executive positions - Treasurer, President and Secretary.

Alan Crawford presented a proposal to park his RV in the club owned property across Honey Pot Road from the club field. Alan would provide:

1. Security
2. Lawn Mowing
3. \$200/month rental fee

Upcoming schedule is as follows:

No Events Scheduled

Safety Review:

No safety items discussed this week.

New Member Applications:

Gene Paulson, Juan Ortiz and Juan Salgado were voted into the club.



HCRC 2021 P&M TEAM



Volunteers are needed for the 2021 Project and Maintenance Team.

The floating schedule model of the 2020 season seemed to work well. The grass got mowed regularly and the field was in good shape most of the time. It did take a good deal of effort by all the team members, especially when we needed to mow twice a week.

We mowed a total of 33 times last year. That seems like a lot, but it's about 10 times less than predicted because of the very dry summer.

We really need 10 people on this team to make the job much easier for all involved. With 10 on the team you might only be called to mow about once a month. Maybe a little sooner on the heavy growing months. (May, June).

There are also quite a few small project to get done by anyone who wishes to volunteer.

Please consider committing to the team for a season.

Contact:

Daniel Kapinos 413-270-1106 danielk53164@gmail.com

Article Submitted By Ron Paul

RC Airplane Night Lights

[Model Airplane News](#)
[Featured News](#), [How-tos](#)
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Why not customize your aircraft so that night flying will be as simple to do as flying during the day? (That is, for those of you who find it easy to fly during the day!) I decided to give night flying a try and I have outlined here how I went about installing lights on my planes.



Photo by Erica Mesker

Scale lights

Up until a few years ago, the only lights we would add were scale detail lights that match the full-size counterparts. Many of these lights are available from RAm Electronic Devices (ramcandramtrack.com). They include flashing navigation lights, strobes, rotation beacons, and landing lights. Scale lights make it possible to fly at night but they mainly make our scale aircraft look good at early dawn and after sunset, or during the day at a scale contest. Scale lights are more of a scale detail that adds to your aircraft, rather than something that allows you to see your aircraft better at night.

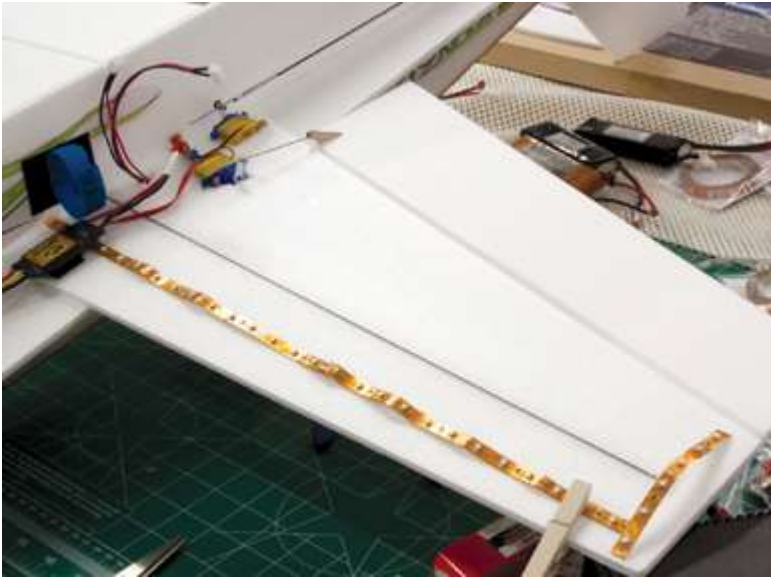
LED lights

When LED lights were first introduced, they were not bright enough to use as a light source for our night-flying planes. But the new breeds of LED lights are plenty bright enough to make flying at night a breeze and they consume a low amount of power. This allows the lights to be powered by the same battery as the motor. Basically, LED lights are the choice for anyone wanting to get into nighttime flying. I am using LED lights from Common Sense RC (commonsenserc.com) and DW Foamies (dwfoamies.com).

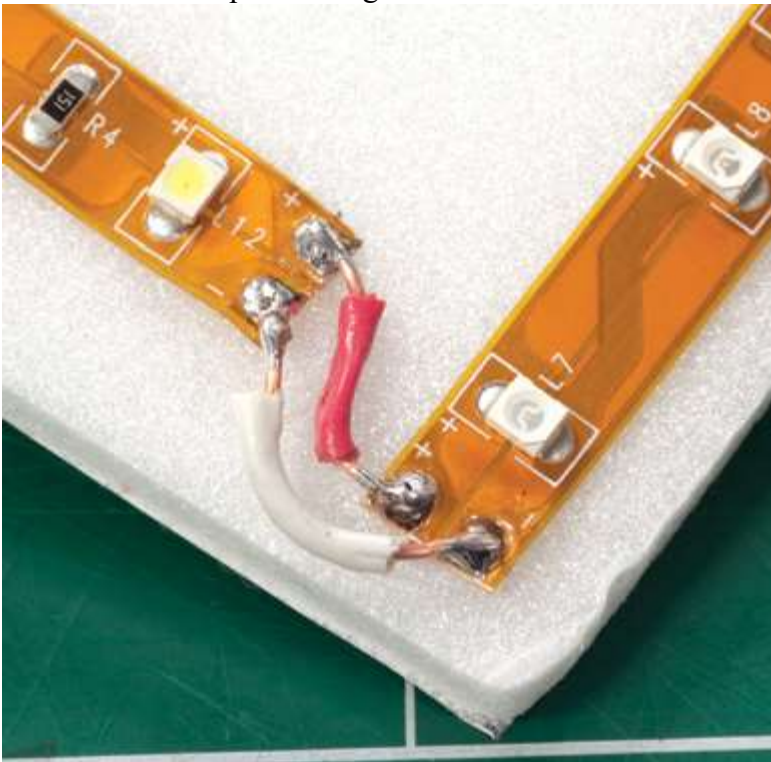
One of the biggest issues for flying at night is plane orientation and these bright lights come in many different colors, which make plane orientating at night possible and easy to do. Installation could not be easier because of the availability of adhesive backed LED lights strips in different lengths, which can be cut for a custom fit.

Installing lights

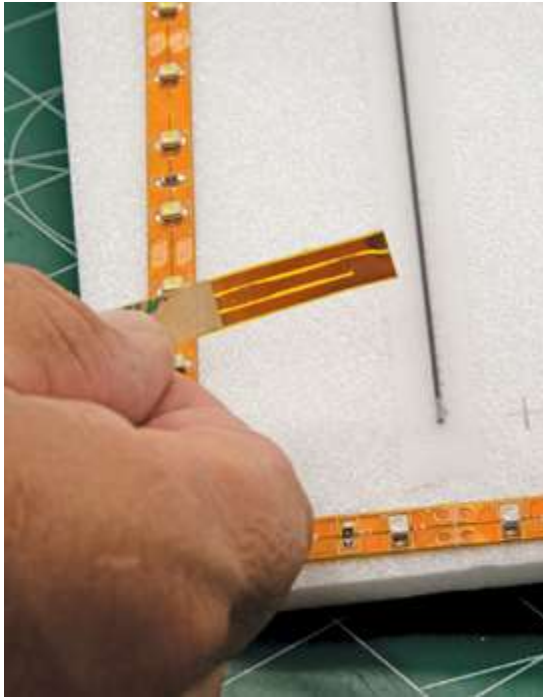
To install the lights, the first step I took was to plan out where they would plug in; from there, I just laid out the lights so they would radiate out from that point. This center spot was where the battery connects to the speed control, which was from where I started webbing out the lights. I laid out a pattern from the tip of the wing to my starting point, cut the light strips to length and then soldered on the connectors.



- **1** First, I have to measure out the strips of lights and lay them over a design or pattern on the plane. I then plan out my route back to the connection point at the battery. I am going to use different color lights for the top and bottom of the wings and different ones running down the top of the fuselage. Three different colors will be used. The top and bottom wing will have a different light layout to aid on the orientation of the plane at night.



- **2** The light strip starts at the battery plug and works out along the wing creating my top design. Any point that requires me to make a sharp angle with the light strip will require jumper wires to be soldered onto the ends of the light strips.



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- **3** On the bottom of the wings, I have a different color light strip with less of a design incorporated. This will make it easy to distinguish the top and bottom of the plane. The LED strips have a peel-and-stick surface on the bottom so installation is easy. If there is any area that is not sealing down, I just use some tape or a quick drop of hot glue to hold it in place.

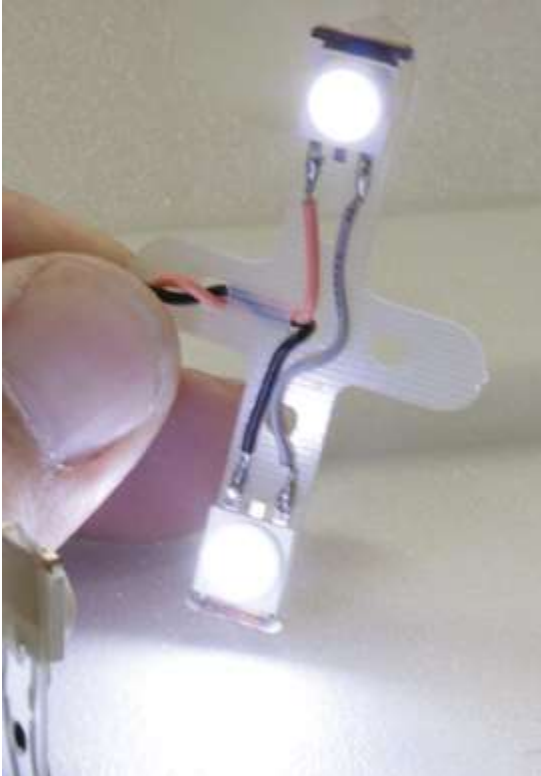


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- **4** This strip running along the top edge of the fuselage will light up the canopy outline and give me a good reference point to keep the plane orientated in the air. This strip of lights could be ran completely around the plane but I kept them off the bottom just in case I cannot pull the plane out of the air during a hover and it has to land on its belly.

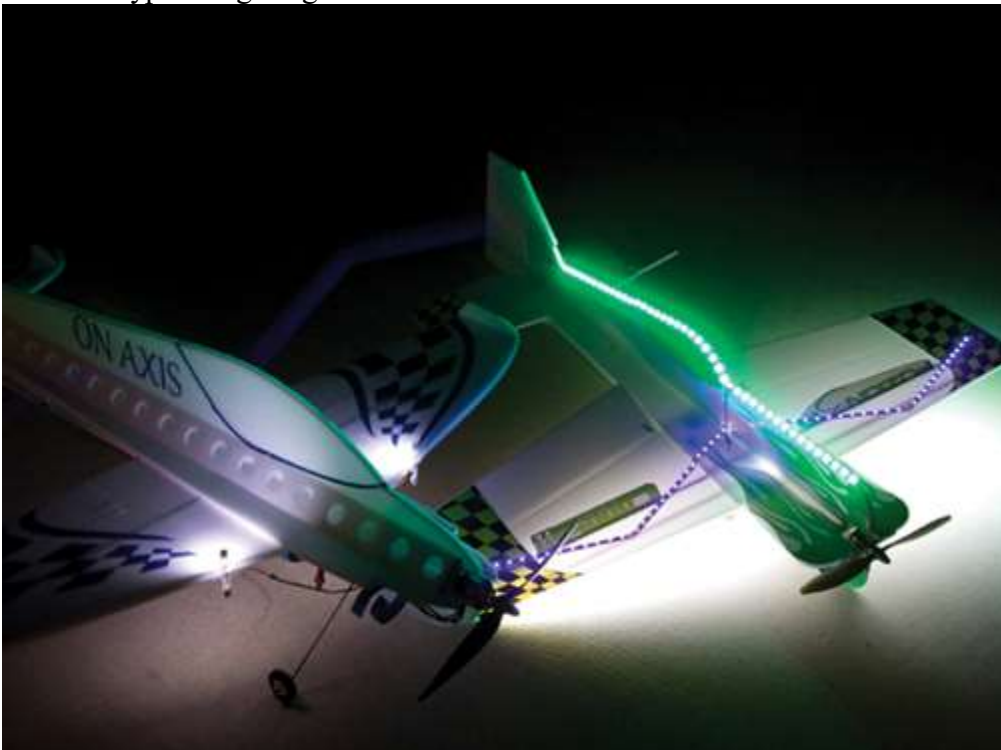


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- **5** To prevent any possibility of the lights shorting out (don't forget they are attached to a LiPo battery), I use a good sized drop of hot glue at all solder joints. This will insulate the connectors and prevent any possibility of the wires touching each other or the joints from pulling loose.



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- **6** These high-intensity LED lights are used to light up the side of the plane. They are mounted above and below the wing so that the light will shine on the side of the fuselage. This creates a spotlight effect on the plane regardless of its attitude. I was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was to fly a plane at night with this type of lighting on it.



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- **7** Here are the two planes after the lights are all installed, hooked up, and ready for some night flying. As you can see, these planes are very easy to see in the dark and the lights are simple to install and use.

Last thoughts

Customizing my plane for night flying was a simple and straightforward project that makes it easy for anyone to add lights to their plane. I would recommend trying nighttime flying for the first time just after the sun goes down because this will give you a little more light with which to begin your journey. Another thing you can do is to fly during a full moon; you will be surprised at how much the moon can light up the flying field!

It's also a good idea to fly in an area where the ground is very flat and there are few obstacles on the ground to run into. Even though the lights do brighten up the ground when the plane gets close, things will sneak up on you in the dark before you have time to react. Trust me on this — enjoy!

Updated: June 25, 2019 — June 25, 2019

Tags: [foamie](#), [LED](#), [lights](#), [night flying](#)



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Upcoming Events:

Feb 4th HCRC Business meeting (7pm Florence VFW)

Airplane of the month : **McDonnell XF-85 Goblin**

The McDonnell XF-85 Goblin was built soon after WWII as a so-called "parasite fighter," meaning it was built to be deployed from the bomb bay of a larger plane, the B-36. In the December 1948 PopMech, General Hoyt S. Vandenburg outlined how the little plane fit into America's new Air Force. But, in 1949, the U.S. scrapped the Goblin alongside other parasite fighter projects, and focused instead on developing methods for airborne refueling.



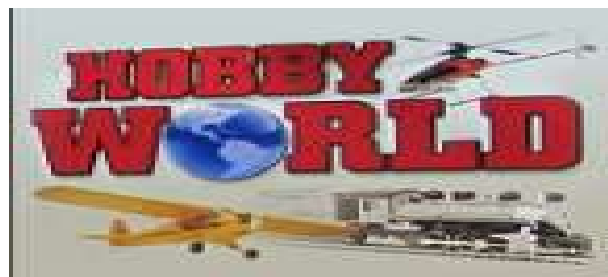
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