NEAT 2001

We saw many familiar faces from the flying field at NEAT this year; everyone who made the trip got to see many interesting models and quite a few top-notch flyers. Despite the unpleasant events that took place the prior week, turnout was good all three days, Friday through Sunday. A few vendors could not make the trip so the vendor activity might have been a little low but that s not the real reason most of us were there. We wanted to see what kind of new (and old) electric airplanes people are flying.

The club rented a tent complete with tables and chairs for club member use during NEAT. A big barbeque dinner was thrown Friday night, and soda, beer, and snacks were available all weekend.

Highlights of the weekend were demonstrations by skilled builders and pilots like Dr. Keith Shaw and the crowd enjoyed seeing what was originally Joe Beshar s B-17 take to the air several times. Our own Joseph Roman won the free door prize drawing provided by the Ladyhawks for kids aged 8 to 13. Joseph won a Push-E-Cat, multiplex radio, speed control, batteries, charger, and more (now Dad just has to build it and teach him to fly it).

Fall Fun Fly

Silent Flyers of Bergen County will have our annual Fall breakfast at the Fireplace on Rt. 17N in Paramus on **Nov. 4 at 10 AM** followed by a fun fly at the field at **12 PM**. Come out and join us for some camaraderie, a few door prizes, and flying (weather permitting). Club will buy breakfast for member and one guest.

Product Review

Flight simulators for R/C have been around for quite a number of years but they never really grabbed my attention until recently because they always seemed to lag far behind flashier programs like Microsoft s Flight Simulator and the host of 3D games available. RealFlight G2 from Great Planes has been in stores for a little while now and caught my eye. This program has brought R/C simulators up to date with its big brothers in the PC flight simulator and game world with 3D graphics, texture mapping, and enhanced sound effects plus additional features like fog effects if supported by your video hardware.

The physics of flight and reality of R/C is all there just like previous R/C simulators that did not support fancy 3D hardware. It is now more realistic looking and more apt to grab the attention of the younger crowd who are used to being wowed by games with leading edge graphics and effects.

All this enhancement comes with a price. First of all, G2 s street price averages around $200. Quite a chunk of change for a computer program! It is going to cost you in hardware also. I ran the program on a PIII-750 with a Matrox G450 3D card and 128MB of memory. While adequate for most functions of the program, airports with complicated scenery make high speed low pass fly-bys appear jerky. The program gives you the option of deleting scenery to speed things up, but even with a sparse field, you re not going to run this on a 486 or without a 3D card!

I purchased the version of the program that comes with a parallel interface that lets you use your existing transmitter. It is neat to be able to try out all the features of your radio with the simulator but the drawback is you need to have your transmitter on the whole time you are using the program. For about $10 more you can get a Futaba look-alike controller that plugs into your joystick port. This is probably the better way to go. A standard joystick won t work.

Basic flight and flight instruction are all very easy to use and have worked flawlessly. Airport and plane editing can be frustrating however. I spent many very frustrating hours trying to model our flying field (see our web site for a crude simulation of it)! Overall I found it to be a good flight program with great flight instruction. It s just plain fun too. I recommend it if you can see your way past the steep price tag!

Renewal Time!

Please get your renewals back to Ben as soon as possible to make our renewal with the AMA go quicker and easier. Please trim the copy of your AMA card down   don t send an 8-1/2 by 11 copy of your card. Thanks!