



TAILWINDS

www.RCACES.ORG



The RC Aces are affiliated with the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics), Charter #1377. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, September through May at the North Hampton Public Library (6:00 PM) unless otherwise notified. All members, spouses, potential members and guests are invited to attend.

Club Contacts for 2025-2026:

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BOARD of DIRECTORS:

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THE NEXT RC ACES MEETING IS ON

***** February 5, 2026 *****



More Tips for Winter Flying



Some of you are taking advantage of the indoor flying opportunities this winter season. Even though it involves a very different type of aircraft and a different mindset, indoor flying helps keep the fingers nimble.

Meanwhile, a few hearty souls continue to fly outdoors—and that's great, too! Here are some things to consider if you decide to venture outdoors:

- Skis for shallow or hard-packed snow, floats for deep, fluffy snow.
- Avoid walking across the airfield. If you must recover your plane, walk around to avoid footprints.
- Remember that the cold weather can reduce electric flying time.
- Keep batteries in your car or inside your jacket until ready to use.
- Skis should be set with a slight "tip-up" attitude.
- Bring thin cotton gloves for cool days, and a flying "mitt" for really cold days.



Meeting Notes

January 8, 2026

Meeting called to order: 6:00 PM

Attendees: 11, including 1 on Zoom

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the December meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: We have 40 members. Checking and savings balances were reviewed, as well as the change in funds year-to-year. So far, 9 members have renewed membership for the new year.

Field Safety Coordinator's Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- We are proceeding with the "Pro Level" Zoom membership so we can have more than 40 minutes for an online connection during our meetings. Frank confirmed it costs \$16.99 per month, and we will try this for the next several months on a trial basis (through May 2026) to see if it is worth the additional cost.
- Don spoke with Nancy Allred regarding plans to help sell/distribute the RC items Dean left behind. We will do an initial visit/assessment in February (date to be determined) and then plan on a second visit to remove items for storage or auction. Don Chase, Don Dodier and Ken Kennedy to make the initial visit.
- Nancy Allred also approved of a tribute page on our website. James has designed the tribute and it will soon be available via the website menu. Nancy also asked remain on the distribution list for the club newsletter.
- We will review the status of our memorial plaques at the flying field and decide if a new plaque is needed.
- We will look at having a "sandwich board" sign for the new season that will invite visitors in from the rail trail.

New Business:

- Club Officers considered the survey results and will be implementing the following immediately: 1) Establishing a flying schedule on the website (now in place); 2) Publishing the meeting agendas prior to the meeting; 3) Reducing the initiation fee by \$10 to \$25; 4) Permitting electric flight to start at 8 AM; 5) Moving the mowing schedule to afternoons; 6) Approaching other clubs about doing a combined fun fly; 7) Setting aside time at the end of our meetings for "Show and Tell" if scheduled in advance.
- James has established a photo album link on our website. All members at the meeting were surveyed and no one had concerns about this.
- Don reviewed the steps taken to establish our 501(c)7 status (hobby non-profit). Once this is complete, he will do the normal AMA filing.
- The revised by-law adjustments have been distributed to the membership, and will be voted on at the February meeting. ***It is important that as many members as possible attend!***
- The \$200 donation to the North Hampton Public Library completed.
- Don Dodier proposed that in appreciation for the many hours spent in the 501(c)7 project, Don Chase be awarded free membership for the year. This proposal was supported unanimously.

Comments / Questions from the Membership: None

Meeting closed at 6:55 PM

Throttle cut setups for Spektrum NX Series Transmitters

If you would like help with setting up your radio feel free to reach out to Don Dodier, Safety officer for R.C. Aces. If you are using a different radio than the ones listed in this article please let Don know and he will check into the procedure. Future articles will focus on Futaba and Radiomaster transmitters.

Setting up a throttle cut switch on a Spektrum transmitter is a key safety feature for electric planes, as it prevents accidental motor activation by forcing the throttle signal below the ESC's arming threshold (typically set to -130% or similar). The exact menu navigation and options vary by transmitter model and generation—newer models like the NX series (e.g., NX6, NX8, NX10) use a dedicated "Throttle Cut" menu, while older models like the DX7 or DX6i may require using a mix or even a physical mod for custom switch assignment.

Steps for Spektrum NX Series Transmitters (e.g., NX6, NX8, NX10)

These transmitters use a scroll wheel for navigation. Ensure your transmitter is powered on, and you're in the model setup for your electric plane (create a new model if needed via the Model Utilities menu).

Enter the Main Menu:

- o From the home screen, press the scroll wheel once to access the main menu.
- o Scroll down to "Throttle Cut" (it's usually the third item in the list).
- o Press the scroll wheel to select and enter the Throttle Cut submenu.

Assign the Switch:

- o In the Throttle Cut menu, scroll to "Switch" or "Switch Selection" and press the scroll wheel to highlight it.
- o Flip the physical switch you want to use (e.g., Switch H is a common choice for throttle cut, as it's out of the way and easy to access).
- o The transmitter will automatically detect and assign the switch. Press the scroll wheel to confirm and lock it in.
- o Optionally, you can manually select the switch by scrolling through the list if you prefer not to flip it.

Set the Cut Position:

- o Scroll to "Position" in the menu and press the scroll wheel to edit it.
- o For electric planes, set this to -130% (or the lowest value available, like -125% or -100% if -130% isn't an option). This ensures the throttle signal is low enough to disarm the ESC and prevent motor spin-up.
- o Press the scroll wheel to confirm. You can monitor the throttle channel (Channel 1) on the screen to see the output drop to this value when activated.
- o Decide which switch position activates the cut: Highlight "Pos 0" or "Pos 1" and set the active one to your cut value (e.g., -130%), leaving the inactive position at 0% or default.

Add a Delay (Optional but Recommended for Safety):

- o Scroll to "Delay" and press the scroll wheel to edit.
- o Set a value like 3 seconds. This delays the throttle from returning to its previous position after disabling the cut, giving you time to lower the throttle stick manually.
- o Note: The cut activates immediately when you flip the switch on, but the delay applies only when flipping it off.

Enable Require Stick Low (Essential Safety Interlock):

- o Scroll to "Require Stick Low" and press the scroll wheel to toggle it from "No" to "Yes."
- o This prevents disabling the throttle cut unless the throttle stick is physically at its lowest position (e.g., -129% or lower). It's a critical feature for electrics to avoid accidental high-throttle disengagement.
- o Test this: With the cut active, raise the throttle stick high (e.g., +60%), then try flipping the switch off—it should stay cut until you lower the stick.

Exit and Test the Setup:

- o Press the back arrow or scroll wheel repeatedly to exit the menu.

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(Continued from page 3)

- o Bind your receiver if not already done (via the System Setup menu).
 - o With the plane powered on (prop removed), flip the assigned switch to activate cut—the throttle channel should show -130%, and the motor/ESC should not arm or respond.
 - o Flip it off (with stick low if required), and verify normal throttle response.
- Arm the ESC as per its manual (usually by holding low throttle during power-up), then re-test the cut.

Variations for Other Spektrum Models

DX9 or Similar Older Gen2 Models:

- o From the Function List, scroll to "Throttle Cut" (it may show as "Inhibit").
- o Highlight "Inhibit" and press your desired switch (e.g., Switch H) to assign it.
- o Set the position to -130% for electrics.
- o Test similarly, ensuring it integrates with any fail-safe settings (throttle should go to low in fail-safe too).

DX7 or Older Models (Using a Mix for Throttle Cut):

- o These lack a dedicated throttle cut menu, so use a programmable mix.
- o Go to the Mixing menu and select an unused mix (e.g., Mix 6).
- o Set Master to Throttle, Slave to Throttle, and assign to a switch (e.g., Mix switch).
- o Set rates to -125% or -130% for both high and low (this overrides throttle to low when active).
- o Adjust offset if needed to fine-tune the low point.
- o Test on the servo monitor screen before powering the plane.

DX6i or Transmitters Without Easy Switch Reassignment:

- o If the default throttle cut is on an inconvenient switch (e.g., a push button), you may need a physical mod: Open the transmitter (remove batteries first), locate the throttle cut wires, and swap them with wires from your desired switch (e.g., mix switch). This requires basic soldering or connector skills—follow detailed guides to avoid damage.
- o Otherwise, use the default setup in the Adjust List menu: Set Throttle Cut to ACT, assign if possible, and set to -130%.

Forward Programming (for Smart ESCs like Avian or Firma):

- o If your ESC supports Spektrum Smart tech, enable forward programming in the Function List.
- o Assign throttle cut to a switch (e.g., H), and set value to -130%.

This communicates directly with the ESC for more precise control.

Additional Tips for Electric Planes

- **ESC Calibration:** After setup, recalibrate your ESC to recognize the new low throttle point (follow ESC manual—usually hold full throttle during power-on, then move to low).
- **Fail-Safe Integration:** In System Setup > Fail Safe, set Throttle to -130% so loss of signal also cuts power.
- **Switch Choice:** Use a switch that's hard to bump accidentally, like H or I.
- **Common Issues:** If the motor still arms, lower the cut position further or reverse the throttle channel if needed (in Servo Setup menu).

Always prioritize safety: Remove props during testing, and use throttle cut every time before handling the plane.

If your transmitter model differs significantly (e.g., iX12/iX20), the process is similar to NX but with touch-screen navigation—search your model's manual on spektrumrc.com for exact steps.

Unlike gas engines, where throttle cut closes the carburetor, for electrics, it typically disarms the ESC by sending a low signal (e.g., below the arming threshold). Always remove the propeller during testing, consult your specific manual and verify with your ESC's arming procedure.

RC ACES 2026 MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM

First _____ Last _____ AMA #(required) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Regular Membership \$75.00 (ages 18 to 64)

Junior Membership \$20.00 (ages 17 and under)

Senior Membership \$60.00 (ages 65 and over)

New members please include an additional \$25.00 one time initiation fee

(Fees are subject to change)

Total Due \$ _____

As a member of the RC ACES Radio Control Club I agree to the following:

I have read and agree to abide by the Official Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) National Model Aircraft Safety Code, the club by-laws and all rules and regulations of the RC ACES.

I agree to release club members or club officers from liability if an aircraft I am operating is involved in an accident or otherwise causes harm to another person or property or if I am injured as a result of any activity related to club activities or operation of model aircraft.

(The intent of the above statement is to keep others not directly involved with an incident out of any proceedings related to the incident)

I agree to assume all liability for any model that I am operating in case of harm to other persons or property.

Signature _____ Date _____
(parent if a Junior member)

Membership renewals may be brought to the regular meeting held at the North Hampton Public Library at 6:00 pm on the first Thursday of every month, starting in September or mailed to the address below:

NOTE: Please make checks payable to RC ACES

Or send via Venmo (@Donald-Chase-10)

**RC ACES
26 Holmgren Road
Stratham, NH 03885**

RC Aces membership period is from April 15, 2026 to April 14, 2027