

## **Kitsap Aircraft Radio Control Society (ARCS)**

The Kitsap ARCS was established in 1968 and grew to more than 125 members. In the beginning, those early pioneers practiced their passion at the Kitsap County fairgrounds. They later gained access to the closed runway at the Bremerton National Airport. There they were able to put on air shows and free flying days for the public to try their hand at flying a model. They had mall shows and show days at living centers for the elderly, to name a few.

The airport slowly became unusable on many weekend days because of its use by the dragsters and car clubs. The ARCS lost complete use of the Bremerton airport as a flying site in 1997. Without a decent site at which to fly, membership dropped to the low thirties.

With the opening of our new flying site at Coulter Creek Heritage Park in November of 2001, we presently consist of over 100 members ranging in age from the early teens to late eighty's. We are working with the county to further develop the park to provide a permanent flying site as well as other recreational uses. The airfield is located approximately one mile north of Lake Flora road on the south side of Sunnyslope road.

Club meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. For eight months of the year, they are held at the Sunnyslope Improvement Association club house; from June through September, we hold the meetings at the flying field.

Our club promotes building and flying of model aircraft of all kinds.

- Models include radio control, U-control, free flight, gliders, and helicopters; most common are radio controlled, propeller-driven airplanes.
- The radios we use operate at 72 MHz or 2.4 GHz and do not interfere with any other electronic communications.
- The power systems we use include glow fuel, gasoline and electric batteries. In the past, glow fuel engines were the most widely used, but electric motors are now overtaking them in popularity.

- Airplanes have wingspans ranging from 10-inches to 80 inches or more, with weights of a few ounces to 40 pounds. The “average” model we fly has a 60” wingspan and weighs around 5-6 pounds.

To train students, we connect two transmitters together with a training cord. With an instructor in primary control at all times, anyone can fly a model aircraft. The instructor can “take over” any time the student gets in trouble by releasing a spring-loaded switch. This greatly reduces the initial cost of learning to fly model aircraft.

Club members must also belong to The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). In addition to providing insurance coverage for each member and for the club, the AMA sets safety standards, coordinates regional and national activities, and also provides liaison with federal agencies such as the FCC, FAA and congress.

Now that we have a permanent flying site, we are active with the youth of the county, including a instruction program at a local junior high school. We sponsor free flying days and also air shows for the public. The hobby can be enjoyed by the healthy as well as the handicapped of all ages.