

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. We presently consist of over 100 members and that is increasing fast due to the opening of our new flying site at The Kitsap County Model Aircraft Park, in November of 2001. Our members range in age from the early teens to late eighty's. The flying site is located approximately 1 mile North of Lake Flora road, on the left side of Sunnyslope road.

- Club meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month and, 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.
- The power plants we use are glow fuel, unleaded gasoline, 7-24 cell Battery packs and rubber power. The most widely used power plant is a glow fuel engine.
- Airplanes have wingspans ranging from 10-inches to 141-inches with weights of a few ounces to 40 pounds. The "average" model we fly has a 60" wingspan and weighs around 5-6 pounds.

This hobby / sport is enjoyed by healthy as well as very handicapped men and women of all ages. To train beginners, we tie 2 control boxes together with a training cord. With an instructor in main control at all times anyone can fly a model. The instructor can "take over" anytime the student gets in trouble, by releasing a spring-loaded switch. This greatly reduces the initial cost of learning to fly model aircraft. Now, that we have a permanent flying

site, we will be active with the youth of the County with free flying days and, also, air shows for the public.

- The radios we use are on 72 MHz “narrow band frequency” and are designed for model aircraft use only. They do not interfere with any other electronic communications.

Members must also belong to The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). This provides insurance coverage of \$2,500,000 for each member with an aggregate coverage of \$15,000,000.

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