

## Training

”Wait a minute! I thought I gave it a little bit of right rudder. It didn’t seem to respond! But it still seems to be going straight and true. No, it still just doesn’t feel right! I just gave it some left and it didn’t seem to move in that direction at all! OK, let’s give it a lot of UP and be sure it responds. OH NO! This time I know I know I gave it a command and it did nothing. And, darn...now it is really out of control! Oh no! Nothing is working and... Uh-oh; now it has crashed!

Many of us have experienced something similar to the above, at the flying field, with our RC planes. But has it happened while flying with a simulator on your computer? That kind of crash can be just as frustrating and equally expensive. And yes, there is at least one important lesson to be learned!

I really think it started about a year ago, when I began using a simulator which demanded much more of a computer than my 5 year old could provide. Yes, I found ways to reduce demands on memory and the video card, but the fact remained that the computer was over burdened. I don’t know if that lead to the “crash” or if it was just coincidental, but the end result was the same...one dead computer while flying the simulator! And I mean “real dead”! None of the “restore” techniques would work. A local expert who builds and repairs computers did some diagnostics and determined that the “motherboard” was gone. “No hope”..... “Time for a new one.” The good news was that the hard-drive was still intact and most of the files could be saved (of course I had them on a second hard-drive anyway). The bad news.....the complete address book with about 80 names and addresses was gone. Well, maybe just hidden in some cyber location that not even the expert could find. Gone, and that means lots of hours to recreate! But, I was lucky, had it been the hard-drive, I could have lost all the files including all our files related to CVA Training and the training section of the web page we have put together. Fortunately that did not happen.

The lesson? Take heed that crashes really do happen to computers as well as planes. I never dreamed that it would happen to my computer, but it did and I lost a lot of potential flying time because of it. It took just about a month to get back to where I had been. The lesson? Be safe, and back-up your important files!

PS: A new computer means lots of lost time also, while hardware is hooked-up, drivers are installed, etc. Further, if you make an operating system upgrade, like to Vista Ultimate, you are going to have to re-learn how to do lots of things. I have probably lost 60 hours of otherwise productive time during the past month just getting back to where I was! The simulator? That was the first thing to get installed and yes, it works great now with no limitations and great graphics!

This column has been a slight diversion from the normal training issues, but one that could help you avoid a problem which could keep you from flying for a while. Next month we will put the focus back on more normal RC training issues. Until then.....

Remember to try something new each time you fly!

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