



# Colonial Virginia Aeromodelers

**Chapter 1474**  
**Newsletter Volume XVII • Issue 4**

**April 2017**  
**Editor: Alan Fry**



## **Presidents Column: John Backes**

### **2017 Meeting Schedule**

All meetings (except for the Christmas Dinner) in 2017 will be held at the Williamsburg Christian Church on the second Thursday of the month, starting at 7 PM. The next meetings will be 13 April and May 11.

### **CVA events – No Picnics?**

We still do not have a volunteer to run the picnic scheduled for April 15. As of now it is cancelled. Watch the website guestbook for an update.

The policy is that an event does not go on the calendar until someone has been identified to run the event. We have developed the preliminary schedule for the year but so far no one has agreed to run the picnics. The picnics are the easiest events to run. The steps are:

- 1) Determine the menu – this is needed for the next steps.
- 2) Inventory supplies (plates, bowls, etc.) that are available in the storage container.
- 3) Arrange for someone to buy the food, drinks, ice and supplies.
- 4) Find a volunteer to cook.
- 5) Manage the leftovers.
- 6) Clean up after the event.
- 7) Arrange for someone to empty the trash cans.

If you have questions or are interested in run the event, please contact me.

### **Sad News**

Les Britt, long time CVA member, died comfortably at home on March 18 after a brief decline. Les's memorial service at Jamestown Presbyterian Church in Williamsburg on Sunday, April 9 at 3:00 pm. See his obituary in this newsletter.

### **A threat to the hobby**

As periodically happens, something comes up that is perceived as a threat to the hobby. Shortly after I came into the hobby, it was the advent of ARFs. Many people lamented that ARFs would allow people to enter the hobby without having to learn to build and would they not be able to repair their airplanes. The next threat was 3D flying. People were going to be constantly hovering in the middle of the runway and crashes would be common. The most recent threat was Electric Power and Foam Airplanes. Each of these things required some accommodation when it originally happened but are now not a big deal. Each has also become a large part of the mix of flying.

The latest thing that is perceived as a threat are drones. The problem is that everything with multirotors is considered a drone. The GPS enabled, stabilized camera drone required basically no skill to fly and are probably responsible for people doing dumb things that resulted in the FAA rules. Another class of drones is the FPV (First Person View) racing drones. These are much smaller than the camera drones and do not have any of the GPS capability and require much more skill to fly. Drones in general have a very large amount of interest and almost every request on the club that I have received recently has been about drones. We need to be able to incorporate drone flying as part of our overall activities. It might require a few more rules but it definitely is the area where growth in RC is currently happening.

Hanover RC has made an agreement to rent additional land and establish a dedicated FPV racing area. Their membership increased from 55 to 70 in the first month that his happened. I am not proposing that we do that at this time but wanted to illustrate that welcoming drones could have a big impact on club membership.

### **Contact Me**

Phone: 757-876-1241

Email: [jb753@cox.net](mailto:jb753@cox.net)

Address: 8630 Diascund Road, Lanexa, Va. 23089



### **Secretary's Report: Winston Shepherd Jr.**

CVA Meeting Minutes 03-09-17

Winston Shepherd Jr.: Notes via Gary Clifford

The March 9th meeting, held at the Williamsburg Christian church, was called to order by the President at 7:02pm with 12 members present. The President announced the minutes of the February meeting that were published in the corresponding newsletter. Motion to accept minutes as published passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report: Jon Persons**

Operating budget and mower fund numbers reported.

### **Site Improvements: Tom Treese**

Tom cut the grass on the runway. The rest of the field does not need mowing yet.

### **Activities: Joe Musika**

1. Hanover Swap Meet will be April 1st and be outdoors this year. April 2nd rain date
2. NNPRC Frost Bite Fun Fly – March 11th
3. April 15th – Spring Picnic No one to run this event. Event will be cancelled if we do not get a volunteer to coordinate.

**Safety:** Cliff Casey  
Nothing to report.

**Training:** Alan Fry  
Nothing to report.

**Club Promotion:**  
Nothing to report.

### **Old Business:**

At the February meeting a motion was made and passed to have the membership vote via email and in person at the March meeting on a shelter expansion. The proposal suggests a 12' extension on each end of the existing shelter. Projected cost to be \$3,884. The email votes as well as the votes casted in person were counted. The motion passed with 26 yes and 4 no votes.

**New Business:**

No new business.

**Show & Tell:**

Avery Hensley showed his new Nutball that was made from a Lazer Toyz kit. John Backes discussed the use of a "Smoke Stopper" when setting up a new electric plane or quad. The idea is to put an auto tail light bulb in the positive wire between the battery and the ESC. If there is a short or other problem, the light bulb will limit the current and prevent damage. Go to Google and search for "RC Smoke Stopper". There are many articles and videos.

Motion made and passed to conclude meeting.

**Activities: Joe Musika**

March has faded into history and April is upon us once again. Our spring picnic is cancelled since no-one will take on the responsibilities for it. Further, there will be no fall picnic if no one volunteers to run it.

Since we have other events on the calendar, we'll need volunteers for those events, too.

The first event will be in May. "Electrics over Williamsburg" on May 20 and our first event of this year. Electrics over Williamsburg is a sanctioned event!

Finally, we are in the middle of renovating our picnic shelter. We can use VOLUNTEERS to perform the work, so come down (as they say!).....

**Training: Alan Fry**

This month's website of the month is called B & H Photo Video. B & H is an online electronics store with an emphasis in photography and video. Further, they carry an extensive line of photography based drones/ quadcopters. Finally, be sure to see this month's training column for an outstanding article from B & H. Here is the link to their website home page:

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/>

**Do you have a favorite website? If so, let me know and I will put it in the newsletter. Favorite online store, how to build, how to fly, etc- send me the link! My email address:**

[AlanWFEmail-CVA@yahoo.com](mailto:AlanWFEmail-CVA@yahoo.com)

**Training Column**

I got the idea for this month's training column from B & H Photo Video (See this month's Website of the Month). B & H posted an article on their website called "**24 Tips on How to Photograph Air Shows**". All I can say is WOW!!! The article contains plenty of wonderful photos (a lot of them of the Blue Angels) and some really good photography tips. I highly recommend you take a look. Here is the link:

[24 Tips on How to Photograph Air Shows](#)

Alan Fry  
Training Coordinator



## Charles Leslie “Les” Britt, Jr.



Williamsburg VA—Charles Leslie “Les” Britt, Jr., 86, died comfortably at home on March 18 after a brief decline. Born in Goldsboro, NC, on July 22, 1930, he was the only child of Charles Leslie Britt, Sr., and Martha Lee Borden Britt. He received his undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from North Carolina State University.

Les served in Korea in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in 1952-53, then went to work for General Electric, where he oversaw the payload of the first successful Atlas missile launch at Cape Canaveral. In 1962, he joined the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina, where he researched and designed radar techniques, electronic systems, and large computer applications. His analysis of aircraft collision hazards at the Atlanta terminal area won the 1971 IEEE M. Barry Carlton award.

In 1979, Les founded the RTI Virginia Office, and worked with NASA, the FAA, and manufacturers to develop, test, and certify the lifesaving airborne wind shear radar detection system that is now required for all U.S. commercial aircraft. He received many awards for this work, including a 1994 Laurels award from *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, and the NASA-Langley Research Center Guidance and Control Division's 1990 Best Paper award. In November 2016, he was inducted into the North Carolina State University Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Alumni Hall of Fame.

Les was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who was exceedingly proud of his talented and accomplished family. His many interests included flying, sailing, bicycling, model aviation, astronomy, photography, amateur radio, world traveling, and particle physics. He was an Elder at Jamestown Presbyterian Church. Les treasured every friend and neighbor, especially his buddies in the Goldsboro breakfast group, Colonial Virginia Aeromodelers, and NASA retirees poker group. He wrote a memoir for his children, “Memories of My Dog Spot and Other Stories,” in 2015, updated in January 2017.

Survivors include his wife of almost 38 years, Julia B. “Julie” Leverenz; sons Charles Leslie Britt III (Sherri) and Charles Edward Britt (Rosemary) of Wilmington NC; daughter Eugenia Britt Quackenbush (Michael) of Chapel Hill NC; granddaughter Jessica Britt Edwards (Tanner) of High Point NC; great-granddaughter Everly Marie Edwards of High Point; cousins Sally Borden Worrell (George Anthony) of Morehead City NC and Thomas Cox Borden (Sara Frances) of Raleigh NC; and former wife Gene Overbeck Britt of Southport NC.

A memorial service will be held at Jamestown Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg, on Sunday, April 9, at 3:00 p.m. Inurnment at First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro NC, will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Jamestown Presbyterian Church, 3287 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg VA 23188, or The Salvation Army, 151 Kristiansand Dr. #109, Williamsburg VA 23188.





**Vice President: Tom Treese**

**Safety Officer: Cliff Casey**



<p><b><u>President:</u></b> John Backes (757) 566-1403 jb753@cox.net</p> <p><b><u>Vice President:</u></b> Tom Treese (757) 258-9666 tmtreese@msn.com</p>	<p><b><u>Secretary:</u></b> Winston Shepherd Jr. (757) 561-6627 winstonbroadcast@gmail.com</p> <p><b><u>Treasurer:</u></b> Jon Persons (757) 603-1929 mrpersons@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Safety Officer:</u></b> Cliff Casey (757) 342-4358 rccasey@verizon.net</p> <p><b><u>Field Marshal:</u></b> John Hofmeyer (804) 829-2555</p>	<p><b><u>Activities:</u></b> Joe Musika (757) 564-8957 jajlmus@verizon.net</p> <p><b><u>Field Maintenance:</u></b> Tom Treese (757) 258-9666 tmtreese@msn.com</p>	<p><b><u>Newsletter</u></b> Alan Fry (757) 229-7698 Alanwfemail-CVA@yahoo.com</p> <p><b><u>Training:</u></b> Alan Fry (757) 229-7698 Alanwfemail-CVA@yahoo.com</p>
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