



# Prince George's Radio Control Club

## F.A.Q.

**How Much** - Entry-level glow-powered 4-channel trainer aircraft, with radio, motor, etc., costs approx. \$400

**How Fast** - Trainers: 30-50 MPH, Light electric airplanes: 20-40 MPH, other sport airplanes: 60-80 MPH, Pylon racers: 150-180 MPH, Turbine-powered jets: 150+ MPH

**How High / How Far** - Radios will control the aircraft over a mile away. Distance is limited by the pilot's ability to visually track the airplane, generally a few hundred yards max.

**Types of RC Aircraft** - Trainers, sport planes, scale models (small and large 1/4 - 1/3 scale), racing airplanes, aerobatic models, sail planes / gliders, helicopters

**Power Systems** - Glow engines (alcohol-based fuel), gas engines (2-cycle gas/oil mix), electric engines (NiMH, NiCad, Lithium Ion/Polymer batteries), gas turbine engines (kerosene, jet fuel)

## About PGRC

Since its establishment in 1964 as an AMA-chartered club, PGRC has promoted the enjoyment of building and flying radio controlled model aircraft. Comprised of approximately 200 families from Prince George's County, Maryland and surrounding areas, the club is known for accommodating newcomers in the hobby. The club welcomes gas, glow, or electric flyers. We have an active RC pilot training program, and encourage spectators to visit us at our flying field. PGRC has no membership cap.

PGRC's Swanson Rd. Flying Site is one of the finest in the state, with a 40' X 400' paved runway and 100' X 800' grass strip, ample pit and unobstructed flying areas, and plenty of room for picnics and parking. Spectators are welcome, as are sponsored guest flyers with AMA cards.

## Learning to Fly RC Aircraft

Learning to fly RC aircraft is not particularly difficult, but does take concentration and practice. In addition, there are orientation issues to overcome since the pilot is not in the cockpit!

While it is certainly possible to learn to fly on your own at a local schoolyard or farmer's field, you will almost certainly crash several planes in the process.

New members of PGRC who have never flown models before are given free flying lessons by qualified instructors using a training aide known as a 'buddy box.' This is a functionality built into most modern radio systems and allows instructors to instantly regain control back from their student when they get into trouble. Use of buddy box systems reduces crashes, accelerates learning

PGRC's general membership meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at our Club House adjacent to the flying field. The public is invited. In the summer time (June, July, August, and September) meetings are typically held at the field.



and greatly increases the success rate of new pilots. The best type of aircraft to learn on are appropriately called trainers. Trainers are sturdy, high-wing planes that fly slowly and have a lot of inherent stability. Good quality electric or glow-fuel-powered trainers are sold by several companies as kits, almost-ready-to-fly (ARF) planes, and complete ready-to-fly (RTF) packages that include the radio system and other accessories. The PGRC instructors can advise new members on appropriate beginner airplanes.



## Prince George's Radio Control Club

### We're on the Web

Visit us at:  
[www.pgrclub.com](http://www.pgrclub.com)



### Visit your local hobby shop



GPA Hobbies  
2431 Crofton Lane  
Crofton, MD 21114  
(301) 858-0004  
(410) 721-2010  
[www.gpahobbies.com](http://www.gpahobbies.com)

## How Expensive is it?

Perhaps the most frequent question prospective flyers ask is: How much would it cost me to get started?

There are a lot of variables that factor into the answer. A glow-powered trainer, with engine, a basic radio system, and support accessories will probably run about \$400. A similar electric-powered trainer will probably cost about \$500, but has no fuel costs.

It is possible to get less expensive electric set-ups. However, most include lower quality radios that are incompatible with buddy box systems.

## For More Information

PGRC: <http://www.pgrclub.com>

Academy of Model Aeronautics:

<http://www.modelaircraft.org>

AMA Sport Aviator:

<http://www.masportaviator.com>

**Directions:** PGRC Field is off US 301, between Upper Marlboro and Bowie, MD. From Bowie, follow Rt. 301 south. About 3 miles south of Rt. 214, turn left on Swanson Road and follow the PGRC signs. From Upper Marlboro, follow 301 north. Swanson Road is the first right turn after the truck weigh station.



Additional costs include \$58/year to join the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). Along with other benefits including a monthly magazine, the AMA provides \$2.5 million in liability and property damage insurance for each member. PGRC dues are \$75/year for adults, after a one-time assessment of \$100.

