

Some other common questions...

How far can a model fly?

A model plane/helicopter will keep flying as long as the engine has fuel to keep it running and it keeps away from the ground! The range on a transmitter is approximately 1.5 miles but a model will be beyond visual range at distances much less than this. So effectively your vision is the obstacle to how far a model will fly.

How long does a typical flight last?

Normal flight duration will be about 15/20 minutes give or take.

“Why should I bother with a flying club, I can do this on my own”?

This of course is absolutely true. If you have the correct approach and gain the appropriate knowledge, with some persistence you can go it alone and get flying on your own. After all, that's how the hobby started in the first place and that's how the hobby constantly evolves. Ultimately though, a club will allow you to have success at a much more affordable price! There are many common pitfalls that can be avoided by getting experienced help rather than trying to re-inventing the wheel yourself. The more you crash, the more time/money you waste fixing a model. A club will help you drastically improve your chances of success at a more affordable price.

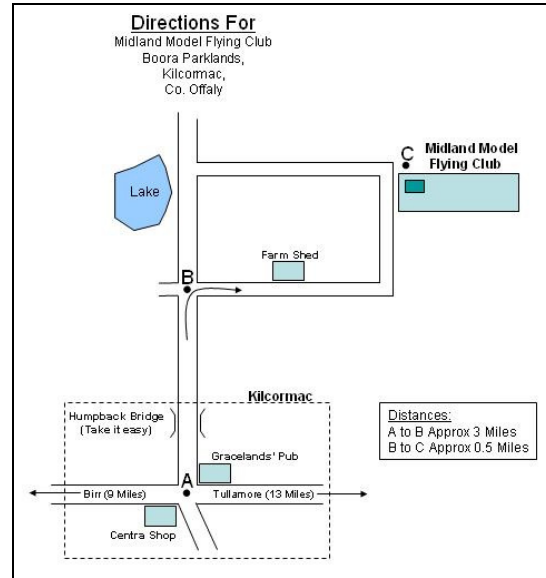
In Conclusion

Hopefully by now some of your more basic questions have been answered and you are in a better position to tackle this great hobby. All the fliers at MMFC get huge enjoyment from the hobby and the club. Many of them have been doing it for twenty years or more.

Be sure to check in on our website for updates on what's happening at the club and for further contact details. Better still, visit our flying site, have a look at some models in action and chat to the members. You may even get a go on the buddy lead to whet your appetite!

We hope to see you at the club.

How to Find Us...



<http://www.maci.ie>

Midland Model Flying Club
Boora Parklands
Kilcormac
Co. Offaly

<http://www.midlandmfc.ie>

Midland Model Flying Club

Information Leaflet
2009/2010

If you're thinking about getting into aero-modelling or you're already a seasoned flier, then the Midland Model Flying Club (MMFC) is a great place to enjoy the hobby. As a beginner you will be trained by experienced members who can show you the 'hows' and the 'whys' of model flying. This allows the beginner to hone their flying skills early on, without need to worry about whether their engine tuning is correct or if their model will fly properly. These skills can be learned in parallel while getting to grips with the fun stuff...flying!

So what do I need to get going?

Starting out, it's best to get a trainer aircraft rather than the latest gizmo. Trainers are normally stable in flight, cheaper and take hard landings quite well.

There are quite a few model shops in Ireland that can sell you all-in-one Trainer packages. These may include some or all of the following items; a model, a radio (transmitter), a receiver, frequency crystals, servos, battery, fuel, engine, propeller, fuel tank, pushrods, glow plug, glow starter, engine crank, and starter battery. Some model shops may also offer a set-up service and/or lessons. Buying from a model shop is normally a good starting point but you may prefer to buy your equipment second hand. In this case, ensure you know what you need and ensure what you're buying will get you up and flying.

What do I do then?

Once you have all the bits and pieces, then you need to assemble the model and get it ready for flight. All modern kits come with complete assembly instructions. Make sure the model you buy has a full set of instructions on how to build it and install all the radio gear, engine etc. If you're buying second hand, assembly may already be done but try getting the instructions for the model anyway. They're handy to have but essential if you buy a helicopter.

Once you have the model assembled, then it's time to fly. We encourage you to come along to the club a few times, get a feel for the place and join if you wish to pursue our training program. Make sure to bring your model along and have someone look over it for you.

So what is the MMFC all about then?

The MMFC has been in existence for over 15 years and is all about being a fun place to fly and meet like minded model enthusiasts. Our flying site is in the ideal wide-open surrounds of Boora Parklands. The site has a clubhouse, pits area and two runways. The club is in the very fortunate position of owning its flying site; as such it is a focal point for modelling in the midlands. We have over 25 members who regularly attend the flying site all year round. We encourage all aspects of modelling and our members actively participate in flying planes, helicopters, gliders and anything else you might want to try.

The MMFC is affiliated to the Model Aeronautics Council of Ireland (MACI). MACI is a voluntary body which represents the Aero-modelling community and is the official controlling body for Model Aviation in Ireland. Upon joining the MMFC, members are automatically given MACI membership. MACI membership includes flying insurance (public liability), a subscription to the MACI quarterly publication 'Flightlines' and access to a community of aero-modelling enthusiasts and clubs around the country.

Club Subscription

The yearly club subscription is as follows...

	Club Fee	MACI Fee	Total
Senior (18+)	€150	€75	€225
Junior	€70	€30	€100

Why should I hand over my hard earned cash to join the MMFC?

As a beginner, your main aim is to get your model off the ground and back down again in one piece.

The MMFC will give you a full training program to bring your flying to a level that allows you to achieve what's called an 'A' Certificate. The 'A' Cert. is a MACI designated level of competence which basically means you are a competent flier who can take-off, fly around and land in a controlled manner (essentially what anyone

wants to be able to achieve when learning to fly). As part of this training program, you will be shown by an experienced flier how to balance your model, trim it, set it up and tune the engine. You will be taught how to fly by using the 'buddy box' system. What this means is your transmitter is connected to the instructors transmitter via a 'buddy' lead. The instructor can hand control of the model over to you, let you fly around and take back control if you have difficulties controlling the model. The more you get accustomed to flying the longer you will be able to have control of the model without instructor intervention. Eventually you will be able to take off, fly and land by yourself.

Safety

This is not the most exciting issue to be thinking about when starting out but it is of utmost importance that we recognise and follow safe practices at all times in the club. Among the main points of safety at the flying field would be; do not fly over the pits/parking area and do not switch on your transmitter without first ensuring that the frequency you are on is free to be used.

This latter point is especially pertinent to the beginner who may be unaware of the correct procedures in this regard. All model aircraft use designated radio frequencies (channels) in order for control signals to be sent from the transmitter to the model. Now if you have two radios on the same frequency (channel), interference will occur and you will lose control of your model in flight. Obviously this leads to a very dangerous situation. So to ensure this doesn't happen, the club members fly 'off the peg', whereby you select the peg with your channel number from a peg board. Once you have the peg, only you can use that channel, so this avoids any confusion with who can turn on their transmitter and when. Another point to be mindful of is that you don't accidentally have your transmitter turned on in the car as you approach the flying field as the same situation will occur.