

see what is available, and the opportunity to participate in some other type of modeling or even in competitions. **Good Luck!!**

Note: There are definite advantages to joining a SAMAA Registered Clubs as they will:

- Teach you to fly.
- Provide you with a secure flying field.
- Give free and expert advice.
- Provide competition opportunities.
- Provide 3rd Party Insurance Cover.
- Have pleasant facilities and toilets.
- Cater for all type of Model flying.
- Keeps you up to date with the latest information
- Cater For Family Membership.

Why not join a club, it is already established, runways and all, and it is always available?



This leaflet is published by:-

**The South African Model Aircraft Association (SAMAA)**

**Enquiries: The General Manager: (011) 907 4652**

**Website: [www.samaa.org.za](http://www.samaa.org.za)**

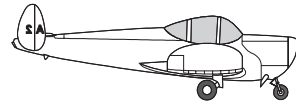
***Why not join one of our 180 SAMAA Registered Model Clubs?***

**Ask your Hobby shop for advice – it is for free!!**

Name: .....

Hobby Shop: .....

If you have not joined an existing club ask for leaflets 2 and 3 on “Finding and Setting up a flying site for Model Aircraft, Small Aircraft and Park Flyers”.



**LEAFLET I**



## **ADVICE ON FLYING MODEL AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS**

Welcome to the world of model flying. This leaflet has been written especially for the first time flyer who needs good advice. Do read this leaflet before going out to fly your new model, you will be rewarded if you take the advice given and it will reduce the likelihood of a disastrous crash by at least 90% and will allow you to have hours of enjoyable flying. Please realize that for a model to fly, it must be light and because of this it is unlikely to survive a crash or even a hard dive into the ground without major damage or being a write off. So read on!

### **Section 1: Ways to Learn to Fly:**

There are two recognized ways of learning to fly:

- a) With an instructor who has connected his transmitter to yours with a buddy cord and who can take back the flying control of the model from yourself whenever he feels you are in trouble.
- b) With an instructor standing alongside you giving advice and who hopefully will have time to take the transmitter from you when you get into trouble and so save your plane.
- c) We have specifically ignored the DOING IT YOURSELF option. The rate of success with this method is small, almost all people who have tried it have found it costly. We suggest the success rate to be less than 1% so don't believe the stories you hear. This is a NO NO!
- d) One help in learning to fly which has huge merit is the “Simulator” you need a computer and a transmitter and can fly on your simulator to your hearts content. After each crash the programme resets itself and off you go again. There are cheap simulators on the market (less than R400) which work well. Simulator time, is time well spent and will reduce your learning time to half or even more. **BUY ONE (specially for a helicopter).**

## To summarise the requirements of a Model Aircraft for a first time Flyer

- i.) Buy a TRAINER type Aircraft Model.
- ii.) Buy at least a four channel transmitter with the control sticks, set up to Mode 2 this configuration is used by the majority of flyers in the world. Throttle and rudder are on the left stick and elevator and aileron are on the right stick.
- iii.) Buy a cheap Simulator.
- iv.) Try to get someone to help with the assembly of your model.
- v.) Get someone to teach you to fly.
- vi.) Fly in a large open space, not in the street or your back garden and not near powerlines or near people.
- vii.) Go to the nearest model flying club. They will assist with checking out your model, and doing a flight check.

## Section 2: Flying your Model Aircraft:

You should be able to fly alone after some 3 to 4 hours of airtime, this being dependent on your natural ability and the amount of simulator time you have put in, so lets move on to flying.

You have bought and assembled your electric fixed wing aeroplane or helicopter per instructions contained in the box. It took longer than you expected but now you now believe you are ready to fly, and can't wait to see it fly. We have bad news for you, much like a car you need to be instructed, and we suggest the following actions.

**(a) If it is a Fixed Wing Aeroplane:** We assume that you have located a club or field where other are flying, have been fortunate enough to have found a pilot who has agreed to help you. The pilot, before he will fly your plane will check out the assembly of your model, the radio equipment installation, the direction of control stick and surfaces movements etc and will satisfy himself of the airworthiness of the model. Please do remember you asked him to fly your model and if by chance he breaks it, it is not his responsibility!

**(b) If it is a Helicopter:** For a helicopter to fly properly it needs to be set up properly and this requires qualified help. Either arrange with the hobby shop who sold it to you, or with a proficient helicopter pilot to do the initial set up of the main rotor the trims and the gyro. The entire satisfactory flying of a helicopter is dependent on a correct set up and you cannot successfully do this yourself.

**(c) Learning to Fly:** After the maiden flight has been completed and trims made you now have a decision to make – are you going to try to fly on your own and crash or are you going to ask the person who helped with the preliims to carry on and teach you to fly?

Don't bluff yourself, it is not as easy as it seems and to prove it we can quote dozens of modellers who after years, still cannot fly a model!

The above is the advise we give you, think hard before you try to teach yourself to fly!

## (d) Warnings:

- Electric Motors are powerful and the propellers are sharp and can give you a major cut. Be Careful, Stay clear of the propeller. Glow motors are noisy and cannot be flown in built up areas.

- Model Aircraft, when flying, are dangerous and can cause serious injury. SO: Do not fly near people or animals.

- Model Aircraft Radios work on different frequencies – make sure that no other person at the field or within sight is using a radio on the same frequency – This could override your radio signal and cause your model to crash.

## Section 3: Additional Information:

There is much more information available on all model aircraft and helicopter flying should you be interested. Sources of information can be found on the National Model Aircraft Bodies (South African Model Aircraft Associations) Website [www.samaa.org.za](http://www.samaa.org.za).

We do suggest that you look for the nearest SAMAA registered model flying club and visit them. You may decide that larger glow or petrol driven models is your scene and joining a registered club will give you the opportunity to