

Gary Worrell

From: Gary Worrell [gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 01 April, 2012 10:50
To: 'Gary Worrell'
Subject: Postcard
Attachments: Hello.jpg; CopterCAM.JPG

Hello (see attached). New members to the Postcard List. If this is your first, Greetings. You can catch up on previous Postcards at the Archive:

<http://igx.net/Postcards>

In my never ending quest to out-do what I've already done, I've gone airborne.

Say hello to CopterCAM. I'd been looking into remote controlled, battery powered helicopters with cameras for a while, and when a friend showed me his little indoor helo (without a camera) I decided it was time to give it a try.

I was already aware that RC helicopters could be somewhat difficult to fly, so I went with a cheapo model that I wouldn't get too choked up about if it ended up in a tree, sunk in a pond, or just generally smashed to itty-bitty pieces.

I first tried to get familiar with it in my basement Tavern (the most open area in my house), but it was clear early on that I could easily send wine glass fragments sailing in every direction. So next I tried it on my back deck, but again there were too many obstacles to maneuver around. When the copter went up over my roof and out of site, I gave up that arena (although I hoped to get good enough to strafe my neighbor's outdoor hot tub).

So today on my way to work, I stopped at a ball field that had a wide open area to get some practice with the controls.

The first time I got off the ground, the copter went up so high I almost couldn't hear it. Then the wind started to take it out over the trees. I eased off the power too much when I tried to bring it down, and the rotors stopped while it was still about 30 feet off the ground. This copter has a gyro that helps stabilize it, but the gyro stops when you stop the main rotors, so down it came:

<http://igx.net/Video/CopterCAM/120401OpenAirTestFlight01.wmv>

After a little more practice, I was able to control it better, and I tried to keep it closer to the ground. But since it's a cheapo model, it didn't have enough power to make any forward headway in the light breeze, so I tried to keep it pointed into the wind. Once the wind puffed a little gust, I had trouble controlling it:

<http://igx.net/Video/CopterCAM/120401OpenAirTestFlight02.wmv>

Finally, when I was beginning to feel more confident on the controls, the battery began to run out and I couldn't keep it airborne:

<http://igx.net/Video/CopterCAM/120401OpenAirTestFlight03.wmv>

But at least the camera worked.

Cheers, and Happy April Fool's Day.

G.



