

# **INTRODUCTION to the WINGS PROGRAM**

## **Welcome to CRAMS and the exciting world of radio controlled aircraft.**

To help ensure your success CRAMS has established a "Wings" training program built around the MAAC Wings Program for pilots.

### **What is the 'Wings' Program?**

This program establishes minimum flying proficiency levels required to progress from beginner to senior instructor. At each proficiency level the pilot is awarded a set of pilot's wings. CRAMS have qualified voluntary instructors to help beginners achieve their pilot wings. (Note: pilot wings are required to fly solo at the CRAMS field).

### **How do I learn to Fly?**

The first step is to join the CRAMS club (in addition to CRAMS membership you will also need MAAC membership). On the CRAMS membership form you need to indicate you are a beginner and require instruction.

Once you have joined, you will need to contact the CRAMS Wings Program Co-coordinator. The Co-coordinator will then set you up with the next available instructor. Please note that CRAMS have a limited number of instructors and cannot guarantee that an instructor will be immediately available, also, all instructors provide this training on a voluntary basis when they are available.

The student will then contact the instructor and set-up a time to meet. To assist in training, CRAMS instructors use a 'buddy box' system. CRAMS have a limited number of 'buddy box' and cord systems that may be available to match your radio system, a \$50.00 deposit is required to borrow a club system or, the student may purchase their own system from a local hobby shop.

### **What type of plane do I need to train on?**

Prior to purchasing a 'trainer' type aircraft, beginners to the hobby are STRONGLY recommended to talk to the Wings Program Co-coordinator or attend one of the club meetings or even visit the flying field to discuss the type of trainer that would best meet the beginners needs and CRAMS requirements to instruct. There are a large variety of 'Trainer' type aircraft, these type of planes are designed to fly easily, be very forgiving, and tend to return to level flight once they have been trimmed properly. In general, these types of planes are high wing, with a flat or semi symmetric airfoil. Note: in order to complete the maneuvers required to attain pilot wing's the plane will require a minimum of three channels (rudder or aileron, elevator and throttle), and landing gear. Also, the radio system must be capable of utilizing a 'buddy box' system and if the student wants to use one of the club loaner 'buddy boxes' they will have to have a radio system that is compatible, otherwise the students have to supply their own 'buddy box'.

### **What do I need to prepare for my first training session?**

Ensure your radio batteries are fully charged the day before your session. You will need to bring along all your accessories such as fuel, glow plug driver, starter, tools (wrenches, screwdrivers, hobby knife, glue, etc.) for glow powered planes or batteries and charger for electric planes. Also to save time at the first session the student, if they are comfortable, may want to 'break in' their new glow engine as per manufacturer's directions ahead of time.

Students are encouraged to carefully inspect their plane, ensure the plane and wings are straight, control surfaces move freely with the recommended throws and hinges are secure. Again to save time at the first session, it is recommended that the student bring their plane to a CRAMS meeting or to the flying field and have a club member examine their plane.

### **What happens at the first training session?**

The instructor will first review club safety rules and perform a detailed inspection of your plane. Once the instructor is satisfied with the condition of the plane they will assist the student in performing a radio range check. The next step (for glow fuel aircraft) will be to start the motor and make correct

adjustments for reliable idle and power up. (Please note that in many cases this is all that takes place during the first session). Only after the instructor is sure the plane is safe, the radio range is acceptable and the engine runs reliability, will he take the plane for a test flight. Typically the instructor will fly the entire first flight, trimming the plane for straight flight, and ensuring all control movements are adequate. After the instructors test flight(s) is completed, flight training with the student will begin. In the beginning, the instructor will perform take-off and landings until the student demonstrates sufficient proficiency in controlling the plane.

**How long will it take me to get my pilots wings?**

How long it takes varies between students ability and the instructor availability. Some students learn in a matter of weeks while others take months. To become a pilot, new students need to be patient and not set specific timeframes. Once the student passes their pilots test, they will be issued a three-month temporary pilot's card. The pilot can then exchange the temporary card at an upcoming club meeting for a set of pilot 'wings'.