

A CD'S DILEMMA — KEEPING MODELS ON THE FIELD

By George White

Back in May of 2004, John Patton published an article in Model Aviation describing some tools to help you establish how far away your model will be given a wind velocity. In that article he included a table, reproduced on the next page, showing how far you can expect the model to fly in various wind conditions depending upon the length of the flight.

DISTANCE TO LANDING (MILES) = WINDSPEED X TIME / 60

		TIME (MINUTES)									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
WINDSPEED	1	0	0.03	0.05	0.07	0.08	0.1	0.12	0.13	0.2	0.2
	2	0.03	0.07	0.1	0.13	0.17	0.2	0.23	0.27	0.3	0.3
	3	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.4	0.5	0.5
	4	0.07	0.13	0.2	0.27	0.33	0.4	0.47	0.53	0.6	0.7
	5	0.08	0.17	0.25	0.33	0.42	0.5	0.58	0.67	0.8	0.8
	6	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1
	7	0.12	0.23	0.35	0.47	0.58	0.7	0.82	0.93	1.1	1.2
	8	0.13	0.27	0.4	0.53	0.67	0.8	0.93	1.07	1.2	1.3
	9	0.15	0.3	0.45	0.6	0.75	0.9	1.05	1.2	1.4	1.5
	10	0.17	0.33	0.5	0.67	0.83	1	1.17	1.33	1.5	1.7
(MPH)	11	0.18	0.37	0.55	0.73	0.92	1.1	1.28	1.47	1.7	1.8
	12	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	2
	13	0.22	0.43	0.65	0.87	1.08	1.3	1.52	1.73	2	2.2
	14	0.23	0.47	0.7	0.97	1.17	1.4	1.63	1.87	2.1	2.3
	15	0.25	0.5	0.75	1	1.25	1.5	1.75	2	2.3	2.5

Of course, those fliers who have radio trackers have a reduced pucker factor about models leaving the field, but as a CD, it's really not good form to deliberately set maxes that you know will populate neighborhoods and highways with models.

When I was first learning to fly full-scale airplanes, I often found myself averse to flying when there was a substantial wind blowing across the runway. (For a while there I was referred to as the "seagull" — they had to throw rocks to get me to fly!) I bought a cheap hand-held wind meter, which I still use with model flying. The price is about \$22 and it's available from Dwyer Controls at the following website:

<http://www.dwyerinst.com/htdocs/airvelocity/SeriesPORTABLEWINDMETERPrice.cfm> Below is a photo of what it looks like — simple and cheap.



That's an item which even the most poverty-stricken CD can easily afford, which when used with the above table, will tell you whether you're asking the contestants to leave the field.

If you're going to be a CD, why not get one and keep your contestants happy.