

How fast do the planes fly?

Typically between 20 MPH and 120 MPH but 150MPH or more is possible.

What are the planes made of?

Almost all are one of two types. One is call "Built up" which is a balsa wood frame with a thin sheet of outer coating that shrinks tight when heated. The other is more recent and that is foam. There are different types of foam but most jets and trainers are foam and the versatility and pounding they can take makes for very light planes.

How are the planes powered?

There are a variety but they fall into two major categories. Fuel or electric.

What about the fuel planes?

Fuel planes fall into either two stroke or four stroke with a variety of cylinders and they turn a propeller. The fuel is either what we call glow fuel or gas. There are also jet turbines that use jet fuel.

And the electric planes?

Virtually all electric motors use rechargeable "LiPo" batteries which can be charged very quickly (an hour or less). The motors either turn a propeller on a plane as you normally expect or turn a fan in a casing which we call an EDF (Electric Ducted Fan). EDF's power most smaller to mid size jets you see.

Is one better than the other?

Not really. It partially depends on your interest. Foam and fuel do not mix well so that can be factor. Electric planes with newer and better motors and electronics seem to be more and more popular. They typically require less maintenance also.

How much do planes cost?

Almost anything can be found. They typically range from \$80 to to \$300. As you get bigger (over about 50 inches wingspan) the prices go up. Some models can be extremely expensive (\$10,000+) but these are really big and are very high end planes that look and fly awesome. Most of the planes here today are less than \$500.

What about the radios (transmitters)?

Again there is a variety but \$120 to \$300 will buy you a pretty nice radio that will fly multiple planes.

Is it hard to learn to fly?

Almost anyone can learn to fly. Newer technology has made the learning planes better and more stable. It does take practice and you can't just start with a jet to learn!. Our club and others will teach you how to fly for free. We suggest you start on a simulator and progress from there to a trainer and then on your way to whatever!

What does it cost and involve to join SPARKS flying club?

You have to have an AMA membership (yearly fee), have a club membership (yearly fee) and one time initial club fee.

What about the AMA membership?

Almost all clubs require that you have an AMA membership. The membership in AMA provides liability coverage and also has you agree to certain safety rules which are important to the club. The membership info for AMA:

- Age 19-65 - \$75
- 65 & over - \$65
- Under 19 (as of July 1st) - Free
- Additional family members - \$38 Benefits:
- \$2,500,000 personal liability insurance coverage
- \$25,000 Medical Coverage-AD&D Policy (\$10,000 Death Benefit)
- \$1,000 Fire, Theft, and Vandalism coverage
- Model Aviation monthly magazine
- Access to members only section of website
- Ability to fly at thousands of AMA chartered club sites with appropriate club membership
- Toll free customer service – **1-800-I-Fly-AMA (435-9262)**
- Always comply with the [AMA Safety Code](#).

What about the club fees?

There is a one time joining fee of \$50. Then a yearly fee of \$75 is due each year January 1st (although it is \$65 if you pay before the start of the year). Eighteen and under are free but can not vote. All members MUST have a valid AMA membership to join and continue to fly.