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Docket-222



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON

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MAR 25 1993

POLICY & PLANNING  
BRANCH ROOM 5202

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

*M*

Mr. Ralph W. Braun

2.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your concerns will be included in the record of this proceeding and will be considered in developing our final rules.

Sincerely,



James H. Quello  
Chairman

Enclosures:

Copy to: The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

cc:

Chief, LM&M Division  
Lou Sizemore, Room 857  
Docket Files, Room 222  
P&P Branch Files

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CONGRESS/9301164

# Congressional

PRB  
92-235  
1164

March 3, 1993

Mr. Ralph W. Braun  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Braun Corporation  
Post Office Box 310  
Winamac, Indiana 46996

Dear Mr. Braun:

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have expressed in him by writing.

To give your concerns the special attention they deserve, the President has asked me to refer your letter to the Federal Communications Commission for review. I have asked them for a prompt reply. If you would like to contact them directly, they can be reached at Room 857S, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Please let me know if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,



Marsha Scott  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
and Director of Presidential  
Correspondence

*Reply direct. Furnish  
w H with copy of  
response & enclosure.  
Copy of both for  
Lou.*

20 Sam  
FCC

International Corporate Headquarters:  
The Braun Corporation  
P.O. Box 310  
Winamac, IN 46996 USA

397606

 **THE BRAUN CORPORATION.**  
"Providing Access to the World"



Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wingspans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72 - 76 MHz band.

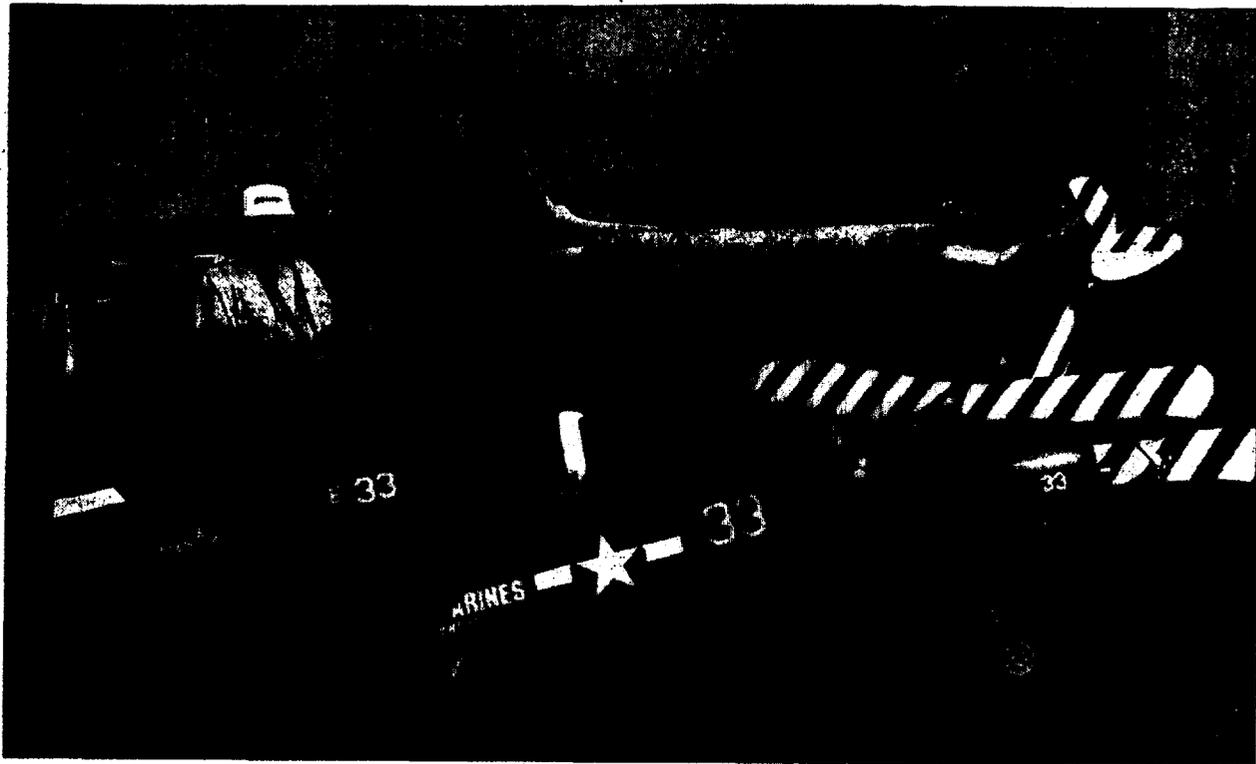
I am enclosing a copy of an article that appeared recently in the South Bend Tribune. Hope you enjoy it.

Thank you for any assistance you may be able to give.

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Braun  
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure



Tribune Photo/GLORIA HIZER

Ralph Braun sits among some of the smaller models in his fleet of R/C model airplanes.

# Model planes no fly-by-night fad

## Braun Corp. executive builds his radio-controlled fleet with passion

By GLORIA HIZER

Tribune Correspondent

WINAMAC

**M**odel airplanes may be just another hobby for some, but for a Winamac man, they have become a passion.

Ralph Braun, founder and chief executive officer of The Braun Corp., has collected quite a fleet of motor-powered radio-controlled (R/C) scale model airplanes since he built his first one eight years ago.

And this month, his R/C racing team took high honors at a national air race competition in Madera, Calif.

But Braun's passion for the sport is not just another fly-by-night fad.

At age 51, he suffers from muscular dystrophy, a disease which severely limits his physical mobility. "It was either R/C flying or stamp collecting," he said. And manipulating the intricate airplane controls is good therapy for his hands. "It's a mind game, with eye and hand coordination."

His addiction to R/C racing and model air shows now takes him all over the country.

In California, the nine-man Braun Racing Team and pit crew entered seven R/C planes in the contest, struggling against strong winds and temperatures of more than 100 degrees in an effort to qualify.

Two P51 Mustangs crashed, but Braun and team member Don Albright of Logansport averaged air speeds of more than 130 mph around the ¼-mile course to qualify for the top category, the Gold Class.

**"It was a team effort. It's just like the Indianapolis 500. Winning is when luck and preparation meet."**

**Ralph Braun**  
Speaking of model plane contest

Albright finished second and Braun took third place among 66 entries.

"It was a team effort," Braun said of the long days and nights spent preparing for the race. "It's just like the Indianapolis 500," he added. "Winning is when luck and preparation meet."

The race planes, which sport price tags of between \$3,000 and \$6,000, have a wing span of approximately 10 feet. They are hand-crafted from balsa and plywood and are covered with fiberglass, then painted.

Propellers can be fiberglass or be hand-carved from wood. Chainsaw motors propel the 55-pound aircraft, which are controlled by a radio handset. Braun has a specially-fitted shoulder harness with a lap easel to provide him easy access to the controls.

Braun said he had always wanted to fly R/C planes, but admitted that at first he spent more time repairing aircraft and recovering from crashes. Then his wife Linda saw an article in a Florida newspaper eight years ago and Braun contacted a retired R/C pilot who taught him and his sons, Todd

and Drew, to fly.

After mastering the handset controls, he was hooked.

Now he needs a larger hangar for his expanding fleet of model airplanes. Some of the beauties in his collection include a one-of-a-kind scale model of an A10, the same fighter plane from Grissom Air Force Base that can be seen flying high over U.S. 31.

His pride and joy is probably the 16-foot half-scale Piper Tri-Pacer, which he admits is "just for show."

The Braun Racing Team is sponsored by The Braun Corp., which manufactures motorized wheelchairs and installs handicap access devices to motor vehicles.

Braun's enthusiasm led him to help in chartering the Winamac Aero-Modelers Club, a 40-member organization which is affiliated with the National Academy of Model Aeronautics. The club hosted its first noncompetitive fly-in last month with more than 100 planes from a four-state area. The grand opening air show celebrated the completion of a new control tower and an 800-foot asphalt air strip west of Winamac.

"It's the premier flying site in the state," Braun said.

He added that one of the greatest aspects of the R/C hobby is neither the trophies nor the prize money, but sharing the sport with others. Braun has taught dozens of R/C pilots to fly, working with all ages, from teenagers to a man in his 70s.

"I want to pass the hobby on to other people so they can enjoy it," he said.