



MATT STANLEY STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ron Good of Pennel pilots his remote-controlled aerobatic biplane Tuesday during an air show as part of physics and flight camp at Council Rock High School South. Students in the camp explore the principles of flight by crafting remote-controlled jets that fly up to 50 mph. Story B2 and on www.couriertimesnow.com.

LOCAL

Physics camp enables students to go sky-high

For the first time, a girl is taking part in the physics and flight summer camp at Council Rock.

By RACHEL CARELLI
STAFF WRITER

It's always been a guy thing — until now.

For the last four years, the physics and flight summer camp in Council Rock has attracted young men only. But at Council Rock High School South in Holland this week, a gal finally joined the fellas for the first time in building and flying model airplanes.

"I heard not many girls come, but I didn't think much about it," said Tanya Kumar, 11, a seventh-grader at Holland Middle School before trying to assemble a model aircraft's wheel Tuesday. "I mean, it'd be nice to have another girl here. But I like what I'm learning. It'll help me out in math and science next year."

Tanya and the 16 other campers, ages 12 to 15, are exploring the principles of flight by crafting large gas-powered remote control jets with five-foot wingspans that

fly up to 50 mph on CR-South's fields.

"It's about sharing a hobby with kids who are so busy and computer-oriented that their hands-on experience is limited," said Joseph Warwick, a physics teacher at CR-South who runs the camp. "A model airplane is a tremendous vehicle to teach science. And it's refreshing to see a girl join the group. Every year, I have phenomenal female physics students. I'm glad to see the same trend at a younger age."

The pupils practice on flight simulators and experiment with physics in the lab.

"I've been looking for a camp that would interest me and this is one of the most fun things I've done all summer, if not all year," said Griffin Della Grotte, 11, a sixth-grader at Pennwood Middle School in Lower Makefield. "I don't feel like it's only a guy thing. I don't see why girls can't be interested in flight."

Neither does Tanya. "If you just try it, it's actually really cool and everyone's really supportive," she said. "So what, there are boys there. I guarantee you'll like it!"

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Tanya Kumar, 11, of Holland, builds a balsa wood glider during physics and flight camp at CR South.

Find out more:

A few spots are available for next week. The camp costs \$350. Information: visit www.jwrcamps.com. The public is invited to a professional remote control model airplane show at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Council Rock High School South, 2032 Rock Way in Holland. The event will feature turbine jet models that fly 200 mph, helicopters and stunt planes with 10-foot wingspans. If you're interested in getting involved in a model airplane club, the Bucks County Radio Control Club welcomes new members. The club has a 400-foot grass runway on a private farm north of Doylestown where members practice. Monthly meetings are held in Richboro in which modelers put on a show-and-tell about their new model aircraft. Club trainers will teach new members the art of flying a remote-controlled model. To become a member go to www.modelaircraft.org. Then fill out the application and come to a meeting. Fill out the information form on the Web site and the club will be in touch with you in a couple of days. Additional information on the club can be found at www.buckscountyrco.org/index.htm