

HM Review

Jeff Troy

Megatech's Amazing HydroFly

This new model rises from and lands on water or smooth surfaces.



Specifications

- Wingspan: 18 inches
- Length: 18 inches
- Height: 5 inches
- RC system: 3-channel FM
- Range: Approximately 1000'
- Mode: Electric amphibian

RTF Model Features

- Factory-assembled vehicle
- Factory-installed motor & RC
- 8-cell NiMH battery
- DC quick charger
- "Takeoff Activator" button
- Instruction manual

If you think you've seen everything there is to be seen in radio control vehicles and aircraft, think again. Megatech International has newly interpreted a few of the old rules with the release of their new HydroFly LASV. The LASV designation signifies a Land, Air and Sea Vehicle, and the new model has been cleverly designed to deliver big fun in all three environs.

Just one quick glance at the HydroFly's unique layout will tell you that cruising on water is a natural. A closer look under the sponsons, however, will reveal a rugged polycarbonate padding over the foam components that allows this interesting machine to glide over ice and even ROG (rise Off Ground) from smoothly paved runways or other firm surfaces.

Okay, so the HydroFly can race on water and ice, but here's the hook — the HydroFly is an aircraft, fully fitted with a low aspect ratio wing and anti-stall tip plates, a stabilizer/elevator between the booms, and a centrally mounted vertical fin/rudder that's right in the propwash for efficient turning performance.

HydroFly is a 100-percent factory-assembled vehicle. There's nothing to put together, and the only user-required tasks are to install eight AA alkaline batteries (Megatech markets a proprietary full line of alkaline batteries) into the HydroFly's three-channel FM transmitter, and charge the model's 8-cell NiMH flight battery. The flight battery and a DC quick charger with a dial timer are both included with the model, and charging takes approximately 15 minutes. After charging, one screw allows access to the watertight battery compartment.



HydroFly comes with a handy DC quick charger and an 8-cell NiMH battery.



HydroFly builds up speed on water and begins to plane, then pilot hits and holds Takeoff Activator button to rise from the surface. Once airborne, one of the four available motor speed steps is selected to maintain straight and level flight.

Megatech's 3-channel FM radio system delivers everything needed for solid control. The rudder is on the right stick, which turns the HydroFly to the left or right. There is no elevator stick, although there is a "Takeoff Activator" button that flips the HydroFly's elevator upward, assuring takeoff from water or ice.

The transmitter's left stick operates motor speed through the use of a four-step electronic speed controller. Moving the stick back then forward starts the motor in low speed. Moving the stick forward again transitions the motor to medium-low speed. One more forward cycle moves motor speed to medium high, and a fourth cycle drives the motor into high speed, ideal for ROG/W or handlaunch.

With a full charge on the NiMH battery and fresh AA's in the transmitter, Brandon Wright and I took the HydroFly out to Greenfield Industrial Park for a shake-down cruise and performance review. We spent a few minutes running on the water to get used to the way the LASV handles, then throttled up and took off.



Megatech's HydroFly in full flight, cruising high above Greenfield Industrial Park. Blip rudder for smooth turns.

The HydroFly handles very capably on water. It's still too warm for ice in Eastern Pennsylvania, but I have every confidence that the HydroFly will glide just as smoothly over ice as it travels over water.

During our testing, Brandon and I quickly found that the best takeoff performance from water came with full motor speed to get the model on plane, then holding the Takeoff

Activator button as the model breaks free and begins to climb. We also hold the button down for hand launching.

The HydroFly is easy to fly and quite predictable. The model will climb on the highest speed step and slowly descend on the second step. It drops sharply on the slowest speed, and maintains altitude on the third. Our landings were all over mowed grass, and held no surprises, settling nicely as the battery ebbed. Very cool.

For more information about the HydroFly, see the ads on pages 8 and 9, and 59, visit the Web site at www.megatech.com or telephone the folks from Megatech International at 201-662-8500. **HM**



Turning into the wind for takeoff. Megatech's air, land and sea vehicle is a small but impressive machine.