

I launched my model into the air....

An article by Joe Joseph, editor of the November 2004 Windy Sock, the newsletter of the Alamo Escadrille, San Antonio, Texas

Fine! And for sure, it came to earth I know not where. "Wheresitat, guys?" is the lament often heard from your editor. I'm just about the worst model-finder in our club. Dick Adams has helped me countless times with his Boy Scout technology, and I have three compasses in my field kit. But I still can't find the model in the grass, camouflaged or not. The most frequent mistake most of us make in seeking our models, I think, is to overestimate how far they've gone. This is especially so with Peanuts; their small size will mislead me every time. The chart below will help alleviate that problem. A wind speed indicator is a handy gadget to have in using the chart, although in time some people can get a good idea of wind speed based on experience. Also, I recently learned from a retired Air Force pilot that the windsock on our field (and most other fields — ed.) is rated at 15 mph. In other words, it will be in a horizontal position when the wind speed is 15 mph. Knowing such a fact can be handy in the absence of an indicator.

Using the chart: Locate the wind speed on the scale at left, then follow it to the right to the time in seconds that the model was in flight. The number in the block will be the number of paces, more or less, to the model landing spot. Theoretically, the model's flight path should not make any difference, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed when I say this. Theory and reality often collide in our hobby. I saw the chart published in Model Aviation recently, and this idea came from it. But the MA chart gave miles in decimal fractions. OK if you're on a chase bike with an odometer chasing a Wakefield, but awkward for our use in FAC flying.

Ed. Note: Before you get too puckered and say "what if the wind is 14 mph?" Simply add the number of paces for 10 mph to the number for 4 mph!! No sweat!

10—	68	135	203	270	338	405	473	540	608	675	743	813
8—	54	108	162	216	270	324	378	432	486	540	594	648
6—	41	81	122	162	203	243	284	324	367	405	446	486
4—	27	54	81	108	135	162	189	216	243	270	297	324
2—	14	27	41	54	63	81	95	108	122	135	149	162
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120

HIKING CHART (BASED ON 26" PACE)