



# FLIGHT LINES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE SPIRITS OF ST. LOUIS R/C FLYING CLUB

## Election of Officers for 2003

### President's Notes:

*By Steve Cross*

Hard to believe, but Autumn is here. I'm sure everyone is wondering where the summer went, but I doubt if any of us miss the 90 and 100 degree weather! Unfortunately for you evening flyers, the daylight hours are definitely getting shorter.

We had a great time at the Silver Swallows Reunion a couple of weeks ago. Unfortunately, very few Spirits members attended, and, as a result, you missed a very interesting static display of planes, as well as some outstanding RC fixed wing and helicopter demonstrations. A hearty "thanks" goes to Walt Wilson for organizing this event. Our club had some great exposure and received a generous donation from the Silver Swallows. We have been invited back again next year.

This past weekend was our biggest event of the year, our Second Annual Open House. The general consensus is that it was even bigger than last year. At its peak, we had over 60 planes in the pits and about 90 cars in the parking lot. We had great weather, saw some spectacular flying, perhaps recruited a new member or two, and even made a profit of some \$450. Hopefully, you had a chance to come to the field, and, if you did, I trust you pitched in and helped to make this event a great success. But there are several folks that deserve special recognition, because this open house would not have happened without them. A huge thanks goes to George Cooper, Bill Lindewirth, Walt Wilson and Ralph Amelung. And for all of you that did pitch in and help with the concessions, or the parking, or the impound tent, or the signs, or the clean up, THANK YOU! Great job, Spirits!

*See you at the field!*

*Steve Cross*

### Meeting Minutes: September 11, 2002

*By Walt Wilson*

President Steve Cross called the meeting to

order at 7:02 P.M.

**Members signed in:** 22 members and two potential new member candidates were present. The applicants were advised to wait until October 1 and join for 2003.

| Name        | Phone Number |
|-------------|--------------|
| Bob Gizzie  | 636-441-7924 |
| Herb Howard | 636-441-3808 |

The candidates will be voted upon when they apply for membership.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes were accepted as published in last month's Flight Lines. Steve Cross noted that the front-page flyer for the Open House did not state we would have a concession stand and hot food.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

**Field Report:** George Cooper read the Field Report as presented on page 7.

**Safety Report:** No safety issues were presented.

### Activities Report:

**Silver Swallows Air Show:** Walt Wilson reported that things are pretty well arranged. Lee Volmert turned the PA over to Walt at the meeting and Steve Cross will bring the radios (communication) and air horn. All flyers and static planes are to be there by 9:30 A.M. Helpers are needed to call for the pylon race and look out for incoming full-scale aircraft.

**Open House:** Steve Cross noted that, so far, Schaefers and Mark Twain had donated prizes. He was pursuing others. The same flyers who are going to perform at the Silver Swallows Air Show are expected to appear, along with Don Ware and "Free-Fall Freddie", the R/C parachutist. Some local jet fliers will be invited,

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but there was some speculation about the trees causing problems. Stan Lewis, the gentleman who has appeared, receiving flight instruction in some Spirits-related publications, will be invited to come back and will be given a copy of Walt Wilson's "Anatomy of a Flying Field" article from Model Aviation. A Four-Star 40, Dremel tool and Power Panel, along with other donated items, are to be raffled off at the Open House.

### **Four-Star 40/Warbirds Race October 19:**

Eric Langston has withdrawn as C.D. due to business and family commitments. Frank Nolle will be asked to replace him.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Training Program:** Steve Ramonczuk has withdrawn as Chief Flight Instructor due to work schedules. Ralph Amelung has replaced him. Ralph has a new plan for training. There will be no regularly-scheduled sessions. If someone wants instruction, they are to call Ralph and he will put them in touch with one of several instructors, who will then make arrangements.

**World War I Fly-In:** There will be a full-scale WW I fly-In at Creve Coeur Airport on September 28 and 29. Planes from the 1903 through 1929 era will be on display and flying. Cars from that time will be on display. Admission is free, but there is a \$5.00 parking fee.

**Nomination of Officers:** The following members were nominated and accepted:

**Steve Cross for President**

**Steve Ramonczuk for Vice President**

**Walt Wilson for Secretary**

**Les Richman for Treasurer**

The election will be at the October meeting. The balance of the Board of Directors will be appointed, with the club's approval. A ballot for absentee voters was included in the newsletter mailed to members. If you want to write-in a different candidate, there are spaces on the ballot.

**Meeting Activities:** Ex-Spirit Jim Noyes donated some very old plane, kits, a radio, three engines and a box of miscellaneous stuff. Much of it was unusable for various reasons. All was

auctioned on the spot and brought in a total of \$36.93 and two 1/4" washers (George Cooper ran out of cash).

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.**

### **Silver Swallows Air Show**

*By Walt Wilson*

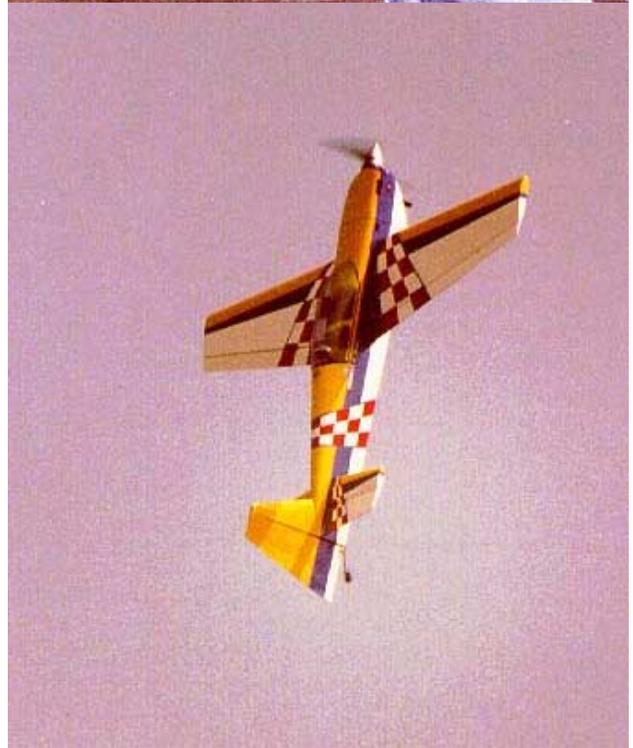
Airplanes that can hang on their propellers and hover a foot off the ground. Helicopters that fly upside down, loop, roll and sustain knife-edge flight while circling! Scale models that are almost exact replicas of the full-size subject! All of these were present at the Silver Swallows' (Retired Ozark Airlines Pilots) Annual Reunion at Smartt Field on Saturday, September 14. The Spirits were invited to put on an air show for the reunion and they did it up in style. Some of the most accomplished flyers from the Metro Area were invited to entertain the assembled retirees. Paul Geders flew violent aerobatics with his L'il Stik, followed by Steve Kissel and Jim Lanzendorf, who flew 1/3 and 40%-scale Edge 540 aerobatic aircraft. They rolled, spun, looped and then blew everyone away by hovering their planes as low as a foot off the ground. The planes were literally hanging on their propellers.

Matt Geders and Steve Cross flew a ten-lap pylon race.

People watched in awe while Scott Cathey looped, rolled, spun and held his helicopter in a vertical knife-edge attitude while flying in a circle. He then hovered it, inverted, a scant three inches off the concrete. As a finale, he went to a couple hundred feet in the air, throttled the engine down and auto-rotated the blades while landing on the foot-square piece of carpeting from which he had taken off.

Nine scale and racing planes were on display in the Commemorative Air Force hanger. Les Richman showed his 1/4-scale Citabria and T-28. Randy Hodge displayed his Extra 300, George Cooper had his SE-5, Smith Miniplane and Fokker D-7. Joe Hodge showed his Cessna 182. Paul Geders displayed his Stiletto Formula 1 racing plane and I showed my P-47 Thunderbolt and Kawasaki Ki61 "Tony". My wife Suzi kept a television going with videos of model aircraft activities throughout the years. Several of the retired and still active airline pilots were heard to say things like "That's what I'm going to do when I retire! It was great exposure for the club and the sport. Photos are on the next few pages.

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More Photos and a video are available on our web site at [www.spiritsofstl.com](http://www.spiritsofstl.com), in the Photo Gallery.

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### Annual Open House

*By Bill Lindwirth*

Between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. we had a total of 31 pilots registered. (hopefully I spelled it right this time). They logged 81 flights. After the raffle at 1:00 P.M. I counted 60 planes in the pits. Even after 4:00 P.M. there were a lot of people who continued to fly. Next year we need to get more off our membership to come out and help!!!! We had visitors from Belleville, Edwardsville, Rolla, House Springs, Foristell, and Fenton. There was only one casualty; Frank Nolle's biplane was unceremoniously rekkited with Eric Langston at the sticks. After an autopsy, the crash was attributed to low batteries.

*I had fun !!*



### More Open House

*By Walt Wilson*

The weather was great, the turnout was great, the food was great, the flying was unexcelled! We received many compliments on our field. It is much improved over last year, with new grass, rocks and fencing. Steve Cross did a great job of putting it all together. Ralph Amelung and his helpers did a great job with the concession stand (Did you get a "Barbeque Ralphburger"?)



Bill Lindwirth and several helpers did a great job on registration and frequency control. George Cooper and helpers did a fine job of

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preparing the field and getting the cars parked in the proper places. A lot of people inquired about joining and we made many new friends within the R/C community. Some spectators had an opportunity to fly on buddy boxes. Planes were flown, ranging from small electrics to 40% scale 3-D aerobatic Edge 540's. Scott Cathey did his usual great job of wowing everyone with his absolutely fantastic helicopter antics. Many fine prizes were won in the raffle.



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More photographs and videos are available on our web site at: [www.spiritsofstl.com](http://www.spiritsofstl.com), in the [Photo Gallery](#).

### Field Report

By George Cooper

The asphalt on the field is going to be sealed on September 17 and the field will be closed all day. The re-striping will be done the following day. The field will be open that day except for the time they are doing the striping. It should dry fast and be useable soon after they are

finished.

**PLEASE NOTE: EVERYONE should be using a catch bottle during fueling.** There will be accidental spills and oil from engines, but let's try to keep the pits looking good as much as possible. Wipe up excess oil and fuel. The asphalt and sealing are major investments and should be protected by all.

My thanks to Paul Geders, who found the wheels on the Kubota mower to be bad, picked up new ones and replaced them himself. Assistance like that is always welcome.

The field will be mowed Friday, September 27 and prepared for the Open House. It will be closed that day until the work is done, probably mid to late morning. Ralph Amelung and I are going to reseed the pit areas right after the open house. The lack of rain and traffic on the grass has really damaged that area. Hopefully, it will recover with the fall rain and reseeding. The mowing schedule ends two weeks after the open house mowing. Last year we didn't mow after the open house, so we will monitor it and see if it needs it this year.

Thanks to all who volunteered and did a great job on the mowing. It went smoothly this year and with sufficient help no one was overworked.

*George Cooper, Field Chairman*

### Ozark Mountain Jet Fly

By Bill Lindewirth

It wasn't the Superman, but the River City Flyers should be commended for their first Ozark Mountain Jet Fly. As many of you know, many former Spirits members are now members of the River City Flyers. Steve Collins did an excellent job of announcing. I spoke with several former members and they were all very gracious. Even though I was just a spectator and not a pilot, I was invited into the pit area. Many of the flyers knew about our Open House and the Silver Swallows Air Show, and were planning to attend. Six Spirits members showed up on Sunday, when only 12 pilots remained, with approximately 150 spectators. About 35 pilots had been in attendance on Saturday with an estimated 1,000 spectators.

The Civil Air Patrol provided security, and a local church provided concessions. A beautiful P-13-D was on display in one of the hangers. Throughout the day, approximately 40 sky divers were dropped from 14,000 ft. and all landed safely at the airport.

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Pilots came from, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee.



### **The Last Word:**

*By Walt Wilson*

It seems I did Ralph Amelung a disservice last month. I put in a picture of an airplane he crashed and the newsletter came out two days before his first day as Chief Flight Instructor! I'm sorry, Ralph! I didn't mean for anyone to get the wrong impression of his abilities. The best and most famous of Radio Control flyers have all crashed sometime. If you fly model airplanes for any length of time, sooner or later you're likely to crash! It's a fact of life. If you've never crashed, you've probably never

pushed yourself or your plane to the limit. If you're a student pilot and have never crashed, thank your instructor! Rest assured that, before you go very far on your own, you're going to make an unscheduled landing. The amount of damage is inversely proportional to the amount of time you have to fix it.

Recently, Lee Volmert, Les Richman and I went to Smartt Field in preparation for the Air Show. While we were there, a ex-F-18 jockey flew a Chinese Yak 9 trainer in to refuel and have lunch. It was a beautiful one-of-a-kind conversion for personal use and a great subject for a scale model! It was in U.S. Navy blue and gray colors with authentic Chinese military insignia. Unfortunately, None of us had a camera.. By the time I could have gotten home for my cameras, he would have been gone. Another great opportunity was lost. I can see why people become "airport bums". Half of the times I've been out there, something unusual has appeared that was worth modeling. I received a letter from Rick Rea, who was in the Spirits from 1993 through 1997. He saw the "Anatomy of a Flying Field" article in Model Aviation and wrote to say "hi" and congratulate us on our field. He's living in Wheatland, Pennsylvania, now and a member of the Penn-Ohio Radio Kontrol Society (P.O.R.K.S.).  
*Gotta go build!*

### **Wanted**

I need a reliable, accurate tachometer. I'll consider either digital or analog.  
Call Don Fitch at: [636-441-0373](tel:636-441-0373)

### **For Sale**

I have a Sig 1/3 Spacewalker for sale, ready to fly, with Hitec radio, 41cc gas and smoke. Very nice plane. For more details call John Lind, Warsaw R/C Club, at 660-438-3009 or e-mail at: [lind@iland.net](mailto:lind@iland.net)

### **Wanted**

Old R/C or Control Line engines, regardless of condition. I'm interested in complete engines, carbs, mufflers or any parts that you no longer need or can use. I'm starting "Walt's R/C Engine Salvage"! In the future, if you need a replacement part, maybe I'll have it or steer you to someone who does! Call Walt Wilson at 636-946-6167 or e-mail at: [rallyo@charter.net](mailto:rallyo@charter.net)

### **For Sale**

Great Planes Ultra Sport 40 ARF, Blue Color Scheme, New in the Box. \$135.00  
Call Steve Cross at 636-458-3287.

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**FLIGHT LINES** is the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club newsletter and is published on a monthly basis. Club members may submit personal classified ads for inclusion in the newsletter free of charge. Businesses wishing to advertise in the newsletter should contact the editor or an officer of the club for details.

### **Newsletter Editor:**

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**Newsletter submissions** must be in by the Monday following the club meeting in order to make publishing deadlines. The preferred format for article submission is via e-mail. I have Macintosh and PC computers and use QuarkXpress and Microsoft Word, so send the copy as the e-mail message (not an enclosure) to avoid cross-platform or incompatible software problems if you don't have the same equipment and software. Typed or clearly written copy on paper or, a Word or Word for Windows file on a 3.5 inch 1.44MB floppy disk are acceptable if

you don't have access to the internet. Photos are welcome and may be in the form of glossy prints or, if scanned or digital, in jpeg, gif or tif format.

**General Membership** meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the Bridgeton Trails County Library Branch, 3455 McKelvey Rd. (1/4 mi. south of St. Charles Rock Road) at 7:00 P.M.

**Membership information** can be obtained from:

Bill Lindewirth  
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Florissant, MO 63031  
Phone number (314) 839-0282  
e-mail: [MrBillSTL@aol.com](mailto:MrBillSTL@aol.com)

**Flying Field:** Our field is located on Amrein Road, off Greens Bottom Road in St. Charles County. It's open for flying from 9:00 A.M. to dusk. Flight training is still available on Saturday mornings from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.