



FLIGHT LINES

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

Field Work Is In Progress

President's Notes:

By *Eric Langston*

Finally, our first event of the year is in the books. The Swap Meet was a success, with each club clearing just over \$1000 after expenses were paid. My thanks go out to Anna Nolle and Doug Thompson for taking on the CD job for our club on this event. To show that hobby shop owners are real people too, Anna was taking calls past 8:00 P.M. Friday night with people wanting to reserve tables for Saturday morning. As usual there were people lined up at least two hours before opening time to get in. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked the event, and did a great job with the confusing effort of letting everybody in at the correct times. I did not get everybody's name that worked, so I will just put out a BIG THANK YOU to all who did. We did have some people lie to us and get in early with personal stuff when it was only supposed to be the hobby shops time to set up. But, on the whole, everyone did a great job. Thanks for coming to the event and supporting our club. If you need something to keep you busy during the week, Please contact Anna about helping at the field. Since we had the runway backfilled, we still have some work to be done. (And yes, I know there are still a couple of spots that fill with water during heavy rains) These spots are being worked on to get them to drain. Also, our 4x4 vandal is back. Last week, after the rain, someone took to four-wheeling in the mud on our field. They left some big ruts in the areas that were already smoothed out. If anybody sees someone on the field doing damage with their vehicle, PLEASE call the sheriff's office. Everybody please close the gate if you are the last to leave. Maybe we can put an end to the damage. Until next month, go fly, bring your planes to the meetings to show, and keep your fingers out of the CA. *Serving you, Eric*

Meeting Minutes: March 14, 2001

By *Walt Wilson*

President Eric Langston called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Members present: 33. **Guests present:** 4. Two new member applicants and two ex-members, who are coming back, were present.

Mark Been	636-928-0757
Willie Blanchard	314-389-3203
Kevin Klaas	618-576-9295
Victoria Klaas	618-576-9295

The members present voted unanimously to accept the new members.

REPORTS:

Secretary's Report: Accepted as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: There was a discussion about applying for credit cards for officers, the newsletter editor and chair people who have frequent needs to spend club money. This would eliminate these people having to invest their own money and wait for reimbursement. This problem came up initially because it is required that a credit card be presented for payment of our web site costs. There are some problems involved in getting a club credit card account. Vice President Steve Cross will pursue the matter. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Field Report: Anna Nolle reported that the field has been leveled (see page three). She is in the process of dragging the remaining bean residue and smoothing the remaining irregularities in the field. This is a time-consuming process and tractor-driving help would be appreciated. When the dragging is completed, we can have grass planted.

Pavilion: The contractor had some initial

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difficulty getting the necessary permit. Since the weather was less than ideal, he went on to other more pressing projects. Eric reminded him that we have paid half of the cost and expect him to get the job done ASAP now that the weather is better. He is to acquire the permit and start the project within the week.

Safety report: Doug Thompson reminded everyone that when using gasoline for fuel, a fire extinguisher is to be present. He showed a fuel caddy he built that carries it all (see the photo below). There was discussion about which way the planes should be pointed when starting them in the pit areas. They should always be pointed away from the spectators and cars. At least, when starting, point them in a direction where they will do the least damage if accidentally released.

Activities Report: President Eric has been communicating with Don Ware of the Rolla R/C Club about the proposed racing series. Both Four-Star 40's and Silver Class Warbirds will race on each date. Paul Geders moved to accept the schedule and Frank Nolle seconded. The unanimously approved scheduled racing dates are as follows:

May 5	Rolla
June 16	Spirits Field
July 22	Rolla
August 11	Spirits Field
September 15	Rolla
October 6	Spirits Field

All of the dates are Saturdays. In case of rain, the event will be on Sunday, the next day.

There will also be other Spirits Fun Flies, Fly-In's, etc. throughout this year. The dates are to be determined.

Training Program: Steve Ramonczuk says the training program will start as soon as the weather is improved and reasonably reliable.

FLIGHT TRAINING

The Spirits' Flight Training program will resume on Saturday, April 14, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

If you have any questions or want to help, call Steve Ramonczuk at:
314-298-9284

GSLMA Report: Pat Keebey elaborated upon points covered in the GSLMA minutes (see page 4). He also reminded people that sending for a Buder permit will help support the need for a public flying field in the St. Louis County area.

OLD BUSINESS:

Swap Meet: Doug Thompson had the Futaba 8-channel computer radio for the raffle prize. Anna Nolle announced that she was getting calls from throughout the mid-west, and as far away as Georgia, inquiring about the Swap Meet. There are still some time slots where workers are needed. The Boeing club, which is handling the refreshments, found that it is now necessary to hire a professional caterer because of the need for Hepatitis B shots. Anyone who has not had the shots cannot handle food or drinks for this event. This will affect the prices of food and drinks and may reduce the income from the event.



Safety Chairman Doug Thompson shows a fuel caddy he designed to hold gasoline, fire extinguisher and a six-shooter fuel pump. A fire extinguisher is recommended when using gasoline for fuel.

Bylaw Update: Paul Geders called Carl Mahoney and inquired as to where we stand. Carl said the bylaws have been bouncing between the lawyers in Cincinnati and St. Louis. We should receive their comments before the next meeting.

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Fuel Container: Pat Keebey provided a bid from a contractor to build a shelter on site for \$700.00. Anna found a Rubbermaid box big enough to do the job for \$109.00. We will go with the Rubbermaid box.

Introductory Pilot Program: It was decided not to pursue the Introductory Pilot Program since our bylaws require all trainees to be AMA members. *It is permissible to give a visitor one introductory flight, using a member's plane and buddy box without the visitor being a member of AMA. This should cover most introductory situations we will encounter. If someone wants to take part in our pilot training program, he or she must join AMA.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Board of Director Position: Due to other commitments, Past President Nick Speraneo has found he doesn't have time to serve on the Spirits' Board of Directors. Paul Geders, who was President before Nick, has assumed that position with unanimous approval of the members at the meeting.



Mike Roederer shows his ten-year old Goldberg Ultimate Bipe. He's worn out an O.S. .61 SF, rebuilt it, and run another 15 gallons or so, of fuel through it in this plane. It's still covered with the original Ultrakote and has had the cowl replaced twice. Needless to say, it's a great flyer!

Meeting Activity: Bill Hancock passed out flyers inviting Spirits members to participate in the Wright Flyers Annual Float Fly on Memorial Day weekend. He also showed a video of the Skymasters R/C Club Annual Float Fly in Michigan.

Mike Roederer showed his Goldberg Ultimate Bipe.

Don Fitch displayed a use for old soda bottles. They are practically indestructible and can be used for storage of small quantities of thinners, solvents, etc. It was noted that many of these chemicals come in large containers and are much easier to handle in these soda bottles.

Attendance Prize: Claud Wade won the drawing for a gallon of fuel.

Meeting Was Adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

GSLMA MINUTES: MARCH 7, 2001 MEETING

By Pat Keebey

Attendance: All clubs present except Balsa Busters, Lone Eagles and MVSA.

Treasurers Report: Field Fund \$2088.42. A big Thank You to the Signal Chasers and Thermalleers who each donated \$100 to the GSLMA 2001 budget.

Committee Report: *Ron Carr*

Stunt/Racing contest for February 25th was cancelled due to high winds.

Field Report:

A. New fence at R/C area is almost complete on one side of walkway. The fence is being replaced by the Parks Department and looks great!

B. Control line circles have been painted.

C. For parking on special events. Use your own judgment as to the condition of the ground.

D. Clubs will get together to pick up any trash.

Old Business:

A. Mall Show: March 10 and 24 were dates offered for the Mall. Neither of these dates was acceptable. March 10 was too soon and March 24 is the Boeing/Spirits Swap Meet. The Mall did not have a central display area and intended to spread the show throughout the mall. This would make it very difficult for security. The Mall Show is on hold until other Mall's can be contacted for a more suitable arrangement.

B. Air Show: September 15 has been selected for an Air Show at the Buder Park facility. It will be for charity and plans will be worked out in the next couple of months. Discussed having only the best flyers from each club participate.

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Each club will develop a flight program and be allotted approximately 1/2 hour to one hour to present program. Also discussed selling chances for spectators to fly with a "Buddy Box" for a 10 minutes flight several times each day. Do any of the clubs have ideas that they would like to submit?

C. Discussed reserved contest dates for the Buder Park facility.

D. Buder Permits are now 206.

E. AMA membership is up 5%.

F. Discussed rule changes for future model engines-might be more restrictions in the future due to pollution.

G. Cannot fly turbine engines unless a safety barrier is set-up between pit area and runway

Meeting adjourned: The next meeting will be April 4, 2001 at 8:30 P.M. in the East Room at the St. Louis County Library on South Lindbergh.

Work Starts on Completion of the Field

By Walt Wilson

On March 11, the ground was finally dry enough to get the work on the field started. The contractor, engaged by President Eric Langston, brought a full-size earthmover and Bobcat to the field and did some of the leveling work we've been waiting for, ever since the beans were harvested. The use of this heavy and professional equipment accomplished in one day what would have taken our members a large part of the spring, and many hours of labor.

Now, if you run off the runway, the plane won't fall into a hole or hit large pieces of rock and asphalt. As soon as our trusty Field Marshall and crew can drag the rest of the bean residue away, grass can be planted. If you can help with the dragging or grass cutting (when we have grass), call Anna Nolle at 314-298-8664.



This Bobcat was used for further smoothing the dirt along the edges of the asphalt.



This earthmover was used to push the dirt around to level the ground around the runway and pits as well as fill a couple of low places.



Frank Nolle used the Kabota to smooth places where the larger equipment couldn't maneuver.

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Now, the runway, pits and walkways and the adjoining dirt blend into a smooth transition. If a plane rolls off the runway it'll just keep rolling with little likelihood of damage.

Mid-Missouri Pylon Racing

By Don Ware, Rolla R/C Club

On Saturday, May 5th, the 2001 Pylon Racing season will be officially under way! This will be a first for this area with the Rolla Modelers and the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Clubs working together to promote a great summer of exciting, competitive racing. I hope you are planning now to join in on the FUN!!

We are going to attempt to have this newsletter go out once a month or at least every other month as a way to update those interested in Pylon Racing. If you know of someone who is not on this mailing list and would like to be, please let me know. Or, if you prefer not to be on the list, let me know as well.

Racing Dates:

May 5th	Vichy 10 AM
	Season Opener, CD Don Ware
June 16th	Spirits Field
July 22nd	Vichy Noon
August 11th	Spirits Field
Sept. 15 th	Vichy 10 AM
Oct. 6th	Spirits Field
	One day Championship

There's been a lot of talk about wanting some racing to get going again. Now here are two clubs hosting a series of six races where four of the events will count toward the total points for the year. This is a great time to support these events! If you enjoy racing, come join us for some fun!

If you fly all six events, that's great! Your four highest scores will count for your total (unless you ask me to count a lower score, of course!). All this is in hopes to have people travel to the

other host club at least once. Who knows, sometimes we've all done better flying at a different field.

One very important question was brought up: Is it mandatory to be at the Championship Race in October to qualify for the 2001 Points Champion? After a lot of thought, I would have to say "yes". I know there will be disagreement, but here's our reasoning. This is to be our Grand Finale after racing all summer. We do want it to be a large event. But just as important, how many times have we seen the scores so close there was a tie or a fly-off required. And it would really take some excitement out of it all if our winners weren't there to accept their prizes, trophies, etc. If it would happen that a pilot was winning and not able to be at the Final Race because of illness or family emergency, I don't believe anyone would deny that person the Championship, but let's hope that's never the case for anyone.

We have gathered together some local companies to help "sponsor" our racing. It appears we will have \$800 to \$1000 in prize money to be given away (in kits, engines, etc.) and this doesn't add in the entry fees to be collected. We are going to make every effort to make this racing fun and at the same time rewarding.

A plan is under way to have drawings for the top 4 or 5 places in each race. A list of our sponsors will be published in a future newsletter.

RACE RULES: A couple of new ones!

1: Flying Starts If a pilot's plane crosses the start line, before the horn to signify the start of the race, a "cut" will be issued. Only one point can be awarded for finishing the 10 laps. A landing bonus point is still possible.

2: Same as last year Two cuts and the pilot will be instructed to pull up and out of the race course. If a pilot refuses to do so, they will be given one warning. If they are still on the race course and cause a mishap with another racer, they will be immediately disqualified with possible disqualification for the remainder of the year.

All races are planned to be run with both the Four-Star Event and the Silver Class Warbirds. If you need any rules, please give me a call or an e-mail. Four-Stars are to be STOCK. Wing thickness will be checked, along with tire size. Engines are to be stock. This means engine shims left in, mufflers not modified, stock carbs

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and needle valves used, etc. Remember, there is an RPM rule and if an engine is suspected, it will be checked. Complete rules for Four-Star 40 and Warbird racing are available on the Spirits' web site at: <http://www.spiritsofstl.com>

The Four-Star class is a "fun class" to help encourage people to race and learn more about racing. If anyone has an attitude to win at any cost, they NEED to be racing in another class or somewhere else (Enough of my soapbox).

The 2001 Contest Coordinator for the Rolla Modelers is Bryan Ralls. If you have a question you will see his e-mail address listed with this group. His phone number is: 573-364-3025.

Steve Ramonczuk is the Spirits Contest Chairman and can be reached at: 314-298-9284. On April 21st (Saturday), I am planning on having a practice day of racing at the Vichy site. As we get closer to the date, we'll see what the weather is like. This will be open to anyone to see how the pylons are set up, the distances, the starting procedure and any other questions that need to be addressed. No hard racing to intimidate anyone. We want those planes ready for the real racing!

Bryan is helping set up a Race Web page, so we'll get more information out as time goes along. This will have race dates listed as well as racing scores and points throughout the season. Should be fun.

We are going to try and encourage pre-registration this year. Pre-registration will be considered up to seven days before the scheduled event and will cost \$10 per plane/per event. After that it will be \$15 per event. We would like to encourage everyone to fly both events. As before, we will most likely fly a couple of rounds of one class, then change to the other class being raced.

Hopefully, this answers some questions for people. As you can tell, I am very excited about our racing for 2001 and joining forces with both

these clubs. It will be great flying and racing with a lot of old friends and meeting new ones. This letter at this time is only going out as an e-mail. Feel free to print it and if we have some who would like to have a mailed copy, just have them let me know.

So let's be ready for the races! It's going to get here quickly!

The Last Word:

By Walt Wilson

Well, it's showtime, folks! I went out for my first flying session of the season last Wednesday. The weather was beautiful, except for a gusting 10 to 15 mph wind that moved around from due north (cross-wind) while we were taking off and landing, to east, while we were flying. Then it would die down while we were fueling up! It was a very pleasant experience anyway. The first flight after a long layoff is usually a little white-knuckled, but these were fun from the first take-off. Russ Kuhn, Ozzie Barron and Lee Volmert were flying at the same time. All flew without any problems, except the crosswind take-offs and landings for the ones flying trainer-type planes.

It was the first time this year for all but Lee. As I'm writing this, I just came home from the 2001 Spirits/Boeing Swap Meet. It was a great success with over 500 attendees to sell, buy, kibitz, or just visit old friends. We could have used a room twice as big as the one we had, but that may have taken away some of the atmosphere. This is as much an inter-club social event as a business venture. One gentleman introduced himself who belonged to a Control Line club, called the Vultures, that I helped form 48 years ago. I'll have an article on the Swap Meet, with pictures, in the next issue of Flight Lines.

Gotta go build

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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.

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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
1046 Pinecone Trail Drive
Florissant, MO 63031
Phone number (314) 839-0282
e-mail: MrBillSTL@aol.com

Flying Field: Our new field is located on Amrein Road, off Greens Bottom Road in St. Charles County. Field development is still in work. Grass will be planted shortly.