



FLIGHT LINES

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

HOT-HOT-HOT-FUN-FLY

June 22, 2002: It was one of the hottest days of the summer at 94 miserable degrees, with a hazy sky. The pavilion was a much more popular place than the flight line. In spite of the heat, much of the time there were five or six planes airborne. Flyers did their own thing, from aerobatics to just putting around, and most got

in the maximum number of five flights to draw a prize-winning gumball for each one. Each color was worth a different number of points to be determined when everyone had attained the minimum number of three flights. The flyer with the highest number of points got to pick his prize first, etc.



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Steve Cross was the first place winner with 20 points. Everyone received a prize of some kind. There were only three crashes, with all the planes being rebuildable. Most participants had a good time in spite of the discomfort. Frank Nolle did a great job of putting the event together. This is a very popular type of event with low pressure and no specific maneuvers to be performed, except taking off and flying.

More photos of this event are available in the Photo Gallery on the Spirits' web site at: www.spiritsofstl.com

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President's Notes:

By Steve Cross

Can you believe it is mid-July already?? Summer is flying by (pun intended) and the temperatures at the field lately sure let you know it's summer. But, at least the wind has finally died down! Did you get a chance to join in on our last two club activities? The Gum Ball Fun-Fly was just that, a lot of fun. The attendance was great, everyone got to fly numerous times, and the prizes were first rate! Thanks to Frank Nolle for a great job in organizing and running this event. Then, one week later, we had a great time with the Cub Scouts. Everyone got some stick time, including most of the Leaders. As usual, the sandwiches and drinks they brought for us were polished off in short order!

Our next event is another Four-Star-40/Warbird race on August 17. Steve Ramonczuk and Lee Volmert are running this event and they are looking for racers and workers. There will be cash prizes for the flyers and the workers will have a chance to win a really cool transmitter case! Let Steve or Lee know if you will be flying or can help in any way. Please enjoy yourself flying on our first class field, but always keep safety in mind. This time of year, that means watching out for heat exhaustion. Please make sure you bring lots of fluids with you to the field and try to get in the shade every once in a while. **Don't fly alone!**

One last thing, a member recently said that our club was boring. Even though we now have people flying helicopters, we have folks flying gliders and I even saw one member flying an electric plane during the Gum Ball Fun-Fly. Do you feel our club is boring? Do you think we should be doing more or different activities? If you feel this way, then speak up! Let the Board know what you would like to see different. E-mail us, or better yet, come to one of the meetings and let your voice be heard. If you want to see some changes, then suggest them and help implement them!

*See you at the field,
Steve Cross*

Meeting Minutes: May 8, 2002

By Walt Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Steve Cross.

Members signed in: 25 members and three applicants.

Secretary's Report: The June minutes were accepted as published in the July Flight Lines.

Treasurer's Report: The property where our field is located has been reassessed and the real estate taxes have gone up considerably. In accordance with the lease, we are obliged to pay the difference in taxes that resulted from our property improvements. It's too late to appeal the increase this year, but we will try next year. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Field Report: George Cooper read the Field Report as published, starting on page seven. We have not pursued adding garage doors to the barn, since the vandalism has stopped.

Safety Report: As the result of a crash at the Fun-Fly, the Board of Directors has had lengthy discussions about protective fences for the pavilion. After much debate, it was decided that it is not possible to put up fences that would protect everyone who may be in the pavilion, pits and parking lot from potentially errant planes. It was decided to not put up any more fencing. We all know we have a potentially dangerous sport. It is incumbent upon everyone to be aware of what is going on around them and warn others if there is a potential threat from an erratically flying plane.

Helicopters are to fly in the same areas and under the same rules as fixed-wing aircraft. There was discussion about a pad for hovering only, to be located a minimum of 100 feet west of the pavilion. Since this would be behind the established "safety line" along the runway, Paul Geders will call Carl Mahoney at AMA regarding the safety issues.

Activities Report:

June 22 Fun-Fly: It was a very hot day, but we had a great turnout. See page one for a full report and photographs.

June 29 Cub Scout Demonstration: It was another hot day, but everything went without a hitch. See page five for a full report and photos.

August 17 Warbirds and Four-Star 40 Races: This will be a "Cash Bash". The workers will have a drawing for a Task Force aluminum transmitter box, which also includes a tool kit. Lee Volmert also proposed that shade be provided for the lap counters and pylon judges. Lee has some ideas and will come up with something to fill the bill.

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Silver Swallows Air Show: Walt Wilson is meeting with the Board of Directors for the Silver Swallows to discuss the area at Smartt field where we can fly for the September 14 Air Show. He asked the members who would be flying that day to accompany him.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mall Show Pins: Les Richman presented the last of the AMA Mall Show pins for participation in the January 12 Chesterfield show to Jerry Quist and Bob Rolf.

Caps: Pat Keebey priced caps from the supplier who has made them for us in the past. Silk-screened caps are \$5.50 each with a minimum order of two dozen. The same caps with embroidered logos are \$9.00 each. Eric Langston can provide embroidered caps for \$5.50 each and has delivered the quantity of caps required for our present commitments. If you would like to order one, contact Steve Cross who will compile a future order.



New members approved at the meeting are: Dave Brewster, Brad Brewster, John Cange, Scott Cange (not in picture), Glayden Smith and Mike Reigle. Welcome to the Spirits!

NEW BUSINESS:

Sighting Device: Don Fitch proposed that he build a sighting device to be located at the pilots' box for finding lost planes in corn or beans. Steve Ramonczuk made a motion to accept and it was passed unanimously.

R/C TV: It was noted that the DIY channel, available on cable and by satellite, has a weekly R/C show hosted by Chris Chianelli of Model Airplane News.



Steve Ramonczuk gave a technical presentation on types of radios and their relative efficiency and resistance to interference. The presentation was cut short by time limitations, but was very interesting and informative.

New Members: Two new members and three applicants introduced themselves. Another applicant was not present.

Dave Brewster	636-939-2702
Brad Brewster	636-939-2702
Glaydon Smith	314-830-3219
Mike Reigle	314-427-3115
John Cange	636-441-2228
Scott Cange (not present)	636-441-2228

The new members were accepted unanimously.

Eagle Scout Project: Members of Eric Langston's Boy Scout Troop proposed that they build six plane-restraining workbenches for the Spirits as a project to help meet qualifications as Eagle Scouts. The benches would be built to the design published in Model Aviation magazine recently and there would be no cost to our club. The Scouts would raise money for the project with car washes and through donations, etc. Since the proposal was made, George Cooper has designed a bench that many feel would better fill our needs and cost less. There was a discussion regarding theft and safety issues if people move the benches into unauthorized areas. Don Fitch moved to accept the proposal and it was passed unanimously. The Scouts still

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are required to get permission from their Leaders.



George Cooper, who seems to build at least one airplane per month, showed his Hobby Hanger Fokker D-7. It was given to him, partly built, at a meeting earlier this year. It has a K&B .40 for power and looks great.



Jim Rawlings holds a Sig Astro Hog he built for Don Fitch. It has a Saito .80 Four-Stroke up front and looks like a great flyer.

MEETING ACTIVITY:

Steve Ramoncuk gave a presentation about the factors that make radios more or less efficient or susceptible to interference. Meeting business ran long and his presentation was cut short by time limitations. He explained how the radio signals are transmitted and what may cause problems. The gist of it was that AM radios are least desirable, FM is better, FM with dual conversion receivers are much better and PCM radios are best, if you want to spend the money.

He had an oscilloscope along with very detailed handouts and deserved much more time to present his material.

Members brought two planes for show and discussion. See the photos for details.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Props V.S. Hands

By Walt Wilson

It's happened before and it'll happen again! On the day after the Fun-Fly, another member had a momentary instance of brain fade and reached for something through the prop's arc. He suffered serious cuts, lost lots of blood, and had to go to the ER for repairs. This has happened many times through the years, sometimes with serious results. I did it five years ago. It can happen to anyone who has a momentary lapse of attention. Some flyers sand the flashing off the edges of their plastic props to cut down on possible cuts when hand-starting their engines. They also believe that this will reduce the severity of cuts if you should be unfortunate enough to stick your hand into a prop. I have had a lot of cuts from props in 56 years of playing with model gas engines, some severe. If you stick your hand or fingers into a running engine's propeller, you are going to get badly hurt, wood or plastic, flashing or no flashing!

BE CAREFUL WHEN YOUR ENGINE IS RUNNING. DO NOT LET ANY PART OF YOUR FACE, BODY, OR EXTREMITIES GET NEAR THAT PROPELLER! DO NOT ALLOW FOREIGN OBJECTS (rags, paper towels, etc.) TO BE SUCKED INTO THE PROPELLER, THEY MAY BE THROWN IN ANY DIRECTION AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED! FLY SAFELY!! NEVER FLY ALONE!

SPIRITS ENTERTAIN CUB SCOUTS

June 29, 2002

By Walt Wilson

The Spirits hosted a demonstration and flight introduction for Cub Scout Pack 593, from Rossman School in Town and Country, Missouri. Les Richman, who is Assistant District Commissioner for the New Horizons District, St. Louis Council of the Boy Scouts of America, as well as the Spirits' Treasurer, was Event Director. Spirits' members had about twenty planes and helicopters for flight demonstrations and static display. Ralph Amelung,

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Darren Deatz, Randy Savage and Paul Geders put on flight demonstrations. Les told the Scouts and Leaders about how Radio Control Aircraft work and about the hobby generally. Mike Lindsey put on an aerobatic helicopter demonstration and gave a talk about how helicopters fly and are controlled. The Cub Scout Pack provided lunch and soft drinks for all Spirits involved, which was very much appreciated.



Mike Roederer donated a gallon of fuel for the club trainer, to be used for the introductory flights, which is also very much appreciated. Each Cub Scout was given a chance to fly one of four trainers made available by Les Richman, Randy Savage, Vic Bunze and the club trainer maintained by Steve Ramoncuk. Gene Jones, Steve Cross, George Cooper and Les Richman assisted the Cubs in controlling the planes with buddy boxes while the plane owners manned the master transmitters. The full day's flying was completed with no crashes or casualties. Thank you to all who participated; this is what it's all about!



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JULY FIELD REPORT

By George Cooper, Field Chairman

The big effort this month has been against vandalism. In four occurrences, they left the switch on one Farmall on and ran down the battery two weeks in a row, opened the grease guns and spread grease all over, stole the old post-hole digger, and finally got into the gas locker, stole much gas and used the rest to start three fires in the area, one in the barn right behind the Kubota. Mr. Ostmann was notified and when informed of the fires he became very interested and paid a visit to the rental farmhouse, informing them that no more vandalism would be tolerated. I had the Sheriff out the next day and with the Deputy we also talked to the mother of the kids in the farmhouse. She really got the message, said Ostmann had threatened eviction and since that day we have had no more problems. Surprisingly, the old post-hole digger even was returned!

To prevent any more theft and/or putting something in the fuel tanks, I welded tabs on the tractor fuel caps and they are now locked. Also, I put a steel plate on the fuel locker so the plastic locking tab couldn't be cut off and it is also locked. The Kubota key, the tractor cap key, and the grease guns are now all locked up in the fuel locker. I also installed a hidden ignition switch on the Farmall with the pull ignition switch. It has to be on as well as the pull switch, and shut off after parking the tractor. All mowing team leaders should by now know about the locking and the combinations and the hidden ignition switch. If anyone is in doubt, please call me ahead of your mowing date for details. The grass growth is slowing down, but still needs weekly mowing. It always looks much improved after it is mowed so, mowing teams, keep up the good work! Everyone appreciates a good-looking field and the planes now roll easily off and back on the runway. (The Lawnboy should be used for a cut or two all around the runway for best plane access).

The parking lot and driveway is growing a lot of weeds, so many that they can't be controlled by hand spraying. I contacted the farmer about spraying with "Roundup" from his tractor sprayer, but they are so busy right now they aren't very interested and it takes a lot of preparation and washing of the sprayer for just a little job. If we are interested in cleaning up the area and making it look good, we should

consider buying our own powered sprayer and Roundup. It would not be cheap, around \$300 for a sprayer and Roundup at maybe \$200 per season, spraying about every month. It would also control weeds around the posts and boundary markers making mowing easier and less weed eating. The decision is up to the membership.

George Cooper, Field Chairman



Randy and Melinda Savage prep their Sig Kadet for flight. An O.S. .25 LA pulls it very capably!



Ernie Wattam fires up the Tiger Shark .40 powering his Hobbico Easy Fly 40.



Vic Bunze tunes the Saito 72 in his Aresti 40.

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Lee Volmert runs up the Rossi .60 in his P-51. He bought the plane from Don Ware when in Rolla for a Fun-Fly.

The Last Word

By Walt Wilson

The weather is still breathlessly hot, but some Spirits will fly regardless. If you choose to fly in these conditions, take plenty of water with you and wear a wide-brimmed hat or other headgear to help keep the sun off. The temperature on the asphalt in the pits can be much higher than in grassy areas or the pavilion. Take a break and cool down after each flight. It's a hobby; don't kill yourself just to get to fly!

We've had a lot of activities so far this year and it doesn't look like it's going to slow down much until November. Our membership is growing as word is getting around about what a great club and field we have.

It has been suggested that our club has grown stagnant since all we do is Warbird and Four-Star 40 Races, have Fun Flies, Open Houses, Mall Shows, Air Shows, and demonstrations for Boy Scouts as well as run a full-service training program. We have more organized activities and contests than most R/C clubs. But, in case you're bored, our President has issued a challenge: What other activities would you suggest the Spirits put on or take part in? Call your favorite Board Member or come to the next meeting and let us know.

Gotta Go Build!

Airplane Trailer For Sale

This special-built trailer will hold a seven (7) foot wing span plane, plus wings and field box.

It's fully padded, lined with rug material and has tie-downs. It's licensed, inspected and titled. It includes lights, U-Haul plug, fits a 1-7/8 inch ball and has a spare wheel and tire. I'll take \$350.00 for it.

Call Les Richman at 314-434-8080 or e-mail at: citabria77@aol.com.

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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. Photo credits will be given.

General Membership meetings are on 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 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.