



FLIGHT LINES

The Monthly Newsletter of The Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club, Inc.

FUN FLY COMING ON MAY 17

April 12 Race Has Great Turnout



More racing pictures on page five

FLIGHT LINES

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

By Steve Cross

In the last newsletter I thanked everyone who helped at the Swap Meet, and singled out several individuals that went "above and beyond". One person I failed to mention is Ken Brock. Ken personally took care of purchasing all the soda, water and ice, as well as gathering and filling all the ice chests, the morning of the Swap Meet. Ken is one of a small group of club members that always volunteer to help where needed, from the Open House to the Swap Meet, and do so almost without being noticed. Well Ken, we do notice, and want to say 'Thank You' for all your help to the club.

Last Saturday was our first Four-Star 40/Warbirds race and was the official start of the new flying season. Hope you had a chance to attend, as we had a large contingent of participants and plenty of very competitive flying. And there were some really cool prizes for the flyers and the workers. Thanks to Paul Geders for C.D.ing this event, and to everyone who helped set up the field, served as a lap counter or cut judge, or helped a pilot as his plane handler and caller. Without these folks, we wouldn't be able to have the race at all. One of the workers, Bob Gizzie, had his named pulled out of a hat and won a Dremel Tool. So mark your calendar now to come out to our next race on June 14. You'll have a great time and might take home a fantastic prize!

Don't forget our two events coming up in May. On May 17 we have a Fun Fly and on May 24 we are holding a "Learn to Fly" day for several youth groups. Both events will be a lot of fun, so come out, help, participate, and show why we have the best club in the area. For more details on these two events, be sure to check our website.

See you at the field!
Steve Cross

MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 9, 2003

By Walt Wilson

Members signed in: Twenty-four members and five new member applicants were present.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were accepted as published in last month's Flight Lines.

Treasurer's Report: Les Richman received a four-page report on the Swap Meet financial results from Ralph Amelung. We had the most profitable Swap Meet in recent memory. The concession stand reported a 95% profit. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Field Report: George Cooper read his Field Report as included on page four. The mowing crews have been formed and their scheduled mowing dates are on page eight.

Safety Report: No issues were reported.

Activities Report:

Swap Meet: The Swap Meet was a great success. The Boeing people were very impressed with the Spirits' concession effort. As previously mentioned, it was the most profitable Swap Meet in recent memory.

Warbirds/Four-Star 40 Races April 12: C.D. Paul Geders reports that, for the first time in more than a year, Warbirds will be competing again! The turnout is expected to be good and there will be very nice prizes for both competitors and workers. As with all events this year, entry is free (Results are on page seven).

Fun-Fly May 17: Pat Keebey has several new events planned. Fun-Flys are usually well attended and we have great prizes. The planned events are listed, again, on page nine. Again, entry is free.

Learn to Fly Day, May 24: Cub Scout Den 965 from Monroe Elementary School in St. Charles is to be introduced to the thrills of Radio Control Flying. Another Scout group may attend, too.

Float Fly May 24: The Wright Flyers, from Innsbrook, Missouri, are having their Annual Float Fly on May 24. There will be a practice day on May 10. Several Spirits members regularly attend and have a good time. For more info, see Bill Hancock or call Don Vetrone at 636-745-3241.

OLD BUSINESS:

AMA Walk of Fame brick: It was decided at a previous meeting to purchase a brick in the AMA Walk of Fame at AMA headquarters, in Muncie, Indiana. The lettering is limited to fourteen characters on each of two lines. Our brick will say:

**"Spirits of STL
RC Flying Club"**

NEW BUSINESS:

Electric Wires: Bob Fiely asked about the possibility of burying the electrical cables along Amrein Road. President Steve Cross has inquired about this. Because we are in a flood plain, the wires cannot be buried. Markers have been added to the wires, but are very small. Members are reminded that flying over Amrein Road is to be avoided, if possible.

Steve also investigated getting electricity to the pavilion. It could cost as much as \$5,000.00. It was decided that we don't need electricity that badly. We have a gas generator available if needed, but it has been used very little except for tractor maintenance.

Taxes: Last year our part of the real estate taxes for our field soared to \$1306.00. Steve Cross contacted St. Charles County officials and arranged for it to be reduced to \$650.00, subject to tax rate fluctuations. Great job Steve!

(Continued on the next page)

FLIGHT LINES

New Member Applicants:

Name	Phone Number
John Pallett	636-240-3233
Gary Welch	636-387-0464
Robert Clark	636-477-8103
John Deshields	314-652-4019
Mark Richard	636-926-3714

All were unanimously accepted by the members present.
 All submitted their applications and paid their dues, on the spot. *(Continued on the next page)*



WALT WILSON PHOTOS

New members John Pallett, Gary Welch, Robert Clark, John Deshields and Mark Richard. Welcome to the Spirits!



Steve Cross with his Great Planes Ultra Sport 40. It's powered by an O.S. .46 FX and flies very well.



CAROLYN SCHLUETER PHOTO

Bob Fiely holds his Global Cutlass 45. It's powered by a Thunder Tiger .61. Bob hadn't flown it at meeting time, he's waiting for less windy days.



WALT WILSON PHOTO

Walt Wilson tells about his VQ Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk. The kit, made in Viet Nam, is an ARF and includes installed retracts and flaps. It has eight servos and is powered by a Super Tigre .90. The ARF is all wood and very well built. The covering includes weathering and simulated chipped paint. Markings are Nationalist Chinese Flying Tigers. It's a kit review for RC Modeler Magazine. Some further adjustments remained to be completed before it would be ready to fly.

FLIGHT LINES

(Continued from the previous page)

Steve explained that new members may fly as guests up to four times prior to receiving their membership cards. Guests are required to be accompanied by a responsible Spirits' member. It was also noted that new flyers, with new airplanes, should have them inspected by an experienced flyer when entering our training program or before any attempt is made to fly. ***Inexperienced flyers should never attempt to fly without an Instructor or an experienced flyer to assist them.***

It was suggested that temporary membership cards, with a time limit, be issued to new members who pay their dues at a meeting, by officers who are present at the meetings. These cards will prove membership and allow them to fly as members until permanent cards are issued. The proposal was accepted and will be implemented as soon as such cards can be made available.

Meeting Activity: Three members brought planes for display and discussion. See the photos on page three for details.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.



The first mowing crew of the year! Willie Blanchard, Chris Reed, Ozzie Barron and George Cooper turned out on April 11, 2003 to get the field in good condition for the races the following day. Great job, guys!

FEBRUARY 2003 FIELD REPORT

By George Cooper

Pat Keebey and I changed the oil and filters in all the tractors and sharpened the mowers. They are all ready for the mowing season.

I mowed the infield and around the runway on March 27. On April 4, Art Frost and Pat Keebey assisted and we mowed the whole field for the first time this year. Thanks to them for this extra mowing chore.

We have enough mowing volunteers for eight teams this

year. Regular mowing starts this weekend, April 12. Mowing assignment lists are being passed out at the meeting, or will be mailed if you didn't attend. Team Leaders, be sure to check with your members ahead of time to be sure they remember and will be there on time. Instruction sheets are being sent with the lists.

We all owe these 29 people a "thank you" for keeping the field cut for our flying pleasure.

George Cooper, Field Chairman

Safety Report:

By Ralph Amelung

As most of you know by now, Don Fitch has donated a field work bench similar to those discussed last year that were to be built by Eagle Scout candidates. The Scout benches never came to fruition. Don came through, donated the bench to the Spirits, and has invited members to feel free to use the bench in his absence. Thanks Don!

Now on to SAFETY. Let's be clear that whenever we enter a new environment with a propeller spinning at 10,000 to 16,000 RPM, we need to exercise caution. Work tables are fine, provided one has familiarized his or herself with the new environment. Don and many others in this club are

used to using various portable tables/stands or benches. They have adapted their field equipment to work with the difference in height. Power panels, fueling hoses and starter cord lengths all figure into the equation.

My point is this. If you yield to the temptation to use the table (it is attractive) be sure to do a thorough "walk through" (engine not running) to see if your field equipment is compatible.

I've been told that using the table (or different equipment) is kind of like the first time you tried to walk in high heels. It is difficult at first.

Be Careful Out There!

Right: Don Fitch donated this starting table for members with physical limitations who must start and work on their planes without kneeling. It's reserved for Don when he's flying.



WALT WILSON PHOTO

FLIGHT LINES

More April 12 Racing Pictures



Visiting Cub Scouts and Leaders



WALT WILSON PHOTOS

FLIGHT LINES



CAROLYN SCHLUETER PHOTO



Complete race results are on the next page.

FLIGHT LINES

April 12 Four-Star 40 and Warbirds Race Results

Four-Star 40 Contestant		ROUND 1		ROUND 2		ROUND 3		ROUND 4		ROUND 5		TOTALS	Finish
		Time	Pts										
1	Steve Cross		3	2 Cuts	0		2		4		4	13	7
2	Steve Ramonczuk		5		4		4		5	2 Cuts	0	18	5
3	Bob Fiely		4		5		5	1 Cut	2		4	*20	4
4	Ralph Doyle		DNS		3		DNS		3	3 Cuts	0	6	10
5	Gene Jones		2		2	1 Cut	2		2		3	11	8
6	Mike Willmann		4		4		3		4		5	*20	3
7	Vic Bunze		3		DNS		DNF		DNF		DNF	3	11
8	Lee Volmert		3		4	Mid Air	DNF		X		X	7	9
9	Ralph Amelung		2		3		3		3		4	15	6
10	Matt Geders		5		5		5		5	1 Cut	2	22	2
11	Paul Geders		5		5		4		5		4	23	1
*Tie between Mike Willmann and Bob Fiely...Mike won fly off!													
WARBIRDS													
1	Mike Willmann		DNS		4		4		0		3	11	3
2	Lee Volmert		3		3		0		4		2	12	2
3	Paul Geders		4		0		DNF		5		4	13	1
4	Curtis Milster		2		3		3		0		1	9	4

April 12 Race Results

By Paul Geders

What a beautiful day! We had perfect weather, eleven contestants in Four-Star 40 and four (almost five, if Vic Bunze's P-39 Airacobra nose gear had not broken in a practice flight), in WARBIRDS. A larger turnout than expected!

We were again supported by a great group of volunteer workers who pitched in and did an excellent job. The workers prize was a "Dremel" knock-off moto-tool with 40 accessories. The workers prize was drawn from all the workers names, and the winner was Bob Gizzie. I thank each and every worker for their unselfish efforts. They are; Greg Pence, Mel Vistine, George Cooper, Don Fitch, Carolyn Schlueter, Walt Wilson, and Jacob and Jesse Milster.

Above is a round by round accounting of the racing in both Four-Star 40 and WARBIRDS. Look how close the points were in both events! There was a lot of close racing again and the planes are more evenly matched than I have ever seen in the past. Ask Bob Fiely, who went back and forth with Mike Willmann in their fly-off, which Mike won on the very last turn. Vic Bunze and Ralph Doyle were plagued by engine/fuel tank problems all day. Mike Willmann had a fast WARBIRD and put on a great show. Matt Geders had a perfect score, up until the last round. I told him to "just relax and don't get into a race...just fly your course and let the race come to you". He then got into a close race with Mike Willmann on the second lap and got a cut...Matt was a consistent flyer all day...until the last race when he got caught up in "racing" rather than flying his own course like he did in the previous four rounds.

We had some great prizes. They were another "Dremel" knock off variable speed tool and accessories, a deluxe heat gun, 5 rolls of different color Monokote, gallon of 15% Cool Power fuel, Powerpoint magnetic balancer, deluxe power panel, 8 oz fuel tank, Robart steel hinge points, 2 3/4" Lite wheels, and an electric hinge slotter.

We will do it again on June 14 and Steve Cross will be running the race. I'll be assisting Steve in earning his Contest Directors license. See you then.

The Last Word

By Walt Wilson

Not much room this month! Don Fitch and I have built and donated two starting tables to the Spirits. Don already has his at the field and it's pictured on page four. Mine is almost identical. I'll bring mine to the field soon, after I do some engine testing at home. Knee injuries, arthritis, and other factors make it uncomfortable or, in some cases, impossible to kneel to start or work on our airplanes. Therefore, it's necessary to get the planes up to a level where we can deal with them while standing. We only ask that these tables be reserved for Don and me when we're flying. Any other member is welcome to use them when we are not in need of them. You will need a restraining fork, like the type George Cooper built and sold recently. They are also commercially available. Anytime you're around a running engine, it is imperative that you pay attention and avoid exposing any part of your anatomy to the prop. This applies, whether the plane is on the ground, on a table, or on a specially-built flying box. Enjoy the weather and go fly!

Gotta go build

FLIGHT LINES

2003 MOWING TEAMS

MOWING TEAMS			MOWING DATES		
TEAM 1	George Cooper, Leader Chris Reed Jack Wolf Ozzie Barron	636-922-4060 636-458-6651 636-939-2934 636-939-0762	April 12	June 7	August 2
			Team 1: Mow Sept 26 Open House		
TEAM 2	Ken Brock, Leader Kevin Olson Jeff Muhs Willie Blanchard	314-567-5184 314-807-7599 636-922-1515 314-389-3203	April 19	June 14	August 9
			Oct 4 if needed		
TEAM 3	Paul Geders, Leader Matt Geders John Cange Scott Cange	314-838-1350 314-838-1350 636-441-2228 636-441-2228	April 26	June 21	August 16
			Oct 11 if needed		
TEAM 4	Frank Nolle, Leader Ralph Amelung Bob Vogt Steve Ramonczuk	314-298-8664 636-939-3331 636-441-4609 314-298-9284	May 3	June 28	August 23
			Oct 18 if needed		
TEAM 5	Pat Keebey, Leader Bob Abt Bob Fiely Curtis Milster	636-928-3918 314-921-1502 314-434-0206 636-294-0091	May 10	July 5	August 30
			Oct 25 if needed		
TEAM 6	Bob Rolf, Leader Larry Kuhl Andrew Rolf Tom Rolf	636-240-0039 636-441-0529 636-240-0039 636-240-0039	May 17	July 12	Sept 6
			Nov 1 if needed		
TEAM 7	Greg Pugh, Leader Steve Cross Mike Roederer Eric Riggs	636-970-1330 636-458-3287 636-926-3586 314-839-3179	May 24	July 19	Sept 13
TEAM 8	Harold Mantz, Leader Art Frost Bill Hancock Russ Watts	636-447-7476 636-688-1894 314-521-4932 314-522-0778	May 31	July 26	Sept 20
STANDBY	Don Fitch Craig Finks	636-441-0373 636-561-8895			

NOTE: Mow dates were set by assigning Team 1 September 26 (Friday) to mow for open house, as they can all mow on Friday, and then counting back from that date. Mowing will start April 5, extra team. Team Leaders should make sure their teams are ready and available for their assigned dates.

Can't mow on that date? Swap with another person on the list.

PROBLEMS: Call George Cooper, 636-922-4060 or Pat Keebey, 636-928-3918

Fun-Fly/May 17, 2003

Registration: 10:00 A.M.

Flying Begins: 11:00 A.M.

Entry is Free!

Great Prizes

Events:

Glyde-Clyde: Timed event, longest glide time. Take-off and climb for 30 seconds. At the end of 30 seconds cut the engine and glide. Time starts at the end of the 30 second climb out. The judge will say "Shut engine down" at the end of 30 seconds and engine must stop running. If the engine does not die, the contestant receives a zero score. The clock stops when the aircraft comes to a complete rest.

100 points + _____ = _____

Taxi Balloon Bust: A balloon will be tethered at a given distance from a starting point. Fast taxi the aircraft to the balloon and break the balloon. Time begins when the judge gives the command to start; and ends when the balloon has exploded. The contestant may not have any puncturing attachments anywhere on the aircraft other than the rotating propeller.

100 points - _____ = _____

Lucky Seven: The time begins when the pilot picks up a set of dice at the starting line. The pilot throws the dice until he throws a seven. The pilot then starts his engine, takes-off, loops two times and lands. Clock stops when aircraft comes to rest.

100 points - _____ = _____

Spot Landing: A spot with a diameter of three feet will be located on the field. Each pilot will take off and climb to a minimum of 50 feet. The pilot, when ready, will say "Start now" to the judge and cut his engine (engine must stop). If the engine does not die, the contestant receives a zero. The pilot will then land his aircraft as close as possible to the spot. To eliminate any judgment calls, measurements will be made from where the aircraft comes to rest, not where it first touches the ground. All measurements will be from the nose wheel, tail wheel, wing tip, etc. (point closest to the center of the indicated spot to the nearest foot).

100 points - _____ = _____

Three Minute Flight: The pilot is not allowed to use any physical timing device. (Watches, timing devices on computer, radios, etc.) The time starts when a plane's wheels clear the runway on take-off, stops when wheels touch down on runway.

100 points - _____ = _____
(Difference from 180 seconds)

Only one flight line will be in operation.

Contestant must use the same aircraft for all events.

Zero score for flying over the pits, spectators, or parking area.

**For further information,
call: Pat Keebey, C.D., at 636-928-3918**

Spirits' 2003 Activities Schedule

Date	Contest or Event	Contest or Event Director	Notes
May 17	Fun-Fly	Pat Keebey	See page 9 for rules.
May 24	Learn to Fly Day	Steve Ramonczuk	For Boy Scout Troops, etc.
June 14	Four-Star 40/Warbirds	Paul Geders	AMA Sanctioned Races
July 12	Low-Key Fun-Fly	Bob Fiely	
September 6	Four-Star 40/Warbirds	Paul Geders	AMA Sanctioned Races
September 27	Open House	Steve Cross	
October 11	Build 'N' Fly	Vic Bunze	First team to build and fly one lap wins
November 12	Meeting		Participant Awards



FLIGHT LINES

Walt Wilson
 3000 Persimmon Drive
 St. Charles, MO 63301-0131

www.spiritsofstl.com

**Meeting is on
 Wednesday,
 May 14th
 at 7:00 P.M.**