



FLIGHT LINES

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

ELECTION OF 2013 OFFICERS OCTOBER 11

STUFF:

By Gary Pyles

The end of my term is fast approaching and I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their support and guidance throughout the year. Special thanks to Steve Ramonczuk, Walt Wilson, and Bill Lindeworth for their untiring efforts to keep the club on track. Also, I wish to recognize our committee chairs for doing an outstanding job again this year. Gary Graul, as Field Chair, Walt Wilson, as Newsletter Editor, Ralph Doyle, as Membership Chair, Tom Foster, as Events Chair, and Paul Geders as Webmaster. When you get a chance, thank these individuals for their time and effort in keeping our club functioning.

Within this issue of Flight Lines is the ballot for election of the 2013 officers for the club. The vote will take place during the October membership meeting. If you will not be able to attend please take the time to complete the absentee ballot and mail it in by post. No ballots received by email will be recognized for this election.

I am running for president again this year along with Steve Ramonczuk as vice-president and Bill Lindeworth as Treasurer. Walt Wilson is retiring after many years of valuable service leaving the Secretary position open. I personally wish to thank Walt for the guidance, service, and dedication to the club. Paul Geders was nominated for Secretary. During the nominations for club officers I nominated Dale Buchanan for the Secretary position. Dale is detail oriented, is dedicated to the hobby, spends a great deal of time at the field, and helps other members whenever possible. He understands the membership at the heart of our club and will represent us well.

I feel that Dale is the right man for the open Secretary position. Therefore, Dale, Steve, and I have decided to run as a slate. That is, one vote to select all of the nominees for the positions indicated below:

President	Gary Pyles
Vice-President	Steve Ramonczuk
Secretary	Dale Buchanan

Election as a slate of individuals has been done before and is not contrary to any guidance within the club By-Laws or Constitution.

Don't forget to vote!

Hope to see you at the field soon! Gary

MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

By Walt Wilson

Spirits' Field, St. Charles County, Mo. Thirty-six mem-

bers, and about fifteen guests, gathered for the Spirits' Annual Member Appreciation Dinner. Bill Lindewirth barbecued steak, hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs for the very appreciative attendees. Most also brought covered dishes, including salads, potato and pasta salads, casseroles, and a wide variety of desserts. No one went away hungry! Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Gary Pyles.

Announcements:

Thank You! Gary thanked all members, especially all those who put on events, run the concession stand, train new pilots, take care of our field, edit and publish our newsletter, maintain our website, take pictures, and serve on our Board of Directors. This annual dinner is to show appreciation to all members who support our club.

Retirement: Walt Wilson is retiring as Secretary, after 12 years in that position, and Newsletter Editor/Publisher, after 14 years. After a round of applause for his efforts, he was presented with a club jacket, cap, and gift certificate to Mark Twain Hobby Center.

Jack Haenel Passes Away: Long-time Spirits' member Jack Haenel passed away recently. We want to express our sincerest condolences to his wife and family. A donation was made to the American Cancer Society in his name.

Engines For Sale: Longtime member Bill Hancock is in ill health and has retired from flying. He had several engines that Paul Geders has gone through, cleaned up, replaced bearings where applicable, and test-run. They were offered at very low prices and most were sold immediately. Contact Paul at 314-838-1350 for information and prices on those remaining.

New applicant in attendance:

Brenden Weidinger 636-561-6296:

The members accepted and welcomed him.

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

Treasurer's Report: *Bill Lindewirth, Treasurer.* The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Field Report: *Field Chairman, Gary Graul* was not present. Gary Pyles has purchased fifteen new plastic chairs for the field. When you're done using them, please place them on posts to prevent their blowing away or being damaged. Jim Rawlings purchased and donated a tent to the club. Thank you, Jim! *(Continued on the next page)*

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(Continued from the previous page)

Membership Report: *Membership Chairman, Ralph Doyle* reported that we finished 2012 with 167 members. Four new members have joined for 2013! The average age of our members is 52.

Safety Report: *Safety Chairman, Duane Youngman* was not present. People have been observed flying on the pit side of the safety line. **The Safety line is even with the fence in front of the pilots' box and is marked with posts at each end of the field! All flying is to be on the runway-side of the safety line!**



Long-time Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Walt Wilson (left) is retiring from those positions and was presented a Spirits' jacket and cap, along with a gift card to Mark Twain Hobby Center by Club President, Gary Pyles,

Activities Report: *Tom Foster, Contest/Event Committee Chairman.*

Helicopter Fun-Fly, September 22; *Tom Foster, CD.* Flyers are expected to come from as far away as Indiana and Kansas. Several professional helicopter pilots are expected. Help is needed to work concessions, sign-up, the raffle, and various other assignments. Support your club and help out.

Open House: *Gary Pyles, Gary Graul, and Tom Foster, Event Directors,* are putting the event together. Open House workers are needed. Static models are needed for display. Mark Trent and other expert pilots will, once again, put on aerobatic flying demonstrations. Gary Pyles passed around a sign-up sheet and several people committed to working specific hours and jobs. More are needed. Call Gary at: 314-680-2786, or e-mail at: gp@gtpltd.com

New Contest/Event Committee Chairman Needed: If you're interested, contact Tom Foster or Gary Pyles.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nomination Of Officers For 2013: The following members were nominated:

President:	Gary Pyles
Vice President:	Steve Ramonczuk
Secretary:	Dale Buchanan Paul Geders
Treasurer:	Bill Lindewirth

Other candidates may be nominated at the October meeting or written-in on the Absentee Ballot on page 9. All Absentee Ballots must be received before the start of the meeting on October 11. E-mailed ballots will not be accepted.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M. The next meeting will be on October 11, at the Bridgeton Trails Library.

September 12 Meeting Photos



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More September 12 Meeting Photos



PHOTOS BY WALT WILSON

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Four-Star 40/Warbirds Races, September 8,

By Steve Cross, CD

After the storms of Friday night, Saturday dawned bright and sunny, although it was quite windy. Average winds were 10 mph while gusts were hitting 17 mph, and that made for some interesting races. Many flyers came to the field on Saturday, but only six brave pilots decided to take to the skies. We had four entries in the Four-Star 40 races and three entries in the Warbirds races. Unfortunately, during the second heat of Four-Star, the number of planes was reduced by two as Jeff Becker took out another competitor in a mid-air and he and Paul Geders were done for the day. The landings were especially fun to watch, with the high winds, but almost everyone got their landing point in most heats....a great testament to their piloting skills! The highlight of the day was watching Paul Geders, with his nitro P-

51, and Vic Bunze, with his electric Spitfire, battling it out during all three heats of Warbirds. Vic's plane is incredibly fast, but very light, so the winds knocked him around a bit and he would lose ground on the turns as a result. He would make up the gap on the straights, but Paul managed to nip him at the finish line each race. Really fun to watch!

In the end, the point tally for Four-Star 40 had Ralph Doyle in first place, Jim Schilling in second and Paul Geders in third. The Warbirds races ended with Paul Geders in first, with Vic Bunze and Gary Thompson in a tie for second place.

My thanks to all the pilots and helpers who made the last race of the year a great success. Those folks that served as lap counters were Ken Brock, Russ Watts, Gene Jones and one other gentleman whose name I did not get. Cut judges were Lee Volmert and Steve Ramonczuk. Again, thanks to all of you! We'll do it again next Spring.



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The Rest Of The Story:

By Paul Geders

I accepted the nomination for Secretary because I feel the club needs continued balance and stability on the Board of Directors. I have been a member of the Spirits for more than 30 years and have held either an elected or appointed office and been a BOD member for 22 consecutive years. I have been President and Secretary in years past. I have held several appointed positions and have been a Contest Director for more than 30 years. I have been your Webmaster for 15 years and built our web site up from a basic skeleton to one that AMA Vice Presidents have asked to borrow from for their district sites. I have been a CD at AMA National events and have worked with some of the people currently working at AMA headquarters.

I have been the keeper of the Spirits Constitution and By-laws, as well as our competition rules and know them from front to back. I know the intent and spirit in which they were written as well as their literal interpretations. I know the AMA and club safety rules and guidelines by heart and have been sometimes criticized for trying to see that we comply with them. I have been the club's conscience since the early 90's when Joe Lunt (the previous conscience of the club) passed away. Whether or not I am elected, I will continue to monitor BOD decisions and proposals and try to help them keep the club on track. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

September 22 Helicopter Fun-Fly

By Tom Foster

We just put on another stellar Helicopter Fun-Fly. The day started out super windy but that didn't stop 30 pilots from showing up and flying non-stop through-out the day. We had about 10 pilots that drove from Indiana and Jefferson City to come join the fun. We also had a seven-year old that flies better than I do, talk about humbling! In the afternoon the wind died down and the flight line was full non-stop. Huge thanks, as always, go to the great members of this club for helping put on a great event. A special thanks goes out to Sharon O'Connor for baking her perfect cookies, donating them as always, for all to enjoy, and helping by working the event. The food was spectacular, thanks to our Chef of the Day, Steve Ramonczuk, and sold out quickly. Thanks so much everyone for all your hard work. Jim Schuster, a Spirits member, Readyheli Team, and Team Manager for AleeS helicopter, donated a \$780 Rush 750 heliCOpter kit for us to raffle off. Jim and Team Helidirect's Steve O'Connor brought a bunch of high dollar items for our pilots drawing. Think about patronizing the ones who support our club when it comes time to purchase something. Show your appreciation. Thanks for your donations and all your hard work. The event was a huge success and everyone had a great time. I have to go practice on the simulator...so I can keep up with seven-year-old Mason and save face!



September 22 Helicopter Fun-Fly



PHOTOS BY WALT WILSON

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Spirits' Twelfth Annual Open House

By Tom Foster

Our Open House had the best weather of the year for any event. Was the day beautiful or what? We had lots of people and excellent food (as always!). We had our local flying pro's doing noon-time demos and perfect blue skies filled with helicopters, planes and gliders. We had an awesome raffle with about \$900 worth of stuff given away and lucky Steve Ramoczuk won the Pilots' Drawing for a free year of Spirits' membership. Some guys have all the luck. Thanks to all my workers that helped us out and made this a huge,

successful event. Our Introductory Pilot Instructors had people up on buddy boxes all day long. Thanks to all our pilots in the Introductory Pilot Instructor Program for spending your time teaching our new pilots all they need to know to solo. Special thanks to my Demo Pro pilots Jim Schuster and Mark Trent for putting on an excellent show for us all. With winter projects just around the corner, make sure you patronize the Hobby Shops that support our club and its events during the building, rebuilding and modifying season that is quickly approaching. With this being the last event for the year, it couldn't have finished on a nicer day.



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Spirits' Twelfth Annual Open House



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN SCHLUETER AND WALT WILSON

AMA and Spirits Membership Renewal

By Ralph Doyle

You may have received in the mail, a notice to renew your AMA membership. Of our 170 + members, only a few do not have access to the Internet. Take advantage now to renew on line at www.modelaircraft.org. (Visa, paypal, or mastercard) It only takes about 5 minutes and saves a stamp! You immediately get a temporary license (be sure to turn off your pop-up blocker if you want to print it out) and you may get your permanent license sooner than if you mailed in your application via the US post office. Although you are paid up

through December 31, you can rejoin the Club for the 2013-flying season starting October 1st. Don't forget, you are no longer considered a member of the Spirits after the December 31st deadline and will lose your flying privileges.

Also, take advantage of our on-line membership form at: spiritsofstl.com. Fill out the form, save it to your desktop and then print out a copy. If you have a scanner, attach your new AMA card, rescan the document, and e-mail it to the membership chairman at the appropriate address.

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Want To Convert To Gas?

By Ralph Doyle

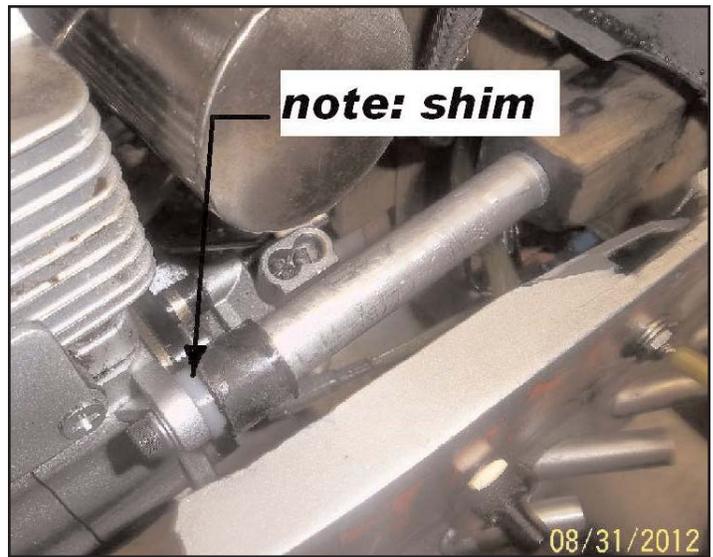
So! You want to convert your plane from nitro to gas. After the sticker shock looking at gas engines that range from 17cc - and, I guess if you wanted, up to a 12-cylinder 2000 hp Merlin just might just do the trick. There is no such thing as 'too much power'. But, to draw the line, I looked in the Tower catalog to see what is currently available and their cost. Most run about \$250 for the 26cc up to \$1650 for the 222cc engine. How deep are your pockets?

Certainly, the very first thing to consider is what model to put that engine in. Most of the larger gas guzzling engines I see are firewall mounted. So, if you are currently flying a beam mounted engine in that pride and joy, you will probably have to convert from a beam to a firewall mount. No easy task in many cases.

At least, when I modified my 1/5 scale p-51 ARF that came with beam mounts there was no full 360 degree cowl to remove, only a small chin cowl. That meant I had to manage to wiggle a saw and grinder inside a small space to remove the beams. After removal of the beams, the one of the hardest measurements to take will be the distance from the firewall to the front of the cowl to insure there is enough clearance to allow for the propeller or spinner backplate clearance. When that distance is found, then the firewall standoffs can be cut to length, allowing for the addition of vibration dampers that I strongly recommend (see picture). Don't forget, when cutting the stand-offs, also allow for down and side thrust offset. However, I found that the offsets could be better handled by using washer shims (see picture).

Now comes the additional cost that I describe as, "Just what does it take to get this thing in the air?" Once again using Tower and other catalogs as a guide, I came up with the following list and prices:

- 3-feet - gas type fuel line: \$5
 - 1 - glow to gas converter plug for the on board gas tank: \$2
 - 1 two gallon gas container (Advance Auto): \$13.00
 - 1-2 gallons of gas (local :Fill um Up): \$7.00
 - 1 Eight-ounce can of two-cycle oil: \$5.00
 - 1 fire extinguisher: \$10.00
 - 1 "Kill switch" (Radio Shack): \$3.00
 - 1 700MAh or larger battery (electric ignition): \$17.00
 - 1 - large prop (depends on engine size, but if you don't have one): \$15.00
 - 1 manual fuel pump, electric would increase cost: \$22.00
 - 1-36" aluminum rod (standoffs): \$7.00
 - 4 rubber vibration dampers (Grainger): \$10.00
- This adds up to a total of \$116.00. It might be cheaper to go electric!!



Official 2013 Absentee Ballot

The following candidates have been nominated for officers for the year 2013. If you will be unable to attend the October meeting, place a circle around the name of your choice for each office. "Slate" candidates are noted with an asterisk* and may be voted for by circling the entire group. If you want to write in another candidate, draw a line through the printed name(s) and use the line next to, or below, the name of the candidate(s) already nominated for that office.

President	Gary Pyles*	_____
Vice President	Steve Ramonczuk*	_____
Secretary	Dale Buchanan*	Paul Geders _____
Treasurer	Bill Lindewirth	_____

If you cannot attend the October meeting, complete your ballot and mail it to:

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

Note: Mark your envelope "ballot" and it won't be opened until the meeting.

Absentee ballots must be received no later than 7:00 P.M., October 11, to be counted. E-mailed ballots will not be accepted.

Sign Here: _____

Spirits' Member Number: _____

The Last Word

By Walt Wilson

In the May, 2011, issue of Flight Lines, I had pictures and wrote about the immaculate P-51 Mustang "Petie 2nd" that was kept at Creve Coeur Airport. Due to ill health, the owner sold it to a man in Texas. The buyer had two mechanics and a test pilot fly in and check the plane out thoroughly before buying it, for \$1,700,000.00.



My friend, Gary Dammer, who introduced me to the previous owner, e-mailed recently that the buyer had crashed the P-51 and the damage was going to cost more than one million dollars to repair. A moment of silence.....

Last month, I told what I did as Newsletter Editor. One other item I should mention, during the winter months, when little is happening to report or photograph, the Editor must write or solicit articles from members that may be interesting to our members. They could be "How To's", kit reviews, historical milestones, or information on specific modeling subjects.

This month, I'll describe the job of Secretary, which is much less demanding.

What the Secretary Does:

Take notes at meetings, then organize and write the minutes into a form that makes sense. Get data on all presentation items and aircraft shown for the newsletter. Submit the minutes to the Newsletter Editor for publication in Flight Lines.

Renew the club's standing as an AMA Charter Club, each February or early March. This involves updating the roster to reflect current membership at that time and filling out a few forms to identify officers and renew insurance policies for the club and property owners.

Submit paperwork each year to maintain the Spirits' standing as a Gold Leader Charter Club. Assure that qualifications are met.

Coordinate with the Chief instructor, and submit paperwork to identify and get AMA insurance coverage for designated Introductory Pilot Instructors.

Act as club contact for the AMA and other clubs. Answer any queries or refer the questions or other subjects to someone who can address the issues.

Renew the Spirits' status as a Missouri Non-Profit

Corporation. This can be done on line with a credit card for two years at a time. The next renewal is due in 2014.

It isn't in the job description, but because my predecessor did it, I stood in line waiting for the library to open on the first Saturday of each October and April, so I could be assured we should have first choice to renew the meeting room reservations on the nights we wanted. Unfortunately, the library has sometimes reserved the rooms, on our desired meeting nights, prior to the designated Saturdays. On some occasions, other officers have made the reservations in my place.

I've been building model airplanes of one type or another since about 1938. I built my first gas-powered model airplane in 1946, as soon as new engines became available after World War II. I flew and competed in Control Line Speed and Rat Racing, as well as competing all over the country racing Tether Cars. Throughout the 1960's I was involved in Slot cars, Quarter Midgets (race cars), Drag Racing and Stock Car racing, but built and flew CL planes, as time permitted.

I joined the Spirits originally, in 1971, to learn to fly R/C aircraft. Since I made my living in a Technical Publications organization, I started as Co-Editor/Publisher of the Spirits' newsletter in 1975. I introduced quality publishing and the use of photographs in the newsletter. I volunteered for the job of President for a year in 1977 for the usual reason, no one else would do it. In 1979, I stepped down as the Spirits' Newsletter Editor for personal reasons, and because I was also doing newsletters for the St. Louis County Rallye Club and Southern Illinois Region of the Sports Car Club of America..

I dropped out of R/C for ten years, from 1987 to 1997, during which I was deeply involved in Road Rallying, and SCCA Racing. Thanks to one of the SCCA racers, I got back into commercially racing Slot Cars. When Slot Car Racing began to die out in the St. Louis Area, I re-joined the Spirits in late 1997 and resumed the position of Newsletter Editor in May, 1998.

I've been a member of the Spirits' Board Of Directors since 1998 and Secretary since 2001.

Except for a six-month hiatus as Newsletter Editor, I've held two official jobs for 12 years. Counting the five years as Newsletter Editor from 1975 through 1979, that's 19 years as newsletter Editor and 12 years as Secretary. While some of the jobs ran concurrently, laid out end-to-end, counting the year as President, and ten years as a Contest Director, that's a combined 42 years of service for my friends in the Spirits.

I want to thank all who contributed to the newsletters throughout the years and, especially, my great wife of 55 years, Suzi. She has contributed to the newsletters and done a final edit to keep me from making any gross mistakes and helped me fold, tape or stuff and seal, label, and stamp almost 40,000 newsletters through the years.

I've paid my dues. I think it's time for someone else to step up and do their share. I'll continue to do occasional articles and other things for the club, as opportunities arise.

I want to thank the BOD for the Spirits' jacket, cap, and gift certificate. They're very much appreciated!

I'll see you at the field.

I'm going to go flying (really)