



# FLIGHT LINES

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

## READY FOR SPRING!

### STUFF

By Gary Pyles

Well, another month of bizarre weather has come and gone. A strange January indeed, wet and mild with the occasional spring day thrown in. One can sense that the weather will soon break and allow continuous flying. Be patient, better days will be here soon.

When I took this position I stated one of my goals as increasing membership. During our most recent membership meeting, Lee Volmert told us about something he does with his Model Aviation magazines. Lee told the membership that he takes his Model Aviation magazines with him to the doctor's office and leaves them in the waiting room for others to read. Lee suggested that we attach one of our tri-fold brochures to the magazine to help spread the word about our club. I think this is an outstanding idea. During the discussion, other members commented on leaving them at schools and libraries. All great ideas.

As I thought more about this, I saw the brilliance of this idea. It provides a high quality marketing program that requires little investment from us. To enhance the impact of this marketing program I am designing adhesive labels for the front and back of the magazines. The label on the front will be approximately 2" x 4" and the label on the back will be about 5" x 8". This will allow us to put a simple message on the front of the magazine and a more detailed advertisement for our club on the back.

To make this work effectively, we need your gently used Model Aviation magazines and your efforts, once the magazines have been modified with our marketing material. We need our members to act as couriers and place our new magazine marketing material in places we have never had access to before.

Please bring any gently used Model Aviation magazines to the next membership meeting. I will ask Paul to send out a broadcast e-mail, just prior to the meeting, as a reminder. Thanks again to Lee for a great idea. Do you have the next great marketing idea for our club? Contact me with your ideas.

At our February membership meeting we had three technical presentations. Gary Graul won the \$20 in Mark Twain Hobby Center gift cards for his stick-built, from plans, SE5A, 1/6 scale, with a Saito 65 four stroke. The custom scale exhaust he is building looks incredible and the rest of the build detail is what we have come to expect from Gary, fantastic. Congratulations Gary.

Attendance to the membership meetings continues to be strong as well as the quality and quantity of technical presentations. Come on back and show us your stuff.

### MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

By Walt Wilson

**Meeting was called to order** by President Gary Pyles at 7:03 P.M. Twenty-nine members and two guests were present.

**Spirits' Awards:** Spirits' Awards of Appreciation were presented to Dave Brown and Gary Graul, who were not present at the meeting last month when the awards were announced.

**RC Flightdeck Web Site:** Gary Pyles has added our schedule of events to the RC Flightdeck web site, which lists events all around the world. We may see more participation as a result. A link has been added to our web site under the "Contests and Events" listing.

**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:** *Gary Graul, Field Chairman.* There has been more than normal flying recently because of the unseasonably warm weather. Spider cracks are appearing in the runway and pit areas and will be dealt with in the spring. The runway will be re-stripped, too.

**Safety Report:** *Duane Youngman, Safety Chairman.* No issues were presented.

**Membership Report:** *Ralph Doyle, Membership Chairman.* We have 117 paid-up members, including two who renewed at meeting time. We are 25 ahead of last year's number at this time.

One member brought up the question: "We have multiple deadlines for paying our dues. Why should we pay our dues before the drop-dead deadline of the March meeting?"

When you pay your dues to the club you are paying for the privilege to use the flying field for one calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec. 31.

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## FLIGHT LINES

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If you have not paid your dues for the upcoming year by January 1, and are flying at the field using the previous years membership card, you are doing so without the rights afforded to you by the club as you are NO LONGER A MEMBER! Article 7, Section 1, of our By-Laws states very clearly "Dues are to be paid no later than the January meeting." In addition, Article 7, Section 3, says, in part, "A member shall be in arrears and shall not be considered active if his or her dues have not been paid as provided in Article 7, Section 1." The main purpose for pointing this out concerns our insurance protection. If you are not a member of AMA, you are not covered.

The grace period for dues payment only extends, for your convenience, in order to give you time to pay your dues without penalty. Your membership rights are NOT extended beyond January 1. I would also like to point out that in addition to losing your flying privileges, you also lose your right to vote at the club meetings for the same reason.

The Board of Directors will clarify this information in a future update of the By-Laws.

**Activities Report:** *Tom Foster, Contest/Event Committee Chairman*, was not present. Applications have been submitted for sanctions for all events. An event must be sanctioned, at least three months in advance, to receive free advertising in Model Aviation magazine.



*Jeff Gutherz was top bidder in the auction of the John Rawlings Top Flite P-39 Airacobra, donated by Walt Wilson and John's family. This was the last plane John completed, before passing away, and was built while he lived in a retirement center. The proceeds are to be used for our Flight Training Program.*

**SLRCFA Swap Meet February 25:** The St. Louis R/C Flying Association will have a Swap Meet on February 25. See their flyer on page 5.

**Four-Star 40 and Warbirds Races, April 28:** *Paul Geders, Contest Director*. This will be the first competition of the new year. Come out and try it, you might like it!

**Tailgate Swap meet, May 5:** *Steve O'Conner is the Event Director*. More info later.

**Flight training Program:** *Gary Pyles, Chief Instructor*. Gary is working on an updated training program. At present, only two "club trainers" are still operational. Gary plans for Instructors to use their own planes for future introductory flights, to assure better maintenance and reliability of the equipment. The list of AMA-registered and insured instructors will be expanded. Buddy boxes and cables that match their radios will be assigned to introductory instructors.

Extended training of members will be conducted with the students' planes, fuel, and equipment. A list of recommended aircraft, engines, and other equipment is being worked out with Mark Twain Hobby Center's assistance.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None was presented.



*Bob Fiely showed his new Hanger 9 Twist ARF. This was his first ARF and he felt that, for as much work as it took to assemble, he could have built a kit. It has a K&B .40 up front and hadn't been flown at meeting time.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Increasing Membership:** Lee Volmert, like many of us, frequently visits doctors' offices. He suggested that members leave their old model magazines at their doctors' offices when they go.

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## FLIGHT LINES

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**Spirits' Sign:** One member asked why we don't have a sign at Greens Bottom and Amrein Roads. Bill Lindewirth said he thinks St. Charles County would prohibit such a sign. The matter will be further investigated.

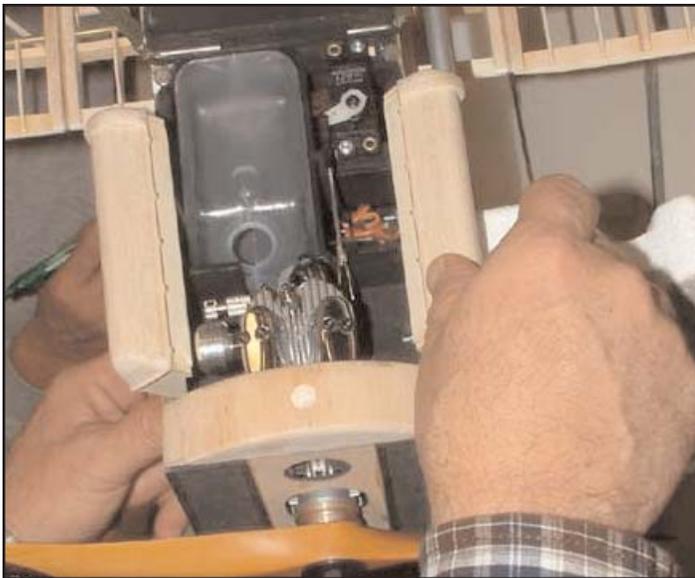
**Meeting Activity:** A P-39 Airacobra was auctioned to benefit the Spirits' training program. Two members brought planes to show and Paul Geders discussed a new flight box and an antique engine Jeff Gutherz had acquired. See the pictures for details.



*Paul Geders discussed his new oversize flying box. He built it to include a power panel. It's made of Baltic birch plywood and weighs 10 pounds, empty. The loaded weight may be substantial.*



*Gary Graul discussed his plan-built SE5A. He plans to make the scale exhaust pipes functional. He is using scale-type pull-pull linkage for the rudder and elevator. It has a movable steering tail skid and will be covered with Solartex.*



*The engine compartment in Gary's SE5A contains a Saito .65 four-stroke engine, fuel tank, and throttle servo. The brass exhaust system is silver-soldered.*



*Paul Geders discussed this antique Krat ignition engine Jeff Gutherz picked up from a friend for \$10.00. The estimated vintage is sometime in the 1930's. The ignition wiring is obviously hooked up incorrectly.*

WALT WILSON PHOTOS

**Best Presentation:** Gary Graul won \$20.00 in Mark Twain Hobby Center gift cards for the best presentation of the meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned** at 8:27 P.M.

**Spirits' Apparel:** Pat Keebey hasn't received enough orders for apparel to get the best prices. He's holding the present orders until more are received. See the catalog on page six for more information. Now is the time to order that new jacket, polo shirt, or sweat shirt. Bill Lindewirth has both summer and winter caps in stock.

**Membership renewals**

*By Ralph Doyle*

Membership renewals must be received no later than the March 14, 2012 meeting to avoid a new membership initiation fee. Renewals received after March 14, must include the \$25.00 new membership initiation fee. **Also, as noted on page two; On January 1, you lose all flying and voting privileges until you have a current Spirits membership card for the new year.**

***This is the last issue of Flight Lines you will receive if you don't renew your membership.***

**Starter Battery Conversion:**

*By Walt Wilson*

Cordless starters for glow and gas engines are handy and very popular. They're powered by a lead-acid battery which is rechargeable. After a season or two, often the starter doesn't seem to have the power it once had, so soon winds up in a swap meet and sells for a low price, or not at all. A replacement OEM battery sells for \$19.95, when available. A whole battery pack is \$29.95. I recently acquired one of these starters, which didn't have enough power to start a .15 size engine, even after extended charging. LiPo batteries are available at very reasonable prices (11.1V, 25C LiPo for \$11.60, or 14.8V 30C for \$15.50, both with free shipping) on Ebay. Some brands even come with a Deans-type connector already installed. I recently purchased a couple of them to see if they're any good. So far, they work just as well as the expensive domestic

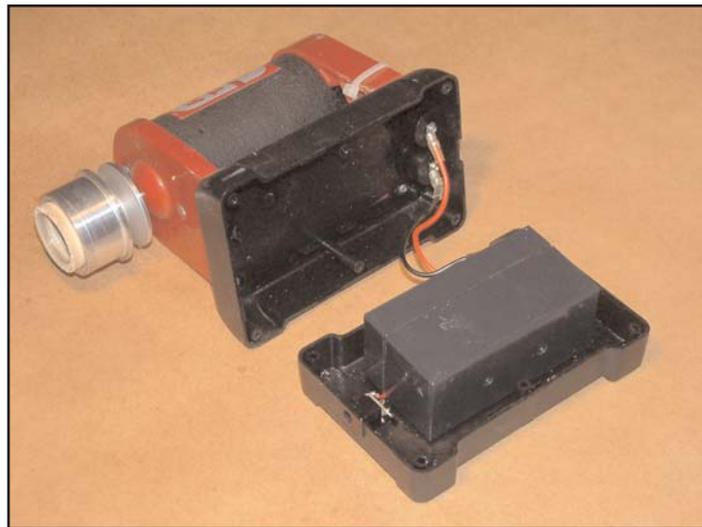


*Solder a Deans connector (or one to match whatever kind you have on your battery) onto the starter wiring. Apply Velcro on the battery and case for easy installation and removal.*

WALT WILSON PHOTOS



*The OEM charge jack can also be used with a LiPo-compatible charger. **Caution: Always use the proper type of battery charger for LiPo batteries! Do not use the charger that came with the starter.***



*The OEM lead-acid battery is held in place with two-sided foam tape and can be pried out with a little effort. The tape residue can be removed with lighter fluid.*

brands ! I installed one in a Hobbico TorquMaster 90 starter and it has more power than a new one with the OEM battery! For this application, I used a 14.8 V LiPo because I had one that wasn't being used elsewhere. An 11.1 V (12.6 V fully charged) battery will also work very well with this conversion. The charge plug that fits most Futaba transmitters will also fit the starter charge jack. **Always be sure to use the correct charger for LiPo batteries.**

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Typically, LiPo batteries hold their charge for a long time when not used and should be ready to go anytime you want to fly. If you decide to fly electric-powered aircraft, just pull the battery out of your starter and use it in your plane! Later this year, I'll report on the long-term results of this conversion.

**The Last Word**

*By Walt Wilson*

During the four years, plus, that I did the "Here's How" column for RC Report magazine and RC Report Online, I received about a dozen ideas on how to deal with Deans "T" connectors. The major problem was distortion of the plastic housing when soldering the wires to the contacts. Distortion made the connectors hard to plug-in and unplug. The ideas dealt mostly with how to grip them to unplug. I distorted a couple of them myself when just starting to fly electric-powered aircraft. I looked for a better way, and found one that works for me!

I submitted my idea to Fly R/C magazine for their "Wing Tips" column. They used it and I got my subscription as promised. The idea I submitted was to plug the male and female Deans connectors together when soldering wires to them. The presence of the mating contacts keeps them aligned and helps prevent distortion of the plastic parts.

I've used this technique, with the soldering process described below, at least a dozen times, with perfect results. It's the only way I would do it now.



WALT WILSON PHOTO

The following month, the magazine published a letter to the editor that said the writer tried the technique and destroyed two mating sets of connectors. He got them so hot that the spring-loaded male contacts pushed the female contacts away and the connectors wouldn't maintain the connection, or stay plugged together. Therefore, he thought the idea of soldering joined connectors was no good.

Even using my plug-together technique, you have to solder the wires without getting the connector too hot. He obviously almost melted them and could use some training in soldering electrical components! The editor answered by saying the trick is to not get the connectors too hot, which is correct.

The following month, another letter appeared stating that the packaging says not to solder the connectors when plugged together. That's correct, but I have no idea why, other than to sell more connectors to replace the ones ruined by incorrect soldering. The writer also said the assembled connectors caused the heat to be dissipated and made it hard to get the contacts hot enough to solder (see below). The editor apologized for not reading the packaging.

My way to do it is, use a reasonably large soldering iron (1/4" to 3/8" tip) so it doesn't dissipate its heat upon touching the relatively large metal contact. A smaller iron may dissipate its heat and have to be held on the contact until it heats up again, enough to melt the solder, also usually distorting the plastic. Tin the contacts and wires separately, and don't hold the soldering iron on the contact any longer than absolutely necessary. Hold the wire on the contact and just touch the iron to the wire long enough to melt the solder. The melted solder will join the pieces together with no distortion of the plastic.

I learned this technique many years ago when we used battery ignition systems in model airplanes and tether cars. We had to make battery packs using AA cells. Try soldering a wire or other contact to the positive end of an AA battery sometime!

If you have a better idea, send it to me!

*Gotta go build!*

**SLRCFA**  
**St. Louis Radio Control Flying Association**  
**SWAP MEET**  
**Saturday – FEB 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**West Hills Community Church**

**Buy-Sell-Trade: R/C Planes, Cars, Boats, Rockets, etc.**  
 PLEASE – NO FLUIDS  
**8:00 AM Admission with purchase of table**  
 Tables are \$10 each for a large and \$5 each for a small plus \$5 per person admission.  
**\$5.00 General Admission @ 9:00 a.m.**  
 Spouses admitted Free/Children under 12  
 Admitted Free with paid admission  
**On-Site Concession Stand**  
 For latest SWAP Meet info  
 See: <http://WWW.SLRCA.com>

**FLIGHT LINES**

*Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club, Inc.*

**Spirits Apparel ORDER FORM**

**JACKETS:**

<u>Blue lined:</u>	Quantity	Price: \$24.00 each + \$1.84 tax = \$25.84	Total
Small	_____	Left chest logo on front only _____	_____
Medium	_____	Logo on back only _____*	_____
Large	_____	Logo on front & back _____*	_____
Extra Large	_____	Price: \$24.00 each + \$1.84 tax = \$25.84	_____
XX Large	_____	Price: \$28.00 each + \$2.15 tax = \$30.15	_____
XXX Large	_____	Price: \$32.00 each + \$2.46 tax = \$34.46	_____

**\*Note: Logo on the back is an additional \$4.00 per garment**

**JACKETS:** Name on front will be located on left chest area. Put the name you want on the jacket below:

\_\_\_\_\_

**GOLF STYLE SHIRTS:**

White with blue logo and lettering:

	Quantity	Price: \$19.00 each + \$1.46 tax = \$20.46	Total
Small	_____	Left chest logo on front only _____	_____
Medium	_____	Logo on back only _____*	_____
Large	_____	Logo on front & back _____*	_____
Extra Large	_____	Price: \$19.00 each + \$1.46 tax = \$20.46	_____
XX Large	_____	\$22.00 per shirt + \$1.69 tax = \$23.69	_____
XXX Large	_____	\$25.00 per shirt + \$1.92 tax = \$26.92	_____

**\*Note: Logo on the back is an additional \$4.00 per garment**

**GOLF SHIRTS:** Name on front will be located on left chest area. Put the name you want on the Shirt below:

\_\_\_\_\_

Blue with white logo and lettering:

	Quantity	Price: \$19.00 each + \$1.46 tax = \$20.46	Total
Small	_____	Left chest logo on front only _____	_____
Medium	_____	Logo on back only _____*	_____
Large	_____	Logo on front & back _____*	_____
Extra Large	_____	Price: \$19.00 each + \$1.46 tax = \$20.46	_____
XX Large	_____	\$22.00 per shirt + \$1.69 tax = \$23.69	_____
XXX Large	_____	\$25.00 per shirt + \$1.92 tax = \$26.92	_____

**SWEATSHIRTS:**

White with blue logo and lettering:

	Quantity	Price: \$16.00 each + \$1.23 tax = \$17.23	Total
Small	_____	Left chest logo on front only _____	_____
Medium	_____	Logo on back only _____*	_____
Large	_____	Logo on front & back _____*	_____
Extra Large	_____	Price: \$16.00 each + \$1.23 tax = \$17.23	_____
XX Large	_____	\$22.00 per shirt + \$1.69 tax = \$23.69	_____
XXX Large	_____	\$25.00 per shirt + \$1.92 tax = \$26.92	_____

**\*Note: Logo on the back is an additional \$4.00 per garment**

**SWEATSHIRTS:** Name on front will be located on left chest area. Put the name you want on the Sweatshirt below:

\_\_\_\_\_

Blue with white logo and lettering:

	Quantity	Price: \$16.00 each + \$1.23 tax = \$17.23	Total
Small	_____	Left chest logo on front only _____	_____
Medium	_____	Logo on back only _____*	_____
Large	_____	Logo on front & back _____*	_____
Extra Large	_____	Price: \$16.00 each + \$1.23 tax = \$17.23	_____
XX Large	_____	\$22.00 per shirt + \$1.69 tax = \$23.69	_____
XXX Large	_____	\$25.00 per shirt + \$1.92 tax = \$26.92	_____

**\*Note: Logo on the back is an additional \$4.00 per garment**

Send this filled out *Spirits* Apparel ORDER FORM along with a cashiers check, money order, or personal check for the Grand Total amount made out to **Sports Energizers** and send to:  
**Pat Keebey**  
**#4 Country Creek Dr.**  
**St. Peters, MO 63376**

Hats:	Quantity	Total
Blue/white summer caps _____	\$10.00 each + \$.77 tax = \$10.77	_____
Solid blue winter caps _____	\$10.00 each + \$.77 tax = \$10.77	_____

**Grand Total**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

No minimum, may be shipping fees applied for jackets if there are only one or two ordered. Usually 12 items is a full order.



## **FLIGHT LINES**

### *2012 SPIRITS CONTEST AND EVENTS SCHEDULE*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Contest/Event</b>	<b>Contest/Event Director</b>	<b>Notes</b>
April 28	Four-Star 40/Warbirds	Paul Geders	Field Open for General Flying Until 10:00 or 10:30 A.M.
May 5	Tailgate Swap Meet at Field	Steve O'Conner	
May 19	Scale Fly-In	Curt Milster	Field is Open for General Flying
June 9	Scout Day	Les Richman/ Steve Cross	Field is Open for General Flying
June 23	Helicopter Fun Fly	Tom Foster	All Day Event
July 21	Four-Star 40/Warbirds	Ralph Doyle	Field Open for General Flying Until 10:00 or 10:30 A.M.
Aug 4	Electric Fly-In	Bohrer Bros./ Chris Nenzel	Field Open for General Flying After 2:00 P.M.
September 8	Four-Star 40/Warbirds	Steve Cross	Field Open for General Flying Until 10:00 or 10:30 A.M.
September 12	Meeting at Field	Bill Lindewirth	Member Appreciation Dinner
September 22	Helicopter Fun Fly	Tom Foster	All Day Event
September 29	Open House	Committee	



[www.spiritsofstl.com](http://www.spiritsofstl.com)

## **FLIGHT LINES**

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

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