



# FLIGHT LINES

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

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## Electric Fly-In, August 4

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### Stuff:

By Gary Pyles

In this month's column I am focusing on Club operations. As you know our Club is organized and operates under the guidance provided by our Constitution and our By-Laws. Within these documents provisions are made for individuals to be elected, or appointed, to a Board of Directors to provide guidance and direction for the entire membership. From time to time the Board of Directors, with the approval of the general membership, has seen fit to modify these documents. Each modification of these documents was not taken lightly and the Club's best interests are always the primary concern.

Currently, our Club has four elected officers, a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. These positions are elected by ballot, by the general membership, annually. These positions are the only positions that are specifically allowed to represent the Club in matters of finance, official correspondence, and spokesperson for the club. The current incarnation of our Club's Constitution allows for a total of 12 Board of Director positions. These include the four elected positions discussed earlier plus the Field Committee Chairman, Safety Committee Chairman, Contest/Event Committee Chairman, Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Website Webmaster, Volunteer, and Outgoing President. This means that every volunteer position within the Club except for the Meeting Activity Coordinator and the Chief Flight Instructor, are members of the Board of Directors.

All of these current positions are occupied by individuals of great character and extreme dedication to the well-being and operation of our Club. It should also be noted that the current members of the Board of Directors make up the majority of flight instructors, contest/event directors, cooks, and individuals that do repair work at the field. Besides their dedication to the Club these individuals represent a great amount of operational knowledge, modeling knowledge, and club history. These individuals deserve your thanks and admiration for their hard work and willingness to occupy these positions of responsibility. The most difficult, and I think frustrating, for most of these board members is participation in the Board of Directors' meetings and the nonstop onslaught of superfluous e-mails.

Our Board of Directors meetings are not something I enjoy. It should seem like such a simple task, to provide guidance for club that flies model airplanes. Unfortunately, there are many times during these meetings when discussions of relevant club business degrade into personal attacks and general animosity. I don't believe this happens because any individual is petty. On the contrary, I think it is because

these individuals are resolute in their convictions and believe they have the best interest of our Club at heart. In addition, the entire board receives hundreds, not an exaggeration, of e-mails every month regarding minor issues that should be addressed by one or two board members/committee chairman directly. For many board members this reduces their interest in participation of board meetings and their reluctance to read or reply to club generated e-mails.

Please don't misunderstand, these Committee Chairmen are still very dedicated to the performance of their duties to ensure the proper operation of the areas to which they were appointed. They just have no interest in, or can find no justification for the frustration their positions as members of the Board of Directors incurs.

This topic, although not on the agenda of our last board meeting, occupied a preponderance of the time. At the end of this discussion a motion was made by a board member to amend the Club's Constitution in the following manner:

Article 5, Board of Directors

Section 1 Except as otherwise provided by law, the Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Safety Committee Chairman

This motion was passed with a 7 to 3 vote in favor, one board member not in attendance.

Is this a good idea, reducing the board from 12 to 5 members? Undoubtedly, it would reduce the conflict during board meetings, reduce the amount of unneeded e-mails, and allow the committee chairs to focus on their areas of responsibility without participating in board activity. On the other hand, does this mean a reduction of valuable and experienced input to the Board of Directors? I don't think this is the case either. Knowing the elected officers as I do, I find it hard to believe that they would not accept the council of any Committee Chairman or knowledgeable club member.

This proposed modification to the Board of Directors is posted in this month's newsletter so that it may be voted on by the general membership at the next scheduled Spirits' meeting. Modification to our Constitution and Bylaws is nothing new. These are living documents that are modified from time to time to allow our Club to adjust to the changing environment in which we operate. According to information from other members, the Board of Directors has had positions added over the years. Just as these positions have been added, any position or positions may be removed.

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## FLIGHT LINES

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There is no code or rule that requires our Club to have more than the five Board of Directors positions listed above. Ultimately, it is you, the membership, which decides the direction for the Club. Remember, the elected officers, Committee Chairmen, and Board of Directors are all volunteers that put in an extreme amount of their time and effort to allow our club to operate.

Gary

### MEETING MINUTES: July 12, 2012

*By Walt Wilson, Secretary*

**Meeting** was called to order by President, Gary Pyles at 7:00 P.M.

**Members signed in:** 24 members and one guest were present.

#### Announcements:

**Thank You** to Tom Foster and all who worked the recent Helicopter Fun-Fly! It was a great success with substantial income for the club.

**Meeting Attendance:** President Gary Pyles' request for input concerning meeting attendance was discussed. Gary explains them on page 6, so they won't be addressed here.



*Bill Lindewirth downloaded plans from the internet and enlarged them to 1/16 scale with his computer to build this Bell X-1E for rocket power. He plans to drop it from the belly of a Big Stik, then fire the 3-second rocket for a quick, exciting powered flight. It's all balsa construction and will be sheeted and fiberglassed. Goal weight is 14 ounces and it has 81 square inches of wing area. A nine-volt battery will be used for the receiver and ignition of the rocket.*



WALT WILSON PHOTOS

*Paul Geders discussed his new Four-Star 40 built from a kit, to replace his 12-year-old one that was lost to a mid-air collision at the last race.*

#### Free Memberships For Youth At Open House This Year:

Youths who received free memberships last year are not eligible for free memberships again this year. After some discussion, it was decided that, to reduce costs, newsletters will not be included with these free memberships.

**Club Marketing:** We now have the Spirits R/C Flying Club on Facebook and videos on You-Tube. Gary says they are receiving more hits than our web site. He wants to try some new marketing approaches for the club.

**New Member:** Bruce Omans, who was in the Spirits in the early 1970's and has rejoined the club after nearly a forty-year absence, introduced himself. He was welcomed back by all present.

**Secretary's Report:** *Walt Wilson, Secretary.* Bill Lindewirth noted that we have only one CD, not more, as implied in last month's minutes.

The application for renewal of our status as an AMA Gold Leader Charter Club has been submitted. We met 90% of the qualifications without doing anything beyond our normal operations and field configuration. The only additions to our normal operations were purchase of a \$16.00 subscription to Model Aviation Magazine for the Bridgeton Trails Library and taking sound level readings occasionally. Our status as a Non-Profit Missouri Corporation has been renewed for two more years.

A donation of \$100.00 was sent to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Missouri. It was part of the income from our Tailgate Swap Meet, as advertised.

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

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## FLIGHT LINES

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

**Field Report:** *Gary Graul, Field Committee Chairman.* Due to the drought and grass dormancy, some weeks of mowing are being skipped. The mowing contractor has been very accommodating in only mowing when necessary. A three-year extension is in discussion. The flag was replaced by Bob Gizzie, Steve Ramonczuk, and Dave Brown. Some repairs need to be made to the flagpole, but there are no safety issues.

Some runway cracks need filling, but will have to wait until the weather gets better. It's just been too hot!

**Membership Report:** We now have 167 members.

**Safety Report:** *Duane Youngman, Safety Chairman, was not present.* If you go fly when it's hot, always take something to drink and avoid heat-related illnesses. A pile of cigarette butts and several spent .22 caliber shell casings were found at the field recently. It was presumed that someone may have been firing a weapon during the July 4th celebration. **Discharge of firearms is strictly prohibited on our property. If you witness someone firing a gun, do not challenge them. Call the County Sheriff's Department!**

**Activities Report:** *Tom Foster, Contest/Event Committee Chairman, was not present.*

**July 21 Four-Star/Warbirds Races:** *Ralph Doyle, Event Director,* discussed an alternative ARF aircraft that may be allowed to compete with Four-Star 40's in the future. Four-Star 40 ARF's are not presently available, but kits are. CD's will discuss this idea further and a decision will be announced

**August 4 Electric Fly-In:** *Greg Bohrer, Jeff Bohrer, and Jeff Becker, Event Directors.* Landing fee for pilots is \$5.00. Concessions by Q-Liscious Barbeque will be available. A flyer and schedule of activities is on page 7. As usual, volunteer workers are needed.

**September 29 Open House:** *Gary Graul, Gary Pyles, Tom Foster, and Bill Lindewirth are Event Directors.* They plan to meet and organize soon. Mark Trent and Jim Schuster will be among those doing aerobatic flight demonstrations. More on this next month.

**Flight Training:** *Gary Pyles, Chief Flight Instructor* reported that he received, and followed up on, three phone and two e-mail requests for introductory flights.

**Mailed Newsletters:** If any member wishes to opt out of receiving mailed printed newsletters and is content to access them on our web site, please e-mail the Editor, Walt

Wilson, at: [rallyo@charter.net](mailto:rallyo@charter.net) and you will be removed from the mailing list.

**Meeting Activity:** Bill Lindewirth and Paul Geders brought aircraft to show. See the photos for details.

**Attendance Prizes:** Bill Lindewirth won the Best Presentation Award of a \$20.00 gift card graciously donated by Mark Twain Hobby Center.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:15.**

**Proposed Constitution Revisions:**

*Original Wording*

**Article 5 Board of Directors**

**Section 1** Except as otherwise provided by law, the Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Field Committee Chairman
- Safety Committee Chairman
- Contest/Event Committee Chairman
- Membership Chairman
- Newsletter Editor
- Web-Site Web-Master

And one (1) additional full member who may choose to serve on the Board provided he/she is approved by a simple majority vote of the general membership present at the regular meeting in the month of November.

The outgoing president will automatically serve as a board member the following year, to provide guidance and continuity to the next administration.

NOTE: Each board member will have only one vote regardless of the number of board positions held.

*Proposed Change*

**Article 5 Board of Directors**

**Section 1** Except as otherwise provided by law, the Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

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**FLIGHT LINES**

**Buder Park Big-Bird Fly-In, July 14:**



*Some great-looking large scale Warbirds at the Buder Park GSLMA Big Bird Fly-In on July 14. No info on whose planes they are.*



*A pair of very big, beautiful Bipes at the Buder Park GSLMA Big Bird Fly-In on July 14.*

**At The Field**



*New club member, Brendon Weidinger, receives the time honored cutting of his shirt tail by Bob Gizzie and Steve Ramonczuk, Instructor Pilots, in celebration of his first solo flight on July 14, 2012.*

**At AMA Headquarters in Muncie**



*Babe Raab went to AMA Headquarters in Muncie recently and posted our flyer and logo on their National Model Aviation Museum bulletin board.*

**In The Shop**



*Babe Raab's Grandson, Grant working on one of Babe's planes This was not posed. Babe says he can't keep him out of the shop! Let's hope he stays interested.*

RALPH DOYLE PHOTOS (LEFT)

BABE RAAB PHOTOS (RIGHT)

**Four-Star 40/Warbirds Races. July 21, 2012**

*by Ralph Doyle*

The big July race is now history. Mother Nature somehow managed to squeeze in a "moderate temperature" day between the triple digit days we've all been enduring. We had 13 contestants divided into 11 4-star racers and 7 warbird sign-ups. The numbers don't add up as a number of pilots competed in both events. And, of course, all the contestants want to thank the 7 helpers who gave a portion of their Saturday to help put on the race: Tom Foster, Brendon Weidinger, Dan Weidinger, Greg Bowles, Bruce Omans, Gene Jones and Will Hopkins. If I missed anyone who helped, please accept my apologies.

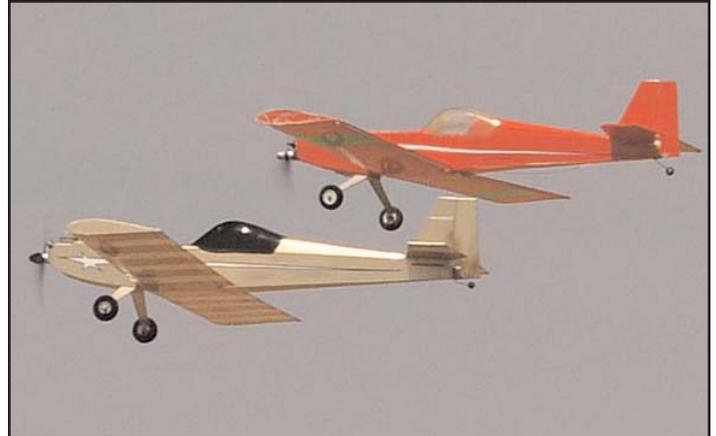
Paul Geders showed remarkable ability today, as he scored a perfect 15 points in both the Four-Star and Warbird events. In the battle for Four-Star honors, he was followed closely by Steve Ramonczuk with 14 points and Ralph Doyle with 13 points.

In the Warbirds portion of the races, Paul was in a league by himself, Jim Schilling, as the 2nd place finisher, was only able to garner 5 points, followed closely by Ralph Doyle with a disappointing 3 points!! It was unbelievable the number of cuts due to the closeness of the racing.

We started out with 11 planes in Four-Star and 7 Warbirds.

By the end of the first round that number was reduced by 3. A midair took out hard luck pilot Bob Bennett when he mid-aired with newcomer Jeff Becker. It only shows how competitive Bob is as he seems to consistently want to occupy the airspace of another flyer. Hard luck struck Ron Hesskamp when he experienced a radio malfunction in the middle of a turn that resulted in turning his very nice plane into a corn thresher.

The next race is scheduled September 8, when the temperature will hopefully be more moderate. Come on out and watch, even if you don't feel that competitive urge to race.



## **FLIGHT LINES**



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN SCHLUETER AND WALT WILSON

### **Results of Gary Pyles' question in last month's Flight Lines regarding meeting attendance.**

The reasons given were:

1. Location, why is the club meeting held so far from the field.

Suggestions were:

- a. Have it Mark Twain Hobby Center. (Gary's response) It is too small and would support only 20 to 25 members
- b. Have it at a local library (Gary's response) Several members have checked into this but long term scheduling was not available.
- c. Have it at a school. (Gary's response) We'll look into this possibility, we use the school for scout meetings and I see other outside classes conducted there as well.
- d. Have it at the field. (Gary's response) There are only about four good months a year that would support having the meeting at the field because of heat, cold, etc. April, May, September, October. Since these are the beginning and end of the "active" flying season, maybe we should consider having the meeting at the field during these months. We already have September's meeting there. This said, the weather is extremely unpredictable.

2. Too much arguing. Although this was noted, it was also noted that they heard that there was much less arguing these days.
  3. One individual always making themselves the focus of the meeting for 10-20 minutes each time.
  4. Conflict with work and family schedule. Nothing you can do about this.
  5. Can't remember, send out an email blast, "meeting reminder", a few days before the meeting. (Gary's response) Paul Geders did so for the July meeting.
- Interesting Note:* Nobody really said anything about meeting content, except for arguing.

### **Why I Feel I Need Not Be On The Board Of Directors: By Ralph Doyle**

Speaking as the current Membership Chairman, I have come to the conclusion that the position of Membership Chairman on the Board of Directors is not necessary. The only function of this Chair is to collect dues, verify AMA membership, and maintain the club roster. None of these responsibilities elevates this position to that of a Chairmanship on the BOD. My point is that this 'job' can be handled away from the BOD without decreasing the effectiveness of the board. Further, it was mentioned to me that this chair was added to the BOD at the request of a previous member and for no other reason.

### **Spirits' 2012 Activities Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Contest/Event</b>	<b>CD/ED</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Aug 4	Electric Fly-In	Bohrer Brothers./Jeff Becker	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	

**The Spirits of St. Louis Flying Club**

**ALL ELECTRIC FLY IN**

**August 4th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

**All AMA PILOTS**

**ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE**

**PILOTS FEE IS \$5.00**



**ADMISSION IS FREE** for all spectators

**PLUS RC PARTS AND ACCESSORY RAFFLE**

**FOOD PROVIDED BY Q-LISCOUS BBQ**



**MID DAY**

**HELI. JET, SCALE AND 3D DEMOS**



**FLIGHT SCHEDULE**

**for all types of aircraft and open flying**



**OUR CLUB IS LOCATED** by the

**Missouri River at 73 Amrein Road**

**off Greens Bottom Road**

**in St. Charles**

**FOR MORE INFO**

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT**

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



## FLIGHT LINES

### Partial Recap; Board of Directors Meeting July 16;

By Walt Wilson

The Spirits' Board of Directors had a meeting on Monday, July 16. One of the purposes of the meeting was a proposal to remove the position of Webmaster as a Board of Directors office. That position was to be replaced by a *Communications Officer*, not a Board of Directors position, to oversee the Web Site, Facebook, and You Tube postings and assure that they present a positive image for the club. The *Communications Officer* would have other responsibilities, too, but the proposal was rejected as too big a job for one person. There were no candidates for the position anyway.

One Committee Chairman said he was happy to continue doing his chosen area of responsibility, but asked to be voluntarily removed as a member of the Board of Directors. He resented receiving e-mails concerning Club business beyond his immediate area of responsibility and didn't want to be bothered attending occasional board meetings. He said he had nothing to contribute to Club decisions beyond his area of responsibility. A vote was taken and he got his wish by a vote of 7 for, 3 against.

A second Board member made the same proposal, giving the same reasons, and also got his wish, by a vote of 7-3.

Then, a proposal was made to eliminate all Board positions except for the four elected officers. It was noted that a fifth member was desirable to prevent tied votes, so the Past President was suggested. In our charter, the AMA recognizes the Safety Committee Chairman as an important position. It's the only office beyond the elected officers that is listed. Since the office of Past President only lasts for one year and is not recognized by AMA, it was proposed that the Safety Committee Chairman be the fifth member of the Board.

A quick vote was taken and the measure passed, 7 for, 3 against.

### The other Side of The Story:

To eliminate 58% of our BOD positions is roughly equivalent to the Federal Government eliminating Congress and saying that we don't need them, the Executive Branch can make all the decisions!

The existing makeup of the Board of Directors was developed over 35 years of experience, hard knocks, and problem solving. The present organization has been in place for twelve years with no organizational issues until now.

Think very carefully before you delete seven Board of Directors' positions. In addition to the elected officers and Safety Committee Chairman, the other three BOD members, facing deletion of their positions, want to keep serving. For now, why not excuse the two Committee Chairmen, who want to opt out from further participation in B.O.D communications and deliberations for the balance of time they want to do their chosen jobs. They perform other valuable services for the club and, hopefully, will continue to do so.

Two others indicated by their votes that they also want to be removed from the BOD. The *Outgoing President's* term expires in two months, so excuse him from further BOD participation until then. The *Appointed Member* voted to be removed, so he could step down anytime he wishes. Election time is only two months away and there may not be any more BOD meetings during this term, anyway.

The 2013 elected officers may be the same people as today, but future appointees may be more eager to participate in the BOD (I was honored when asked). The elected officers and BOD personnel are voluntarily here to serve you.

Vote for the organization you think will best serve the club.

## Official Absentee Ballot

It has been proposed that the Constitution and By-Laws be revised to eliminate all Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club, Inc. Board of Directors positions except for the elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the appointed Safety Committee Chairman. If you can not attend the membership meeting on August 9, check the box below indicating your vote and return this absentee ballot to the Club Secretary before the start of the meeting at 7:00 P.M. on that date.

I vote for the proposal

I vote against the proposal

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

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

Absentee ballots must be received no later than 7:00 P.M., August 9, to be counted.

E-mailed votes will be accepted if signed.

Sign Here: \_\_\_\_\_