

# Flight Lines

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

"Celebrating 50+ Years - Established in 1965"

## June, 2017

### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

June was a busy month at the club. The resurfacing and crack repair of the runway and other blacktop surfaces was completed in addition to other general maintenance. The Field committee came through as always with their typical hard work to make our facilities some of the best in the area. If you haven't been out to enjoy the upgrades, do yourself a favor and get out there!

With the wind and weather being cooperative we have been getting a pretty good attendance at most of the events. The Swap Meet was a huge success with one of the best turnouts we have had in several years and the Warbird Nights have been well attended.

We are happy to be back at Bridgeton Trails Library for our monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. As a result, we have moved Tuesday Night Warbirds to Wednesday Nights so check out the event calendar.

Don't forget to come out and fly in the Pylon Races on July 15th! New flyers can win a Flightline Spitfire just for entering!

Membership is growing steadily with our current membership at 129 (As of this writing). I still am getting a constant stream of requests for information regarding the club by potential new members.

Check out the brief review of the Phoenix F4U Corsair 58.5" ARF in this edition of the newsletter if your in the market for a really nice warbird in the Non-Foamie variety powered by either glow or electric.

### NEXT MEETING:

Join us 7:00 on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 back at Bridgeton Trails Library.  
3455 McKelvey Rd., Bridgeton, MO  
63044.

#### Tentative Agenda:

- June Meeting Minutes Review
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurers Report
- Field Committee Report
- Membership Chair Update
- Flight Safety Moment
- 2017 Event Discussions
- Technical Presentations

Next month, I will continue my article on Refinishing that Foamie with part two of the three part series and with any luck I will either review the new Extreme Flight "Pantera", a 130+ mph pattern plane from their "Speed Freak" series of birds or the new 1700mm Flightline A-10 Warthog. Both of which are in boxes in the shop, waiting for some love!

Remember, introduce someone new to flying today!



Happy Flying!  
Ralph Grant (2017 Spirits President)

## JULY 15TH RACE EVENT HELPERS!

By Ralph Grant and Steve Cross (Event CD)

Attention all members! We could use your help at the July 15th pylon event to insure a fun and successful race.

We can use the help of 6 individuals to be cut judges(2) and lap counters(4). Anyone can do it, we'll train you! If you are not going to race but have some time, we could sure use your help.

If you are interested in helping out, please send an email in advance to Steve Cross at the following address: [svcross528@gmail.com](mailto:svcross528@gmail.com) so that he can plan accordingly.

**Ralph Grant is donating the Flightline 1200mm Spitfire pictured below (About a dozen flights) with some spare parts to be**



**used in a drawing for volunteers and new warbird race pilots who didn't fly in the last event.**

## SAFETY COMMITTEE REMINDER:

By Steve Cross, Safety Chairman and Bill Lindewirth, Treasurer

Be careful of the heat! Temperatures this July will easily approach 100 degrees. See the sign of heat-stroke on the clubs' bulletin board inside the pavilion. For two (2) years in a row a member has been overcome by heat stroke while at the field. Paramedics were called to the field for one of the members. Do not fly alone!! If you witness someone experiencing a heat stroke. "Do not hesitate" to call 911 no matter what the heat victim says.

Get them into the pavilion, turn on the fans, remove shirt, shoes and socks and begin pouring water over the victims neck and back. Do not allow them to drink large quantities of water, only small sips or ice chips until the paramedics get there.

The Safety Rules have been updated and posted on the Website here:

[Spirits Safety Rules](#)

## JAPANESE AERIAL ATTACK!:

By Ralph Grant, President

Pearl Harbor pales in comparison to the Japanese Beetle attack we are under at the field. At least one EDF Jet was shot down after one of the little bug-gers was sucked through the fan and his tough little exoskeleton blew all the plastic blades off! Dave



Brown placed some Japanese Beetle Traps out on the field to help attract the little fellas but be on the lookout!

## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES:

By Greg Bowles, Secretary

President, Ralph Grant called the meeting to order at 6:57pm.

**Attendance:** 17 members were in attendance.

### **New Member(s) in Attendance:**

Mike Kuechler is our latest new member in attendance. Jack is "noobie" and helped clean up the field after the flood. Thanks! He is retiring in a year and will be seeking instruction and assistance from our members. Welcome Mike!

### **Secretary's Report:**

Greg Bowles, Secretary

A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the April meeting minutes as published in the 2017 May "Flight Lines".

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Bill Lindewirth, Treasurer (Not Present)

We will update the membership on the financials at the next club meeting.

### **Field Committee Chairman's Report:**

Paul Geders, Field Committee Chairman

1. A "big thanks" to those who helped clean up the field after it flooded. And especially Dave Brown for the use of his equipment and arriving at 4:30am and having most of the work done by 8:00am when the rest of us arrived.
2. "Hot Pour" filling and resealing of the runway and all the asphalt surfaces has been completed. It is suggested we "Hot Pour" every 2 years and "Seal" every 4 years. The last two times we went 7 years between resurfacing. We are considering "NO TAXI" stencils in the pit areas and "START TAXI" stencils at the concrete culvert.
3. The training Helipad is to be recovered with a fabric. We are considering a base of limestone screenings under the fabric which turns to concrete once it is wet, and therefore no dust.
4. The field will be closed for mowing from 1:00 to 5:00 pm each Thursday (Weather permitting). There is no flying while the field is being mowed!
5. Our Port-a-Potty is now a few years old, and it

is suggested it be replaced with a handicapped accessible one. Information was given to Bill Lindewirth for research on cost, etc.. A motion was made, seconded and voted to inquire into obtaining a larger Port-a-Potty.

6. Extending the parking lot for those pilots with trailers was discussed. Filling of the low spots in the driveway was proposed. Dave Brown had small rock with limestone screenings and is presently filling all the low spots at the entrance, driveway and wherever else it is needed.
7. Discussion to thin out the Bradford Pears branches was presented to the members. It was also suggested to dig up the tree/bush and replace.
8. Recommendation: To extend the life of the newly purchased, "Lawn Chairs are to be Stacked Under the Pavilion when Not in Use".
9. "Please Do Not Sit on the Plastic Flight Tables". Someone sat on one and now it is sway-back.

### **Safety Committee Chairman's Report:**

Steve Cross, Safety Committee Chairman (Not Present)

1. Per the FAA, your registered number is no longer required to be placed on your aircraft (at this time). The AMA still requires you to place your name, contact information and AMA number inside or outside of your aircraft
2. Ralph Grant mentioned, that he also places a note inside or outside his electric powered aircraft, stating that it contains a Li-Po battery which can be a fire hazard. This might be a good policy to follow if you have one get away.
3. With Summer temperatures and humidity rising, be sure to drink plenty of water. There is a flier on the bulletin board listing the warning signs of Heat Stroke and Heat Exhaustion. Please Read! If you have an aircraft go down off the field, 1) inform someone you are going to off the field, 2) take a long marker pole and 3) take a "walkie-talkie" with you.
4. We are still having incidences where are members are not familiar with our revised safety rules. If you are a new or existing member, please review the revised Safety Rules posted on our website and at the field. Safety is your responsibility!
5. Spirit Membership Cards must be posted on the
6. Frequency Board if you are flying. We still have "non-members" flying at the field. It is everyone's responsibility to help police this basic rule.
7. If you are new and are seeking instruction, contact

Ralph Grant at [ralph@thegrantz.com](mailto:ralph@thegrantz.com). Please provide information on your aircraft, times & dates available, transmitter type, experience and contact information.

**Membership Chairman’s Report:**

Ralph Doyle, Membership Chairman

Our membership is presently at 126 members.

**Contest/Event Committee Chairman’s Report (Position Open).**

Upcoming Spirits Events:

- Info/Ag Demo will be held in the afternoon of July 24th. For the use of the field, the club will receive \$250. AMA required for the pilots. We have also have been contacted by other organizations concerning the rental of our field. Ralph suggested we charge “for-profit” organizations \$250 per day rental of the field. A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept a \$250 per day charge for use of our field for “for-profit” organizations.
- 2017 Wednesday (Formerly Tuesday) Night Warbirds schedule:
  - July 12th “Jugs” (P-47) & “Tigers” (P-40)
  - July 26th Multi-Engine
  - August 9th Pylon Racers
  - August 23rd “Dawn Patrol”
  - September 6th “British Invasion”
- 2017 AMA National Model Aviation Day/Fun Fly, Saturday, August 26th. 9:00am -2:00pm
- 2017 Four-Star 40, Unlimited Electric Warbirds & High Wing Trainer Racers event schedule:
  - Saturday, July 15th, 9:00am-2:00pm; Steve Cross (CD). Cut Judges and Counters needed.
  - Saturday, September 16th, 9:00am-2:00pm.
- Membership Appreciation Dinner & Nomination of 2018 Club Officers; Tuesday, September 12th, 5:00-9:00pm.

**Upcoming Local Events:**

- SLRCFA Indoor Flying – Every Friday 6-9pm; Eureka Central Baptist Church, 601 North Central Avenue, Eureka, MO; \$5 & current AMA required.

- Wright Flyers Jim Elfrink’s Lake Float Fly – Saturday, July 22nd; 10:00am–1:00pm; For directions see [wrightflyersrc.com](http://wrightflyersrc.com), send an email to [information@wrightflyersrc.com](mailto:information@wrightflyersrc.com) or contact Danne Anderson at 636-528-0534.
- Wright Flyers Innsbrook Float Fly – Saturday, September 2nd; 9:00–12:00am; for directions see [wrightflyersrc.com](http://wrightflyersrc.com) website, email [information@wrightflyersrc.com](mailto:information@wrightflyersrc.com) or contact Bill Moran 314-952-8542

**Technical Presentation:**

Presentation #1: Ralph Grant presented his Bump Charger ([bumpcharger.com](http://bumpcharger.com)). This portable charging station is packed into a Home Depot Ridgid 22” Pro Series rubberized plastic case. This is a modular storage solution and is expandable with stackable, interlocking units sold separately. Inside are two 50 amp, 24 volt power supplies feeding two PowerLAB 8 1344W Chargers capable of charging twelve, 5000 mAh 6S batteries in 25 minutes. The Bump Controller / Battery Management System utilizes Near Field Communication (NFC) and a Bump Compliant Tag. You simply swipe the battery with a bump tag on the charger and the charger is configured automatically. The iPhone App communicates with the charger via bluetooth and stores charging history and other data on your phone. Pretty nifty! Grant’s setup was around \$1200-\$1300. Customize units can be created for your budget.

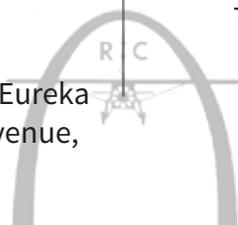
The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm after the wind blew us out of the parking lot!

**Next Spirits’ Meeting:**

Tuesday, July 11th, 7:00-9:00pm  
 St. Louis County Library/ Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey Road, Bridgeton, Missouri.

2017 Monthly Meeting Schedule:

- Tuesday, August 08th
- Tuesday, September 12th
- Tuesday, October 10th
- Tuesday, November 14th
- Tuesday, December 12th



# 2017 EVENT CALENDAR

DATE:	TIME:	DESCRIPTION:	CD/ SPONSOR:
July 12	5:30 - Dusk	Wednesday Night Warbird Fly-In: Jugs and Tigers	Ralph Grant
July 15	9:00-1:00	Four Star 40, Warbirds, and Trainer Pylon Races (AMA Sanctioned) - Volunteers Needed	Steve Cross
July 24	2:00-4:00	Info-Ag Tour - Drone Demo's and Ag Equipment	Ralph Grant
July 26	5:30 - Dusk	Wednesday Night Warbird Fly-In: Multi-Engine	Ralph Grant
Aug 09	5:30 - Dusk	Wednesday Night Warbird Fly-In: Reno Racers	Ralph Grant
Aug 12	9:00 - 2:00	National Model Aviation Day: Fly-In / Fun-Fly	Committee
Aug 23	5:30 - Dusk	Wednesday Night Warbird Fly-In: WWI / Dawn Patrol	Ralph Grant
Aug 26	9:00 - Dusk	Annual Heli Fun-Fly Extravaganza (AMA Sanctioned) - Volunteers Needed	Jason Cummings / Steve Cross
Sept 06	5:30 - Dusk	Wednesday Night Warbird Fly-In: British Invasion	Ralph Grant
Sept 12	5:00 - Dusk	Meeting / Membership Appreciation Dinner	Officers and BOD
Sept 16	9:00 - 1:00	Four Star 40, Warbirds, and Trainer Pylon Races Volunteers Needed	Ralph Doyle
Calendar was approved at the March Meeting. If you have an event you would like to sponsor, just come to the monthly meeting and let us know!			



# THE PHOENIX F4U CORSAIR

## INTRODUCTION:

The 58.5" Phoenix F4U Corsair GP/EP ARF is the third Phoenix Airplane that I have assembled. This bird comes with mechanical retracts, and can be configured for glow or electric power. I of course chose an electric version.

Text and Photography By Ralph Grant

## QUALITY, FEATURES, ETC:

The quality of the construction of Phoenix models is better than most of the balsa/ply/and Oracover planes and for \$179.00 with a Tower Hobbies coupon it is a downright steal! Some of the positive features of the plane include the



## SPECIFICATIONS:

Here are the details of the setup I configured.

**Wingspan:** About 1500mm - 58.5"

**Length:** 44.5"

**Wing Area:** 592in<sup>2</sup>

**Weight:** 8.5 lbs with Battery

**Motor:** Rimfire (.46-.55 recommended) but mine has an Rimfire .80 for MORE POWER!

**ESC:** Castle Talon 90

**Batteries:** Pulse 3700 mah 60C

**Propeller:** FMS 14x8 4-Blade / 1400mm Corsair

**Receiver/Radio:** Futaba R7008SB / 18SZ

**Servos:** Futaba High Torque Digital

**Flight Stabilizer:** Eagle Tree Guardian

following:

- Mechanical Rotating Retracts (Just add two servos)
- Fantastic constructed airframe that is straight and strong.
- Awesome quality fiberglass cowling
- Decent cockpit

Now before we hammer on the plane, we need to preface this with the fact that I probably have higher standards for a warbird than most people. I'm no Scale Masters flyer, but I do want a certain level of awesome for my warbirds. That being said, now for the

THE 58.5" PHOENIX F4U CORSAIR REVIEW (CONTINUED)

downside:

- No Flaps. It lands amazing without them but a Corsair with no Flaps sitting on the tarmac is a miss.
- Ridgid struts with soft metal parts. They have brass ball links which bend / break easily even when you grease it in. (More on this later)
- Low end foam wheels and tires. Gotta do Robarts at a minimum. Aluminum would be better.
- Super cheesy pilot that looked more like a cartoon character than a warbird pilot. Lame vacuum formed radial engine which I replaced with a Williams Brothers and added Aluminum pushrods and spark plug wires.
- Sub-Par Graphics which I upgraded with the "Skyboss" livery from Callie Graphics. All my birds get Callie Graphics now.

Even with those downsides, its still a great model to serve as a blank canvas for your Bah Bah Blacksheep upgrades.

BUILD TIPS:

Because this is my 3rd Phoenix model, I literally built the plane and never cracked open the instructions other than to sort out the hardware in the beginning and set it up for the throws and CG at the end. Its your typical balsa/ply and covered plane which I prefer

POWER SYSTEM UPGRADES:

The power system was the biggest upgrade by going with the Rimfire .80 over the recommended .46 to .55. The bigger motor was required to spin the scale FMS Four Blade Corsair propeller from the 1400mm Model. That and a Castle Talon 90 electronic speed controller drive the model for 8+ minutes of very spirited flying. Incidentally, the Castle

Talon 90 is my goto ESC for almost everything. Its 6S, 90Amps, 20Amp BEC, computer configurable, surface mountable, with a big old aluminum heat sync on it all for \$66 bucks before Tower Coupons. Its the best value in ESC's bar none. I even use them with the high performance motors from Extreme Flight without any issues. They rock! It seems like a fairly pricey upgrade and overkill but its totally worth it to spin that scale propeller for flight. That coupled with a Williams Brothers 1/8th Pratt and Whitney Wasp R-1340 engine with some airbrush magic and spark plug wires makes for an awesome looking business end of the plane.

PILOT UPGRADES:

The pilot that came with it was so silly looking I tossed him in the trash the minute I pulled it from the box and immediately got online looking for a replacement. I ended up purchasing a WWII Navy Pilot from [www.warbirdpilots.com](http://www.warbirdpilots.com) and added in the servo option to move his head back and forth. He was about \$100 but worth it. The pilot was 1/7th scale and the plane was 1/8.3ish so he

THE 58.5" PHOENIX F4U CORSAIR REVIEW (CONTINUED)

was a little big but I used him anyway because it was so much better than the one that came



with the plane. The pilot plus the graphics from Callie made for an amazing look. I also painted the inside of the cockpit and gear wells green and added a bunch of checkering that I cut out from monokote and placed it on the tail



and cowl to make it look that much better. If she had flaps and gear doors along with oleo suspension it would be perfect.

FLYING THE F4U CORSAIR:

I maiden'd her on a calm day with only a few people at the field. Finally a warbird with

rudder authority on takeoff! There was a slight crosswind as usual and I didn't even notice. She tracked perfectly and lifted off. I trimmed her for straight and level flight with only about 7 or 8 odd clicks of trim and engaged the Eagle Tree Guardian with about 30% gain. She tracked like a laser with the flight stabilizer on. I raised the gear and nothing bad happened so I did about a dozen low show passes down the runway to see my handy-work in flight up close and personal. She did all the basic warbird aerobatics with authority and did GIANT loops being pulled by the Rimfire .80 and that big FMS 4 blade prop. Power to spare is my favorite thing. After about 6 minutes the timer reminded me that I was not in the Pacific looking for enemy fighters so I dropped the gear and landed her. The landing wasn't the most perfect but certainly within the capability of typical landing gear design. The brass ball link on the left landing gear broke while taxiing into the pits. I managed to get the part from Tower within a few weeks but without a doubt, this is a weakness in the design although 50X better than the best electric foamie retract system. I liked the adjustability of the mechanical retract setup much better than the electric versions. Using my radio I can slow them down, adjust the endpoints, raise one and then the other, and a litany of other features. I'm a fan of mechanical retracts now.

CONCLUSION / SUMMARY:

For twice the cost of a FMS 1400mm foam F4U Corsair you can get one that looks and flies so much better. I cannot recommend this plane enough. I see a much larger 80" Phoenix Mustang in my future after all the great experiences with the smaller scale warbirds they offer. Easy to assemble, Easy to upgrade, and even Easier to fly. I recommend Phoenix planes to anyone ready to get away from foam.

## **ARTICLE & PHOTO SUBMISSIONS:**

By Ralph Grant, President / Newsletter Editor

If you have an idea for an article or technical piece, please contact any of the officers and we will do our best to provide it. If you would like to submit an article, all you need to do is provide the text via email and a few pictures, we'll do the rest to make it “Pretty” for you. I know there is a ton of knowledge out there so please, share it with the club members. Don't forget to submit your photo's to the club as well! Just email them to [ralph@thegrantz.com](mailto:ralph@thegrantz.com) and I'll include them in the newsletter.



Spirits of St. Louis RC Flying Club

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT WARBIRDS

**JULY 12 - "JUGS" (P-47) & "TIGERS" (P-40)**  
**JULY 26 - MULTI-ENGINE**  
**AUGUST 9 - PYLON RACERS**  
**AUGUST 23 - "DAWN PATROL"**  
**SEPTEMBER 6 - "BRITISH INVASION"**

1600 HRS. (4:00 pm) to DUSK

Free to Spirits Members,

\$5.00 landing fee for everyone else with a valid AMA Membership.

Don't have a warbird? Put Stars and Bars on your trainer and come fly! Static aircraft welcome.

**73 Amrein Road  
St. Charles, MO  
63303**

Find us using Google Maps,  
MapQuest or your GPS  
using the address above.

Hwy 94 & Pitmann Hill & Mid Rivers (10 Minutes)  
South on Pitmann Hill Rd, it crosses the Katy Trail  
and turns into Greens Bottom Rd  
Turn right on Amrein Rd.  
About 1 mile down on your right

Hwy 94 & Jungs Station (10 Minutes)  
South on Jungs Station, it crosses the Katy Trail  
and turns into Greens Bottom Rd  
After Chalks Hill intersection, turn left on Amrein Rd.  
About 1 mile down on your right



Spirits of St. Louis



RC Flying Club

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# PYLON RACES

Unlimited Electric Warbirds

Sig Four-Star 40

High Wing Trainers

**Saturday - July 15th, 2017**

**Current AMA & \$5 Racing Fee Required**

**Pilot Registration 9:00 am**

**Racing begins at 10:00 am**

**Spectators always welcome! FREE parking**

**73 Amrein Rd., St. Charles, MO 63304**

**For race rules**

**<http://spiritsofstl.com/Events/Events.html>**

**Steve Cross (CD) [svcross528@gmail.com](mailto:svcross528@gmail.com)**



**MARK TWAIN HOBBY CENTER**

# GIANT BIRDS AT SPIRITS

Photography By Ralph Grant

Sam Noe came into town for the Swap Meet and brought his magnificent and ginormous 50% Cub and his 47% Super Decathlon "Miss Maggie". Both planes were a big hit and the

crowds really enjoyed watching them fly while they were buying and selling in the pits. If you want to see them fly yourself, search for "Sam Noe RC" on YouTube and there are vidoes there!

