

Flight Lines

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

"Celebrating 50+ Years - Established in 1965"

September, 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Well, its been one year as President of this fine organization and it has been fun. Getting involved has forced me to get to know more people in the club, build some new lifelong friendships, appreciate the work that occurs behind the scenes, solve a few challenges, and hopefully leave a more indelible mark than I would have if I wasn't as involved. There have been times that were trying on a sane persons patience but in general I don't regret a minute of it. If you are so inclined to have me, I'd like to serve another term and do it better the second time around.

We had our final two events this month. The Membership appreciation dinner was a great time and probably would have been better if yours truly would have showed up with the BBQ from Bandana's on time! I think the meeting was a success and we all enjoyed some food and fellowship at the field.

Our final Pylon Race was on the 16th of September. We had our typical modest turnout but everyone involved had a great time. Ralph Doyle has an article in this Newsletter if you would like to learn more.

There have been several new members at the field and even some younger flyers which is always fun. I thoroughly enjoy being around people who are just developing their love of our hobby. Their excitement and interest raises the bar for us all and makes flying model airplanes even more enjoyable. It reminds me as an officer why we are here, to fly and enjoy each others company!

NEXT MEETING:

Join us 7:00 on Tuesday, October 10th, at Bridgeton Trails Library for our monthly meeting and officer elections

Tentative Agenda:

- Meeting Minutes Review
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurers Report
- Field Committee Report
- Membership Chair Update
- Flight Safety Moment
- Officer Elections for 2018

Remember, introduce someone new to flying today or just help another flyer the next time your at the club!



Happy Flying!
Ralph Grant (2017 Spirits President)

SEPTEMBER 16TH RACE EVENT:

By Ralph Doyle

The temperature was surprisingly warmer than expected for the September races and as usual, the racing was hot and heavy. The contestants were fortunate that seven volunteers responded to the call and helped run the race. Without their help, the activity would not be able to proceed. Also, two of our newest members showed up raring to go in the Run-what- U- brung high wing trainer races and electric warbirds. New member and competitor, Kurt Linke, won the 1200mm



FlightLine Spitfire raffle. The 4-star race was won by Ralph Doyle, who narrowly escaped Paul Geders when Paul's elevator clevis snapped and his plane harvested some soy beans. The crash allowed Jim Shilling to move into second place with Steve Cross coming in a distant third.

As mentioned above, two new members showed up with high wing foam "apprentice" type planes ready to take on anyone. But, anyone never showed up.

The electric warbirds had a new competitor join our valiant few and Travis Nute came in 2nd flying an eflite p-47d behind first place finisher Ralph Doyle, flying a beat up Spitfire. Steve Ramonccek, flying "Rare Bear", came in

third due to flying a shorter course than was allowed!

Of the seven members who volunteered to assist holding the event, four of them were brand new members. I think this, unfortunately, reflects poorly on the rest of the membership when it comes to supporting the club. Even if you don't want to participate in the event, whatever it is, the better the turn-out the more funds that are raised in support of the club which ultimately helps pay the bills. This little activity raised \$80 and I was told that there were several spectators, who were not club members, enjoying the races and buying refreshments.

A REAL LIFE SAFETY MOMENT:

By Ralph Grant, President

"Better safe than sorry" are words to live by. It was a little blustery last Saturday but that didn't keep many of us from flying, a lot! I probably put about 12 flights on various birds throughout the day when at one point, my Prometheus Biplane blew off the table, knocking my Futaba 18SZ to the ground as well. I'd spent the entire afternoon tearing holes in the sky with the biplane and throwing the sticks into the corners at full throttle.

At one point I had to tape the tail to keep it



from being torn off from the violent aerobatics

I was putting Skip through. The ground was the least of the problems the airframe had that day. The biplane was fine but upon inspection of my radio, it was discovered that switch SB was broken off. The very switch I use for my dual rates. Everything else appeared fine. "Oh well, this radio has 10 more switches so I programmed the dual rates over to switch SA and prepared for takeoff. I taxied up to the runway and got ready to give it full throttle. In my head I was fully prepared to "Field Test" the radio and lose potentially lose Prometheus, no biggy. Then it hit me. Although wiping out the biplane wasn't a real issue for me, am I willing to hurt one of my fellow flyers? I realized in an instant that I cared much more for them than the biplane and aborted the flight. I have sent the 18SZ off to our friends in Illinois for a legitimate diagnostic and get the switch repaired and potentially avoided hurting someone or myself in the process. They may be toy planes but many principles of real aviation apply. You would never fly a full size plane with potentially sketchy equipment!

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES:

By Greg Bowles, Secretary

On September 12th, 2017 President, Ralph Grant called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Attendance:

13 members and 3 wives were in attendance.

New Member(s):

Sid Kinzel is getting back into the hobby.
Scott Link is a returning member.

Secretary's Report:

Greg Bowles, Secretary

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

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Lindewirth, Treasurer

For August 2017 we had an income of \$1018 and expenses of \$1848.

Field Committee Chairman's Report:

Paul Geders, Field Committee Chairman (Not Present)

1. Repairs are being considered to our faithful BBQ grill that needs a new bottom that is rusting out. A BBQ pit has been donated to the club by Dave Brown's neighbor and is currently being refurbished by Dave.



2. To extend the life of our newly purchased lawn chairs, please remember to "Stack the New Lawn Chairs under the Pavilion when Not in Use, not on the Posts along the Parking Lot".
3. Again "Please Do Not Sit on the Plastic Flight Tables". They bend very easily.
4. If you are the last person to leave the field, "Please Close and Lock the Gate". And if the gate is closed, don't drive around it.
5. The Heli-Pad is still in the process of getting sewn and installed.
6. AMA Grant Program. If you have receipts pertaining to field maintenance, please forward them to Ralph Grant as soon as possible.
7. The fire extinguisher by the bulletin board has been replaced after it apparently fell and was broken. It has now been relocated to a more visible position. Paul Geders repaired the one that fell and it is now located by the post closet to the BBQ.
8. The first aid box contents need to be inventoried and restocked after the contents were spilled on the ground. It was also suggested we purchase an over-the-counter coagulant.

9. A new windsock has been purchased and been vertically aligned for accuracy with the help of Richard Kline and the Kubota. It may need to have 3 guy wires added to keep it vertical when the ground gets wet.
10. The fire pit was cleaned out with the help of Bob Schmidt. IT IS NOT A TRASH PILE! IF YOU BRING IT TO THE FIELD...TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU. See photos below.



There

were 21 various size LiPo batteries in the fire pit. Incineration of lithium cells and batteries by consumers is not recommended. Incineration should be done at a properly permitted facility that can handle this waste. Contact your waste handler if you are unsure whether or not a facility can handle the batteries. You can also take them to Batteries Plus for proper disposal. To learn how to properly discharge your LIPO Batteries, refer to the Article on LIPO Batteries in the December, 2016 Flightlines!

11. This also includes the Porta-Potty & BBQ Grill. If trash is found in the Porta-Potty, it will not be serviced and we will charge us for damages to their equipment if debris is sucked up into their equipment.



Safety Committee Chairman’s Report:

Steve Cross, Safety Committee Chairman (Not Present)
 “Have Fun and Be Safe.”

1. If you have an aircraft go down off the field, before starting your search & rescue 1) align the plane finder on safety fence to where the plane went down. 2) inform someone you are going off the field, 3) take a long marker pole to mark your position, 4) take a “walkie-talkie” with you and leave one with someone on the flight line to keep in contact with, while they use the plane finder to keep you on line to the downed aircraft, and 5) be careful not to cause any crop damage.
2. 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!
3. Non-members are still flying at the field. If you suspect someone is not a member, politely ask to see their card and remind them they have to be a member to fly at our field. Spectators are always welcome (when members are present).
4. Please remember to place your membership card on the Frequency Board when flying. Next year’s membership card is “yellow”.

Membership Chairman’s Report:

Ralph Doyle, Membership Chairman

Our ending membership for 2017 is presently at 135 members, with 5 members signed-up for October 2018.

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

- September 16th Four-Star 40, Unlimited Electric Warbirds & High Wing Trainer Pylon Races Raffle Prize Winner was Kurt Linke. A big thanks to Ralph Grant for the donation of the 1200mm Flight Line Spitfire.

Upcoming Spirits Events:

All events have been completed for the year.
 Thanks for all that helped and participated!



Upcoming Local Events:

- SLRCFA Indoor Flying – Every Friday 6-9pm; Eureka Central Baptist Church, 601 North Central Avenue, Eureka, MO; \$5 & current AMA required.
- Herman Municipal Airport – Annual RC Night Fly; Saturday, October 14th; 12:00 - ?; Herman, MO; grenadapult@gmail.com

Nomination of 2018 Club Officers:

- President.....Ralph Grant
- Vice President...Robert “Babe” Raab
- Treasurer.....Bill Lindewirth
- Secretary.....Greg Bowles

Election of Club Officers will be at the October 10th Spirits’ Monthly Meeting.

Board of Directors Positions Required for 2018:

- Field Committee Chairman...Open
- Safety Committee Chairman...Open
- Contest & Event Committee Chairman...Open
- Membership Chairman.....Ralph Doyle
- Newsletter Editor...Open
- Website Web-Master.....Bill Lindewirth
- One Full Member Position...Open
- Meeting Activity Coordinator...Open

Technical Presentation(s):

No Presentations

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Next Spirits’ Meeting and Election of Club Officers
Tuesday, October 10th, 7:00-9:00pm
St. Louis County Library/ Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455
McKelvey Road, Bridgeton, Missouri.

Bring an aircraft for “Show & Tell” or display!

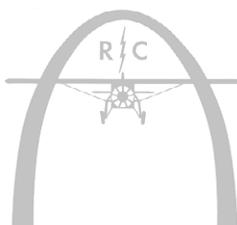
2017 Monthly Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, November 14th
Tuesday, December 12th

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 and I’ll include them in the newsletter.



BABY BLUES

A Comic by Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott submitted by Babe Raab.

