



FLIGHT LINES

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

BLUE SKIES ARE BACK!

Spirits of St. Louis RC Flying Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes for June 11th, 2019 by Paul Geders, Secretary

President Ralph Grant: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the President.

Attendance:

10 members were in attendance.

New Member(s):

No new members

Secretary’s Report:

Paul Geders, Secretary

- 1) A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the May meeting minutes as mailed out and will be published on the Spirits website under the 2019 April Flightlines Newsletter link at a later date.

Treasurer’s Report:

Greg Bowles, Treasurer

- 1) Income this month \$2,125.00, expenses were \$1,659.78. Motion made, seconded, and voted to accept the treasurer’s report.
- 2) Greg also reported on the club inventory which is now up to date.
- 3) Motion made, seconded, and voted to purchase Quicken to assist doing the treasurers tasks.

Field Committee Chairman’s Report:

Dave Brown, Field Committee Chairman

- 1) Repaired the entrance gate slide bolt.

- 2) Discussed the cutting the grass shorter than 2 ½”. Grass will not be cut shorter as voted on previously. We already cut it short around the perimeter of the runway. Greg pointed out that we also have an asphalt runway!

Preparing for potential flood...May 23rd! Photo by Greg Bowles



Thanks to those above who showed up to tie down our picnic and flight line tables to the pavilion!

Greg Bowles Report May 29th. Photos by Greg Bowles



First - I want the thank everyone above that came to the field yesterday afternoon (May 29th)

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in the pouring rain and thunderstorms. They all helped move our chairs, flight tables, etc. to higher ground (Theis Farm Nursery on Greens Bottom Rd.). Your presence and muscle was greatly appreciated. Talking to Josh and other Hackmann's, they say there is a good chance of being flooded. Hopefully they will be wrong.



Second - The field at this time does not have a Porta-Potty, no chairs to sit on, limited flight tables and the electricity has been turned off. The field is still open for flying, so plan accordingly. There are a few of the old wooden flight tables tied to a tree. If you must use one, please return and secure as found. When the threat of flooding has diminished, the field will return to normal operation. So please monitor your emails for updates.

Third - The Kubota tractor and mower was trailered to Dave Brown's house for storage. We had to buy a new battery as it would not start. Old battery was from May of 2013...so we got our money's worth!

FIELD IS BACK OPEN, *by Greg Bowles.*

Field was reopened on June 10!

Picnic Tables, Flight Tables, Chairs, BBQ and The Big Table have all been moved from Theis Farm back to the Spirits' (Gizzie) Field.

Electricity was turned on later that day, and Port-a-Potty will be returned on Friday.

Thank Theis Farm for letting us store our equipment on their store lot, by purchasing some of their delicious pies, meats, plants and garden accessories.

The pies are really good!

Safety Committee Chairman's

Sid Kinzel, Safety Chairman

1) No incidents or accidents at the field.

2) **Farmers stated:**

"KEEP OFF THE LEVIES...THEY ARE TOO SOFT AND YOU COULD CAUSE A POSSIBLE BREACH!"

Membership Chairman's Report:

Ralph Doyle, Membership Chairman

- 1) Current 2019 membership is 111. This time last year we had 125 members!
- 2) If you are a renewing 2018 member there is a \$25 "in arrears" fee, that became effective after the close of the March meeting, and is in addition to your membership fee.
- 3) Ralph Doyle will NOT be Membership Chairman next year... We need someone to step up and fill this position.

Old Business:

Results of changing Safety Rules voting on rule #3 and rule #29. There were 18 votes FOR Rule 3 and 2 AGAINST. There were 17 votes FOR Rule 29 and 3 AGAINST. Rule changes pass and Safety Rules have been updated on web-site under the **Library** link.

Monthly Meeting Topics continue...

July – Foam board Airplanes There are several members who build Flite-Test type foam airplanes.

August – National Model Aviation Day! Membership appreciation! Fun Fly!

September – FPV Bring in your FPV flyer and share with the club the ins and outs of

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First Person View. **Nomination of Officers** at the September meeting and the publishing of the nominees names in the September newsletter.

October – Tether Cars Several members (Paul and Walt) have been racing Tether cars. They will bring a couple and show the club what they have been up to. **Nominations Published.** Those elected will take office immediately after the meeting.

November – New Officers in Office

December – Christmas/Holiday gift ideas

New Business:

- 1) Ralph Grant reported that we will stay with GoDaddy our web-host provider until end of current contract...around 2020!

May 18th SWAP Meet: *Photos by Greg Bowles*



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Upcoming Events: See Contest/Events Calendar at end of newsletter.

Technical Presentation(s): Photos by Paul Geders.



Steve Ramonczuk presented the new FMS F-35 Lightning II Version 3 from MotionRC. Cost is \$279. 2957-2210kV brushless inrunner motor combined with 80A ESC, 12-blade EDF, Top-loading battery bay!



Photo above by Greg Bowles



Ralph Grant presented his new VQ Models Japanese Aichi D3A1 "Val" ARF. Cost is \$229.95. Has a 60" Wingspan, 6-7 pounds depending on radio equipment, servos, motor, ESC and battery used. Covering is the sticky back type with all rivets, markings, etc. Ralph

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cut the canopy into sections to duplicate it in the open position.

Meeting adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Been Thinking: OUR future depends on YOU!

Now, what about our future? Here are some concerns/issues that were brought to your attention in last month's issue of FlightLines with some of my comments/thoughts to consider. By the Way...didn't receive one e-mail issue, concern or suggestion! This is YOUR club and we need YOUR inputs.

- 1. Getting members to fill positions on the board.** These positions are not hard to do and contribute to a cohesive organization. What can YOU do to help?
- 2. Decreasing membership attendance at CLUB MEETINGS over the years. 10 year average from 1990 to 2000 was 36 attending meetings. From 2001 to 2010 27, and from 2011 to 2019, 19. We are currently averaging 12 members attending club meetings in 2019!** Understand that we are all getting older and some can't drive at night due to vision issues. But, what is needed, or what do we do to increase meeting attendance? An interesting side-note...recently we had a work party scheduled, it was raining, and about 20 showed up...yet the May meeting only had 8 members showed up...what gives?
- 3. Costs of operation versus decreasing income.** If income comes down due to decreasing membership...do we give up

amenities? ...e.g. Johnny-on-the-Spot at about \$1,200 a year, etc.

- 4. Improving our Web-Site to include things like using PayPal, or other ways, to pay dues, update membership, secure member access, etc. Knowing exactly what is new and/or updated on the site. Possibly using WordPress...what is WordPress you ask? WordPress is, by far, the most popular open source Content Management System (CMS), used by approximately 75 million websites. WordPress is free to install, deploy, and upgrade. Thousands of plugins and templates power a flexible and simple interface, which reduces development costs and deployment time.** We are already in the process of updating our web-site, thanks to Ralph Grant and Andy Engle, to an easier to maintain site using WordPress, and we will have several member individuals with access for updating so it doesn't fall on one person to maintain...!
- 5. As a not-for-profit organization the possibility exists to get free web-site hosting after contract expires with GoDaddy.** That saves \$\$\$ in the treasury!
- 6. Above are some of my thoughts...Now it's your turn...what concerns/issues do YOU have that also needs to be addressed? What solutions do YOU propose? PLEASE send your thoughts and ideas to secretary@spiritsofstl.com**

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Next Spirits' Meeting:

Tuesday, June 11th, 7-9pm

Dorsett Village Church

2240 Bennington Place

Maryland Heights, Missouri 63034

See website <http://spiritsofstl.com> for directions.

Five Tips to Grow and Promote Your Club

by Chad Budreau (chadb@modelaircraft.org)

As seen in "View from HQ in the April 2019 issue of Model Aviation

When I was growing up, my dad would occasionally dust off some of his model airplanes for my brothers and me to enjoy. In addition to the tedious task of cleaning out any gum in the engines and spark plugs, it was a challenge to enjoy the hobby regularly because we didn't have access to a flying field or club.

As I became an adult, I met another modeler who renewed my interest in aeromodelling. Although I am again active in the hobby, I wonder how many other Chad Budreau's are out there with an attraction to the hobby, but no one to nurture their interests.

I believe our 2,400 clubs are critical to filling this role of nurturing newcomers to our hobby. Based on my experiences and conversations with club leaders and volunteers, I want to share five quick tips to help grow and promote your club.

1. Become involved in your community. Communities should not be only vaguely aware of your model aviation flying field. Educate law enforcement and legislators about the benefits of the hobby to counter the negative news. Create a field trip to your club with a local Girl or Boy Scout troop. Invite emergency responders who have an interest in using drones to your flying field. Use National Model Aviation Day to celebrate the hobby and raise money for a good cause.

When you hold these events, invite the media or take photos and submit a story. If your club gains some media exposure, let us know. AMA might even pay you (<https://modelaircraft.org/club-recognition-program>)!

This exposure not only earns your club goodwill in the eyes of key movers and shakers in the community, but exposes your hobby to potential new hobbyists who want to learn more about model aviation.

2. Brand your club. You don't need a comprehensive 20-point marketing plan to brand your club. Add a simple sign outside of your flying site that announces who you are and explains to guests how they can learn more. (Shameless plug: Contact AMA Custom Services to print an affordable vinyl sign that you can mount on a fence by calling [765] 287-1256, extension 507.)

Clubs often work with a vendor, allowing members to buy a shirt promoting the club. Although shirts are great, I've learned that hats are sometimes more effective. They are at eye level, gain more attention, are practical, and are often less expensive.

3. Go online. Although a website is nice, an equally effective tool is social media—not to mention it's free. In addition, AMA provides each club with a web presence that can be used by the club. When you search and find your club on www.modelaircraft.org, the club is assigned a unique URL using the following format: www.modelaircraft.org/club/your-club-name.

4. Delegate. Clubs often have a superman or superwoman who takes on most of the work. This is unfair to the volunteer and to the club. Get to know your club members' interests and assign roles accordingly. Assign two or three members to manage the social media page. Ask a member to get pricing on hats or signs, and make sure you have a few trainers and introductory pilots on hand. There will always be a percentage of members who will not be engaged, but to have a successful club you cannot rely on just one or two people.

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5. Welcome guests and new members. First impressions are important. Don't let anyone walk onto your field for more than a couple minutes without a warm welcome. Have a training program in place and take advantage of AMA's Introductory Pilot Program. AMA will also pay your club to develop a program to introduce your community to aeromodelling (<http://www.amaflightschool.org/sites/default/files/TAGProgramIntroLetter.pdf/files/TAGProgramIntroLetter.pdf>).

Celebrate new members who join. Introduce new members during your next meeting, on social media, and in your news-letter. Not only will they feel more excited about the club, but it will boost the morale of your existing club members.

These are a few quick suggestions to grow your club and our hobby. We at AMA Headquarters are realigning our staff to provide more club support. If you have tips that we should share with other clubs or need help, please send me an email at chadb@modelaircraft.org or contact Ilona Maine at ilonam@modelaircraft.org. Happy flying!

Leader Member Minute:

Recently, as part of implementing the new law, all AMA flying sites will be registered with the FAA to obtain a waiver to allow you to continue to fly at your field the same as you have been. This is very important and needs to be done in a timely manner. Club officers will be contacted by the AMA and will be working on this.

AMA is working very hard and has representatives in Washington, D.C., nearly every week working with multiple government departments to implement the new law to preserve recreational flight. In late June 2019, the AMA Executive Council, Government Affairs team, and supporters will walk Capitol Hill to meet with many members of Congress and strengthen our legislative position.

Many things are changing and being worked out right now. There's a lot of confusion not only among our community, but also with enforcement and even divisions within the same government departments. If anyone is approached by officials, please immediately contact AMA, and above all, be nice and cooperative and try to be helpful. Continue to fly by the AMA Safety Code as you always have.

Scott Anderson
AMA National Leader Member Coordinator
psscottanderson@gmail.com

2019 Spirits' Contest/Event Schedule

June 11, 2019

EVENT DATE	RAIN DATE	EVENT TIME	EVENT NAME	EVENT COORDINATOR
Tues., Jan. 1		9:00am – 1:00pm	Frozen Thumbs Fly-In	Greg Bowles
Sat., Jan. 26		8:00am - 12:00am	Dave Brown's Indoor Fly-In @ Hope Lutheran Church	Dave Brown/Greg Bowles
Sat., Apr. 20		10:00am – 1:00pm	Historic Aircraft Restoration Museum @ Creve Coeur Airport	Greg Bowles
Sat., April 27	Sat., May 04	8:00am – ?pm	Spring Field Clean-Up	Spirits' BOD
Sat., May 11	Sat., May 18	9:00am – 2:00pm	Annual Tailgate/Swap Meet & Field Dedication (Field is Open)	Babe Raab
Sat., May 18		9:00am – 2:00pm	Pylon Races: Four-Star 40; Unlimited Electric Warbirds	Steve Cross
Sun., May 19		9:00am – 1:00pm	Warbirds (WWII Navy)	Ralph Grant
Sun., June 2		9:00am – 1:00pm	Warbirds (The Enemy)	Ralph Grant
Sat., June 8		9:00am – 2:00pm	Pylon Races: Four-Star 40; Unlimited Electric Warbirds	Steve Cross
Sun., June 16		9:00am – 1:00pm	Warbirds (Bombers)	Ralph Grant
Sun., June 30		9:00am – 1:00pm	Warbirds (Jets)	Ralph Grant
Sat., July 13		9:00am – 1:00pm	Electric Ducted Fan Time Trials (3 Laps)	Ralph Grant
Sat., July 20		9:00am – 2:00pm	Pylon Races: Four-Star 40; Unlimited Electric Warbirds	Paul Geders
Mon., July 22		Field is Closed	Info AG Tour & Demonstration	Spirits' BOD
Sun., July 28		9:00am – 1:00pm	Warbirds (Multi-Engine)	Ralph Grant
Sat., Aug. 17		9:00am – 4:00pm	National Model Aviation Day, Membership Appreciation Dinner: Fly-In; Warbird Best of Show; Aerobatics; Gliders; Helicopters; FPV; Training & Intro Flights; Cookout/Lunch	Spirits' BOD
Sat., Sept. 28		9:00am – 2:00pm	Pylon Races: Four-Star 40; Unlimited Electric Warbirds	Steve Cross