



FLIGHT LINES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE SPIRITS OF ST. LOUIS R/C FLYING CLUB

New Year's Fly-In a Huge Success



New Year's Day Fly-In

By Paul Geders

In all the years that I have been a member of the Spirits, and before that a member of the McDonnell Douglas Club, I have never seen such outstanding attendance at a New Year's Day event. Considering that the temperatures were in the teens to low 20's, it was a fantastic success. Ralph, Walt and Steve, keep on doing whatever you're doing and we can't go wrong! When I arrived at 11:00 A.M. there were five

cars. Around noon, I counted 20 cars. When I left at around 1:30, I counted 25 cars that spilled over from the parking lot onto the grass along the entrance road. Throughout the day flyers came, flew and left to be replaced by someone else. Most engines started surprisingly well, considering the temperatures. Almost all members present participated in eating the excellent chili, provided by Ralph Amelung, or the snacks and drinks provided by the club and

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of course the flying. All seemed to be having a good time. Overall, it was an excellent day



For more pictures of the New Year's Day Fly-In, visit the Photo Gallery in our web site.

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Meeting Minutes: JANUARY 16, 2002

By Walt Wilson

President Steve Cross called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members signed in: 34 members and one applicant.

Secretary's Report: The December minutes were accepted as published in the January Flight Lines.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Field Report: George Cooper reported on the need for gravel on the road and parking lot. Paul Geders contacted a friend of the club and solicited a donation of 54 tons of gravel, to be delivered and spread on January 17. More mowing crews will be needed next year. This is your opportunity to contribute to the maintenance of our field. Call George at: 636-922-4060 and let him put you on the roster. See the field report on page six for more details.

Safety Report: Bob Rolf reported that a new member flew a helicopter from the pit area and it disintegrated in flight. No one was injured, but people and cars in the area were exposed to a serious threat that could have resulted in property damage, injury, or even death. Do not take off of or land in the pit area or taxi ways with a plane or helicopter at any time!

Activities Report: The weather has deteriorated to the point where there aren't many good flying days and activity has nearly come to a stop. The next club activity will be our part of the GSLMA show at the St. Louis Science Center, on March 2, closely followed by the Swap Meet.

New Member Applicant:

Patrick McClanahan 636-300-3307
The applicant was unanimously accepted. Steve Cross gave a brief explanation of our pilot training program.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Year's Day Fly-in: Ralph Amelung, the Event Director, reported that the event was well-attended and enjoyed by all. Four gallons of chili, coffee, hot chocolate, hot wings, s'mores

and a variety of candies were provided. Forty to 50 people attended. The total cost was offset somewhat by donations, so the final cost to the club was very modest. It was the best attended New Year's Day Fly-In in club history.

Swap Meet: Steve Cross was notified that the Boeing Building 33 Cafeteria will be available again for the Swap Meet. This year it will be necessary to enter through a different gate, due to security concerns. Ralph Amelung is in charge of the Spirits' food concession and will need a lot of help. Westy Westhoff, who has been in charge of the food concession at past Swap Meets, will be advising Ralph. A sign-up sheet will be at the next meeting, or call Ralph at: 636-939-3331 to volunteer your services.

Chesterfield Mall Show: Les Richman, the Event Director, reported that 15 Spirits' members brought 20 planes to show. We had the largest display and a steady stream of lookers and people asking questions. Joe Hodge had a plane with a video camera transmitting to a television nearby. Two other clubs had computers with flight simulator programs that had people lined up, awaiting a chance to fly.

The next show will be at the St. Louis Science Center on March 2. Planes and people will be needed for that show too. Call Les at 314-434-8080 to volunteer! It's a richly rewarding experience.

Insurance: Steve Cross reported that we now have insurance on our pavilion, as well as our equipment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Long time Spirits' member **Jim Omans** is retiring from active flying and donated three planes, some engines and a lot of equipment to the club. One of the planes, a trainer, will be retained by the club for demonstrations, etc.

The other two planes will be sold, with the proceeds being split between the club and Jim.

The planes, a Great Planes Super Aeromaster and a Royal 1910 Bleriot, are shown in the pictures from the meeting. Sealed bids may be sent to Steve Ramonczuk. If a minimum acceptable bid isn't received, the planes will be offered to the public at the upcoming Swap Meet. The other items will be offered at upcoming meetings or at the Swap Meet.

Thank you Jim!

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Steve Ramonczuk holds the Great Planes Super Aeromaster donated to the club by Jim Omans. It has an Ace single stick, four-channel radio on ham channel 04 included. Sealed bids may be sent to Steve. His address is: 3156 Autumn Shores Dr., Maryland Heights, MO 63043.



Steve Ramonczuk discusses the Royal 1910 Bleriot donated to the club by Jim Omans. It will require some work before it's capable of flying. Sealed bids may be sent to Steve at the address above.

Silver Swallows Reunion: Walt Wilson was contacted by Don Ostmann, a retired Ozark Airlines pilot, about our club putting on a flying and static air show at the Silver Swallows retired employees' annual reunion in September. The Board of Directors recommended that we seek permission from all involved and pursue this. Walt will follow up when more information is available.

Added Race: Lee and Tim Volmert asked permission to add another Four-Star 40/Warbirds race to our 2002 schedule of activities. Steve Ramonczuk will CD the August 17 event.

Event Prizes: Bill Lindewirth suggested that we offer nicer prizes at the contests this year to encourage participation. Budget constraints will limit club purchases, but Bill was encouraged to seek donations to sweeten the pot.

Engine break-in: Bill Lindewirth suggested that a specific area be designated for extended running of engines, such as breaking them in. The sound is sometimes disconcerting to people flying, because they frequently can't hear their own engines in the air. The area between the pavilion and the levee is now the designated place for this activity, the further from the pavilion, the better. George Cooper volunteered to erect a stand for running engines before spring.

Constitutional Changes: Paul Geders has proposed that some corrections and revisions be made to the Constitution and By-Laws. He also proposed that three new positions be appointed to the Spirits' Board of Directors.



Bob Fiely holds his Top flite P-51B. It has a Super Tigre .61, Hobbico mechanical retracts and is covered with Monokote.



Claud Wade shows his scratch-built P-47 Thunderbolt. It's powered by a Fox .50 and has a Monokote finish.

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Bob Bennett brought his Top Flite Hawker Sea Fury. It's powered by an O.S. 1.20 FS four stroke engine and has retracts. He had a flywheel made to add weight to the nose. It's finished with Monokote.

Petition: Paul Geders circulated a petition from AMA to be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to retain the former Army Training Facility at Galesville, New York, as a model flying site. This area was a Free Flight flying site for more than 30 years, until recently. The Fish and Wildlife Service has now decided that model airplanes present a threat to grassland dependent birds and banned flying. Go to the AMA web site at: "www.modelaircraft.org", choose "**Membership Services**", select "**AMA Documents in PDF Format**", and open "**Document #544**" for further information.



George Cooper was ready to cover his Sig Smith Mini-Bipe, but decided to show his handiwork on the structure. It's a scale model of a plane owned by a friend of his. It has Saito .56 four stroke power.

Meeting Activity: The two planes donated by Jim Omans were shown by Steve Ramoncuk. Claud Wade, Bob Fiely, George Cooper and Walt Wilson brought planes of their own to show. See the pictures for details.



Walt Wilson hold his House of balsa P-51D. He started building it, for Warbirds competition, 16 years ago and still hasn't completely finished it. It has a K&B .40 pumper for power and is finished in Hobby Poxly Aluminum paint over fiberglass.

Attendance prize: Westy Westhoff won the attendance prize of a roll of Monokote and a prop.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. The ensuing bull session lasted until almost 9:30.

President's Notes:

By Steve Cross

Welcome to 2002! Well, we started out the year right where we left off 2001, with another fantastic event put on by members of our club.

If you weren't able to attend the New Year's Day Fun Fly, you missed another opportunity to enjoy great food, spending time with your fellow modelers, and helping your club continue to grow. Our thanks to Ralph Amelung for being the Event Director, and for organizing the biggest and best New Year's Day event we've ever had! The pictures tell it all.

But a great club like ours doesn't sit on its laurels. Heck no! On January 12th, our club participated in the GSLMA model airplane show held at Chesterfield Mall. Now it was Les Richman's turn to show what our club can do, and what a great job he did! We had many members bring some really cool looking planes to show, and we had a terrific opportunity to

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talk with the public about our planes and our hobby. I think we'll get a few new members as a result. And Les will pull double duty by being the Event Director for another show at the Science Center on March 2. Thank you, Lester! Our next event, after the Science Center show, will be the Swap Meet hosted by the Boeing Phantoms and the Spirits, and again held in Building 33 on the Boeing Campus. The date is Saturday, March 16 see our web site for more details. We will be in charge of the food concessions this year, and Ralph Amelung has volunteered to be the Event Director for this activity as well. Ralph will need lots of volunteers to sign up for shifts during the event please call him if you can help.

Finally, included with the newsletter mailed to members are some suggested changes to the Constitution and By-Laws, along with a ballot to cast your vote. The first part of the ballot deals with some language changes that need to be made for consistency in our documents. The Board is in agreement of these suggested changes.

The second part of the ballot deals with adding three new positions to the Board of Directors.

You may approve or disapprove any or all of these positions, voting on each one separately. The Board is in favor of adding the Newsletter Editor and Membership Chairman, but the majority of the Board is not in favor of adding the Web-Master to the Board.

These changes/additions will be voted on at the February monthly meeting, and mailed-in ballots will be included in the count if you are unable to attend the meeting.

That's it for this month. We're having a January thaw tomorrow it is supposed to be close to 60 degrees! Hope you got a chance to get out and fly. Enjoy the rest of this newsletter's it's the biggest and best ever!!

See you at the field!
Steve Cross

Field Report

By George Cooper, Field Chairman

Winter is here and field maintenance has been at a minimum this month. We needed more gravel on the road and parking lot. Cost estimates looked a little prohibitive with other expected expenses this year. Paul Geders was asked to see if he could get a donation of some gravel. Paul came through and he called me with the news that we will get 54 tons of gravel delivered and spread at NO COST to the club.



The dump truck drivers spread the rock as they unloaded it, and did a pretty good job!

Two trucks showed up about 8:45, with almost 25 tons each and spread it on the road and part of the parking lot. It didn't cover enough so they said to call up and order more. I requested and got another two trucks authorized. The drivers returned about 10:45 and finished the job. They did a great job of spreading it, but it will take a little smoothing here and there. I'll get a battery for the Kubota and do it one of these days. We ended up with 95.25 tons and will pay for part of it. Our original estimate of 100 tons was pretty close.

Our sincere thanks to Paul for his efforts and ability to get this accomplished. The improved road will be much appreciated in the coming months.

ADVANCE NOTICE: At the February meeting and in the March newsletter, I will be requesting volunteers for the 2002 mowing season work parties. Last year we had only 15 adult members and some of their children sign up for mowing. That is only about 18 percent of the adult members doing all the work to make the field useful and presentable for the other 82 percent. The mowing season is going to be 30 percent longer this year than it was last year.

We are going to need more people to assist rather than put the whole load on so few. Start thinking about it and be prepared to sign up for a mowing team, either at the meeting or through the newsletter announcement. If you use the field at all, flying or as a spectator, and are physically able, you should assist in it's maintenance.

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Membership Renewal:

by Bill Lindewirth

Remember that your 2001 Spirits membership expired on December 31, 2001. March 1 is the last day that renewals will be accepted for 2002.

Membership applications received after March 1 must include the additional \$25.00 new membership application fee. Please enclose a photocopy of your 2002 AMA card when applying for, or renewing, your Spirits membership.

Overview of Proposed Constitution Changes

By Paul Geders

The logic for the recommended changes to the Constitution and By-Laws is based on a thorough review and, for example, noting differences in terminology from one area to other areas in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Also, there is a lot of communication required among the people in the positions recommended as Board additions and members of the Board, relative to the administration of the club. It is important that these people be well informed as to club business. It has been suggested by several members that people in these positions should also be made official members of the Board. These additional Board members would provide the President a larger cross-section of the membership to assist him/her in making sound decisions for the benefit of all the members as well as answering members' questions in an informed manner. In the past (not this year) we have had Board meetings with as few as three Board members in attendance. That is not an ideal situation!

Little known information on the "behind-the-scenes" efforts of people in the following positions;

The Newsletter Editor puts in countless hours developing what many take for granted, or "think it just happens magically". Each newsletter consumes approximately 16 to 20 hours, creating original material, as well as editing and reformatting material provided by other members, just to put it together. Most pictures (film and digital) are taken by the Editor, and processed, as required, to get them into the newsletter. Pictures provided by anyone else have to go through the same processing. Two final quality checks are done by the Editor and then his wife. Then stamps are purchased, address labels updated and printed out, and the newsletter is taken to the printer, brought home, folded, addressed, stamped and taken back to

the post office for mailing. This consumes another four or more hours. The printed version of the newsletter is then reformatted into the version that goes on the web, which takes another two or three hours. This is all done every month! The newsletter is the only contact many members have with the Club.

In addition to handling membership applications, maintaining a roster and mailing out cards, the **Membership Chairman** has taken on the responsibility of sending out letters to manufacturers, suppliers, vendors, etc., requesting donations to support our contest/event activities. He also interfaces with potential members who have provided, for example, wrong AMA cards, etc. He is the first point-of-contact for many members, and provides one of the first impressions for our club.

The Web-Master, not unlike the Newsletter Editor, puts in many hours each month updating, deleting, editing, and adding new material. The effort involved in setting up photos and text in the Photo Gallery is very time consuming. This position requires knowledge of editing software and dealing with the various formats of the different digital materials supplied. The Web-Master receives e-mail from all over the country by the very nature that we are on a world wide Internet. This e-mail includes requests for links to other web sites, posting of events related and non-related to our activity, and various other requests. The Web-Master "filters" these requests, and posts what is appropriate.

The above are representative of just some of the many volunteered positions and hours that are spent "behind-the-scenes", and make the "Spirits" the very best club in the Midwest.

The Last Word

By Walt Wilson

I had to move the "President's Notes" to the end of the Minutes, since the "Chief Executive" was the last to get his material to me and I didn't want to wait until the last minute to reformat the first several pages, depending upon how much space he needs. I hope this is acceptable to everyone.

I put pictures of one of our events on the front page to change the format a little. I was getting bored with the same front page look every

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month. This is also the first ten-page newsletter in our known history.

We're in the depths of winter and it's usually too cold and/or windy for pleasant flying. This is the building season! Last Saturday though, a number of Spirits came out of the basement and participated in a Mall Show, organized by GSLMA, at the Chesterfield Mall. Fifteen members and two of our wives attended the show, through the course of the day, and brought 20 airplanes. Five clubs had displays including R/C planes, Helicopters, Control Line planes, and R/C Jets. We had an opportunity to see other clubs' planes and let them see ours.

The passing public asked a lot of questions and at least three potential new members expressed interest in joining our club. The St. Louis R/C Association and the Helicopter Club had computers set up with flight simulator

programming.

This was a big hit with the public and current flyers alike. Les Richman took great pleasure in demonstrating the many working features on his Citabria. Joe Hodge had a video camera in his plane and transmitted pictures of the passing crowd to a nearby television. The Volmerts set up a faux racing exhibit. Some great looking planes were on display, everything from trainers to well-detailed scale models. Overall, it was a pleasant experience and we're looking forward to the show at the St. Louis Science Center on March second. I'll have pictures of the Chesterfield Show in the next issue of Flight Lines. There simply isn't room in this issue, even with ten pages. Is this an active club, or what?

Gotta go build

Wanted

Spirits' members to bring planes and talk to the passing public at the March 2, 2002 Air Show at the St. Louis Science Center. You can show the world your workmanship and answer questions about the planes and R/C flying in general. It's a lot of fun and a rewarding opportunity to do something for your club!

For details, call Les Richman at: **314-434-8080** or e-mail him at: **citabria77@aol.com**

SPIRITS 2002 EVENT SCHEDULE

St.Louis Science Center Show	March 2	Les Richman, E.D.*
Spirits/Boeing Annual Swap Meet	March (TBD)	Ralph Amelung, E.D.
Boy Scouts Flight Introduction	April (TBD)	Steve Ramonczuk, E.D.
Warbirds/Four-Star 40 Races	May 25	Paul Geders, C.D.**
Fun Fly	June 22	C.D. TBD
Warbirds/Four-Star 40 Races	August 17	Steve Ramonczuk, C.D.
Open House	September 28	Steve Cross, E.D.
Warbirds/Four-Star 40 Races	October 19	Eric Langston, C.D.

Other events may be added as the year progresses.

* Event Director

** Contest Director

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FLIGHT LINES is the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club newsletter and is published on a monthly basis. Club members may submit personal classified ads for inclusion in the newsletter free of charge. Businesses wishing to advertise in the newsletter should contact the editor or an officer of the club for details.

Newsletter Editor:

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(636)-946-6167
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Newsletter submissions must be in by the Monday following the club meeting in order to make publishing deadlines. The preferred format for article submission is via e-mail. I have Macintosh and PC computers and use QuarkXpress and Microsoft Word, so send the copy as the e-mail message (not an enclosure) to avoid cross-platform or incompatible software problems if you don't have the same equipment and software. Typed or clearly written copy on paper or, a Word or Word for Windows file on a

3.5 inch 1.44MB floppy disk are acceptable if you don't have access to the internet. Photos are welcome and may be in the form of glossy prints or, if scanned or digital, in jpeg, gif or tif format. Photo credits will be given.

General Membership meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at the Bridgeton Trails County Library Branch, 3455 McKelvey Rd. (1/4 mi. south of St. Charles Rock Road) at 7:00 P.M

Membership information can be obtained from:

Bill Lindewirth
1046 Pinecone Trail Drive
Florissant, MO 63031
Phone number (314) 839-0282
e-mail: MrBillSTL@aol.com

Flying Field: Our field is located on Amrein Road, off Greens Bottom Road in St. Charles County. It's open for flying from 9:00 A.M. to dusk. Flight training has been discontinued until spring but may be arranged by appointment.