



# FLIGHT LINES

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

## Great Turnout for Mall Show

### President's Notes:

*By Steve Cross*

I guess Mother Nature isn't quite sure if it is winter or early spring, but we are certainly benefiting from the unseasonably warm weather. Hope you are getting a chance to bust the rust off your thumbs!

As usual, we have LOTS of things going on in our club. Our next event would have been the showing of our models at the Science Center in conjunction with GSLMA. Unfortunately, the accommodations there would not have been conducive to helping us promote our hobby/sport, and we have decided not to participate. I want to express our thanks again to Les Richman for working with GSLMA on this show and the Chesterfield Mall Show. We can certainly look forward to next year and another fantastic opportunity to interact with the public at Chesterfield Mall.

So, that means that our next event is the Swap Meet with the Boeing Club on March 16.

Check out our web site for details and a map to the building on the Boeing Campus. And PLEASE give Ralph Amelung a call, before he calls you, and volunteer for an hour or two to help with the concession stand. The Swap Meet is always one of the best around, is a great moneymaker for the club, and we need your help to make it a success. Don't wait for the "other guy" to volunteer, call Ralph today! The Saturday following the Swap Meet, on March 23, we are having a work party at the field to spread some dirt, seed and straw. You all know how much improved our field was last year, thanks to George Cooper and Pat Keebey, along with many Spirits' volunteers. Now here's your chance to help make it even better.

See inside this newsletter for further details. Of course, spreading dirt, planting seed and spreading straw is meant to accomplish one thing—grow grass! And when grass grows, it needs to be cut. George Cooper is putting together mowing teams for the upcoming

season. Please give him a call and let him know how you can help him and our club.

Earlier, I mentioned to check out our web site for details about the Swap Meet. You should also check it out to see all the improvements that have been made to it. We know we have the best club around, we have the best field around, and now we have the best web site around! Our thanks go to Paul Geders for all his efforts as our Webmaster. Go register a "hit" on our site!

Finally, the results of the vote on the suggested changes to the Constitution and By-Laws are as follows. The wording changes were all adopted, and the positions of Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster were approved as additions to the Board of Directors.

The Board welcomes Bill Lindewirth (Membership Chairman) and Paul Geders (Webmaster). Walt Wilson (Newsletter Editor) is already on the Board by virtue of his position as Secretary. We look forward to these gentlemen's input and help in continuing to improve our club.

Don't forget that March 1 is the deadline for renewing your membership to avoid the \$25 new membership charge!

*See you at the field  
Steve Cross*

### Meeting Minutes: FEBRUARY 13, 2002

*By Walt Wilson*

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

**Members signed in:** 25 members and four applicants were present.

**Secretary's Report:** The January minutes were accepted as published in last month's Flight Lines.

**Treasurer's Report:** Membership is being renewed and new members are joining at about

## FLIGHT LINES

the same rate as last year. Before meeting time we had 88 members for 2002. Dues are coming in at a good rate. The club purchased a trailer (See the Field Report). The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

**Field Report:** George Cooper reported that he built an engine test stand, which is located between the pavilion and the levee. There's a socket for restraining a plane in that area too. This installation is for extended running of engines, such as break-in, without disturbing flyers.

The club has purchased a trailer from Joe Hodge, for transporting field maintenance equipment to and from the barn.

A mowing crew sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting.

A field-work session will be held on March 23 to spread dirt around the edges of the runway.

Free snacks will be provided for workers. See pages later in this newsletter for more field details.

**Safety Report:** The Safety Chairman reminded everyone to check for others on your frequency who may be airborne and always post your membership card on the frequency board before turning your transmitter on.

**Activities Report:** It was voted to not participate in the GSLMA airplane show at the St. Louis Science Center because of poor facility arrangements. We would have had only one six-foot table in a bridge between two buildings and on-site parking would cost \$7.00 per car.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**GSLMA participation:** Les Richman attended GSLMA meetings on behalf of the Spirits to make arrangements for our participation in the Chesterfield Mall and St. Louis Science Center.

He is not interested in being a permanent delegate. It was decided to not appoint a permanent representative at this time.

**Donated Planes:** The only offer received for the planes donated by Jim Omans was by Steve Ramonczuk. He offered \$125.00 for both planes. It was voted to accept the offer.

**Swap Meet:** The Swap Meet will be as presented on page one of this newsletter. Ralph Amelung reported that Westy Westhoff has

given him all required info about running the concession stand. **Workers are needed!** A sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting. If you want to help, call Ralph at 636-939-3331.

**New Member Applicants:** The following membership applicants were introduced;

Name	Phone Number
Troy Starks	636-940-2048
Jack Wolf	636-939-2934
Steve Swenson	314-733-4617
Mike Lindsey	636-939-9360

The applicants were approved unanimously by the members present. Some still have to get their membership in AMA before being accepted as members.



*Troy Starks, Mike Lindsey, Jack Wolf and Steve Swenson came to the meeting to join the Spirits.*



*Don Fitch gave a presentation on cutting foam with a soldering gun and quickly making servo mounting trays with styrofoam, strapping tape and silicone glue.*

**Changes to Constitution and By-Laws:** All four propositions were approved by a majority of the members present who voted and three absentee ballots received by mail

## FLIGHT LINES



*Paul Geders demonstrated hardening of flying surface edges with 1/64 plywood inserts and making gapless hinges using drafting mylar. He uses a Master Airscrew Balsa Stripper for quick, easy slots and RC 56 glue.*

**Web Site:** Paul Geders has updated our web site to include links to all the clubs and hobby shops in the Metro Area that have web sites. We also have a reformatted front page with a "picture of the month" and current weather information for the field. He reformatted many of the photos for faster transmission and opening by people with less powerful computers and/or slow internet service.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None presented.

**Meeting Activity:** Don Fitch and Paul Geders gave technical presentations. Westy Westhoff discussed a new kit for the WW I Sopwith Camel produced by Lego. It's made up of 577 Lego blocks and parts! Needless to say, it's not an R/C model! George Cooper, Claud Wade, Ralph Amelung and Jim Rawlings showed planes. See the pictures on pages two through four for details. Ralph and his "Big Foot" are pictured on page seven.

**Attendance prize:** Jim Rawlings won a roll of Monokote and a Master Airscrew prop.

**Meeting was adjourned** at 9:00 P.M.

### **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 renewing your 2002 Spirits' membership.



*Westy Westhoff showed a Sopwith Camel Kit produced in Lego Blocks. The kit contains 577 parts and can be very challenging in spite of excellent instructions.*



*George Cooper holds the new club trainer donated by Jim Omans. It's a Midwest Aerostar with an O.S. .40 LA. We need a radio for it. Any offers to donate a radio?*

***More Meeting photos on the next page!***

## FLIGHT LINES



George shows the finished Smith Mini-Plane that was shown in bare bones last month. It's covered with Ultrakote.



Claud Wade holds his scratch-built Vultee P-66 Vanguard. It's powered by a Fox .50 and is covered with Monokote.



Jim Rawlings discusses a Royal "Little Stinker" he's building for Steve Cross (rear left). He says it's a real "Big Stinker" to build and the kit should be avoided unless you're really desperate for something to do.

### Field Report:

By George Cooper

The engine break-in stand was installed January 25. It is a 2" x 12" board, 16 inches long, on top of a 4" x 4" post in the ground. It's located between the pavilion and the levee, but before the ditch drainage channel. There is a holdback socket nearby. Please use these for extended ground running and break-in of engines to keep the noise away from the flight line and pavilion areas.

Frank Nolle smoothed the gravel all over the parking lot and road on January 21. It's looking pretty good now and seems to be packing down nicely. It should hold us for a couple of years.



The new club trailer, purchased from Joe Hodge. It has new tires and will look great after a coat of Rustoleum!

Bob Rolf and I went to Joe Hodge's on February 4 and looked at a trailer he offered to the club for \$300. It is 5' x 10' with a rear ramp gate, four foot high sides and 2" x 12" floorboards.

It's in quite good condition except it needs a coat of paint. We bought it, pulled it to the barn and it is ready for the mowing season to transport lawn mowers. Thanks Joe.

Mowing sign-up sheets will be at the meeting.

Pat and I will try to have the team assignments done by the March meeting.

We are planning to have dirt delivered and spread the dirt around the perimeter of the runway. We will then seed the area from the parking lot to the runway and all the new dirt.

We will have the area harrowed the week before, weather permitting. Rain date would be the following Saturday, March 30. We will have a hot dog, potato chip, soda lunch free for the workers; spectators and kibitzers will be welcome to eat for \$2.00 each.

### MOWING CREWS ARE NEEDED

Mowing crews will have five people per crew, if

## FLIGHT LINES

we get enough people to volunteer. The more volunteers we get, the more crews we will have and mowing duties will come only every six to eight weeks. A crew chief will be assigned to each five man crew. We have three mowing tractors and two riding lawn mowers. With a five man crew, everyone can be riding for most of the mowing session. The tractors will be used for the major field mowing, and the riding lawn mowers will mow in the pits/pavilion areas around the trees and benches. I plan to use weed killer to keep the weed-eater trimming to a minimum and make close mowing around the posts and boundary markers with the power mowers sufficient.

Mowing will usually be done early every Saturday morning during the growing season.

The aim will be to complete it by 9:00 A.M., flying start time. To accomplish this, mowing should start no later than 7:00 A.M. and any mowing past 9:00 A.M. would be away from the runway and flying areas. Earlier starting is better, especially in the hot summertime. Crew chiefs will have to coordinate times with their crew members. If some would prefer to mow on Friday, it would leave Saturday open for more flying. The same time restrictions would prevail as there is usually a group flying early Fridays in the summer. The field will HAVE to be mowed on Friday, September 27, the week of our open house. A special crew may have to volunteer for this mowing. When assigned to a crew, it is your responsibility to show up on the mowing dates. If you can't make it, you will be expected to get someone to substitute for you or trade with someone on your own. The tractors are manual shifts (with a clutch). They are simple to operate. Anyone not familiar with manual shifting, do not be afraid to volunteer. It is easy to learn, we have 12 acres to learn in, and you will not learn any younger! Lots of instructors are available. I'll even give private lessons.

The tractors will be serviced and fueled by the crew after each mowing session so they are ready, with no delays, for the next mowing crew. Blowing off the dirt/grass and refueling is all that will be required. Pat Keebey and I will take care of the required lubrication.

If you missed the February meeting, you can volunteer by calling George Cooper, 636-922-4060, OR Pat Keebey, 636-928-3918. Please do so by March 1 so you can be included when we make up the crews. Inform us of any special physical conditions or other requirements when

you call. It is your field, you should help maintain it in good presentable condition during the summer. Mowing will start sometime around the first of April, depending on growing conditions.  
George Cooper, Field Chairman,  
Pat Keebey, Assistant Field Chairman

### **Mall Show:**

*By Walt Wilson*

The photos on this and the following couple of pages are from the Mall Show at Chesterfield Mall on January 12. Fifteen Spirits appeared and brought 20 airplanes. Three other clubs and some representatives of GSLMA also showed planes and had very popular flight simulator programs on their computers. The show was a great success and it has been proposed that GSLMA do it again next year at the Chesterfield Mall.



**FLIGHT LINES**



*More Mall Show photos on the next page!*

## FLIGHT LINES



For more Mall Show pictures, visit the Photo Gallery in our web site at: [www.spiritsofstl.com](http://www.spiritsofstl.com).

Seen at the Field on a Warm Winter's Day....



*Joe Hodge with his second "Victor" built from plans in a 1971 Flying Models magazine. He built the first one in 1973! An O.S. .40 FP engine pulls it very nicely.*



*Randy Hodge with his Hobbico Easy Sport 40 ARF. with O.S. .46 FX power.*



*Ralph Amelung holds his Don Fitch-designed "Big Foot II" with an O.S. .40 LA up front.*

## FLIGHT LINES



*Bill Lindewirth has an O.S. .61 FSR and mechanical retracts in his Great Planes Ultrasport.*



*Doug Bunn e-mailed me to say that he's moved to Idaho and won't be with the Spirits this year. He sent a picture of his latest project, started in St. Charles and finished in Idaho. It's an Akro-Knat with Dubro skis. The engine is a Thunder Tiger GP42 turning an 11x6. It looks cold there!*

### **The Last Word**

*By Walt Wilson*

Don Vetrone of the Wright Flyers sent a note inviting the Spirits to their club's annual Memorial Day Weekend Float Fly. It'll be on May 25 from 8:30 A.M. until noon, at Innsbrook. There will be a practice day on May 11 from 12:00 noon to 4:30 P.M. Spirits' members are encouraged to participate. I'll have more info later.

I received a letter from the Radio Control Hobby Trade Association (RCHTA) announcing that they have awarded a total of \$252,000.00 to various Radio Control Clubs throughout the United States over the past four years. These awards have been for promoting Radio Control hobbies through the media. Our club received a check for \$150.00 late last year as recognition for the newspaper and TV promotion of our Open House.

The Annual Swap Meet is coming up on March 16! That's always a great time. Whether or not you buy or sell something is secondary to seeing old friends who may have drifted to other clubs or out of the hobby altogether. It's an annual happening like no other.. The items for sale may or may not meet your needs, but if they do, it's your chance to haggle and bargain your way to success! If you want something unique and don't care about price, get there and buy early.

You may get a bargain anyway. If you see something you want, but need a better price, watch and wait. Near the end of the day, if it's still there, make an offer! You may be surprised how cheaply you can buy that treasure!

It seems like it's been so windy lately you have to get a good grip on the flagpole to stand still at the field! Hope for warm, still days and fly every chance you get! That's all the room I have!

*Gotta go build*



## **FLIGHT LINES**

**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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**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 on 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:

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1046 Pinecone Trail Drive  
Florissant, MO 63031  
Phone number (314) 839-0282  
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**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.