



# FLIGHT LINES

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

## LOTS OF CLUB ACTIVITIES



### Four-Star 40 and Warbirds Contest Report by Paul F. Geders

Saturday morning looked ominous weather-wise when we arrived at the field. The flag was standing straight out, which meant the winds were between 15 and 20 MPH. We gathered all the pilots and workers and discussed having the contest. I told them that the AMA regulation to cancel is 35 MPH winds and/or lightning. We all agreed to give it a go. The flag pretty much stayed straight out all during the contest. We had eight contestants and nine workers.

Since I was the only one who brought a Warbird, we didn't have the Warbirds portion of the race.

My son Matt, and I, were on the same frequency (so I could help him) and everyone else was on different frequencies. Boy, did that make it easy setting up a perfect matrix for five rounds with two heats per round.

Everyone, without a doubt, said this was the closest racing we have ever had! The landings were always fun with the wind, but everyone managed to get them back on the ground

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successfully. We had only one incident where Pat Keebey, in his last heat of the day, got blown into the ground, rounding the upwind pylon, by a gust of wind. The racing was so close that a lot of the heats were decided on the very last turn and final straightaway. WOW! It's the workers who make the contests possible. I want to personally thank each, and every one.



Thanks, Lee Paridy, Ken Brock, Gene Jones Frank Nolle, Steve Cross, Steve Ramonczuk, Les Richman, Don Fitch, and Mel Vistine. We purchased a Four-Star 40 from Schaefer's Hobby Shop as a worker's prize. The winner, by having his name drawn out of a bag by Carolyn Schlueter, was none other than Steve Ramonczuk. He said he was going to build it and be ready for the next race in August. Tim Volmert was our winner! He flew very consistently and won a few heats on the last straightaway.

### Round by Round Results

Contestant	Points					Total
	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	
Tim Volmert	5	5	5	1	5	21
Paul Geders	5	0	3	5	4	17
Ralph Doyle	3	5	2	3	3	16
Tony Vitiello	1	4	5	4	2	16
Matt Geders	2	1	2	5	4	14
Lee Volmert	1	2	2	4	4	13
Pat Keebey	4	3	3	2	0	12
Earl Acker	3	4	0	0	1	8

**For more pictures of the race, go to our web site Photo Gallery!**

### President's Notes:

*By Steve Cross*

It is now mid-June and our club, as well as others in the area, is well into the flying season. Hopefully you are actively involved in one way or another, either through helping mow the field, coming to the monthly meetings, attending one of our events or an event held by another club, or just coming to the field, flying and interacting with your fellow club members. As usual for our club, it has been a busy month,

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and we have a lot of events coming up. You can see from the pictures on our web site that we had a pretty good turnout for our Four-Star 40 race on May 25, even though the weather was less than cooperative. But, it didn't rain and we only had one casualty, so all in all it was a good day.

On June 12 I had the distinct pleasure of talking to a large group of Cub Scouts at a local day camp. I explained about our club and showed them one of my planes and explained how it flew. As you might expect from a bunch of nine year olds, there were lots of questions and a complete fascination with airplanes! Several of the Den Leaders talked to me afterwards about bringing their boys out to the field for some buddy-box time. What a great way to promote our hobby/sport!

This coming Saturday marks our next event, the Gum Ball Fun Fly. Frank Nolle has been hard at work organizing this event, and in particular, obtaining a whole bunch of really neat prizes.

Here's your chance to come out to the field, participate in a very fun and relaxing event, not even fly if you don't want to, and still go home with some sort of prize!

The Saturday following the Gum Ball event, Les Richman is the event organizer for a group of Cub Scouts to come to our field for some instruction and demonstrations. This is the second year in a row for this group, and the really neat part, aside from the fact that they get to fly our trainers, is that they bring lunch for our club! So come on out, bring a plane and enjoy some time with a great group of boys. Last Saturday at the field, I was completely blown away by the completeness of today's ARF's. We have a new member who brought a new plane that he had just purchased and wanted to know what else he needed. After looking at his kit, our answer was, "some fuel and a glo-starter. That's all." This ARF had an MDS engine, already installed with a prop and spinner, and it came with a JR five-channel radio with all the servos already installed! All he had to do was put the wing together (no glue), bolt the tail feathers on (again, no glue) and charge the batteries. Heck, we could have assembled it right there under the pavilion, fast charged his batteries and had him flying in about an hour! Wow!

One last item. We have a small group of members who step up each and every week and do something that helps our club. Some things are more visible than others and get noticed and

remarked about more often. But two jobs are quietly done week after week, month after month, that have a huge impact on our club, but that we sort of take for granted and don't really stop to think how much effort goes into each job. I am talking about this very newsletter that you are reading and the web site that I know you go and look at. Walt Wilson does the newsletter and Paul Geders maintains our web site, and the products these two gentlemen turn out are absolutely first class, each and every time. I would like to thank both of them, on behalf of the club, for the great service they provide.

Think about the quality of their work, and the next time you see them, tell them how much you appreciate the newsletter and the web site.

*See you at the field.*  
Steve Cross

### **Meeting Minutes: May 8, 2002**

*By Walt Wilson*

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:00 P.M. by President Steve Cross.

**Members signed in:** 24 members and one applicant.

**Secretary's Report:** The May minutes were accepted as published in the June Flight Lines.

**Treasurer's Report:** The annual rent has been paid. Tractor repair costs have been paid. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

**Field Report:** George Cooper read the Field Report as published starting on page five of this newsletter. In addition, there was a discussion about the MTD mower. Joe Hodge has checked it out and drawn the following conclusions;

Several pullies and a drive belt must be replaced. Other parts are needed also. Joe's estimate of costs for parts is in the vicinity of \$250.00. Joe will buy the remains for parts if the club chooses not to repair it. It was voted to empower George Cooper to negotiate a fair price and sell the mower to Joe.

**Safety Report:** The Safety Chairman was not present. There was another incident of radio interference at the field. One flyer put his card on the wrong frequency and proceeded to taxi out for takeoff. Another flyer put his card on the frequency in use (unoccupied by a card) and started his engine. When he throttled up, the taxiing plane went out of control and headed for

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the corn! Fortunately, there was no serious damage.

Always be sure you put your card on the correct frequency! Always check for a card on your frequency before turning your transmitter on!

### Activities Report:

**Cub Scout Presentation:** Steve Cross gave a talk to approximately 125 Cub Scouts at a Scout Camp on June 12. His full report is on page five. Great Job Steve!

**Helicopter Fly-In:** Paul and Matt Geders went to the St. Louis Whirlybirds Fly-In at Buder Park as spectators. Paul told about the dazzling maneuvers performed by the Whirlybirds.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Caps:** Pat Keebey has prices but was not present at the meeting. Ralph Amelung said he had promised Spirits caps to all who worked our concession at the Swap Meet and was about twelve short. Ralph is to have the prices available at the next meeting so we can vote on it.

**Insurance:** After much research, it was decided that our present insurance provider offers the best deal. Insurance is all paid for the coming year.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Attendance Prizes:** We are all out of attendance prizes for future meetings. It was decided that the offer of prizes had not induced increased attendance at meetings, so they will be discontinued.

**New Members:** Two new members and an applicant introduced themselves. Two other applicants mailed their applications in with a letter explaining who they were.

Randy Savage	636-978-0998
Melinda Savage	636-978-0998
Steve McNamee	636-928-4546

Mailed-in:

Larry Melton	636-447-0304
Samantha Melton	636-447-0304

All were unanimously approved by the members present.

### Activities Report:

**Four-Star 40 and Warbirds Race:** Paul Geders was C.D. for a Four-Star 40 and Warbirds Race on May 25. Pictures and story

start on page one.

**Gum Ball Fly-In:** Frank Nolle is the Contest Director for the Gum Ball Fly-In on June 22. Boy Scouts Flight Training Day: Les Richman is Event Director for our introduction to R/C flying for the Cub Scouts on June 29, at 11:00 A.M. Trainers and instructors are needed. Spirits are encouraged to bring planes for demonstration flights or display.

**Club Promotion:** New members said they had a hard time connecting with us because the local hobby shop employees made no effort to guide them to us. It was pointed out that we have brochures and applications at all the hobby shops and that Mark Twain Hobbies regularly posts our newsletters and flyers for events.



*Bob Fiely built this Great Planes Dazzler from a kit. He wanted to decorate it in red, yellow and blue, so looked at Dierbergs for product labels in those colors. It's powered by an O.S. .46 SF and the people at Dierbergs love it! He hadn't flown it as of meeting time.*

**Swap Meet:** The Boeing Club proposed that we do the concession stand permanently and they run the Swap Meet, for security reasons. After discussion, we decided to reject their plan and continue trade-offs as we have in the past.

**Steve Cross** ran across a really cool web site at: [www.bluemaxrc.com](http://www.bluemaxrc.com). Paul Geders has also added some very interesting links to *our* web site. Check it out!

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*Paul Geders brought another plane from his vast inventory. It's a plan-built "Blue Max II" designed specifically for fun flies. It's powered by a Super Tigre Blue-Head .40 with a tuned pipe and can fly straight up from takeoff or so slow it's almost hovering. Clear Monokote shows the structure.*

### MEETING ACTIVITY:

**Members brought three planes** for show and discussion. See the photos for details.



*Mauro DeSouza shows a House of Balsa AT-6 he bought at the Swap Meet. It has a Magnum .20 and he asked for help flying it. He was advised to get a trainer and become more proficient at flying. He was introduced to Steve Ramonczuk, our Chief Flight Instructor and Gene Jones offered to help him.*

**Meeting was adjourned** at 8:20 P.M.

### June Field Report

*By George Cooper, Field Chairman*

The rain has finally allowed us to get on a regular Saturday mowing schedule. The mowing teams are doing a great job, the grass is growing in very nicely and the field looks good after a fresh mowing. Mowing is usually finished in around two hours. We had several inches of rain this week and there is more water standing in the fields than ever before. There are two large areas on the northwest and southwest of the runway full of water. I plan to fill and seed the southwest puddle this fall when the ground gets dry enough to have some dirt hauled in, but the northwest area is too large, so we will just have to put up with it. It dries up pretty fast when we have reasonable weather conditions.

I sprayed the weeds in the road and parking lot again last week, but new ones have grown in already, so it looks like the weeds in the gravel will just be a fact of life.

The starter on the Farmall was repaired by Brinkers. Bob Rolf and I picked it up using Mr. Ostmann's trailer again. The cost was \$447.82 and the tractor starts immediately now.

The battery died on one of the Farmalls and Pat Keebey replaced it. The switch was either left "ON", or turned on by someone, and the new battery was dead last Saturday. Frank Nolle pulled the tractor to start it and it is charged back up now. Mowers, please be sure the switches on all tractors are OFF when you leave them.



*Lee Volmert takes a turn at the Farmall. The mowing crews are doing a great job of maintaining the field!*

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Pat Keebey donated two new flags, one of which is now flying. They are slightly smaller than the old one, but are big enough and it is nice to have real red stripes again. Thanks, Pat.

*George Cooper, Field Chairman*

### *At The Field...*



*James Frederick with his Senior Telemaster. It's powered by a Super Tigre .90 and flies very well.*



*Willie Blanchard is retiring this original trainer designed and built by Jim Rawlings. It has a K&B .46 up front.*

### **Float Fly Report**

*By George Cooper*

My participation in the Wright Flyers' Float Fly

was short and not too sweet. Spirits in attendance (flying) were Bill Hancock, Russ Watts, Ralph Amelung and me. Spectators from the Spirits were Ozzie Barron, Jerry Quist and Claude Wade (as far as I know). The weather started out with us not knowing whether to wear sunscreen or raincoats, but the rain held off, the wind was generally gentle until nearly over, and the sun even came out a while. All in all, a perfect day for float flying, if I could have just gotten off the water.

The flying: After crashing my Four-Star 60 last Sunday into five pieces, I rebuilt it and tested it on land, in the rain, on Friday. On Saturday, I made a takeoff run, was just about to lift off, and caught a float or wing tip in the water, so it flipped over and had to be rescued. No damage but, the receiver got wet, and my flying was finished. Ralph then flew his Seamaster with great success and eventually made three flights with the only difficulty losing a wing float in flight. The rescue boat took him on a search of the lake and they found it! Russ Watts made a successful takeoff and flight with his stick on floats, but on landing he caught a float under water, flipped the plane and broke one float, so his day was short also. Bill Hancock had his old faithful (easy sport or similar I think) that has survived a dock intervention last year and made at least two successful flights, taking home a whole working airplane with no interference from the dock this year. Congratulations Bill! There were about 12 planes in attendance from the Wright Flyers, Boeing and Spirits. There were all kinds of planes, from ARFs to biplanes on floats. Most were successful, but several ended with the tail sticking up out of the water, a most inappropriate position for a seaplane.

Rescue was carried out by a pontoon boat arranged by the Wright Flyers. Another man noticed the need and donated his time, boat and effort and made many rescues as well.

The JR representative was there, flying helicopters in his wild and crazy manner. Much aerobatics over the water, but while doing an inverted low hover over the sand, he caught a rotor. Those helis REALLY get wild when the rotor meets the sand. He picked up the pieces and came back with a spare for more entertainment. A great time was had by all and we are looking forward to an even better one next year. RC flyers need to be eternal optimists!!!!

Sorry, no pictures. I had my camera in the truck, but just forgot to take any.

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### Steve Cross Talks to Cub Scout Day Camp Group

By Steve Cross

The event was at noon on June 12, 2002. It was a Cub Scout Day Camp held the week of June 10.



*Steve Cross faced the large group of Cub Scouts alone, as other members who might have been with him had other commitments that day.*



*Steve used his Four-Star 40 to demonstrate the source and functions of the controls. The Cubs and their Leaders found the presentation fascinating. Many are now prospective R/C flyers!*

I am told there were eleven Cub Packs at the camp during the week, and they were primarily from the Webster Groves and Kirkwood area.

The Leader told me there were about 125 scouts there on Wednesday...the pics don't look like that many but they were kinda scattered all around. Most of the boys were around nine years old, and there were some older boy scouts helping the adult leaders.



*Many who witnessed the demonstration commented on what a "Cool Sport" Radio Control Flying really is!*

My talk, demonstration and answering all their questions, lasted about an hour. Afterwards, several of the boys, and some of the adult leaders, asked for my e-mail so they could contact me about coming to the field and trying out the buddy box. It was a very hot day, but all in all, it was very gratifying.

### The Last Word

By Walt Wilson

I want to thank Carolyn Schlueter and Don Fitch for providing some great photographs of the May 25 pylon racing. I had other commitments and couldn't attend.

It sounds like everyone had a good time in spite of the wind and threatening rain. It's interesting too, that two of the racers came from other clubs in the area. In talking with Earl Acker later, it seems that he thinks the Spirits are great people to fly and race with! He was very grateful for everyone's help in his first R/C race and can't wait to come back!

A number of Spirits went to the Wright Flyers' Float Fly at Innesbrook, also on May 25, and had an enjoyable day. Thanks to George Cooper for his report on that. Don Vetrone, the Event Director for the Float fly, said that this one was the biggest and best ever. Fully one third of the flyers were Spirits' members! The wind and rough water took their toll, but everyone I've talked with who went, has said they'll do it again next year!

Thanks also to Steve Cross for the report on his Cub Scout presentation.

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*Walt Wilson's Waco required modifications to the landing gear before it could take off reliably. With removal of the wheel pants, replacement of the soft foam tires, and addition of toe-in, it takes off very nicely. It's an impressive flyer in the hands of an expert pilot! It's not recommended for inexperienced flyers.*

Do you want your name displayed for all time, or at least as long as AMA exists, at their headquarters? For \$100.00 you can have your

**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.

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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

name, along with the AMA logo and your membership number engraved on a 4" x 8" custom paving brick that will be in the "Walk Of Fame" at the new AMA Headquarters in Muncie, Indiana! For \$500.00 they'll engrave the AMA logo in gold instead of black! You, too, can be a piece of aeromodeling history. I have the forms if you're interested.

*Gotta go build!*

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### Airplane Trailer For Sale

This special-built trailer will hold a seven (7) foot wing span plane, plus wings and field box. It's fully padded, lined with rug material and has tie-downs. It's licensed, inspected and titled. It includes lights, U-Haul plug, fits a 1-7/8 inch ball and has a spare wheel and tire. I'll take \$350.00 for it. Call Les Richman at 314-434-8080 or e-mail at: [citabria77@aol.com](mailto:citabria77@aol.com).

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:

Bill Lindewirth  
1046 Pinecone Trail Drive  
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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.



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