



FLIGHT LINES

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

Happy Thanksgiving

President's Notes:

By Steve Cross

By the time you read this, we will have had our last event of the season, another Four-Star 40 race. I was out of town and didn't get to participate, but hopefully you did.

Now that our last event is history, we can all reflect on how this has been a season of fantastic events and club activities, all held at the premier flying site in the area. New Year's Day Fly-In, Mall Shows, 4-Star-40/Warbird races, Swap Meets, Gum Ball Fun Fly, Silver Swallows Reunion, Open House. Wow! Did someone say this club was boring??

We have picked up quite a few new members along the way. We now have 132 in our club, with more coming. We see prospective members at each meeting, and have a new and improved training program in place to teach them how to fly and be good members of our club.

With just a couple of exceptions, all of the officers and appointed positions have agreed to continue to serve our club and you to make it even better. Of course, that means that more of you are going to volunteer to help your club, right? Before you know it, George Cooper will be setting up new mowing crews for next season, and he will be looking for volunteers.

Remember how great the field looked every time you went out to fly? It feels pretty good when you can say, "I helped make it that way". There are far too many people that have pitched in and helped this club for me to thank each one personally. A couple of folks were recently recognized for their outstanding contributions to our club and are mentioned in this newsletter.

But for all of you who have served this club in some capacity....cutting grass, working a concession stand, working a race, bringing a plane for a static display, hauling dirt, spreading seed, working on the tractors, and the hundreds of other tasks that it takes to keep this club running and the best one around...on behalf on

the Board of Directors, I thank you all very much!

See you at the field!

Steve Cross

Meeting Minutes: OCTOBER 10, 2001

By Walt Wilson

Steve Cross called the meeting to order at 6:59 P.M.

Members signed in: 26 members, two new member applicants and a guest were present.

New Member Applicants:

| Name | Phone Number |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Doug Wohlschlegel | 636-527-3089 |
| Brian Myeberger | 636-225-2408 |

They were given applications and welcomed to the club.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were accepted as published in last month's Flight Lines.

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

Field Report: George Cooper read the Field Report as presented on page three. He further noted that thanks are due to Ken Brock for helping work on the tractors.

Safety Report: Bob Rolf, the 2002 Safety Chairman was not present. The following safety issues were addressed;

* Do not take off of the taxi way!

* Do not fly helicopters except in the designated Hover Area, or over the runway and flying field, using the same guidelines as fixed-wing aircraft!

* If you witness someone doing something unsafe, diplomatically tell them that there is a problem, and ask them to avoid doing it. If the problem persists, report the matter to the Safety Officer.

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* When retrieving a plane from the runway, clear the runway as soon as possible to avoid interfering with other flyers.

Activities Report: Bob Fiely will act as C.D. for the October 19, Four-Star 40 races. Some new racers are expected to compete.

OLD BUSINESS:

Silver Swallows Air Show: The Silver Swallows expressed their appreciation by giving commemorative wine glasses to all participants, a certificate of appreciation plus a substantial donation to the Spirits Club. We have also been invited to participate again next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers: There were no absentee ballots received. The members present at the meeting voted unanimously to elect the nominated candidates. They are:

President: Steve Cross
Vice President: Steve Ramonczuk
Secretary: Walt Wilson
Treasurer: Les Richman

The President and Officers will appoint the balance of Board of Directors, many of whom will probably be the same as this year.

Open House: Steve Cross thanked all who worked or otherwise contributed to the success of the Second Annual Open House. It was well attended with over 60 planes, 31 pilots and 81 logged flights. There were a lot of spectators and potential new members. Mark Twain Hobbies donated a plane kit and other items to be given away at the event. Schaefer's Hobbies also donated various items. A big THANK YOU goes to both hobby shop owners. See our web site Photo Gallery for videos and dozens of photographs at: www.spiritsofstl.com.

Recognition: Steve Cross noted that in most clubs, only a small percentage of the members wind up doing a large portion of the work. Two people have gone above and beyond what may be expected in working for the club. George Cooper does whatever is necessary to maintain the field and field maintenance equipment. He mows, organizes field work days, paints, and maintains mowing equipment. He doesn't need to be asked, he just does it!

Walt Wilson quietly takes hundreds of pictures for, writes, publishes, addresses and mails the club newsletter, In addition, he writes articles

about club activities and other subjects for R/C Modeler and Model Aviation magazines, arranges available newspaper and TV coverage for Spirits' events and does all the behind-the-scenes Secretarial jobs that most people don't even know are required.



George Cooper receives a gift certificate to Mark Twain Hobbies, from President Steve Cross, in appreciation for his many "Above and Beyond" contributions in developing and improving the field and field-maintenance equipment for the Spirits.



Walt Wilson also receives a gift certificate to Mark Twain Hobbies, from Steve, in appreciation for his many "Above and Beyond" contributions in publicizing Spirits' activities, publishing the newsletter and doing many invisible jobs along with those required of the Secretary.

Training Program: Ralph Amelung explained his reorganization of the training program. Many flyers or Instructors can't be at the field at a specific time, like Saturday mornings.

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Ralph has about a dozen Instructors lined up, some of whom can be available for training at almost any time throughout the week. Their phone numbers are posted on page eight and anyone seeking instruction may call and arrange a session to meet mutual availability. The members at the meeting unanimously accepted this concept



Kevin Knebel, a visitor from Florida, talks with the Spirits about the difficulties in getting and keeping flying fields in that state. He also discussed his activities as Flight Line Director at such events as Florida Jets and Top Gun



George Cooper shows his Bowers Flybaby. He built it from RCM plans and a pile of lumber. It's powered by a Saito .91 four-stroke and is covered with Ultrakote. It's been flown since the meeting and flies great!



Westy Westhoff shows and discusses this Lego Block Sopwith Camel. It has 577 parts and was built by his young Grandson, Max. It even has flying wires. Model building is an art form, flying is just one aspect of it.

Hats: Spirits' caps were given to Ralph Amelung for distribution to workers at the Swap Meet, last March. A few were sold and the rest were retained for various purposes.

Meeting Activity: See the photos on this and the previous pages.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

October Field Report

By George Cooper

The asphalt was sealed on schedule on September 17, but the rain came about noon and the sixty percent they had done got all washed off. They returned the next day and did the whole job over and it came out very good. They said this should last us at least five years, maybe longer, with the light traffic we have on it.

Don't forget to use a catch bottle when fueling, and wipe up oil spills. The sealant is impervious to most everything, but let's keep it looking good as long as possible.

During the open house we parked two rows of cars on the grass, from the parking lot, to Amrein Road. It was dry enough and, with the rain, later recovered nicely. There is no visible damage.

Harold Mantz and I cultivated and seeded the pit area and some of the infield area the week after

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Open House. We used fifty pounds of seed that was left from last springs seeding. The area is not blocked off, but has a ribbon down the center and signs saying "If you want grass, keep off". Some guys just ignore them and walk there anyway, others are trying to stay off as much as possible. It is up to you if you want to give the new grass a chance.

Scheduled mowing will end Oct. 12. We missed mowing last week due to rain and soft ground. The grass is having a good growth, with the cool weather, and may continue to need mowing, possibly until Thanksgiving. I will get some teams together to complete the season as required. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

One last note: **SMOKERS!** We turned up LOTS of cigarette filters during the seeding. If you smoke, dispose of your butts properly.

Those filters do not deteriorate and will make the area look like a men's urinal. Don't just throw them toward the container, put them in it.

The area in front of the pilots' station also has filters littering the ground. If you bring them in, YOU dispose of them properly.

Four-Star 40 Races, October 19, 2002

By Walt Wilson



In spite of the 18 MPH winds and 43 degree temperatures, the hardy Spirits showed up and ran the last Four-Star 40 race of the season.

Ralph Amelung graciously prepared hot dogs and brought soda for the chilled assemblage.

Lee Volmert and Earl Acker worked frantically on Lee's fuel system, and got it working just in time for the second heat of the first round. Five rounds were run and Paul Geders finished first, decisively, with 19 points. Matt Geders was second with 17 points and Vic Bunze, in his very first pylon race, took third with 16 points.



Ralph Doyle and Mike Willmann had an audible mid-air collision, but both finished the heat with very little damage, and were able to continue racing. Lee Volmert wasn't so lucky. After struggling with his fuel system all morning, he crashed and destroyed his plane in

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the third round. The many workers are to be profusely thanked for giving up their day and suffering through the cold weather to support the racers.



More Spirits' Open House Pictures

By Don Fitch



More Open house photos on the next page.



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Open House photos by
Carolyn Schlueter



More Open House photos on the next page.



Wanted

Old R/C or Control Line engines, regardless of condition. I'm interested in complete engines, carbs, mufflers or any parts that you no longer need or can use. I'm starting "Walt's R/C Engine Salvage"! In the future, if you need a replacement part, maybe I'll have it or steer you to someone who does! Call Walt Wilson at 636-946-6167 or e-mail at: rallyo@charter.net

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personal satisfaction, or the pure enjoyment of being there. The field is the best we've ever had, and in near perfect condition, the company is good and conditions aren't going to get any better. New members can now join for next year, and fly for the rest of this year. If you're a novice, or feel that your skills need brushing up, we have a number of willing Instructors available. See our web site for details. There are no more excuses, go fly!

Gotta go fly!

At The Field....



Ralph Amelung's CAP232 almost got airborne. Right after the picture was taken, it developed ignition problems and was grounded. Check out those crew member shirts done by Ralph's wife, Mary.



The Last Word

By Walt Wilson

I want to thank Steve Cross and the Board of Directors for the kind words and gift certificate given me at the last meeting! It was totally unexpected and I appreciate it very much. I consider it an honor to be part of this fine club and thoroughly enjoy doing the things I do for it.

This is the best time of the year for flying in the Midwest! The temperatures are comfortable, the skies are usually clear and the winds are generally calm to mild. Get out there and enjoy it! We've finished our scheduled flying events for the year and from now on, it's time to fly for



Carolyn Schlueter and Don fitch prepare his Sig Senior Kadet ARF for flight. It has an O.S. .40 LA up front.

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Bill Hancock with his Great Planes Fokker Eindecker. It has a Magnum .52 four-stroke and flies very well.



Vic Bunze demonstrates his Cub for Mochizuki (means "Full Moon" in Japanese), a businessman from Japan who was visiting Vic's company recently.

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.

General Membership meetings are held 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 is still available on Saturday mornings from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

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