



FLIGHT LINES

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

New Year's Fly-In Beats Snow



FLIGHT LINES

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

By Steve Cross

Happy New Year to everyone! Well, another month has gone by, and that means that the flying season is one month closer!

So, did you come out and fly on January 1, or at least come and enjoy the great food that Ralph Amelung provided? We had a great time and I think the attendance was even better this year than last. At least the weather was a little warmer, but we had some pretty strong winds to contend with. However, a great fire (thanks to George Cooper), great food, and some terrific attendance/participation prizes all ensured that a good time was had by all.

I'm sure you all are making great headway on your winter project, but if you want to see George Cooper's latest creation close up, be sure to come to the club meetings. He seems to be building a plane a month and they are first-class construction projects. The pictures in this newsletter of his most recent project; an exact scale replica of the full-scale Tuholer that he built, simply do not capture how good this plane looks, even with Walt's new camera! But a lot of folks got to see it up close and personal at our last meeting and couldn't stop asking Coop questions about the model and about the full-scale version.

Don't forget the annual Spirits/Boeing Swap Meet coming up in March. This is a great time to pick up that bargain you've been waiting for, or maybe pick up some cash for that plane or engine you want to sell. Go to our website for all the details. And while you're there, check out the great pictures from the New Years Day Fun Fly

See you at the field!

Steve Cross

MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 8, 2003:

By Walt Wilson

Members signed in: 22 members and one new member applicant were present.

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. It was noted that all taxes and other submitted bills have been paid to date and we're in good condition financially.

Field Report: George Cooper read the Field Report as presented on page three.

Safety Report: Ralph Amelung has a complete report on page five. It was noted that recently, while some of our members were present, a lady and her son walked onto the field and started to fly an electric B-2 Bomber. They had no knowledge of frequencies or that it is a private field with rules about that sort of thing. They were invited to join the club and do things properly, but just walked away.

OLD BUSINESS:

Swap Meet: Nothing new. The Boeing Club is in charge of all arrangements except for the concession stand. Helpers will be needed. Ralph Amelung will be looking for helpers at the next couple of meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

None was presented.

Ralph Doyle was present after being hospitalized recently for a heart attack. He's on the road to recovery and doing well

Activities Report:

New Year's Day Fly-In: Vic Bunze reported that the Spirits are a hardy lot, considering the turnout on New Year's Day. There is a report on page three and photos throughout this newsletter. We had good food, good prizes and a great crowd.

There will be a Ski-Fly on the first Saturday that we have sufficient snow on the ground. There was a discussion about how to set up skis for best handling.

New Member Applicant:

Name	Phone Number
Kevin Cordell	636-329-1918

He's a helicopter flyer with extensive experience flying and working contests at both local and national levels. The members present accepted him unanimously.

Meeting Activity: George Cooper had his "Airplane of the Month", a Spezio Tuholer. See the photos on page three for details. Steve

FLIGHT LINES

Ramonczuk showed his Hobbico Extra 300 ARF. See the photo on page six for details.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.



New member Kevin Cordell is an experienced helicopter pilot with an extensive contest background. He has also been a Futaba representative and can help speed up any service you may require.



George Cooper kit-bashed a Sig 1/4 scale Spacewalker kit to produce this replica of a full-scale Spezio Tuholer that he built in the 1970's. It's covered with Solartex and finished with latex spray paints. It has an 84 inch wingspan and is powered by a Zenoah G-23.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

By Bill Lindewirth

Membership renewals must be received no later than March 1, 2003. Renewals received after

March 1st, must include the \$25.00 New Membership Application fee. If you don't renew your membership, your last newsletter will be the March issue.



The Tuholer has George for a pilot, both in the plane and at the transmitter!

JANUARY FIELD REPORT:

By George Cooper

At the time I am writing this, the field under about six inches of snow. Field maintenance is at a minimum.

The field is in much better shape this year than at this time last year. We had 100 tons of rock put on the driveway last year and it is holding up well. The grass is filling in everywhere and the pit area looks like we may have decent grass this spring. Thanks for generally staying off of it and giving it a chance. Our filling in around the runway and planting seed last spring really paid off with a good stand of grass and easy access to the runway from the grass.

At the February meeting and in the March Newsletter, I will be requesting volunteers for the 2003 mowing season work parties. Last year we had a pretty good response and had seven teams of four members each. I would like to see more teams than that this year as we will be starting mowing earlier. It would be nice to have about ten teams for the coming year so no one will be overworked. (That is forty people, only about one out of three members maintaining the field for everyone else to enjoy). Think about it, and be ready to sign up during February.

FLIGHT LINES

NEW YEAR'S DAY FLY-IN

By Walt Wilson

Gene Jones took off at 9:15 A.M. on January 1, 2003, to be the first Spirit in the air in the New Year



Fifteen, or so, pilots braved the thirty-odd degree temperatures and winds in excess of 15 mph to fly at the New Year's Day Fly-In. There were a lot more helpers and watchers to make it

a pretty good turnout, considering the very unpleasant conditions.



Ralph Amelung did his usual excellent job of keeping everyone fed and supplied with drinks throughout the day.

At noon, there was a drawing for attendance prizes. George Cooper won first prize of \$25.00, Steve Cross received second prize of a C.G. Machine. *(Continued on the next page)*

FLIGHT LINES

(Continued from the previous page)



Gene Jones, Pat Keebey, Bill Lindewirth, Lee Volmert, Jeff Kubik and Mike Reigle also won prizes, the least of which was \$10.00



Mike Lindsey and Eric Chandler, a visitor, dazzled everyone with helicopter aerobatics throughout the afternoon. A snowstorm dropped five to six inches of the cold white stuff on the St. Charles Area the night of January 1.

Photos of the New Year's Fly-In were taken by Carolyn Schlueter, Vic Bunze and Walt Wilson.



Many more photos from this and other Spirits' events are available on our web site in the Photo Gallery!

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SAFETY REPORT:

By Ralph Amelung, Field Safety Officer

I was made aware of two incidents this month.

The first incident involved a new member (past flyer) taking a bird up before being fully checked out. *(Continued on the next page)*

(Continued from the previous page)

FLIGHT LINES

An instructor was flying and veteran members were present. The landing (that included a final approach over the parking area) wasn't pretty and was potentially dangerous. Admittedly, everyone is anxious to "take to the skies" and many times we overestimate our abilities. It is human nature. Members are encouraged to talk to each other. We should all be alert and do whatever we can to minimize the inherent risks taken in this hobby. Given the resources made available (instructors, buddy boxes, etc.), wouldn't it be better to make some suggestions in a helpful/friendly manner? It might be as simple as reminding other members of these resources, "Hey Buddy, can I help you with that?" instead of standing by and watching the accident as it unfolds. Your action may prevent serious injury and property damage. Feel good about that.

Secondly, a veteran member decided to trim his fingernails the hard way, in a prop. It can happen anytime and anywhere and to anyone, regardless of their experience level. Don't be distracted when your motor is running. Many props turn invisible when the motor is running.

I've noticed that some members combat the problem by painting the prop tips with a contrasting color (white/yellow/orange).

I suggest that you do whatever it takes to **BE CAREFUL OUT THERE !**

Ralph Amelung Field Safety Officer

AT THE FIELD....



Steve Ramonczuk holds his Extra 300, powered by an O.S. .70 Four-Stroke. He says it flies well, but is unforgiving and definitely not a plane for beginners.



Ralph Amelung says his problems with the infamous "Yellow Bird" are solved, now that he has a new pilot.

THE LAST WORD:

By Walt Wilson

Well, we've had our first organized event of 2003, the New Year's Day Fly-In, and we're off and running toward our second, the Swap Meet.

While the New Year's turnout wasn't as large as last year, it was very good considering the weather conditions. There were two mishaps. One experienced flyer totally destroyed his plane and another stuck his finger into a running prop. The injuries were painful but the victim didn't feel they were serious enough to go to the hospital. There have been many instances in years past where the injuries were serious enough to require Emergency Room treatment.

I've had personal experience in that area! Do you know where the nearest hospital with an ER is located? It might be worth your while to find out! I would go to the St. Joseph Health Center on First Capitol Drive, in St. Charles. If you're seriously injured, get someone to drive you to the hospital. To get there, turn right on Greens Bottom and stay on it until it turns into Jungs Station. Go right on Upper Bottom Road and stay on it until it ends, just past the Family Arena. Go right on S. River Road and stay on it. It'll become South Fifth Street, which will take you to First Capitol in St. Charles. Turn right on First Capitol for one block, to just past Fourth Street and you will be at the St Joseph Health Center ER parking lot. It's on your left. There's also St. Luke's Urgent Care Center, on Highway 94 at Wolfrum Road. I'm not familiar with that facility, but it may be an alternative if the injury is critical.

(Continued on the next page)

FLIGHT LINES

(Continued from the previous page)

You say you fly alone? That's a very bad idea! Anything can happen, from a cut finger to a snake bite (if you go deep into the woods to retrieve a downed plane), or even a heart attack. I won't even unload my plane unless another

flyer or friend is present! I've been seriously hurt at the field and know what it can involve! Enjoy our hobby, but don't be foolish about it.

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:

Walt Wilson
3000 Persimmon Dr.
St. Charles, MO 63301-0131
(636)-946-6167
e-mail: rallyo@charter.net

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. Call Ralph Amelung at: 636-939-3331.