

CROSSWINDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SPRING AREA RADIO KONTROL SOCIETY

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SPARKS 2002/2003 Officers

Paul Johnson President	281-353-7930
Homer Davis Vice President	281-376-0011
Jack Jones Treasurer	281-252-3159
Kenny Manchester Secretary	281-376-0469
Ted Karis Newsletter Editor	832-298-7310

SPARKS Flight Instructors

Jim Greer-Chief Instructor
281-370-5615

Airplanes

Bob Allen	281-443-8779
Vic Baney	281-357-1357
Brian Bange	281-290-0068
Ian Bange	281-290-0068
J.R. Carpenter	281-363-1927
Lee Dillenbeck	281-350-1649
Jack Jones	281-252-3159
Howard Lincoln*	409-321-2721
Chris Lloyd	281-379-1884
Pep Peperone	281-367-8248

* Advanced Aerobatic Only

Helicopters

Rudy Acherman	281-251-8369
Walter Laich	281-251-5212
Greg Riede	281-376-5259

FROM THE COCKPIT

BY PAUL JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

Dear Sparks Members:

I would like to welcome you to this issue of our SPARKS newsletter – Crosswinds. I hope each of you find the newsletter interesting. I would like to thank all who have contributed to this issue. I would like to thank Ted Karis for the great job he has done as newsletter editor. This will be his last issue.

We still plan to have a monthly newsletter and I hope you will all take the opportunity to contribute articles that you think would be of interest to the club. Remember the incentive for submitting articles to the newsletter is a free ticket for the next month's raffle.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the May 3, 2003 fun fly. Much fun was had by all. The fun fly is summarized in other sections of the newsletter.

Our next business meeting will be at Valley Ranch Barbeque on Wednesday June 4, 2003. We will have elections for new officers. The nominating committee has reported that the following people will run for office:

President – Paul Johnson
Vice President – Kenny Manchester
Secretary – Diane Marson
Treasurer – Jack Jones
Newsletter Editor – Russell Johnson

The nominating committee was not able to obtain more than one person running per office. Nominations however are open until we have the election, so if you would like to nominate yourself or others, feel free.

We will really miss the great contributions of



Homer Davis and Ted Karis, who will not be running for office again this year.

There will be no special presentation, so it would be a great month to show off your latest for model of the month.

Please let me know of other special presentations, displays, etc. that you would like to have at our monthly meetings. I'll try to get it set up.

I would like to encourage new members to take advantage of the instructors we have at the field.

Wishing you the very best in enjoyable and safe RC flying.

Paul Johnson

SPARKS Spring Fun Fly 2003 Update By Ted Karis

On May 3rd we came together for a great time of flying, swapping and BBQ. We had about 43 people attend and I was excited to see the great turnout of flyers, spectators and swap meet vendors.

We had 10 pilots in each category and the competition was tough. A few of the highlights included: Nick Marson's performance in the Juicy Loop Event where his loop was so tight (to keep the beans in the cup) that the bottom of the loop doubled as his landing and Paul Johnson's amazing dead-stick landing stopping in the circle during the Sudden Death event for a overall negative time and 1st place in event.

We sold every table at the swap meet and the buying, swapping and trading took place during the entire event. There were many great deals at the swap meet and I bought as many as I could carry.

Doyle and Cynthia Kay served up some tasty BBQ. The Menu included brisket, chicken, potato salad, green beans and all of the trimmings.

I think it is safe to say that we all had a blast. We wrapped things up at 2pm with open flying for the rest of the day. I want to thank all of those who volunteered to help work the event and all of the vendors, pilots and spectators for making it a great success. I want to also mention a big thank you to our two favorite hobby shops Larry's Hobbies and Cy-Fair Hobbies, and Fox Engines for their generosity in taking care of all of the event prizes.

The Event Results are as follows:

Sudden Death Novice:	1 st John Holmes 2 nd Mike Rose 3 rd Brian Yoakem
Juicy Loop Novice:	1 st Dick Jones 2 nd Russell Johnson 3 rd Tom Shelton
Reno Shuffle Novice:	1 st Tom Shelton 2 nd Steve Tavery 3 rd Brian Yoakem
Overall Results Novice:	1 st Brian Yoakem 2 nd Mike Rose 3 rd Russell Johnson

Note: Overall 2nd was tied so 2nd and 3rd was decided by best overall time for all three events. In addition Dick Jones and Tom Shelton did not complete all three events

Dixie Death: 1st Ian Bange
 2nd Nick Marson
 3rd Gabe Virene

Overall Results Experienced: 1st Ian Bange
 2nd Nick Marson
 3rd Paul Johnson

To minimize the file size of the newsletter for quicker downloading, the entire photo set of the event will be posted on the club website @ www.sparksrc.com.

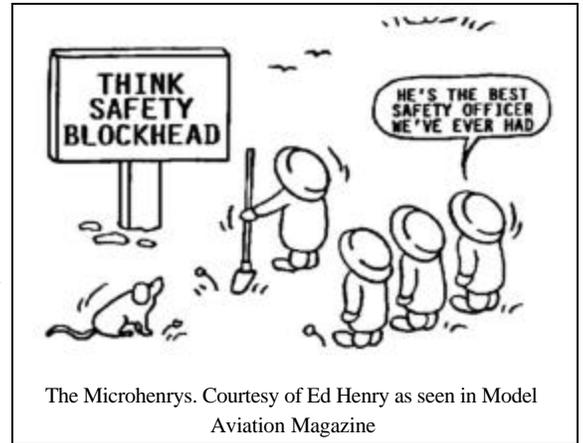


FOR SAFETY SAKE

BY HOMER DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT

It seems hard to believe that an entire year has “flown” by and that this is my last safety article for the newsletter. During this year we have seen the membership increase by leaps and bounds from 83 members at the beginning to the current level of 139. Due to this large increase it became necessary to freeze the membership when it was realized that overcrowding on weekends was becoming uncomfortable and somewhat unsafe.

Despite this tremendous growth we have been very fortunate to not have any serious accidents. Knock on wood! There have been several near misses to be sure, most of which I have reported here with the intention of avoiding repeats. I hope nobody got his or her feelings hurt by this because that surely was not the intent.



Some of the more important topics that have been covered during the year are listed below along with the newsletter date in which they appeared. I'm sure that everyone knows that all the past years newsletters are archived on the clubs website, www.sparksrc.com, and are readily available for quick review.

“A wise man learns from his mistakes, a brilliant man learns from the mistakes of others.”

- General club safety rule review. August '02
(A complete list of all current club rules is contained on our website and printed copies are also in the silver box at the field. A map to the Tomball emergency room is also included in the box.)
- Starting engine with throttle wide open. September '02
- Near misses on flight line. September and October '02 and May '03
- Spins over the concrete road a no-no. October '02
- Leading cause of crashes. November '02
- Club glider flying rules. February '03
- Nick's famous channel 30 radio interference incident February '03
- Fog flying. February '03
- New AMA Safety Rules. March '03
- PCM failsafe programming for safety. April '03

In addition to these subjects the following **safety alerts** were issued via e-mail and the newsletter during the year:

(Continued on page 5)

For Safety Sake (Continued from page 4)

1A Kill switch required for gasoline engines. October '02

1B No flying during mowing. (Mowing takes precedence over flying.) October '02

2 Transmitter impound required. November '02

The only new subject I have to add concerns flying helicopters within the pit area. I don't know the particulars of this incident but it doesn't seem like a safe thing to do when other people are present in the pit area. Just a word to the wise.

I guess that about wraps it up for me. Just remember that as you become more and more experienced in model flying that it is easy to become complacent. I have talked to more than one modeler with scars on his hands that said he momentarily forgot what he was doing and reached through the prop arc to make an adjustment. Ouch!! AMA says that 80 percent of all their medical claims are due to propeller injuries.

It happens to the best of us so keep your guard up and remember, the purpose of this hobby is to HAVE FUN!

KEEP UP THE SAFE FLYING!

See you at the field.

PS! I can't finish without paying a compliment to Ted Karis who was contest director for the club fun fly and swap meet held May 3rd. This was a well-organized, well-attended event that went off smoothly and safely. Everybody had a good time, performed or watched some great flying, conducted a little business, and ate good bar-b-que. What more could a RC flyer ask for on a fine Saturday? Ted and his numerous helpers are to be congratulated on a job well done.

Interested in Batteries?

Anyone interested in learning about Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cad) batteries can reference SR Batteries website at www.srbatteries.com. They have information concerning Ni-Cad and how they compare to Nickel Metal Hydride (NIHM) . Thanks Vic Baney for informing us of the website and the battery comparison.

Reminder:

The trash cans at the field are for airplane related trash like dirty paper towels, broken props, fuel jugs. Lately there has been a lot of food and food containers left in the trash cans. Dogs and other animals are getting into the trash and making a mess of our field. Please do not discard anything food related in the trash. A couple members including myself have spent 10-15 minutes on a separate occasions picking up the trash that the animals have dug out. Taking home your food trash will help solve our problem. Thank you for your cooperation.

What's your latest creation? Share it with the club by submitting a photo for the next newsletter.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

New AD! For Sale Top Flite Cessna 182 Skylane, Gold Edition, 81" Wing-span, IMAA-Legal, Five channel radio required, Eight Futaba servos included, Needs radio and engine, Ready to fly. \$385 Call Len Kingsbury 281-373-5959

For Sale Super Kaos, O.S. .61 SF, Futaba 4 channel FM Radio Ready to Fly \$300 Contact Dean Nistettter 281-370-3422

For Sale Scorpio Super Soft Fly—Motor Glider 84" wing span, .40 K&B engine, Futaba Conquest 4 channel radio channel 50 w/FPS38 servos. Never been flown and has been hanging up for a few years. **\$200 Negotiable** Contact Joan Thorkelsen 281-469-2876 Note: One of my neighbors is selling this plane and I have digital photos I can email you if your interested in getting an idea of what it looks like, just contact Ted Karis at tkaris@hotmail.com for the photos.

Reminder: The Club has high quality CA available for sale in Thick, Medium and Thin. Call Jack Jones for details.

To place a free classified/wanted ad in the newsletter notify the newsletter editor by the 15th of each month..

The 2003-2004 Membership Year Starts In July.

Membership renewal is coming up. Jack Jones, our treasurer has mailed out the renewal notices and the renewal dues for 2003-2004 are due no later than July 2003 at the Business Meeting (7/2/2003). As you know we have a membership cap and we also have seven prospective members on a waiting list so don't miss paying your dues. Jack has received only 26 renewals so far out of 137 members.

Note: Although we have a membership cap please be sure to welcome visitors and guests to our field. Our hobby is one that is more fun when it is shared and you never know who you will meet..

SPARKS Financials as of 5/23/2003

By Jack Jones, Treasurer

	<u>Month Ending</u> <u>5/23/2003</u>		<u>Balance @</u> <u>5/23/2003</u>
INCOME		ASSETS	
Fun Fly Entry Fees	637	AE Cash Mgt. FD-A-Checking Account	13,220
AE Dividend	10	Klein Bank Checking	1,731
2003-2004 Annual Dues	1,800		
Raffle ticket sales	175	TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	<u>14,951</u>
Total Income	\$ 2,662	Other Assets	
		Crushed Concrete	2,974
EXPENSES		Field Rolling Pin	100
Crosswinds Newsletter	66	Glue Inventory	143
May 3, 2003 Fun Fly	575	Orange Container	100
Sod & Levelization	1490	SPARKS Shed	3,344
Mowing Service	475	SPARKS Signs	994
Porta Potty Service	81	Unamortized Lease Deferral-	
Raffle Merchandise	247	Balance of \$4500	2,500
New Badges	5		
Member Mailing	58		
		TOTAL Other ASSETS	<u>10,155</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2,997	TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 25,106
		EQUITY	<u>\$ 25,106</u>
Net Income	<u>(375)</u>		

THE 2003 SPARKS OFFICER ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

THE CLUB OFFICER NOMINEES ARE:

PRESIDENT-PAUL JOHNSON
 VICE PRESIDENT-KENNY MANCHESTER
 SECRETARY-DIANE MARSON
 TREASURER-JACK JONES
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR-RUSSELL JOHNSON

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT THE NEXT MEETING JUNE 4TH.

NOMINATIONS ARE STILL OPEN UNTIL WE HAVE THE
 ELECTION.

THANKS TO LEE DILLENBECK AND RON BOFFA FOR ALL
 OF THEIR HARDWORK ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

Membership Rules Update

As officers we want to let the entire membership know of the rules policy that we reviewed in our monthly meeting on May 7, 2003. Problems with following these rules have caused some friction recently. We want the membership to understand the policies of SPARKS and to follow them.

Helicopter versus Fixed Wing Aircraft Flying

The policy of the club is that on Saturday and Sunday fixed wing aircraft have field priority until 1:00 PM. After 1:00 PM helicopters have priority. If a helicopter pilot wants to fly before 1:00 PM they must obtain permission to fly from fixed wing pilots at the field. After 1:00 PM, if a fixed wing pilot wants to fly they must get permission from the helicopter pilots at the field. In either case, permission is not mandatory and need not be given. If permission is not given in either case, the pilot asking for permission has no right to fly. If permission is granted flying must take place in a rotation manner observing agreed upon flight lines for safety sake. Fixed wing or helicopter flying east of the normal pilot stalls is not permitted at any time unless in an emergency where it is required to safely land the aircraft.

On weekdays both helicopter and fixed wing aircraft have equal priority and are expected to fly in rotation with each other. Dual flight lines can be established as long as it is in a safe manner and no flying occurs east of the normal flight line.

Helicopters are not to be flown in the pits under any condition.

We plan to include in new flyers that we place in hobby shops, that fixed wing flying occurs in the mornings on the weekend and that is also when instructors are likely to be available.

Visitors to the Field

It is the policy of the club that we welcome visitors to the field at any time. It is very important to let interested people learn about our hobby and to answer any questions they may have. This promotes good will for our club as well as the hobby in general. If someone shows up at the field who is a member of AMA and would like to try our field out, you can accept him as a guest if you desire. Non-members are not allowed to fly at the field without a member present under any conditions, even if they are an AMA member.

Remember we need to be ambassadors of the RC hobby and our club. Our current membership freeze will not last indefinitely and at some point we will need new to members.

We really appreciate your attention in these matters. If you have any questions concerning these policies please contact one of the club's officers.

Upcoming Area Events

Bomber Field Annual Warbird Event—Sat. & Sun. June 7 & 8. Any size military aircraft, jets welcome. \$20 landing fee. Sponsor: Bomber Field Contact Nick Stratos CD. 281-471-6762

Jetero Pattern Classic for 401, 402, 403, 404(JSO) - Sat. June 7 & 8. Sponsor: Jetero RC Club. Contact Ronald Barr, CD 281-360-6632 for flyer email rsbxon@aol.com.



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- ◆ Do you want to buy or sell something?
- ◆ Have you learned a neat building trick?
- ◆ Are aerobatics your specialty?
- ◆ Are you into engines?
- ◆ Share your knowledge with the club.
- ◆ Newsletter contributions are due by the 15th of each month.

**Don't just read the
NEW Crosswinds,
Be a part of it!**

Your NEXT Issue of the Crosswinds Newsletter is coming soon. I am looking for anyone interested in contributing to the Newsletter. If you have something of interest to share maybe a flying, aerobatic, building tip, or safety tip, something to sell or anything you may have learned enjoying our hobby. Please contact the Newsletter Editor

Ted Karis.

Also looking for writers who would like to contribute a regular column or write on occasion.

832-298-7310
tkaris@hotmail.com

See you at the June 4th Meeting.