



# Crosswinds

April 2007



## Newsletter for the SPring Area Radio Kontrol Society

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### **SPARKS WEBSITE**

**[www.sparksrc.com](http://www.sparksrc.com)**

mail: **SPARKS**  
**P.O. Box 1361**  
**Tomball, TX 77377-1361**

## **From the Cockpit by President Chris Fredona**

Welcome to the April 2007 Crosswinds newsletter.

Our club by-laws require the formation of an election committee during the March meeting. This committee is responsible for identifying candidates for the June election of officers. As we had no volunteers within the membership present at the meeting, I ask that all members become the committee. Each person is responsible for identifying possible candidates and making their proposals known to the club during the May meeting. Obviously, we should have the consent of those being proposed before presenting their names (or maybe not)!

Sparks has a few individuals who consistently step forward to assist when needed, we all know who they are and greatly appreciate their efforts. However, the responsibility for the operations of the club belongs to all members and I would like to see more people taking active roles in the management of the club. Consider becoming an officer during the next business year or volunteering to assist the club in other ways though out the year.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, SPARKS will hold its first Junk Yard Wars Fun Fly. Come out and watch the fun. This should be an interesting event for participates and spectators alike. Thanks for Mark and Richard for organizing this event and to Randy Ritch for the donation of parts and materials for these advanced designs. After the contest, each team is asked to hang onto their aircraft and bring them to the April meeting.

Our next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, April 4th at the Valley Ranch Grill. Each Junk Yard War team will be asked to make a short presentation on their design and flight performance.

Hope to see you all there.

Fly safe!

# Highlights from the March meeting....

Paul Johnson will modify the frequency board to accommodate the new DSM frequency pins. Jeff Giesbrecht volunteered to host and revamp our SPARKS website. He and Kenny Manchester will make the conversion within the next month.

Many thanks to Kenny for his time, support and hard work over the years in building and maintaining our site. We certainly appreciate his efforts and hope he can find time to visit and fly with us again in the future.

No one volunteered for the nominating committee. It is important that we have candidates selected by the May meeting when nominations close, prior to the election in June.

Mark Hunt and Richard Lewis reviewed the rules and details of the March 31<sup>st</sup> "Junkyard Wars" Event. Four teams have been formed and Randy's Hobbies will give each team a box of essential items. Teams should bring their own tools, motor, radio, etc. Surviving planes can be brought to the April meeting for Model of the Month.

Vic Baney presented his Proctor kit, 1/4 scale "Albatross". Taking over 9,000 hours to complete, every minute detail is addressed. Even the paint colors were specifically matched to the original design. There are only two full size "Albatross" planes known to exist. The plane is definitely museum quality and we felt privileged to see it. Gift Certificates to Larry's Hobbies were raffled.



## March Model of the Month....

Richard Lewis  
with his  
"Voodoo Express 2"

A bit of the craft's history....

Nat Penton (AKA—The Voodoo Guru) currently flies his own design, unique pattern plane, the Voodoo Express, in FAI pattern competition in the Southeast US. The VooDoo Express defies description in both looks and performance. As we know, most modern FAI capable pattern ships are pushing 11 lbs. and fly with large glow engines like the YS140DZ or OS140RX. Nat's Voodoo Express is around 7 lbs., and flew with ease on a piped OS91FX and later was converted to an electric Plettenberg Outrunner. The Voodoo Express is a perfect example of form following function. The most notable feature is the forward mounted fins to provide side area lift and straighten the spiral slipstream.

I decided to design/build my own plane based directly on Nat's Voodoo Express. With Nat's help, I developed my version of his design.

### Specifications

Wingspan: 68"

Length: 78 1/2"

Wing Area: Approx. 860 sq. inches

Wing Root: NACA 16% with 19.5" chord

Wing Tip: NACA 12% with 7.5 chord

Wing Shape: 7" Setback at LE, No Dihedral

Weight: 7 to 8 lbs (or less with good wood selection)

Power: YS 110 on Hyde Mount

Construction: All balsa fuselage, wings, stabs, sins—1 lb. EPS foam

Sheeted to 1/16 Contest Grade Balsa



*Photo above*  
Voodoo Express 2" shown with the almost ready to cover model Richard built for Nick Marson.

# Interesting websites to check out.....

Some fun ones from Lee Dillenbeck...

Flight Right Productions has a great article....

"R. A. "Bob" Hoover, considered by his peers as the "pilot's pilot", a man who has served his country in war and peace as a fighter pilot, test pilot and as a master of aerobatics. His famous yellow P-51 Mustang has been one of the main attractions at the Reno National Air Races for many years. His demonstrations in the Shrike Commander performing his energy management maneuvers with both engines shut down is nothing short of spectacular". *Please go to the site to read more..*

<http://www.flyrightproductions.com/AboutBobHoover.htm>

In this Video, Bob takes you on a flight....

[http://www.alexisparkinn.com/photogallery/Videos/2006-3-11\\_bob\\_hoover.avi](http://www.alexisparkinn.com/photogallery/Videos/2006-3-11_bob_hoover.avi)

Got a new plane and haven't covered or painted it yet???

(P.S. Nick, take note, for your Voodoo Express III)

Here are some ideas from actual full scale ones....to see more go to.....

<http://web.wenxuecity.com/BBSView.php?SubID=joke&MsgID=207488>



## Climb into the cockpit of a Swiss Army Jet over the Alps

Submitted by Mike Rose

<http://www.glumbert.com/media/swiss>

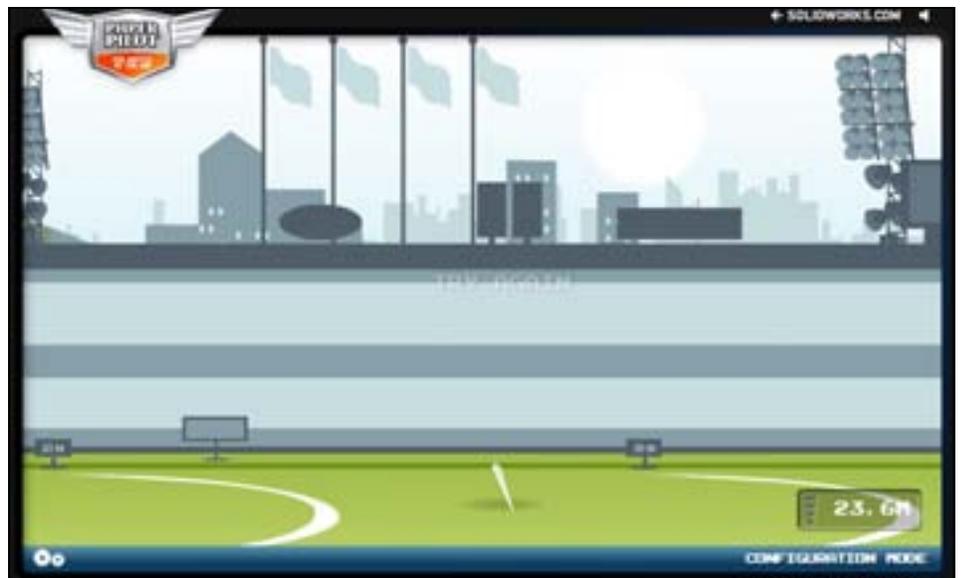
Or forget the plane and just strap on wings and a jet motor as Yves Rossy a.k.a. as Jetman does and cruise over the landscape. (*We previously featured a flight of his, but he is so unbelievable, it's worth another video of his exploits.*)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEXxkWXncuo>

## Paper Plane Challenge

by Nick Marson

Here is a test of your building and flying skills!!!



Go to this website <http://www.solidworkspilot.com/>

Click on the shield and your design screen will appear. Configure your craft's weight, elevators and winglets. Then click on practice and use your mouse to move the pilot's launching arm.. After you have made a few practice flights, the competition begins.

Your score will be in a small window to the right. When you think you have your best score, print the page by pressing the Ctrl key and the letter P at the same time. Bring your printed score sheet to the May meeting and the furthest distance gets a free raffle ticket..

*Editor's note: the score in the box is mine, not Nick's.*

An invitation reprinted from the *AMA Insider*...

## 2007 National Aeromodeling Championships

The Academy of Model Aeronautics presents the 81<sup>st</sup> National Aeromodeling Championships (Nats). This is the world's largest aeromodeling competition, in which pilots of all skill levels come together to compete against each other, and it's not all about winning! Many competitors come each year to enjoy the company of their fellow fliers and to make new friends and memories!

The Nats is a six-week-long competition that features a variety of events in which to participate. From large Scale Aerobatics aircraft to rubber-band-powered FF models, you will surely find something that sparks your interest.

Whether you want to compete or be a spectator, we are extending this invitation to all members, their friends, and their families to come out and be a part of modeling history.

Kicking off the Nats are the Indoor Free Flight events, which are scheduled for May 29-June 3, 2007, at Johnson City, Tennessee, in the East Tennessee State University Mini-Dome. This site has been used for many years and is a premier venue for Indoor events.

The outdoor events, to be held at the International Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, Indiana, start with the 2007 Pylon World Championships beginning June 23. The outdoor Nats events will follow, running June 29-August 5. For more information or a detailed schedule of events, please visit [www.modelaircraft.org/events/](http://www.modelaircraft.org/events/) or call (765) 287-1256, extensions 224, 252, or 293.

We hope to see you there!➔

*-Nats Staff*

Flash to the past...Last summer, Sparks was well represented at the Nats....



# Think you've had some bad landings lately ?????

Submitted by Homer Davis



*Editor's note: I really did not want to see these since Nick and I are flying "over the pond" for Spring break/Easter Holiday.*

*Where's my rabbit's foot? Oops, not quite the thing to say so close to Easter.....*

Reprinted from the *AMA Insider...*

## Flying with a Plan

by Bill Coombes

Hi Sky RC Club, Midland TX



One of the benefits of flying Pattern competition (as it was called in the olden days) was that it forced you to fly a predictable, recognizable sequence of maneuvers on every flight. In other words, it imposed some discipline in your flying, and it made you a better pilot.

Although I have not flown in competition in many years, I still try to remember the lessons I learned when I did compete. Every time I fly, I have a mental plan of what I want to accomplish during the flight.

When instructing school children, I've found that making them do repeated maneuvers allows them to move more quickly toward their first solo. They become disciplined fliers.

Planning Prevents the Airplane from Flying the Pilot.

Watching pilots at our field and at my electric field of choice, I have seen guys who could be skilled fliers constantly chasing their airplanes through the sky until they find themselves disoriented and their airplanes at risk. They aren't flying with a plan, but rather the airplane is flying them.

With the Commemorative Air Force, I have participated in the hardest kind of flying to learn—formation. Believe me, discipline and a plan are the only things that prevent catastrophic accidents (besides a thorough briefing and an understanding of the flight formation rules). Guys who can fly an airplane well enough when alone suddenly discover a whole new set of skills necessary to master before they are safe in a formation.

I'm not advocating that all of us in the RC world rush out and become International Miniature Aerobatic Club (IMAC) pilots, but I am saying that flying each flight with a specific plan (like really round loops, or skillfully centering maneuvers in front of you, or a perfect landing pattern) will impose some meaning to your flying and you will become a safer, better pilot (and your airplane will last longer as well). With the high price of these Alfa warbirds that I am into right now, economy forces me to always fly with a plan.

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A big hand to the following members who contributed to this month's issue...

Homer Davis, Lee Dillenbeck, Nick Marson,  
and Mike Rose

Please continue to send articles, websites, tips, your model reviews, photos, etc. for publication. This month's issue is smaller because of lack of material.

Thanks, Diane [dqmarson@earthlink.net](mailto:dqmarson@earthlink.net)