



Crosswinds

May 2007



Newsletter for the Spring Area Radio Kontrol Society

SPARKS 2005 - 2006 Officers

Chris Fredona President	281-376-7068
Mike Rose Vice President	281-376-9311
George Terry Treasurer	281-356-4315
Diane Marson Secretary & Newsletter Editor	281-374-8915

SPARKS Flight Instructors

Chief Instructor

Lee Dillenbeck 281-288-7661

Flight Instructors, Airplanes

Bob Allen	281-443-8779
Jim Greer	281-370-5615
Mark Hunt	281-290-0327
Paul Johnson	281-353-7930
Jack Jones	281-252-3159
Richard Lewis	281-351-8540
Bill Murad	281-290-8945
Nick Marson	281-374-8915
Luis Rodriguez	281-363-9134

Ground Instructor, Airplanes

Vic Baney	281-357-1357
Chris Fredona	281-376-7068
Ron Hendrick	281-583-9421
Mike Rose	936-697-4877

Helicopters

Charles Jones	832-978-3688
Warren Watkins	281-855-7830

SPARKS WEBSITE

www.sparksrc.com

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

From the Cockpit by President Chris Fredona

Welcome to the May 2007 Crosswinds newsletter.

As always our search for a new and, hopefully, permanent flying field is a major issue for our club. In the last months, Paul Johnson has taken the lead in this search with his contacts at the Flood Control District and other activities. As mentioned in the last meeting, Paul's contact will be returning from maternity leave in May, so we should be able to resume our discussions with them on the property at Hwy 249 and Beltway 8. Paul has also spoken to the builder of the development currently encroaching on our present field from the South and West. It appears that the build out of the property will start on those lots furthest from us which should provide us another 1-2 years at our present site. Paul will provide more details of this plan at the May meeting. However, in spite of this reprieve, we must still actively continue our search and acquisition so we are ready when the time comes.

As mentioned in previous newsletters and emails, the candidates for our club officers, for next year, will be announced at the May meeting. I am pleased that two members have volunteered to take on these responsibilities from the out going officers and to work with Diane who will stay on as Secretary. We do, however, need one additional officer to complete the club board. Again, I ask that a member, new or old, standup and take this responsibility and make this contribution to the club. We all hope to hear from you next week.

Our next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, May 2nd at the Valley Ranch Grill. Currently, no speaker is planned for this meeting. If you have a topic, you wish to present, please let me know. Hope to see you all there.

Fly safe!

Highlights from the April Meeting.....

Vice President and Safety Officer Mike Rose reminded us to take note of wind direction upon take offs and landings. Paul Johnson modified the Frequency Board to accommodate the new DSM users and everyone is reminded to clip their current AMA card in the pin's place. Paul volunteered to continue heading the effort to secure an additional/new field site. Members should continue to check out any leads and offer assistance in the search.

The three planes built during the recent Junk Yard Event were displayed and reviewed.

Despite the rain and standing water, a super time was had by all in attendance. Many Thanks to Mark Hunt and Richard Lewis for their efforts. Please see this issue for photos. Gift Certificates from Randy's and Larry's Hobbies were raffled.

April Model of the month - Jake Jacobsen's PFM II

Model of the Month was won by Jake Jacobsen and his original design and scratch built "PFM II" craft. Inspired by the upcoming Junk Yard Event, Jake used cardboard and balsa to fashion the unusual craft which weighed in at 5.8 lbs. "PFM" stands for either "Pure Fantastic Magic" or "Pretty Flying Machine" depending upon your point of view. Whatever the name, it is an inventive and unique plane.



Junkyard Wars Event— Saturday, March 31, 2007

The big day of the much anticipated Junkyard Wars Event came and so did the rain. Friday night saw drenching rains which extended into early Saturday morning. As you can see in the photo there were a couple of inches of standing water covering the drains in the pit area.

But the show must go on "rain or shine" the event poster said. Battle lines were drawn.

P.S. Due to the cloudy weather, the photos are a bit dark even though a flash was used.



Three teams were formed and the all important task of choosing your materials from the vast resource of junk was begun. Due to the wet conditions, the junk pile was located near the pin board and covered several yards a foot or more deep.



Only one member from each team could select parts and he was receiving all sorts of advice and suggestions from his team mates.



Event Organizers—Mark Hunt and Richard Lewis

Meet the teams..."Flying Trash" 1st Place

Andy Warwas, Roderick and Rod Kuntz, and Alan Buckner



"Fubar" a modified profile plane, required CPR several times to remain running. However, once in the air, pilot Andy Warwas performed the maneuvers with ease.



Team "Aero-Flop" 2nd. Place

Pep Peperone, Jim Ridgeway, Ron Hendrick, Nick Marson & Lee Dillenbeck



Losing points by exceeding the building time limit put Aero-Flop in 2nd. Place. Pilot Lee Dillenbeck reported it flew remarkably well.



The Chitty, Chitty Bang, Bang Boys finished 3rd.
Vic Baney, Jake Jacobsen, Ed Pierce and Paul Johnson



"The Boys" had a very organized plan and probably the best looking plane, but after several attempts of actual flight, the CCBB craft made a couple of premature landings and the game was up.

Random Shots....



Scene of the crime??



Is Mark Hunt getting ideas for a new pattern plane ??



Thanks to Lee Dillenbeck for some of the photos in the article



Editor's observation:
I have not seen Jake's workshop at his home, but if it is as neat and organized as the back of his portable workshop that day.... Everything labeled and in place.

The three junkyard crafts were reviewed at the April meeting and provided many humorous and entertaining moments.

You know the real value of the event wasn't who won or lost , it was that SPARKS members come together for a day of fellowship, fun and a lot of laughs.

This is what our Club is really about....sharing our wonderful hobby with each other.

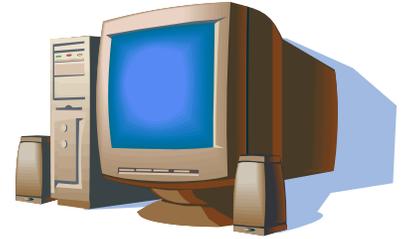
Please participate in Club meetings and events so we can all benefit from the experiences.



The event was fun for spectators and participants as well.

Website from Mike Rose.....

Look at this! This is a video of an in-flight demonstration flown by the Russian SU-30MK fighter aircraft.



The fighter can stall from high speed, stopping in less than a second.

Then it demonstrates an ability to descend tail first without causing a compressor stall. It can also recover from a flat spin in less than a minute.

Although we have these capabilities with some of our R/C models, these capabilities probably don't exist today in any other full scale aircraft in the world ... particularly jets.

Take a look at the video with the sound up: click below

http://www.crazyaviation.com/movies/CA_SU-30.wmv

Enjoy the show !

Great ideas from the Tower Hobby Tip sheet...submitted by Nick Marson

Metal Screws

"Here is a tip to keep metal servo screws from stripping into the servo tray wood or the rails they are mounted into. Mount the screw and then remove it. Place a couple of drops of thin CA into the screw hole and let it dry. After the CA is completely dry, mount the servo with the servo screws and the holes will never strip. This method works well anytime a wood screw will need removing fairly often (like canopies or hatches)."

Multi purpose tool

"Keep a package of Q-tips or cotton tipped swabs on the workbench. They can be used to pick up excess glue from joints, pick up glue drops from work bench, as a throw away paint brush for small jobs, or cut the tip off to mix epoxy."

Servo Lead Identification

"When installing servo leads into the receiver, use a label or tag which corresponds to the channel number and function, such as 1—rudder, 2—elevator, and so on. This will make it easier to identify the leads in case the receiver is ever removed."

Please support our local hobby shops

Randy's Hobbies
Remote Control Airplanes, Boats & Cars
Sales and Service



Randy Ritch
18706 Tomball Pkwy
Houston, TX 77070
281-469-7000

Kirk Massey

New Creations
R/C Electric Flight

9735 County Line Road
Willis, TX 77378

936 856-4630
newcreations-rc.com

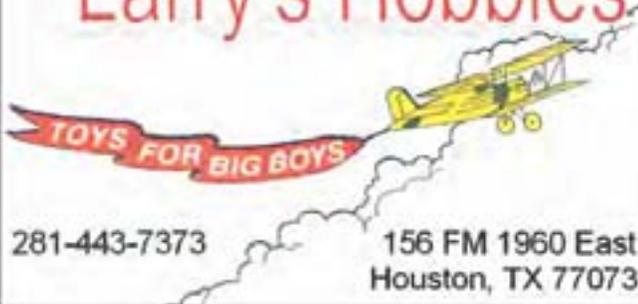
MIKE'S HOBBY SHOP
A Complete Train Shop Specializing In Everything From "G" to "Z"
Trains· Planes· Cars· Boats· Helicopters
Mon-Fri 10-6:30 • Sat 9-6 • Sun 1-5
281-354-7240
Website Address: www.mikes-hobbyshop.com
Email: mikes-hobbyshop@aol.com

21768 E. Knox Dr. Porter, Texas 77365

HobbyTown USA
Portofino Shopping Center
(exit Research Forest)

19075 I 45 N. Shenandoah, TX 77385
936 271 4818
www.shenandoahtx.hobbytown.com

Larry's Hobbies



281-443-7373

156 FM 1960 East
Houston, TX 77073



Many thanks to the following who contributed
to this month's issue

Lee Dillenbeck, Nick Marson and Mike Rose