



Crosswinds

June 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

From the Cockpit by President Chris Fredona

Welcome to the June 2007 Crosswinds newsletter.

The annual officer's election will be held at the June SPARKS meeting. We are fortunate to have a fine slate of candidates for the election and to lead the club. These candidates, as announced in the May meeting, are Wally Warren (President), Mark Hunt (Vice President), Mike Meyer (Treasurer) and Diane Marson (Secretary). Following this month's election, the new officers will take office as of the July meeting.

At this meeting, we will also call for a vote on a bylaws change that was proposed and discussed at the June meeting. This amendment would provide a reduced membership fee for full time students over the age of 19. As our young members reach college age, they may be attending schools in other cities or due to academic loads only be able to fly RC on a limited basis. As a result, it was proposed that these members pay the same rate as a second adult membership, whether or not they have another family member in the club. The proposed wording for this bylaw change is shown below:

Under Article VI, section 5, Annual dues, Fees and Assessments Percentages:

(A) OPEN MEMBERS

- (1) Senior - 100 percent
 - a. *full time student over age 19 or second adult in family - \$50.00. (*full time student must provide copy of student I.D.)
- (2) Junior - 30 percent
- (3) Junior with a parent or guardian senior member - 10 percent
- (4) HONORARY MEMBER - 0 percent

As bylaw amendments require a quorum of 25% of the senior membership, it is important that we have good attendance for this meeting. If you can not attend, please send me your vote on this issue via email -

ChrisFredona@aol.com

Due to the 4th of July holiday, the July meeting will be held on July 11th instead of the 4th. Please mark your calendars with this new date.

Our next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, June 6th at the Valley Ranch Grill. Mark Hunt will provide a presentation on the design tools and techniques used in his development of the Pentathalon pattern aircraft.

Hope to see you all there. Fly safe!

SPARKS Flight Instructors	
<u>Chief Instructor</u>	
Lee Dillenbeck	281-288-7661
<u>Flight Instructors, Airplanes</u>	
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
<u>Ground Instructor, Airplanes</u>	
Vic Baney	281-357-1357
Chris Fredona	281-376-7068
Ron Hendrick	281-583-9421
Mike Rose	936-697-4877
<u>Helicopters</u>	
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	

Highlights of the May meeting....

It was noted that the orange netting on some of the pilot stations needed replacement and since there is a roll in the storage shed it can be completed soon. There are frequency pins on the board for 27 MHz park flyers to use.

Paul Johnson spoke with the developers who are building new home sites adjacent to our field. At this time, no plans are in place to build on the adjoining edges of our field until 2008 or beyond. But we must still proceed with plans for an alternative field site. Paul will report any further details as they evolve.

Jeff Giesbrecht is in the process of moving our website to a new server and will notify members when completed.

Nominees for Office for the 2007 - 2008 Club Year are:

President	Wally Warren
Vice President	Mark Hunt
Treasurer	Michael Meyer
Secretary	Diane Marson
Newsletter	Diane Marson

As required by the By-Laws, nominations are closed and members will vote at the June meeting.

An amendment to the By-Laws was proposed and is published on page 4 of this issue. Please make note of it. Voting will be at the June 6th meeting. Please attend.

Several members *** won gift certificates from either Larry's or Randy's Hobbies.

*** F.Y.I. It was noted that Ben Schultz bought \$20.00 worth of tickets, won 4 times for a total of \$85.00 in certificates. With that kind of luck, he should have bought Lotto tickets on the way home...

May Model of the Month

Ron Hendrick and his revamped "Excite 90".

Recently recovered and outfitted for one of his favorite types of flying, it weighs in now at 7 lbs., 13 ounces.

(Twelve ounces of that weight are the lights installed for night flying) It is powered by a Saito 100 engine.



Ron arrives at the field before dawn on most weekend mornings and enjoys flying the Excite before sun up. If you recall at a pattern competition a couple of years ago, an RV was parked overnight at our field. The occupant thought he was dreaming when he heard an RC engine out in the darkness. Peering out the window, he saw a plane with lights landing on the runway. It was just Ron enjoying some quality time with his craft.



More May meeting highlights



Jake Jacobsen previewed his scratch build PFM craft and recounted his unusual stretch of bad luck recently. Between a faulty transmitter and very windy conditions, he had three crashes in a matter of a few days. But as Jake was able to laughingly say "It wasn't toooo bad" Everyone enjoyed his presentation. He will report on the maiden flight of PFM later.

The PFM's sister "PFM II" won May Model of the Month....Please refer to the May Issue of Crosswinds....



A FLAG THAT DOESN'T FLY EXCEPT IN OUR HEARTS

Between the fields where the flag is planted, there are 9+ miles of flower fields that go all the way to the ocean. The flowers are grown by seed companies. It's a beautiful place, close to Vandenberg AFB.

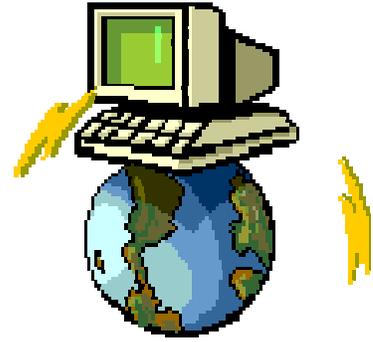
Check out the dimensions of the flag. The Floral Flag is 740 feet long and 390 feet wide and maintains the proper Flag dimensions, as described in Executive Order #10834. This Flag is 6.65 acres and is the first Floral Flag to be planted with 5 pointed Stars, comprised of White Larkspur. Each Star is 24 feet in diameter; each Stripe is 30 feet wide. This Flag is estimated to contain more than 400,000 Larkspur plants, with 4-5 flower stems each, for a total of more than 2 million flowers. Aerial photo courtesy of Bill Morson - Ocean Ave. in Lompoc, CA!

Editor's note: This is not about RC, but with Memorial Day this week and the upcoming July 4th Holiday near, it's a tribute to our United States of America.

I must admit I do not remember who sent me this link....If it is a club member, please let me know to receive your free raffle ticket.

<http://picturelomdoc.com/floralflagpage2.html>

Great Websites and Videos to check out.....



From Mike Rose

RC Airplane knife edge skating.....another super impressive display of RC airplane flying skills....

<http://www.funmansion.com/templates/view.php?go=search>

From Nick Marson



For all our heli pilots...

http://www.liveleak.com:80/view?i=844_1178669945

We've been reading about the use of RC for surveillance purposes in the military, now it's on trial run in the U.K. for preventing crime....

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/merseyside/6676809.stm>

And soon in the California skies...where do we apply for pilot jobs ???

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/5051142.stm>

Lost and Found

Jim Greer recently found some knives at the flying field. He would like to return them to the rightful owner...

If this is **you**, please call him with a description.

Home 281 370 5615 or his cell 713 412 6482

Tips & Tricks from the *AMA Insider Newsletter*

Keep Your Pilot in Your Plane

Have you ever seen someone's pilot-figure rolling around in the canopy? Not very cool especially if the pilot is an F-15 figure. Try this idea to make sure your pilot doesn't eject too soon.

Since most pilot figures are hollow, enlarge the rubber hole in the bottom of your figure. Make it about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch to $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch wide. Go down to your favorite hardware store and purchase some drywall hole-hanger screws.

Get the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch or $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick size. The size to use will depend on your cockpit size and the thickness of your pilot's rubber base.

Now drill a hole into the cockpit floor (where your pilot will sit). The cockpit hole needs to line up with the hole in the bottom of your figure.

Now glue your pilot down and take the drywall screw and push it up through the bottom of the cockpit floor.

Put the base of your figure on top of the drywall screw and tighten the screw. As the screw is tightened, the casing's external fingers will collapse or spread out inside your figure securely attaching your pilot to the cockpit floor.

Now if your airplane crashes, at least you know your pilot will still be securely attached!

—*Hangar Talk, Edinburgh, Indiana*

Helpful Ideas

With the weather becoming gloomier, and colder, some of our attention has turned to building and repairs—and hopefully more of the building and less repairs. Here are a few tips:

The foam "Pool Noodles" sold in the sporting goods section of mega marts make great foam stock for mounting your batteries and receiver in your airplane. It cuts very easily with a kitchen knife, and a pocket can be easily formed that will protect the electronics from vibration and shock.

It is also rigid enough to hold the devices in place in many applications.

Aluminum foil makes a great shield or mask when spray painting. Paint of course does not penetrate the foil; it can be easily formed, and will stay where you put it, often without the need of tape.

Store your unmounted engine in an aluminum foil pouch. Thoroughly clean the engine and spray penetrating oil as a preservative and wrap the engine with the foil. Crease the edges to form an airtight seal to keep the preservative oil in, and the dirt and moisture out.

—*From Ed Olszewski, Eagles' Nest, St. Clair County, Michigan*

Cleaning Pushrod Tubes

The oily residue of model fuel sometimes makes its way into the pushrod tubes, which also captures small particles of grit. The oily residue also makes some of the flexible plastic pushrods and tubes swell and soften slightly, which makes operation in curves almost impossible.

A simple cure is to apply a solution of powdered graphite, mixed with mentholated spirits or rubbing alcohol. Holding the model in an appropriate position (thus having one end of the errant tube in an upright position), apply the solution with a syringe onto the rod (or it can be applied to the mouth of the tube while moving the rod in a back and forth motion) to encourage the solution to circulate.

The mentholated spirits, or alcohol, washes away the oily residue and grit, leaving the graphite behind providing a good lubrication to the pushrod.

—*From San Gabriel Valley Radio Control League, South El Monte, California*



From Sierra Flyers Model Airplane Club,
Yuba City, California

Remember When...

1. A PROGRAM was a TV show.
2. A CURSOR used profanity.
3. A KEYBOARD was a piano.
4. MEMORY was something that you lost with age.
5. A CD was an investment.
6. COMPRESS was something that you did with the garbage.
7. LOG ON was adding wood to the fire.
8. HARD DRIVE was a long trip on the road.
9. A MOUSE PAD was where a mouse lived.
10. And a BACKUP was a sewer problem.
11. You CUT with a pocket knife, and PASTED with glue.
12. A WEB was a spider's home, and a VIRUS was the flu.
13. A COMPUTER was something in a science-fiction show.
14. A WINDOW was something you hated to clean.

But don't we just love our computer, o.k. most of the time...

Many Thanks to

Jim Greer
Nick Marson
Mike Rose

Hey members, You may have noticed this issue is rather slim and I have resorted to using articles from the *AMA Insider* publication.

The *Insider* collects material from newsletters across the country and distributes it to club newsletter editors.

Please, can't our members write an article, take photos, submit interesting stuff to keep our newsletter afloat.

I would appreciate your contributions.

Thank you, Diane Marson

Send to dgmarson@earthlink.net

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: mikeshobbyshop@aol.com

21768 E. Knox Dr. Porter, Texas 77365

HobbyTown USA
Portofino Shopping Center
(exit Research Forest)

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

Larry's Hobbies



281-443-7373

156 FM 1960 East
Houston, TX 77073