

January 2009



Crosswinds

Newsletter for the SPring Area Radio Kontrol Society

SPARKS WEBSITE

www.sparksrc.com

Or mail to:

SPARKS

P.O. Box 1361
Tomball, TX 77377-1361

SPARKS 2007 - 2009 Officers

Wally Warren President	281-794-0947
Mark Hunt Vice President	281-290-0327
Michael Meyer Treasurer	281-635-5551
Diane Marson Sect'y/Newsletter	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 281-255-2067

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

Helicopters

Warren Watkins 713-725-0827

Message from President Wally Warren

Dear Sparks Member,

As I sit down to write this little monthly blurb, I can't help but start by acknowledging someone in the club that does so much for all of us, but rarely gets the accolades that are due them.



For the entire time that I've been a SPARKS member, Diane Marson has poured her efforts into this club to see that things run like a well oiled top. Without fail she makes certain that our club has had a fantastic, readable and enjoyable newsletter. She is also at almost every meeting (She only misses when Nick drags her out of town on vacations!), where she accurately takes the minutes of the meeting and helps this president to focus on the task at hand. She is also the one that is at the field taking pictures of the members with their latest creation for inclusion into the newsletter.

I don't know where we'd be without her and I don't think we will find out, but it is just time for all of us to say a huge thank you to her and let her know that we do appreciate her and all that she does to make this a great club. Join me in saying "THANKS" when you see her around !

Things at the new field are progressing along quite nicely. Mark Hunt and I were able to meet on December 16 with a couple of reps from the parks department and an outside contractor to discuss our options for clearing the land and moving forward on making the new runway. The whole group of us walked the entire project together to assure that we are all on the same page and no misunderstanding would arise about what our immediate needs are. I believe it was a very productive time and we should have a couple of firm quotes on hand at the January meeting concerning the cost to clear the land and also how much it will cost to apply the new grass to the newly cleared areas. I believe that we will be very able to afford the construction costs because of the great shape that the "books" are in. It seems that our club is in fine shape financially, and, again, this is because of a job well done by many that came before my time here!

President's message con't next page

President's message con't

I'm looking so forward to 2009, but at the same time, can't believe that 2008 is gone already. As I reflect on some of the modeling projects that I had on my "wish-list" to start the year, I actually got a couple of them done! One thing I didn't do was to compete at any pattern contests in 2008. I still want to do that sometime – just to add that additional pressure onto the top of my already balding head

I'll put it back on the 2009 list in hopes that I can actually get in there and "have a go" at it.

I am really compiling a diverse group of airplanes to fly, from tiny fast electrics, to my 35% Extra that will come on line in early 2009. I love to fly – and it doesn't matter what (I will leave the heli's to the pro's though!).

I'm most looking forward to "Opening Day" this year. NO, not baseball's big event (as much as love that sport), I'm talking about OUR grand opening of the new field that so many have worked so hard to make happen. It will be a fine facility at the start, but I believe that it will develop over time into a FANTASTIC site that has a large, active and friendly group of modelers who are ready and willing to bring the joy of modeling to the next generation of flyers! You folks make our club the friendliest, most inclusive one I've ever had the opportunity to be around and I believe that it will even get better as we settle into our new "digs" in 2009.

Speaking of members... If you haven't paid your dues for the last half of fiscal 2008 (01/2009-06/2009) please do so at the next meeting. We need ALL of us to make this thing work out.

In closing, don't forget the Club Meeting is at Valley Ranch BBQ on Wednesday nite, January 7 @ 7:00pm. And the Final Fly-In at the CURRENT field will be on Saturday, January 10, from about 08:00 till everyone is done. We will just be flying and shooting the breeze to send off the old field one last time. Who knows what the weather will be – it might be 77, or it might be 22 and icing!

Have a VERY Happy New Year – and thanks for letting me be along for the ride!

Wally

Out at the Field

What are these guys up to ?? Bill Murad and Gabe Virene engaged in a little "friendly" race with their almost twin planes. Look quickly and don't blink.



December Meeting highlights

The Field Committee reviewed the proposed layout of the new facility at Dyess Park. Paul Johnson provided printed maps with layouts of the runway, pits and parking marked. The Field Committee will submit the proposed plans and a recommendation that between 99 and 113 trees be removed to the County for approval. Upon their approval, work can commence. It was decided to work closely with the County officials and if possible, use their suggested contractors for clearing the area.

Vic Baney will check into possible sod removal from our current field as opposed to new planting/seeding

the new runway. He will report at the January meeting.

Chris Fredona will meet with the management at the adjacent small airport about their approach patterns.

Rod Kuntz presented his "No Name" plane which he describes as a "mild 3D" craft. It weighs in at 40 oz. flying weight and has a 49" wing span.

Randy's Hobby shop gift certificates were raffled to several lucky winners.



Rod Kuntz and his "No Name" model of the month.

Actually all kidding aside, it is an Electric EXTRA 260 and was detailed in the December issue, pages 11 and 12.

Note from the editor.....

After Wally's kind words, I must apologize for the abbreviated newsletter this month.

Not only have the contributions been sparse, but we are leaving tomorrow for 10 days and I must post this before then. Thanks to Wally for his early message submission and to Kenny for always posting according to my schedule.

We have a great Club and all of us should thank the Field Committee and all the members who have so diligently pursued finding and planning the new field. Please attend the January 7th meeting and show your support.,

Thanks and have a wonderful holiday season, Diane Marson

More interesting websites from Mike Rose

Here are some really strange and rare photos...

it makes you wonder how did they fly??

<http://rareaircraft.greyfalcon.us:80/UNITED%20STATES.htm>

Photo below: ARUP S-4

with S-2 to right

Photo below:

BREWSTER XF2A-1 in

Disruptive camouflage



More history - from Nick Marson

Recently declassified gun camera footage from Allied aircraft in the European Theater during WWII.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=75277905547951258&hl=en>



for more about the craft.....

<http://www.aviation-history.com/republic/p47.html>

MEET THE USS NEW YORK ! !

Submitted by Katherine Bush (Diane's daughter)

You may have heard rumors there was a ship partly built with steel from the ruins of the World Trade Center...

Well here is the official scoop...It's True!!

Check out this website for all the facts...here is a brief quote from the following website:



<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/u/ussnewyork.htm>

"A New Navy Ship, the USS New York, is Partly Built With Steel From the Ruins of the World Trade Center-Truth!

Summary of the eRumor:

Some interesting information about a new Navy amphibious assault ship, the USS New York, that has been built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center, which was felled by terrorists on September 11, 2001.

The Truth:

The USS New York is one of several ships in the San Antonio class of amphibious transport dock ships. They are designed to transport and land troops, supplies, and equipment such as amphibious vehicles and helicopters. Designated as LPD. It is one of three similar ships that are being built and being given names that are associated with The Attack on America. In addition to the USS New York, the USS Arlington will be named because of the location of the Pentagon, which was hit by American Airlines flight 77. The USS Somerset will be named after the county in Pennsylvania in which United flight 93 crashed after being taken over by hijackers.

The ship is being built in New Orleans. Twenty-four tons of steel from the World Trade Center have been recycled for the project. About seven tons were melted down and poured into a cast to make the bow section of the ship's hull. The steel has been treated with reverence by the ship builders and several workers have postponed retirements for the honor of working on the USS New York.

According to Naval records, several other ships have carried the name the USS New York. This new ship got the name the USS New York when New York governor George Pataki wrote to Secretary of the Navy Gordon England and requested that the Navy approve of the name in honor of the victims of September 11 and on ships that will be used to fight the war on terror."

Here are some other websites for more info: <http://www.ussny.org/>

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,334332,00.html>

R/C Photos of the Month submitted by Alan Buckner

Ooops, don't want to see the next frame of this sequence, actually let's hope the camera man ducked !!



Maybe we could save mowing expenses at the new field.....



Let's see, if we get all the heli pilots in formation, we should be able to finish in no time....

Larry's Hobbies



281-443-7373 156 FM 1960 East
Houston, TX 77073

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



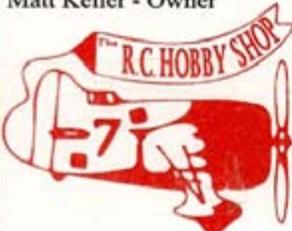
Randy Ritch
18706 Tomball Pkwy
Houston, TX 77070
281-469-7000

Kirk Massey

New Creations
R/C Electric Flight

9735 County Line Road 936 856-4630
Willis, TX 77378 newcreations-rc.com

Matt Keller - Owner



RC Hobby Shop

13837 Southwest Freeway
Sugar Land, TX 77478
P: 281-265-4844
F: 281-265-8686
www.rchobbyshop.com

"The Best Little Hobby House In Texas"



Troy Built Models
1650 Honore Ave. - Sarasota, FL 34232
941 - 342- 8685
<http://www.troybuiltmodels.com/>

Thanks to the following for their contributions to this newsletter...

Alan Buckner, Katherine Bush, Nick Marson and Mike Rose

Please continue to send articles, tips, websites, photos and info you want to share with fellow members.

here's my address... dgmarson@earthlink.net

Thanks and hope to see you at the field.