

Crosswinds

Newsletter for SPARKS
Spring Area Radio
Kontrol Society



August 2014

Message from the President - Terry Foote August 2014



Inevitable.....

Things that are inevitable are things that are gonna happen because you're there to be in the way, because life and the Lord wants you to experience things first hand, or lastly, you were dumb enough not to listen.

Now then. Let's toss something out for discussion and see if I'm right: THE FENCE at SPARKS Field! See.... I rest my case! THE FENCE at our field was put there for several reasons. Probably the best reason was to keep the neighbor's cows off our runway. Hoof prints on the runway and tiny wheels don't exactly mix! When I joined the club I looked forward to the fact that negotiating THE FENCE and THE TREE in the neighbor's pasture would make me a better pilot. I've always enjoyed the challenge of putting a real plane exactly where I wanted it and doing the same with a model was an equally satisfying experience as well. Well..... I think we all know where this is going. During the month of July I had a run-in with THE FENCE. %&(^&^(^&%^ FENCE!

Let me explain.... A friend of mine bought a really beautiful rendition of a Laser 200 and it needed a maiden on it in the worst way. A few days earlier we had attempted this chore at another field but the new out-of-the-box Sachs 4.2 had a bad ignition module and it left us to try another day. We installed another ignition module and set the needles on the carb and the Sachs proved to be quite a stump puller.

We then decided to make the maiden late one Sunday afternoon at SPARKS. There was no wind, no people and THE FENCE was the farthest thing from my mind. We fired up the Sachs and we all looked at one another like this was gonna be some real fun! Well.... Disappointment reared it's ugly head soon after take-off. What used to be a rip-snorten' high rpm, high end setting immediately turned into a fat, rich setting and the Laser slowed down to a trainer-like speed and the decision was made to land. I brought it around the pattern for an un-eventful, gorgeous first landing.

A quick tweeking of the needles made for a satisfying high end, high rpm we were desiring. A quick blast of throttle and the old heart rate came up and I knew I was in for a great flight. It shot skyward and a flick of aileron gave me the ooooooooh-ahhhhhhhh factor I was looking for! It rolled upward at a high rate of airspeed and I poked in some stick to transition to level flight. Once I got it into level flight, I realized I had a tiger by the tail.... This thing was fast and I was liking it! I filled my aerial dance card over the next ten minutes and I knew I was looking pretty stupid with that big cheesy grin on my face. I had a quart of fuel on board, a couple of high mah batteries that were fully charged and an airframe that took whatever I wanted to throw at it. (You know..... That really great feeling!) What could possibly go wrong? It's August now....Somewhere birds are chirping. The sun is shining. A kid is flying his kite. And most important, I learned that fateful July afternoon NOT to ask "what could go wrong" during a maiden of a beautiful Laser 200!

SPARKS WEBSITE

www.sparksrc.com

Or mail to:

SPARKS

P.O. Box 1361

SPARKS 2014 - 2015 Officers*

Terry Foote President	936-537-4718
Dale Simcox Vice President/ Safety Officer	832-865-1948
Randy Shewmaker Treasurer	281-300-2899
Paul Gallagher Secretary	281-547-1198
TJ Pisklak Newsletter Editor	214-870-6395

* e-mail address' are on page 3

Sparks Flight Instruction

Contact our Chief Instructor, EJ Hunyadi, at 281-360-4229 to coordinate flight instruction. An alternate contact is our Assistant Chief Instructor, Gaither Simmons at 832-256-8820.

Let's get back in the cockpit, shall we? I had just done a Cuban 8 from one end of the State of Texas to the other (Loving all that power!!) and rolled inverted for a turn-around. The plane was doing it's AWESOME stuff like it had done for the entire flight and some guy named Murphy flipped a switch on board and immediately set off my alarm between my ears.... What was once a wonderful high-rpm song coming from the beautiful Laser 200 suddenly turned to a combination of dead silence mixed with acid rock and heavy metal fogging up my brain..... How could this thing quit on me? I had enough fuel to cross the Atlantic. I had done all my homework: Fuel lines. Check. Ty-wrapped everything. Check. Nothing on board was loose. Check. What did I forget? Nothing came to mind.

Back to flying..... My airspeed was still at a comfortable thousand miles per hour. I was at about 150 feet. I was flying parallel to the dreaded berm/creek away from the equally dreaded big TREE. I immediately set up a good glide and gauged my approach so as to clear the fence and settle gracefully on the runway exactly as it is stated in the manual (Yeah.... there is a manual, SOMEWHERE!). I can't remember how many eyes were on the Laser. Everybody there was saying "You got it made." "You're perfect!" "No problem-o!"

I have those words etched in my head..... I still hear the combination dead silence-acid rock-heavy metal music ringing in my head. The whooshing sound a dead stick glide makes is a thing of beauty. There's power and grace in that whooshing sound. A person is so in control when you hear a goodly amount of that whooshing sound. Ya know why? Because whooshing sound is not only power and grace..... it's sufficient airspeed. It's that sound you hear that says "you got it made, Bubba!" You gonna settle on that runway, the crowd is gonna erupt in a thunderous cheer and a big neon sign at the end of the runway is gonna flash: "WAY TO GO DUDE!" Okay..... Back in the cockpit, dude. Got some reality pie you need to scarf down. How do I put this? I think it goes something like:

BAMM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

What the?? I'm guessing that my first clue had to have been THE SHADOW.... What shadow, you ask? Well, the aforementioned whooshing sound also has something associated with it. It's called "THE SHADOW". THE SHADOW is what follows any plane coming in for a deadstick landing. It traces the flight path of the plane and has a volume in your head that makes the silence/acid rock/heavy metal thingy sound like low volume opera. I also am an authority on THE SHADOW after that fateful July Sunday afternoon. You see.... THE SHADOW was following the Laser 200 and was making it's way slowly to an intersection with THE FENCE!

I'm here to tell you that the Richter Scale on the west coast was definitely affected that day. Skip to reality..... The once pristine Laser 200 was impaled on THE FENCE! Two big gashes were in the leading edges of both wings. The landing gear was bent back and the cowl had some tears in the fiberglass. I'm now and authority on the flavor of reality pie..... It does NOT taste good.

After surveying the damage, we determined the Laser 200 would fly again and would still look beautiful once again. Somewhere birds are chirping. The sun is shining. A kid is flying his kite..... Most importantly.... Bubba is sanding the leading edges of his Laser 200 back to smooth and gorgeous. It's INEVITABLE!

Y'all make it to the meeting this month. We need to discuss our picnic. We need to discuss our event for September. Most of all, I'd like to have you folks talk to me and maybe, just maybe I can get rid of this silence/acid rock/heavy metal stuff that's still ringing in my head!

Fearless Leader,
Over and out!

In this issue

President's Message by Terry Foote.....	1 – 2
Officer's Contact Information & Reminders.....	4
April 2nd, 2014 SPARKS Meeting Minutes.....	5
Vice-Presidential Ponderings by Dale Simcox.....	6
August Announcements.....	7
Hobby Shop Ads.....	8

Contact Information for SPARKS Officers:

(This will be in each issue but you may want to print a copy for reference)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email address</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
President	Terry Foote	President@sparksrc.com	936-537-4718
Vice President/ Safety Officer	Dale Simcox	VicePresident@sparksrc.com	832-865-1948
Treasurer	Randy Shewmaker	treasurer@sparksrc.com	281-300-2899
Secretary	Paul Gallagher	secretary@sparksrc.com	281-547-1198
Newsletter Editor	TJ Pisklak	newsletter@sparksrc.com	214-870-6395

Reminders



Don't forget the Wednesday... August 6th Meeting.

Valley Ranch Grill,

Hwy 249 & Spring Cypress - 7 pm...

Come early and enjoy a meal with us.

July 2, 2014 SPARKS Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Club President Terry Foote at at 7:09 pm.

Terry introduced a number of visitors to the shop that were invited to the meeting.

Paul Gallagher read the minutes from last month which were approved after changing "Bob Simcox" to "Dale Simcox".

There were 22 members and 5 guests signed in.

Field Report

Toxic chemicals are distributed on the field for insect control. Park will now fog the field per request by Terry.

Financial Report

Ending June 30 the club finished at XXXXX. No member count was given.

Safety Report

No safety information.

Old Business

Homer Pate not doing well. Made last visit into shop. He is an honorary club member and the club will do some sort of raffle to distribute his equipment.

Dale Simcox discussed the construction of new starting stands. There has been no activity to date.

Sammy Bush – Sammy will discuss with the neighbors to the north the issue of taking care of the property that adjoins public property. We are looking to have the county force the issue of taking care of the property.

Terry pointed out that the club needs a portable bridge across the ditch. Dale Simcox motioned and it was seconded to spend money on a footbridge. Maximum to spend was set at \$200.

Discussion about a purchased snake kit was discussed with no decision on purchasing. Decision was to provide a laminated copy of procedures to follow in case of snake bite.

Work Party – Club needs to address the brick form in front not in a step off area. There was a significant discussion about water on the pilot stations and sidewalks. Meeting at the field scheduled for Friday, July 4th early in the morning (8:00am) to measure concrete demand.

New Business

FAA response my modelers needed on drones. The FAA wants to regulate drones and they lumped in model airplanes. Terry discussed different uses of quad copters for commercial and personal use. Recommendation is to reply to AMA with intelligence and class about this issue. First stop should be the AMA website.

Cleaning of the bathrooms. Terry will discuss with Park personnel. Harris County was supposed to take care of cleaning.

Dale Simcox – swap meet at Fun Fly in August. Dale needs to be notified if there is an interest in this.

Discussed new plane builds by various members.

Terry requested various people to take care of another club trainer to relieve his plane inventory problem.

Model of the Month

Two planes entered:

Green Machine
Dale Simcox – 1994 RTC kit.
Club decided to award \$10 gift certs to both.

Gift Certificates to Randy's Hobbies Shop were raffled. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

C. Paul Gallagher,
Club Secretary



Vice-Presidential Ponderings

I have little to say this month ... A number of personal issues and such really cut into my available time so I have gotten little accomplished this past month. Hopefully this will not be the case much longer.

The weeds along the fence row have been dealt with (by the Park staff I imagine) and looks much nicer. The over-all condition of the field is still an issue of concern in my opinion, and I believe we will be discussing this along with considering some options at our next meeting.

Our Club and its charged-up electric propulsion proponents have been blessed with a really nice charging station thanks to an anonymous benefactor (reputed to be Gaither). This anonymous individual (Gaither) really did a first-class construction job. I saw it last week shortly after the anonymous benefactor (Gaither) had completed the construction which, at that time, was bare wood. This was a situation that I found to be crying out to be rectified (a little DC electricity humor there) and I broke out the paint that matched our trim and painted it. So I have accomplished something...

I was greatly disturbed to learn of Karl's recent injury. I understand he will give a presentation at the meeting detailing what happened and what lessons need to be taken from this. I suspect there will be some new safety guidelines come out of this near-tragedy.

I'm Looking forward to seeing everyone Wednesday night so y'all come.

Dale

Charging Stations

We now have two charging stations at the field. Each of the stations has bus bars for clamp connections for your chargers. These can support up to 50A each and are fuse protected in the storage room. In addition, there are 12V "Lighter" ports as well as a pair of Anderson Power-Pole connections for those who may use these connections. Since I use these connections, I included them and encourage others to do so as well. Power Pole connectors are used quite a lot by the HAM radio community and are very durable and reliable. These connections are fused at 25A as well.



To turn on the chargers, turn the timer dial that corresponds to the side you want to use to an appropriate amount of time. Using these timers will keep someone from accidentally leaving one on all week. When turned on, a light on the bus bars will light up to show that the power is on.

Hopefully this will help out our members and allow ease of use during events!

Submitted by: Gaither Simmons

National Champ

The Masters National Champion in R/C Aerobatics for 2014 is SPARKS member **Mark Hunt**. Mark Hunt, a long time SPARKS member and Club supporter. He was one of the guiding forces behind getting the field at Dyess Park in 2009.

Submitted by: Diane Marson



**Please support our local RC Shops...
they are vital to our hobby.**

**Many special thanks to Randy Ritch of Randy's Hobbies
for his continued support of SPARKS**

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



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



**REMOTE CONTROL
HOBBIES**

8190 Barker-Cypress Rd. # 300
Cypress, TX. 77433

Woody Lee 281-855-9154
Www.rc-hobbies.com



whobbies
RADIOCONTROL

ANGELO LOMELI
3730 FM 2920 Suite 102
Spring, Tx 77388
(281) 456-3655

whobbies@att.net
www.whobbiesrc.com

Kirk Massey

New Creations
R/C Electric Flight

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