

Crosswinds

Newsletter for SPARKS
Spring Area Radio
Kontrol Society



June 2014

**Message from the
President - Terry Foote
June 2014**



Wishful thinking.....

This morning I got up and went to the workshop to check on my batteries that charged overnight. The display stated: "We batteries are full up and our capacity rating is twice what you bought us for." Well, I thought.... That's some good news.

I headed for the field and I really thought something funny was going on.... All the lights were green and my gas tank was full. I didn't even remember filling the tank and the constant green lights on the way to the field actually cut down on my anticipation of getting there fast. When I got to the field I was able to park in my usual favorite parking spot but every other parking spot was taken. How strange!

My gas mix was perfect. My radio was set for the correct model.... Didn't have to change a thing on my transmitter. I put my battery checker on my war bird and it said "Have a nice flight!" on the display. I hooked up the pump to fill up the retract air tank but it was full from the last time I flew the plane. (I had not flown that particular war bird in 6 months!) As I taxied out to the runway, the plane really felt good because the grass was manicured extra close. I can't remember the last time I taxied with such ease and it didn't want to nose over with me. I turned into the wind, checked the controls and eased the throttle wide open. No usual rich burble and choke, bark, sputter..... Just nothing but raw power and the bird just clawed for the sky. My first pass was a cobra roll and I nailed it with ease. This was followed closely by an Immelman that no judge would dare to downgrade. The landing was rated a 18 by all judges present..... Everybody else scored 3's and 4's..... As I went to turn off the radio, a pit crew swarmed the plane, cleaned it with Windex, checked for loose bolts, nuts, etc. and turned off the power. I wanted to tip them but they insisted on servicing the plane free of charge.

SPARKS WEBSITE

www.sparksrc.com

Or mail to:

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Dale Simcox Vice President/ Safety Officer	832-865-1948
Pam Gabel Treasurer	713-594-9741
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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

When I got home I discovered my three back orders from last year were on my front porch being guarded by my neighbor's vicious Doberman. I petting him and thanked him for not chewing all the stuff to bits..... He said , " Don't mention it, my pleasure!" After I realized I was talked to by a dog, I felt I needed a long nap. A few hours later my wife walked in and said she was going window shopping and for me to take another trip to the field and enjoy flying with my buddies..... Right there is something really strange goin' on. She doesn't EVER window shop. (She spends with a style right up there with them Kardasian girls and I NEVER get to go flying TWICE in a single day!) Who's gonna argue with an order from headquarters like that? Back to the field I go. As I ride back to the field I'm noticing all those green lights. I did manage to notice in my rear view mirror that I had another brand new plane in the rear of the Suburban. I didn't recall loading it in but then again that pit crew was sitting in the rear seat smiling at me.... I got to the field and the lawn crew was blowing off the pilot's station and putting my favorite folding chair in position so the sun wouldn't hit me in the eyes. As I reached for the rear door of the Suburban to unload my new plane, I was shocked to NOT find it in the back!

I looked over my shoulder and there it sat at the starting station. (that pit crew again!) I walked out to start it. Choke. Check... Switch on. Check.... First flip.... Yep. It starts. I taxi to position and firewall it. It flies great. I look over my shoulder and all my buddies I flew with this morning are smiling and holding up score cards that read "10."

I notice that the sun was going down but I felt the urge to fly any way. As I crank up to fly in the dark, I notice a new switch on my transmitter and a paper tag that says "turn me on for a big surprise." I comply and my plane is suddenly flooded with lights. I felt like the throttle was calling my name so I nailed it and into the dark sky I fly. My flying was never better! As I landed the plane, I noticed it touched light as a feather. I taxied back over and shut it down. Out comes that pit crew with the Windex again and before I could finish the bottle of water that was brought to me by one of the flight line girls, (HUH?) the plane and all my equipment was already loaded. The valet parking attendant was waiting at the door of my Surburban with my keys in his outstretched hand,. "Have a nice evening," he says. How weird was this day, I thought? Was this all strange coincidence? Was I

losing my mind? Nah.... Not to worry. I had entered the SPARKS Twilight Zone and I survived. How about y'all? Anything good happen to YOU at SPARKS Field lately? I thought so. Come to the meeting and tell me about it..... I assure you.

Everything happens for a reason.....

I gotta go now. Some guy named Rod wants to go have a burger with me. The pit crew is driving us to Fuddruckers.

Cue the weird music. The lights go out. :)

Yes..... The election for new officers is gonna happen at our June meeting. Eighteen of you are running for office. (Come to the meeting and find out which eighteen of you are running!)

Congrats are in order for Dale and his dear wife! Seems they have a new grandson by the name of Stephen and rumor has it the tyke already has an AMA card applied for and Grand dad is chomping at the bit to bring him to the field for his first flying lesson!

Couldn't make out his first word but I think it was "Spektrum" or something like that! Work Party! Yeah.... There ya go. Words to strike fear in the hearts of all members! (Not really.... Come to the meeting and we'll schedule something in the way of a work party.) Since all this work must have some sort of source of power, I figure we ought to toss a few hot dogs and burgers on the grill to feed the raw power of the aforementioned work party members. See..... Sounds like fun already, huh?

Model of the month: It's my understanding that some of you are hiding new projects on your work bench. This practice of harboring new projects and not sharing them with all us members will cease immediately! Bring them to the meeting and tell us about them or you will be put in charge of a work party and handed a hot dog!

I've noticed that a lot of you are doing a lot of work-related traveling for your jobs and haven't been in to see me at the shop. Please tell your employers that this practice of working too much is cutting into your hobby time and they should stop sending you out to globe-trot immediately! Any employer caught sending you out of town for work will be put in charge of a work party and handed a hot dog..... That is all.

I have to go now..... Remember: Meeting. Fly more. Work less. Burgers and dogs.

Fearless Leader,
Over and out.

Contact information for SPARKS Officers - this will be in each issue, but you might want to print a copy for easy reference

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email address</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
President	Terry Foote	terryfootejr@hotmail.com	936-537-4718
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Reminders



Don't forget the Wednesday... June 4th Meeting,
Valley Ranch Grill, 249 & Spring Cypress - 7 pm...
Come early and enjoy a meal with us.

Meeting was called to order by Club President Terry Foote at at 7:13 pm.

There were 24 Open Senior Members and 5 Junior members in attendance. There were two guests in attendance: Phil O'Sullivan and Michael Lay. The club secretary, E.J. Hunyadi read the minutes from last month which were approved as read.

Field Report

Dale Simcox mentioned that dirt was put out onto the field and we were asked to turn the sprinklers back on to allow the dirt to settle. Gaither Simmons mentioned that anyone who goes into the storage room should check to make sure the door is actually locked when they leave.

The sprinklers are set to come on Sunday night, Tuesday night, and Thursday night. It should be dry in the mornings for those who fly early.

Financial Report

60 senior members and 6 junior members. A check for \$800 from the AMA will be deposited for the work we did on our field. A total of five clubs in Houston submitted for a grant and only SPARKS received one.

Safety Report

Terry reported that a local helicopter "team" performed at a local club and they put on a show that was deemed to be unsafe. This same "team" performed at a SPARKS event last year.

Old Business

The Nomination Committee announced the candidates for the open positions. The candidates were introduced and gave brief introductions.

Club President: Terry Foote
 Vice President: Dale Simcox
 Treasurer: Randy Shoemaker
 Secretary: Paul Gallagher
 Editor: TJ Pisklak

A solo certificate was presented to Caleb Simcox by the President, Terry Foote.

The ROTC members told the club about the rocket plane they are building.

No indoor flying is planned at this time.

AMA National Day in August. The club will have a picnic on that day. Terry plans to have some events that include spouses and girlfriends/boyfriends. There is a T-Shirt available for \$10. Terry asks that members bring their \$10 for their shirts next month (June meeting). More planning will take place at the next club meeting.

In September, the club will be holding a big bird event, tentatively set for the 17th.

New Business

A discussion took place about the land to the North of the club field and plans for future use.

Gaither mentioned that he is looking to put a 12V charging station or two out at the field. He plans to have that in-place within the next month or so.

Terry brought a bunch of spare parts and old planes that have been passed on to him from people in the hobby who have passed away to be distributed amongst the club membership for either a small donation or for free. The parts included radios, planes, engines, mufflers, line control stuff, and many more miscellaneous parts.

Model of the Month

Four planes were presented for the plane of the month. A rocket plane by the ROTC kids, a Decathlon and a ducted fan F-86, and an Ugly Stick by Dale Simcox. The Rob Reeves' Decathlon won the Plane of the Month and was presented with a gift certificate to Randy's Hobbies.

Randy read trivia from his Air and Space Trivia book and tubes of cyanoacrylate were given away to the winners.

Gift Certificates to Randy's Hobbies Shop were raffled. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

E.J. Hunyadi, Club Secretary



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Planning ahead

The best way to avoid lightning, flash floods, and other dangerous conditions is by not being in danger in the first place. Many ways are available to gain weather information including:

- Watching current weather forecasts on TV or the internet
- Listening to weather reports on the radio or a NOAA weather radio
- Subscribing to lightning and severe weather notification services
- Scanning the skies 360 degrees around and overhead before leaving a safe location

Disaster Supply Kit Contents

Every family should prepare a family disaster supply kit in the event of severe weather conditions. The disaster supply kit should contain essential items such as food, water, and sturdy clothing, to sustain a family for up to three days since electric power, gas and water services may be interrupted.

- Three gallons of water in clean, closed containers for each person and pet
- First aid kit
- A stock of food that requires no cooking or refrigeration
- Portable and working battery-operated radio, flashlights, and extra batteries (Candles and oil lamps are fire hazards)
- Necessary medications
- Back-up power source for life support or other medical equipment that requires electricity to function

Flash Flood Safety

Many governmental agencies are dedicated to alerting the community to road closures during our thunderstorm season. City of Tucson's Operation Splash and Pima County Department of Transportation pre-deploy barricades and emergency flashers to locations where they know water will be running across roadways, causing major problems for motorists.

Local law enforcement and fire departments pre-deploy response teams into areas that are known to become inaccessible during heavy rain and runoff conditions.

More deaths each year occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm-related hazard because people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles that are swept downstream.

Flash Flood Safety for Homeowners

- If you live in a flood prone area have an evacuation plan.
- Store materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber for protection from floodwaters and to make quick repairs after a severe storm.
- Store materials above flood levels.
- Secure wanted objects to prevent them from floating away.

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- Learn where to find high ground, which is safe from flooding. In a flash flood seek high ground quickly.
- Contact an insurance agent to discuss flood insurance coverage. Flood losses are not covered under normal homeowners' insurance policies. Flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program. Get coverage early-there is a waiting period before it takes effect.

Turn Around Don't Drown™ Safety Tips

- Driving around barricades is illegal and dangerous.
- Do not let children play near storm drains or washes after a heavy rain.
- Avoid low-water crossings.
- Avoid camping in a wash or in the bottom of a canyon with steep side slopes.
- Be especially cautious at night. Flood dangers are much more difficult to see in the dark.
- Even a less serious urban flood can be dangerous. Driving too fast through standing water can cause a car to hydroplane. The best defense is to slow down or pull well off the road (with the lights off) for a few minutes to wait out heavy rains.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.
- Do not camp or park a vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- Roadbeds may be washed out under floodwaters. Never drive through flooded roadways.
- If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- If a traffic signal is out, treat the intersection as a 4-way stop.
- As little as ten inches of water can float average-sized cars, mini-vans, SUVs and trucks. Strength of the flow is the critical force.
- When in doubt, wait it out, or find a safer route.

Lightning Safety

When thunder roars, go indoors. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. There is no place outside that is safe from a lightning strike. Remaining indoors for 30 minutes after seeing the last lightning and hearing the last thunder will eliminate the risk at the end of storms. If fewer than 30 seconds elapse between the time you see a flash and hear the thunder, then the flash is less than 6 miles away. Research has shown that the most successive flashes are within 6 miles, which means that you should

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have reached a safe place if lightning is less than 6 miles away. However, lightning may strike up to 10 miles away from the parent storm.

If someone is struck by lightning, call 911 immediately.

Indoor Safety

- Never touch wiring during a thunderstorm. It's too late to unplug electronics if thunder is heard.
- Corded phones are dangerous during thunderstorms. Lightning traveling through telephone wires has killed people. Cell phone and cordless phones are safe.
- Wait to use any plumbing-sinks, showers, tubs, and toilets. Plumbing can conduct electricity from lightning strikes from outside.
- Unplug expensive electronics including TV, stereo, home entertainment centers, and computers modem lines when thunderstorms are expected, and before the storm arrives. Typically, summer thunderstorms form in the early to mid-afternoon, when most people are at work.
- Stop playing video games connected to the TV.

Outdoor Safety

No place outside is safe from lightning during a thunderstorm. When a storm approaches go to a nearby large substantial building or a fully-enclosed metal-topped vehicle. Bring pets indoors. Lightning and thunder are very scary for pets, and they are likely to panic or even run away to try and escape the storm.

Power and Communications Outage Safety

Power and communications outages can be more widespread and last longer than a thunderstorm. Be ready for outages inside and outdoors by taking precautions and actions to minimize inconvenience and maximize safety. Protect sensitive electrical equipment by installing power protection devices that can be purchased at department, hardware or electronics stores.

Indoor Safety

- Stay at home.
- Use a cell phone. Cordless phones do not work without electricity. Use corded phone only for emergencies.
- Unplug sensitive electronic equipment before the storm arrives.
- Turn off electric appliances that were on before power was lost. Leave one light on as an indicator for when power is restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed — food will stay fresh up to 8 hours.
- If the power is out for less than two hours, do not open the refrigerator or freezer. This will help food to stay cold. For a power outage lasting longer

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than two hours, pack cold and frozen foods into coolers. As a general rule, perishable foods should not be held over 40 degrees for more than two hours.

- During a thunderstorm, turn off the AC unit. Power surges from lightning can overload units, leading to costly repair bills.

Outdoor Safety

- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Call 911 to report downed power lines.
- If a power line comes into contact with your vehicle, remain inside the vehicle until help arrives. Do not attempt to get out of the vehicle - that is the safest place for you to be. By stepping out of the vehicle, your body can become the pathway for electricity to reach the ground, causing severe bodily harm and possibly electrocution. Use a cell phone, if available, to notify emergency services of the exact location.

How Storms Affect the Delivery of Electric Power

- TEP plans for storms in advance, ensuring that our equipment is working, keeping a sufficient amount of supplies on hand and placing extra crews on call. TEP's computer-operated Outage Management System allows service to be restored as quickly and as safely as possible.
- High winds and lightning strikes can cause lines to cross and short out or break, thereby interrupting the flow of electricity.
- Lightning can strike a transformer on a pole or a substation interrupting the delivery of electricity — even miles away from the location of the strike.
- TEP is continuously servicing and upgrading our equipment, making it more able to withstand storm hazards.

Dust Storms

- These are an underrated killer in Arizona! Straight line winds in any thunderstorm can lift huge clouds of dust and reduce visibilities to near zero in seconds, which can quickly result in deadly, multi-vehicle accidents on roadways.
- Dust storms are more common in the early part of the monsoon, near agricultural areas, and near Willcox Playa in Cochise County. Use caution in these areas any time thunderstorms are nearby.
- Remember: PULL OFF! LIGHTS OFF! FOOT OFF! If you encounter a dust storm while driving, pull off the road immediately. Turn off your headlights and taillights, put your vehicle in "PARK," and take your foot off the brake (so your brake lights are not illuminated.) Other motorists may tend to follow taillights in an attempt to get through the dust storm, and may strike your vehicle from behind.

RC Plane flying near a tornado. (Don't try this)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkKmUehtvCc&feature=youtu.be>

Some great flying which is a prelude to the July 2014 air show at the Imperial War Museum, near Duxford, UK.

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/93587997>

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

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