

# S.I.R.S.



Newsletter for the Sentral Illinois Radio Society, Bloomington, IL

A.M.A. Chapter 621

April, 2003

## S.I.R.S. Annual Swap Meet 2003: Dense Morning Fog Didn't Deter Attendees

(March 16, 2003) Despite a foggy start to the day, sellers, vendors and buyers arrived bright and early Sunday morning at the Bloomington Interstate Center for the annual SIRS Swap Meet.

A grand total of 67 tables were sold to sellers, while shoppers purchased 163 additional adult tickets to attend the event. In the 50/50 drawing, \$220.50 was awarded to the lucky winner.

Proceeds from the swap will be used to finance future club operating expenses, activities and events.

The donated biplane and T-6 brought in a total of \$250 for the club's mower fund.

*Karl Laun—SIRS Newsletter Editor*



### In this issue...

S.I.R.S. Swap Meet 2003 .....	1
March 2003 Meeting Minutes .....	2
Finding the CG on a Large Model .....	3
President's Message .....	4
Notes from the Editor .....	5
March Show and Tell Photos .....	5
April Calendar of Events.....	6

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RR3  
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**SIRS Web Page**

<http://www.sirs.cc>

**Club Meetings**

Club meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at the flying field in Covell, IL. Meetings begin at 7:00pm during the winter (CST) and 8:00pm during the summer (CDT).

## SIRS Meeting Minutes — March 8,2003

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Chris Cochran called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. There were 18 members present.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Secretary Dennis Wallen read the minutes from the last previous meeting. Bob King moved to accept the minutes as read. Karl Laun seconded. Motion was passed.

**OFFICER'S REPORT**

President Chris Cochran read the Treasurer's Report. Jerry Worden moved to accept the report as read, Wayne Geffon seconded. Motion was passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Suggestions were taken to improve the newsletter.
- A suggestion was made for members online to get their newsletter off of our website. A list of members who wish to do so was taken. Also, members may want to pick up their newsletter at the SIRS clubhouse. This will save money on postage.
- Volunteers are needed for the SIRS swap meet. Please contact Chris Cochran.
- SIRS workday has been scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 to 12:00. Please come and help fix up your club. A list for work that needs to be done is being made by Chris Cochran.
- To use the club trainer a one-day notice should be given.
- The Prairie Aviation Museum is having a Demo Day at the same time of SIRS Big Bird Fly-in. We are looking for volunteers for a building demonstration at the club during the fly-in, please contact Chuck Tarbox if you want to help.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Volunteers are also needed to go to Bloomington High School for demonstrations in the classroom. See Jerry Worden for details.
- The club was asked by Jerry Worden to help out with a student. Liz Johnson made the motion for the club to (adopt John) to teach him how to fly R/C. Motion was seconded by Jerry Worden. Motion passed.
- Orville Egli asked for discussion on buying a mowing tractor. After much discussion it was decided to be brought up at the next meeting.
- Discussion of the club being incorporated was also brought up. More discussion at next meeting. Ways to make money for the club was brought up. More at next meeting.

**SHOW AND TELL**

- Jerry Worden brought a .049 powered U-control Fokker D-8
- Fr Ric brought a nice Cub with an OS 4-stroke (6 lb.)
- Bob King brought a Hangar 9 ARF Ultra Stick 1.20 size with a Moki 1.80 on it.
- Orville Egli brought a handcrafted incidence meter for the larger wings and a ZDZ 80 engine for a large project of his and Chips.
- Leonard Lee brought out a real nice (clipped winged) 4 Star-40 with an Enya .46 for power.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- We have received our new Charter Member Certificate. It will be displayed in the clubhouse
- Fuel sign up sheet is posted in the clubhouse.
- Toledo Model Airplane Show will be held April 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Lucky Ken Ausili won the 50/50 drawing. He then donated most of it back for the Tractor Fund that he started. Fr Ric also made a large contribution to the Tractor Fund. We thank you both very much.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chris Cochran moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm. Wayne Geffon seconded. Motion passed.  
Respectfully submitted, Dennis Wallen, Secretary

# Finding the CG on a Large Model

by Wayne Geffon, SIRS VP

This is the method I use to check the CG on a plane that weighs too much to put on a CG machine. This is generally the same way full scale planes are balanced. It's pretty tough to balance a 747 on your fingertips!

First, have the plane assembled RTF, but minus fuel. Find a place where you can put the nose of the plane up against a wall. Using a level, prop up the tail wheel until the fuselage is sitting level. You will probably have to take the hatch off in most cases to find a suitable area to set the level on.

Once the plane is sitting level, place masking tape under the area where the main wheels are touching the surface and draw a line where the wheels contact the tape. Make an index mark where the center of the tailwheel falls in the same manner. This mark will be on whatever you propped the tail up with. (I use magazines). It's also a good time to measure from the wall, to the point where the recommended CG is. Save that number for later.

What you are looking for at this point is the distance to each wheel from the tip of the spinner. (which should be touching the wall) I use a long, straightedge ruler to get these measurements.

As seen in the example below, let's say you come up with these numbers:

**LH main ..... 22"**  
**RH main..... 22"**  
**Tailwheel ..... 70"**

Now, place a scale under each wheel individually. You will have to re-adjust the height of the other wheels each time to keep the plane sitting level. Add more magazines as necessary. (If you have three scales you can get the weights at the same time but make sure the plane is level). Don't forget to re-install the hatch before you weigh each wheel. You will wind up with three weights, one for each wheel.

Let's say you come up with these numbers:

**LH main ..... 9 lbs**  
**RH main ..... 9 lbs**  
**Tailwheel ..... 5 lbs**

Now its just a simple math problem to find the current CG location by determining the sum of the moments and dividing by the total of the measured weights.

Using the formula:

$$Arm \times Weight = Moment$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 22'' & \times & 9 \text{ lbs} = 198 \text{ in-lbs} \\ 22'' & \times & 9 \text{ lbs} = 198 \text{ in-lbs} \\ 70'' & \times & 5 \text{ lbs} = 350 \text{ in-lbs} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Total lbs} & = & 23 \text{ lbs} \\ \text{Total moments} & = & 746 \text{ in-lbs} \end{array}$$

Then divide the total moments by the total weights.

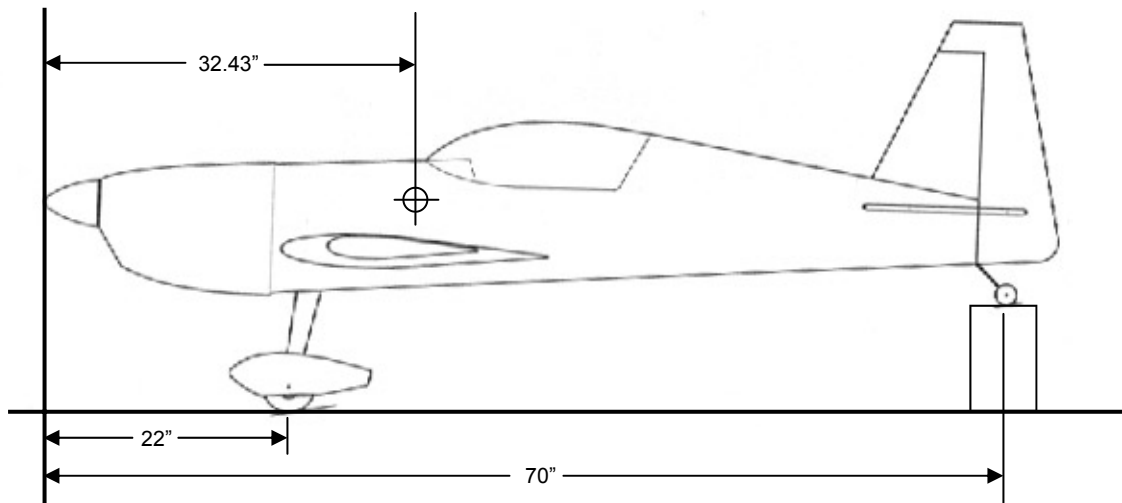
$$746 / 23 = 32.43$$

That number is the distance in inches from the tip of the spinner to the model's present center of gravity. Compare your results to the distance that you measured earlier for the recommended CG location.

If you are off one way or another, shift items or add weight as necessary, then recalculate the new center of gravity. The distances (arms) aren't going to change so you already have those numbers. All that is necessary is to re-weigh each wheel and enter those numbers into your calculations.

It may sound confusing and like a lot of work, but it really only takes about ten minutes to accomplish.

Try it...



## Words from the Prez



The 2003 flying season is nearly upon us, the weather has not quite cooperated but has offered up a few warm days we all could get out and fly. As the warmer weather arrives I encourage you all to come out to the field and enjoy the flying and camaraderie.

I am writing you this letter to let you know about an opportunity we have to purchase a tractor. Let me explain. Recently the club officers were approached with a very generous offer from Don Thompson, the offer is to jointly purchase a riding tractor for the club to use to keep the field mowed and maintained. Don Thompson would initially purchase the IHC Tractor for the amount of \$3500. Over the course of a 2 year payment schedule the ownership will transfer to the SIRS Club. Previously, we have had the luxury of Stan Thompson mowing and maintaining the flying field. With the acquisition of the IHC tractor, club members will have the opportunity to help Stan maintain the field. Additionally, Stan Thompson has donated the mowing deck to the SIRS Club that the new tractor will accommodate.

Secondly, the club officers have setup a tractor fund. We have already received some generous donations totaling \$494. To all that have donated I wanted to personally thank you. If you would like to make a contribution to the tractor fund please contact one of the Club Officers or speak directly with Jim Danforth, SIRS Club Officer and Treasurer.

Let's all have a great flying season!

*Chris M. Cochran  
President, SIRS Club*



Photo by Karl Laun - 03-15-03

*During a welcome break in the winter weather, budding R/C pilot Jeff Saeger gets some stick time in at the SIRS field, supervised by Wayne Geffon.*

## **HOBBYLAND**

**The Fun Store with the Red Door**

**616 North Main St.  
Bloomington, IL 61701**

**309-828-1442  
800-743-1402**



**Come in and try out  
our RealFlight G2  
Simulator**

## **Radio Controlled Airplane Show**

**Open House – Fly-In – Swap Meet  
June 22, 2003**

**Presented by: Sangamon Valley R/C Flyers  
Holmes Airport, Southeast of Lake Springfield**

**Springfield, IL**

**Gates open at 10:00**

**Flying starts at Noon**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**NO LANDING FEES**

- AMA registered pilots—bring your own planes to “show off!”\*
- Students and potential members of SVRC can fly with an instructor \*\*
- Static displays of many different types of Radio Controlled Aircraft
- Transmitter impound will be provided for frequency control
- Refreshments available at the site

\*Pilots must present a valid AMA card to fly. \*\*Instructors will be available throughout the day to assist students and prospective members.

For more information e-mail [mikebehl@hotmail.com](mailto:mikebehl@hotmail.com)



## Notes from the Editor

After completing my first issue of the *SIRS Newsletter*, one thing in particular stood out in my mind; it's rather expensive to produce and distribute even a small, three-page newsletter. At the best copy rates in town, printing costs approximately \$0.24 per newsletter. Add the cost of a first class stamp to that and you are looking at \$0.61 per member per month or \$7.32 per member per year. If we print and mail the newsletter to 60 members, the club incurs the expense of \$439.20 for the year. Definitely not small change.

I'm certainly not advocating that we not publish the newsletter, but in this age of electronic media, there are much more cost-effective ways of achieving

the desired results. The *SIRS Newsletter* is available in electronic form on the SIRS Website. Aside from the cost savings, the online newsletter offers those readers with computers several advantages:

- By accessing the newsletter online, you will be able to read it several days before the printed versions would hit your mailbox.
- The newsletter is now produced in *Adobe Acrobat* format, which produces a single, compact file that you can download, view, print, save or delete at your leisure.
- Many of the electronic links (URL's, e-mail addresses, etc.) that appear in the newsletter may be clicked on for direct access if you are online.

At the last club meeting, we passed around a sign-up sheet for those who would like to opt out of the printed version of the newsletter. If you did not attend the meeting and would be inter-

ested in doing the same, please send me an e-mail at [Karl\\_Laun@insghtbb.com](mailto:Karl_Laun@insghtbb.com) indicating your preference. This will also serve to insure we have your most current e-mail address. I will try to work out a distribution list to notify you when the latest newsletter is posted on the website.

Naturally, this is entirely optional. Even if you have a computer and would still like the printed version of the newsletter, I'll continue to mail them to you until notified otherwise. My goal is to try to cut our newsletter expenses in half, leaving us with an extra \$200 at the end of the year for other club activities and expenses.

*NOTE:* I've also added links to the *AMA National Newsletter* at the bottom of the Newsletter page. These will be updated as I receive them.

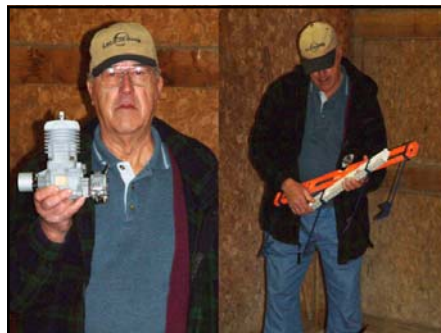
*Karl Laun—SIRS Newsletter Editor*

## March Show and Tell

*photos by Karl Laun*

*The spring and summer flying season is almost here, and SIRS members are wrapping up some of their winter projects and bringing them in to the monthly meetings to show their progress.*

*Watch for them to appear at the flying field as the weather improves.*



*Orville Egli brought in his ZDZ 80 slated to go on the CAP, and an incidence meter of his own design.*



*Bob King displays his Hangar 9 Ultra-Stik, with power provided by a Moki 1.80 and a Bolly 18x10 prop.*



*Prolific builder Leonard Lee models his latest, a SIG 4-Star .40 powered by an Irvine .46 motor.*



*Jerry Worden's Fokker D-VIII U-control, with an .049 power plant, is modeled after a Scientific design.*



*Father Ric shows his Goldberg J-3, built from a kit. It's powered by an OS .61*

S.I.R.S. Newsletter Editor  
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# Upcoming Events April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Weak Signals Toledo, OH	5 Weak Signals Toledo, OH
6 Weak Signals Toledo, OH	7	8	9	10	11	12 <b>SIRS Meeting</b>  Barnstormers Swap DuPage Fairground Wheaton, IL
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>In the coming months....</b></p> <p>S.I.R.S. Big Bird Fly-In • June 7-8</p> <p>2nd Internet Fly-In • June 7-8</p> <p>Sangamon Valley Open House/Fly-In • June 22</p> </div>				26 DARTS Aerotow AMA Center Muncie, IN
27 DARTS Aerotow AMA Center Muncie, IN	28					