



February 2016

Newsletter

Volume 52 Number 2



SIRS RC/CL

Model Airplane Club

AMA District VI Chapter 621 Founded in 1964



Help getting those Tx's setup as "buddy boxes" with Richard Watt's trainer

When all else fails read the instructions (unless, of course, they are in Chinese!)

Jerry Worden (right) helps Brandon Edmonds with the job following the January business meeting

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Come

Fly

With

Us!

In the Gym

After

The Feb 13th

Meeting

At

7:00 PM

St. Mary's

Church

School

527 West

Jackson St.

Bloomington,

Illinois

Prospective

Members

Visitors

Guests

WELCOME

Next Club meeting is February 13 at 7:00 PM

St. Mary's Church School cafeteria.



527 W. Jackson, Bloomington, IL

Flying in the gym after the meeting!



Guests and prospective members are welcome to attend.

February 4, 2016

Dear Members,

Rep. Bill Shuster, who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, introduced a new draft of the FAA reauthorization bill, titled the "Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization (AIRR) Act." This bill is critical to preserving our voluntary, community-based approach to the model aviation community across the country.

While we are carefully reviewing the bill's language, it is important to note that the Committee recognized the community-based approach under the "Special Rule for Model Aircraft." The language in that section follows very similarly to Section 336 of the 2012 FAA reauthorization bill. We were also pleased to see that the new language recognizes the important role that model aircraft play in STEM education.

However, there are still some changes to the bill that could further strengthen and clarify the Special Rule for Model Aircraft. In the weeks ahead, we will be working closely with Chairman Shuster and the Committee on our suggested improvements.

We will keep you updated on this important bill and AMA's ongoing work to protect our hobby.

As always, thank you for your support of AMA.

Dave Mathewson

Dues were due January 31st

\$90.00 (Make checks payable to SIRS)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

AMA # _____ **Email** _____

Phone Home _____ **Cell** _____

Mail check to: (Or bring to the meeting)

Jim Danforth

18943 E. Pioneer St.

Bloomington, IL 61705-5824

Unapproved minutes from January SIRS meeting

SIRS RC Model Club

Minutes of the January 9, 2016 meeting in the cafeteria of St. Mary's School

President Jerry opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Members attending as indicated on the sign-in sheet were President Jerry Worden, Vice President Bob Stadsholt, treasurer Jim Danforth, Secretary John Burrill, Communication Officer John Cralley, Jerry Bessler, Paul Bessler, Brandon Edmonds, Garrett Stotler, Richard Watt and Father Ric Schneider, who hosted the meeting at St. Mary's.

The minutes of the December meeting were read, and Jerry pointed out one omission which was that special thanks had been extended to Merle Jackson for his support of the Club through donation of equipment at the annual dinner.

Treasurer's report:

Jim Danforth reported the bank balance and stressed that members needed to get their dues paid. At present 10 members have renewed. In 2015 there were 26 paid up members. The field rent is paid quarterly; therefore the first payment will soon be due.

John Cralley moved acceptance of the minutes and the Treasurer's report, seconded by Father Ric. Carried.

Old Business:

Jerry stressed that the dates for the pylon racing days were set for the last weekend in June and the second weekend of September. These events are major revenue sources for us and we will need member volunteers to help as well as members to fly in the races.

No date has been set for the open house, and Jerry suggested the second weekend in July, which was when the warbirds event was held previously.

Bob presented the field maintenance plan he prepared, and passed out maps of the field and a summary of the proposed maintenance schedule. He had made a visit to the field with Max Bauer, a professional landscaper, who helped develop the plan and approved the final version. Bob stressed that if the costs were too high, fertilizer applications can be cut back or eliminated. Cost of the plan presented would be \$2000. Bob would like to see us buy a spreader instead of renting.

Jerry requested that 2 alternate plans be developed, one at \$1500 and one at \$1000, and that the Treasurer review what would be comfortable given our financial situation. He also suggested that we could take half from the treasury and hold a fundraising event to raise the balance. Bob outlined immediately where we could cut if necessary and also pointed out that implementation of the plan was weather dependent, and might cost less in case of unusual rainfall or drought.

Jim said he was comfortable with the full amount if we chose the full plan, or with a version at \$1500.

Moved by Paul and seconded by Brandon that the plan be approved as submitted, with the option of scaling back as seems appropriate. Carried.

Final item in old business was that Owen Townsend has agreed to take over management of our website.

New Business:

Jerry reported an email from Kevin Loseke who coordinates Community Education at Heartland Community College inquiring if we would be interested in offering a class in model aircraft. There was quite a bit of interest on the part of those present, and Jerry will follow up with Kevin.

The matter of the new FAA regulations regarding the registration of model aircraft was brought up and discussed. Registration apparently will cost \$5.00 after the free period ends in the next few weeks. This cost covers all aircraft operated by the member and registration of individual airplanes is not required. The rules apply to all aircraft weighing between 0.5 pounds and 55 pounds.

John Cralley suggested we might get some publicity in the Normalite. It was felt more media coverage would be appropriate after we get our flying field into good shape.

Father Ric mentioned the St. Mary's Fish Fry which will be February 12th, the day before our next meeting, and encouraged all to attend and enjoy a good time.

Adjourned on a motion by Brandon Edmonds and seconded by Paul Bessler.

Several members proceeded to the basketball floor to fly various aircraft. At one point there were four fixed wing A/C, some Quads, a couple of helicopters and a flying car all airborne at the same time. No crash damage was noted.

Safety First !! Paul Bessler's sad story!!

How not to cut your fingers on a plane prop.

For starters it was December, the last warm day of the year on a Friday afternoon. My son Jerry and I were prepping a new plane to fly with a 4 stroke. He was in front of the plane; I was behind holding it, but I was not wearing my glasses because our German Shepherd had eaten them

Jerry started the motor, was getting it up to speed and I noticed that his T-shirt was starting to flow close to the prop. I started to point from behind, to let him know and I got too close. The prop got my 2 middle fingers!!

The second one from the little finger got a piece of bone cut out and the finger nail was missing. My middle finger got split and part of the nail was gone, so off to the E. R. we went. They cleaned them and put in temporary stitches. I saw the orthopedic surgeon on Monday morning and that afternoon I went to surgery. They fixed them and I went home. Fingers are looking good now.

It was a Big Lack of Safety. The prop was a wood 13-6. If it had been an APC prop, I would have had more damage done to my fingers or even lost them.

We need to adhere to the Safety Rules, plus keep clothing tucked in and away from props. I am lucky though; this was my first serious accident in 30 years of flying, even using the big gas motors.

Paul Bessler



Safety First Indeed!!

Few of us that have spent 30 years dealing with propeller equipped models have escaped a finger prop encounter. In fact many of us got our first taste of prop bite trying to start a Cox powered ready to fly plastic model when we were kids. Those cranky little devils were good teachers in that regard.

As Paul points out large engines have potential to do serious damage!

Club president Jerry Worden almost lost an eye when a glow lighter popped off into a prop and sent a missile into his eye.

Electric props make great finger slicers!

BE CAREFUL AROUND PROPS!!

Meet our Members

John Burrill

The SIRS Secretary for 2016 is John Burrill . Actually John unofficially assumed the office in October.

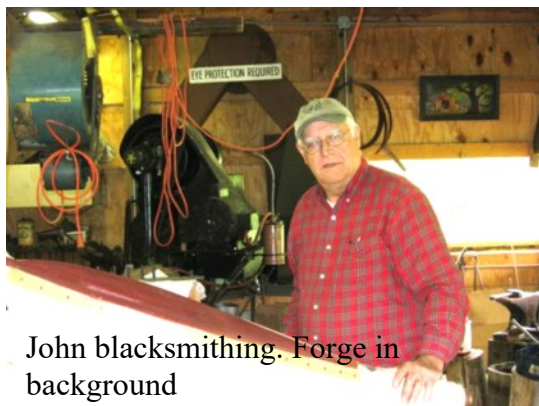


John and his wife Sue live in Normal, IL. He has two children living in Toronto, Canada and three grandsons. John has been a teacher, charity director and he retired in 2010 from Mid Central Community Action.

John tells me, “I started modeling in a Boys Club in northern Alberta at about age 12 building stick and tissue models with limited success. Got into control line flying in my first year of teaching with some eighth grade boys who had an interest. Radio control then was single channel with a rubber powered escapement and I saw some, but never built any.” He has done some free flight modeling and he brought a nice little stick rubber powered model to fly in the school gym after the last meeting. At this time he is interested in modern RC sport flying and expressed an interest in RC soaring maybe

sometime in the future.

John belonged to the R/C model Club in Kingston, Ontario before moving to the USA in 2000. He built and flew a couple of trainers there. John says, “The club was very active, and I believe still is. I did belong to the Canadian equivalent of AMA, and now to the AMA.”



John blacksmithing. Forge in background

As a matter of fact John is a builder at several levels. He has made pocket knives and is into blacksmithing. In one of the photos he is showing a working model steam engine that he built to one of his grandchildren. He also has an interest in music and in building stringed instruments.

Aside from the above, John writes up an excellent set of minutes from our meetings!



John showing his Grandson his steam engine modell



John in his workshop brazing landing gear on Jerry Worden's Fokker D-VIII model

Bob Stadsholt developed the plan for field maintenance shown below. He has a specific calendar for required activities which I can send you if you email me with a request.

Primary Flying Field: 310 ft. X 506 ft = 156,860 sq ft plus 90 ft X 180 ft = 16,200 sq ft, TOTAL = 173,060 sq ft (4 acres)

Cost \$2006.00

Planted 2013: Bluegrass/Perennial Ryegrass 70/30: Atlantic Kentucky Bluegrass 30%, Appalachian Kentucky Bluegrass 20%, Rhapsody Kentucky Bluegrass 20%, Notable Perennial Ryegrass 15%, Palmer III Perennial Ryegrass 15%

2016 activity:

Goal: Create a smooth continuous carpet of grass to facilitate successful take-offs and landings of model aircraft at the least cost.

Fertilizer: Apply nitrogen time-release fertilizer at a rate of 4+ lbs. per 1000 square feet for the season.

Seeding: Over seeding and slip-seeding is not needed at this time.

Rolling: Rolling compacts the soil and should be followed by aeration. Rolling north to south will help reduce ridges.

Aeration: Aerate the soil to reduce compaction. Driving north-to-south will help reduce ridges. Multiple passes will help reduce ridges and help fill in bare spots.

Weed Control: Crabgrass preventer as pre-emergence control. Systemic commercial grade broadleaf control.

Cost Control: Similar products will be purchased if they meet specifications and are cheaper. Club member volunteers will do all the labor including application of products.

Reminder

Members required to register with FAA

AMA members are now required by regulation to register their aircraft with the FAA to avoid federal enforcement and potential penalties. All Radio Control modelers must register aircraft weighing greater than 0.55 pounds online no later than February 19, 2016. The registration fee is \$5. Online registration can be accomplished on the FAA web page at, <https://registermyuas.faa.gov/>

Here are some links you may find interesting.

AeroFred's on-line plans files!

Go here to register to get weekly email plans files from Fred

Special Flyover at Arlington National Cemetery

Not aviation related! Just a good laugh! (watch to the end) BULLFIGHT

Politeness is to human nature what warmth is to wax. - Arthur Schopenhauer

John Cralley, Editor

jccrall@ilstu.edu

Send me your NEWS and any model aviation related information to share!!