



August 2017

Newsletter

Volume 53 Number 8

SIRS RC/CL



Check SIRS WEBSITE!

Model Airplane Club

AMA District VI Chapter 621 Founded in 1964



Jerry Bessler with his father Paul's Ozark Airlines DC-3 at last year's Open House!

This year the Open House is Saturday August 12th at the SIRS Airfield from 8:00 until 5:00. Lunch will be available.

(see map on page 2)

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Come

Fly

With

Us!

At SIRS Field

During

Our National

Model

Aviation Day

Open House

Saturday

August 12th

8:00 AM -

5:00 PM

Our Field is

Located near

Funks Grove,

IL see map on

the next page!

Visitors &

Guests

WELCOME

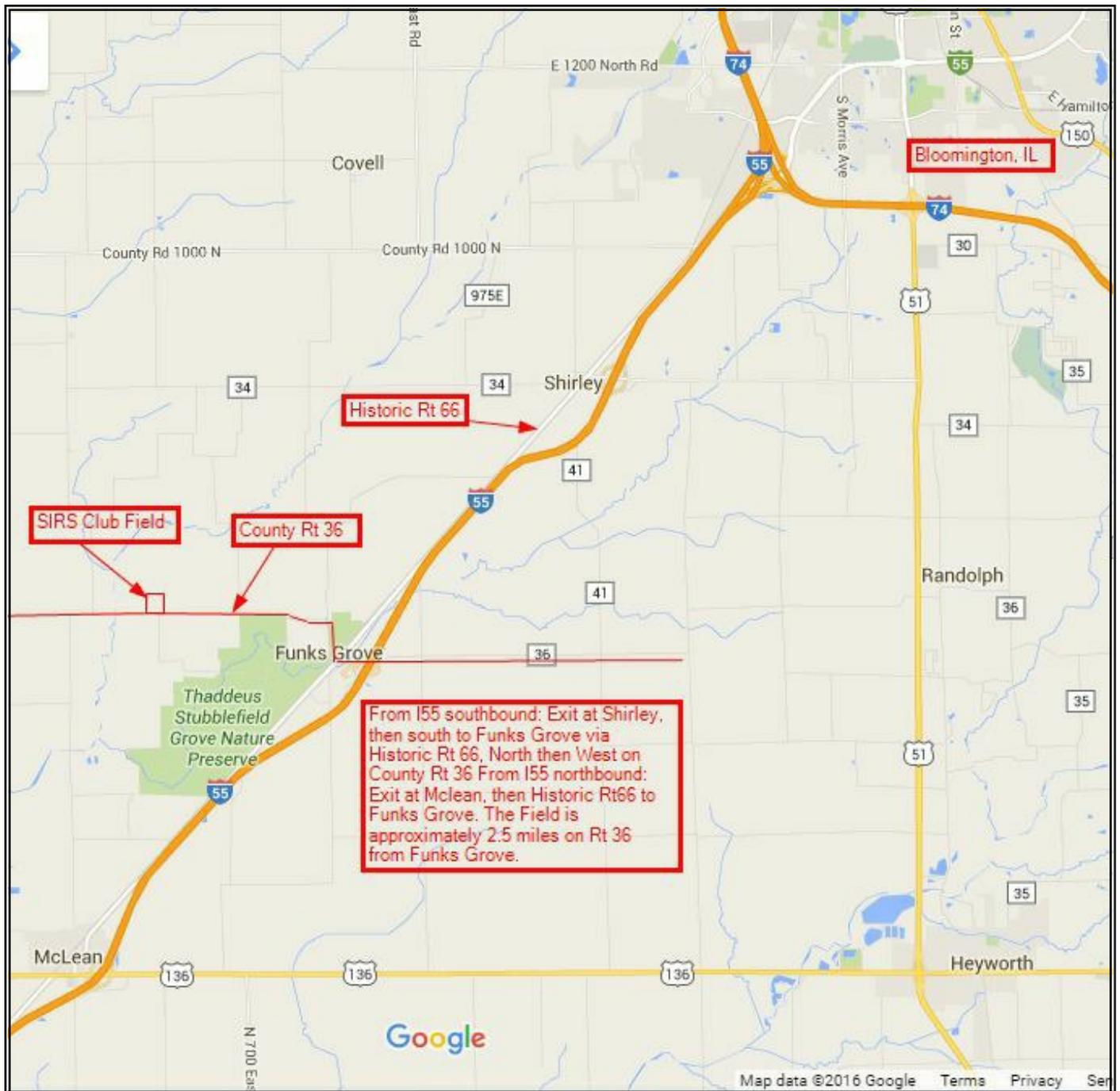
309-532-2497

**Club meetings are on the second Saturday
of each month (April through October)
at 7:00 PM**

At SIRS Club Field

Guests and prospective members are welcome to attend.

Flying before the meeting weather permitting!!



Attention:

Setup for the Open House will be Thursday August 10th afternoon and evening!

President Jerry Worden is bringing Hot Dogs and buns!

You need to bring beverage of your choice and something to share!

We will Pig out as well as work like Beavers to get the Field ready!

(Rain date is Friday!!)



Last year's Open House rocket launch!!

Dues are per year Jan 1st to Dec 31st

\$90.00 (Make checks payable to SIRS)

New members dues are prorated = \$37.50 in August

Name _____

Address: Street, City, State, Zip _____

AMA # _____ **Email** _____

Phone Home _____ **Cell** _____ **Mail**

check to: (Or bring to the meeting)

John Burrill

903 Approach Rd.

Normal, IL 61761

SIRS RC/CL Model Club

**July 2017 Meeting Minutes
Secretary Fred Logue**

Meeting called to order by President Jerry Worden.

- Minutes from June read.
- Treasure report read.
 - 40 Members
 - \$5976.96
- Pylon Race
 - Gross \$1422
 - Expenses \$542

Old Business:

- Holiday Banquet November 12th in Covell.
- Open House August 12th
 - Set up Thursday before.
- Field Rental agreement.

More work needs to be looked into lowering field rent. Nice breakdown letter made up explaining the club, and our needs.

- Petromat (Fabric Runway)
 - \$1090

- 800' roll 15'x300'
- Delivered with Staples.

- Motion made to collect donations and purchase when enough money has been donated.

Motion passed, Make pledges to John Burrill

- More investigating on how to prep the field for installation.

New Business

- New members,

- Steve Meyer
- David Hilsenhoff
- Rich Anderson

- September Pylon Race

- Our own Computer system will be set up and tested before hand.
- Need volunteers to sign up with Jerry Worden to help run event.
- Debbie Logue to take care of food.

- Telephone poles in parking area to be finished and pinned down.

- Central IL Drone League

- Jerry Worden looking into setting up possible Drone Race.

- Dues

- Talked about raising dues to \$100 a year.
- Will vote during Banquet.

Meeting Adjourned.

At the meeting this Saturday, the actual proposed layout for the new fabric runway will be demonstrated by actually marking it out on the field.

Gary Lenhardt has researched various methods of installing the fabric. Garry, Dick Hanson and others have visited other club fields to learn how they installed their fabric runways.

At the Club meeting Saturday (7:00 PM 8/12). Gary will present what he believes is the best approach for installing the runway at our field.

Those present at the meeting will have a chance to vote on an installation plan and to give Gary and his volunteer helpers the go ahead to install the new runway.

If you are interested in the technical specs for the *US 230 Aeromodeling Geotextile* we plan to use here are a couple of references:

URL: <https://www.usfabricsinc.com/products/us-230-aeromodeling-geotextile>

“Do Not Create ‘Ala Carte’ Specifications”

Below are questions and answers that a Michigan club came up with after they installed a fabric runway.

1. What size is your fabric runway?

78' wide x 296' long with (2) 20' x 40' taxi ways.

(The SIRS runway will be 30' x 150'!! Much smaller.)

2. What preparation is needed before laying the fabric?

We rolled the ground and mowed the grass as short as possible. You can kill the grass off with spray to help the fabric lay down faster.

3. How is it installed?

It is held down by 8" staples approx. 6" apart at all edges and seams.

4. What maintenance is required during the season?

The only maintenance required has been to kill a few weeds working up thru the seams and to patch a few bad prop strikes.

5. What needs to be done each spring?

Roll the field and push the staples down. They work up a little due to the frost in the ground.

6. Any winter preparation needed?

No winter prep has been needed.

7. How easy is it to repair?

We repair holes using small pieces of the fabric and asphalt roof patching compound. Some of the smaller holes can be repaired using just the asphalt roof patching.

8. How long has your fabric been down?

Since 2006

9. How is it repaired?

See question # 7.

10. What glues have you used and what works best?

Again, see question # 7.

11. How long will it last?

We are guessing 6 years in Michigan, but a club in Texas has had it for five (5) years and they expect it to last much longer.

12. How are the rolls seamed?

The seams are just stapled down at approximately 6" spacing

13. What are the top three problems with the fabric runway?

(A) Short coupled planes or planes with poor landing gear tend to be real squirrely at taxiing and take off.

(B) You must have a very slow idle.

(C) If a plane noses in or crashes on the runway real hard, it can put the prop nut thru the runway or the prop may slice thru. However most of the time it does no harm.

(Continued on page 6)

14. Why did the club go to a fabric runway?

We went to the runway because a lot of the guys did not like having to put larger Wheels on their air-planes in order to take off from the tall grass, especially in the spring when the grass grows so fast.

Advantages:

Even small electrics can take off with no problems, as well as fuel powered scale planes with retracts.

Disadvantages:

See Question # 12 – ALSO sometimes extremely small tail wheels may catch in a seam while taxiing.

15. How do the club members like the fabric runway?

Most of them like it, (Even those who originally opposed it). We also maintain approx two (2) acres of mowed field for anyone who still prefers to fly off grass.

16. What do jets do to it? How many members fly jets?

Currently, no one regularly flies jets off our field, but we have been told that they do not affect it.

17. What care must be taken while mowing? How close do you get to the fabric?

Our mower just overlaps the edges of the runway and has had no problems.

18. How have you oriented your runway to the prevailing wind?

Our runway runs east to west. The reason for making it so wide was to allow pilots to angle into the wind on extremely windy days which we get a lot of in the spring and fall.

19. Do you know other clubs that have used the fabric?

There are several other clubs that we know of, One of our club members flies off one in Texas every winter and we contacted a club in Wisconsin before putting ours in.

20. Does it stay tight?

The Runway material stretches tight in the sunshine and stays tight all year round.

21. What are your rules when flying from your fabric runway?

These are OUR runway specific rules. We have been rather loose on 1 & 2 unless there happens to be a lot of flying activity.

22. Does the wind damage the runway?

We have not had any problem with the winds damaging the runway. But, we have securely installed the runway with special staples.

RUNWAY INSTALLATION

One of our members made up four (4) tools for putting the Staples in. They are made of square steel tubing sized to fit the staples diagonally and a plunger to push them out. With one worker loading them, and another driving them in, it goes surprisingly fast. We just rolled the fabric out and pulled it out fairly flat before stapling it down. In a few hours of warm sunshine the fabric stretches tight. It will be a little fluffed up for about 2 weeks until the grass underneath dies down. But it is useable within a couple of hours. It takes a lot of staples, as well as approx ten (10) stakes with large washers/strip for the ends to hold them in place while rolling the fabric out and stretching it. We had the whole runway done in approx four (4) hours with about 20 members working on it.

Hope I answered most of your questions. If you need more info, send me a list of what info you need and I will see what I can do for you.

Kent Radio AeroModelers, Inc.

2017 Events Schedule

All EVENTS at the Field are subject to favorable weather!

Club Meeting August 12th 7:00 PM at the Field

August 12th Model Aviation Day SIRS Open House

Sept 9-10 Field of Dreams Fall Classic Pylon racing

October 8th Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon

October 14th Thompson Cup Pylon Race (club meeting at the field)

November Sunday 12th Annual SIRS Banquet at Covell Community Building

Here is a link you might/will enjoy:

[Click here to take a test of your knowledge of World War II Fighter planes from various nations. This is forty some odd photos of fighters with a list of four names to check off \(multiple guess in some cases\). Each Photo has a brief description of the plane and some of its history. Take the test and enjoy!!](#)

The basis of world peace is the teaching which runs through almost all the great religions of the world. "Love thy neighbor as thyself." - Eleanor Roosevelt

John Cralley, Editor

jccrall@ilstu.edu

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