

Weatherford Aero Modeling Society (WAMS) Newsletter

June, 2010

By Jim Pope, Editor

WWW.wamsrc.com

WAMS Monthly Meeting: June 1st, 6:30 pm at R&K Restaurant in Hudson Oaks.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Bert Spencer

OK folks, what happened to Spring?? We've gone from cold mornings to something resembling the Great Flood, and now we're well into summer with heat and sweat abounding. My wife is on a river float trip in Utah this week, and reports morning temps of 28 degrees and blowing snow --- she is NOT a happy camper !!

In any case, we had a very successful Float Fly at Cartwright Park Lake on May 16th, with about 25 pilots attending, many with several planes each. There were a few spectacular dunkings, but no total wipeouts. The retrieval boat, manned by Mark Perkins and John Savage was kept busy during the day, and they did their usual excellent job. This is one more example of those folks in the background who do so much to make our events run smoothly and are rarely recognized. Great job guys, and a big THANK YOU from us all !!

As noted below, we'll have a booth at First Monday on Saturday June 5th for a static display and club information, and we can certainly use volunteers to man the booth and talk with any interested prospective members. On Saturday June 19th, we'll have our monthly Fun Fly at Zaugg Field, complete with free hot dogs and drinks, so mark the date on your calendars and come out to join in the fun.

Again, we're actively looking for a club member to serve as our newsletter editor. Jim Pope has stepped in on a temporary basis, but he's involved in many other things and needs a relief pitcher ASAP. Certainly both Jim and I will be happy to help the new editor to get his feet on the ground and help with the first few laps around the track.

Be safe and enjoy flying, Bert

Secretary/Treasurer Report

by Sarge Bell

For the period April 1st to May 26th, 2010:

Income: \$ 591.97

Expenses: \$1849.08

SAFETY FIRST

by Cliff Hummer

Summer is finally here. We all want to stay safe at the field. You already know you shouldn't stick your finger in a turning prop, or cut your hand with a #11 Xacto blade and you should always be alert of the airplanes in the air. But this month, the warmer weather brings about a subject that we don't think of very often: Snakes! Zaugg Field is a hay field and snakes find a lot of tasty snacks living there. Just watch the hawks sailing over head after we mow. They too are looking for a fresh mole or mouse. There's not much we can do to rid our field of snakes so we must be aware that they are present. A snake bite can be painful and very serious. When you retrieve your model, keep on the lookout for these critters. Remember; they are basically afraid of humans and will avoid us if possible but if you step on one he (or she) may bite back.

Be sure to read article below by Gary James concerning LiPo batteries. These are a wonderful product of modern technology, but they require diligent and careful handling.

Be careful and stay alert

FROM THE EDITOR

by Jim Pope

The Spring WAMS Float Fly on May 16th was once again successful. Cartwright Park Lake is very near perfect for our R/C off water flying. Daybreak brought pleasant weather and clam winds. Sec/Treas **Sarge Bell** was CD and managed another fun event and one that is anticipated by many MetroPlex flyers. Flying off of water requires extra skills developed by advanced modelers. The flying is always spectacular and the level of construction is well above average. This year was no exception. Some 25 pilots entered with about 40 airplanes. Sarge will have the financial data concerning this event at our monthly meeting at R & K at 6:30 on June 1st.

President **Bert Spencer** has arranged a booth at Weatherford's First Monday event on June 5th. We plan a static display of our models, printed WAMS flyers and one on one information dissemination to all interested parties. Our reserved booth is L-17 in the south lot. We will staff the booth from 9 am to 3 pm. If you want to bring an airplane for display, you can drive into the area between 8 am and 9 am. There are many food vendors at First Monday so you won't go hungry. The following week (on June 12th) we had scheduled a WAMS Fun Fly and buddy box session with **Tom Holman** hot dogs and drinks for those indicating an interest at the First Monday booth. Unfortunately a schedule conflict required that we postpone this event until the following Saturday, June 19th. I understand that Safety Officer **Cliff Hummer** has designed and constructed a display rack for our models. For more information contact President **Bert Spencer**.

Vice President **Mark Perkins** has continues to distribute dozens of modeling magazines to waiting rooms throughout our area. Each magazine has a couple of our business cards attached and is rubber stamped several places with our contact information. And his

publicity efforts have grown a good bit. The Sunday May 23rd edition of *The Weatherford Democrat* printed a full page story in the "Faces" section and featured some of WAMS friend Bud Heath's excellent photographs. Bud has photographed our events for several years. You can see much more of his work at <http://www.skyshaker.com/>. We also had a quarter page color notice concerning our upcoming Fun Fly in the May issue of the new *Parker County Maverick* magazine. And thanks (once again) Bud for your outstanding photos.

The May 8th static display schedule at the Compass Bank in Willow Park had to be postponed due to exceedingly high winds. The airplanes just wouldn't stay still in the high, gusty winds. We'll reschedule soon and will let you know the details. WAMS friend and Hudson Oaks Kwik Kar Lube shop owner Len Minco has offered the use of his facility for our static display events. Len is a long time R/C flyer, Q-25 racer and Thunderbird member. Len's shop is located just west of McDonald's in Hudson Oaks. And best of all, Len offers a handsome discount to all AMA/WAMS members. Thanks Len! By the way, I've never beat Len in one of our Q-25 races. He's a really good racer. I hope to change that fact this season. Watch out Len!

Exec Committee **Gary James** continues to be our most prolific designer, builder and flyer. He has a new combat design that he flew in a recent meet at The Richardson RC club. The airplane flew very well and was competitive but radio problems relegated Gary to the middle of the pack of over 20 flyers. Here's Gary's report:

"The North Texas area is fortunate to have one of the most active RC Combat schedules in the nation. The most recent event was held at the Richardson RC Club field on Lake Lavon on May 16th. Typically, the contests are held on a Saturday, but this time they were moved to Sunday to accommodate several pilots who had children graduating from college that weekend.

The contest consisted of 8 rounds of Slow, Survivable Combat (SSC) which is the most popular event. The event consists of .15 cid (or equivalent electric) powered airplanes with a minimum weight of 40 ounces pulling a 30 ft streamer attached to the airplane by a 6 ft string. The object is to get as many "cuts" in each 5 minute round as possible. It typically costs about \$15-\$20 to build one of these from scratch but full kits are also available. Most of the SSC planes are "non-scale" but some pilots use semi-scale models.

Here are the SSC scores:

Lee Liddle - 2364

Evan Wenger - 2108

Brady Jacobson - 1994 <=== First contest!!! :shock!

Dennis Moore - 1384

Dallas Stroud - 1360

Bob Leone - 1330

Gary James - 1100

Dane McGee - 1084

David Turner - 1056

Paul Schoggins - 972

Bob Starr - 860

Ed Kettler - 800

Daryl Ellison - 740

Scott Stockwell - 240

We had two LiPo fires at the contest. The damp grass kept the fire from spreading, but fire extinguishers were on the scene quickly. Daryl also had a fire, this time in the pits when he attempted to straighten a damaged pack, but he got it safely away from folks and no further damage resulted. The smell is awful.. Most extinguishers will not put out the LiPo, so you may want to focus on controlling the spread of the fire. This was the first time in four years of being around "electrics" that I'd seen a lipo battery fire. Turns out to be a lot less dramatic than expected! I can tell you one thing though. . . .do NOT stand down wind of one of these!

Line Marshall Roy Appleton did a little clandestine videoing of either the 3rd or 4th round. He's been experimenting with some "micro" video camcorders for aerial video and decided to take some test footage "on the ground" at the event. It turned out that this round was particularly good for various reasons, including some "slap stick comedy" with Lee and "JP".

Scott Stockwell was one of at least four guys flying electrics. The video includes the full 5 minute round. About half way into the round Bob Leone and Lee Liddle, both flying electrics also, got down and dirty, flying grass top level and made for some interesting footage. Bob and Lee are both excellent fliers and Bob likes to bring people down to grass top levels. Also in this round after Lee launched and walked back to the pilot's line he went to fully extend his antenna and pulled 2/3 of the antenna apart. So there's a moment in the video that the camera turned and looked down the pilot's line to see Lee leaning back like he was reeling in a 100lb catfish, as he and "JP" tried to stuff the antenna back together. He was successful in getting the antenna back in and saving the plane that was previously in a nose dive to the ground.

The video isn't exactly HD quality but considering that the camera module only cost \$30 it did a good job.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2E6DrFY30G4>

I would be pleased to assist any WAMS member who is interested in getting involved in RC Combat. It's just about the most fun that you can have and still not get arrested :-)"

Thanks Gary for this report. In the other competition event (Q-25 Pylon Racing) involving WAMS members, there is no news. Both races scheduled for this season have been cancelled due to bad weather. Our first race is to be held 1 pm June 6th at T-Bird field. Come watch. It's exciting! The WAMS Racing team (Gary, Sarge and I) is ready for

action. Not only do we race against other individual racers, we also compete against other teams representing several R/C clubs in our area.

Hey! Remember that we have a new **Attendance Grand Prize Program**. The prize will be even better than the \$100 gift certificate prize last year. The only way you can participate in this contest is by coming to our meetings. Each member earns an entry every time a meeting is attended. I hope you earn your first entry at our next meeting on June 1st. If that's not reason enough, then come to learn about float flying in a symposium. Sec/Tres **Sarge Bell** is the presenter and his program is based on the common sense approach to flying off the water as developed by the late Chuck Cunningham. Recall please that this was to be the program last month but technical difficulties arose and it was postponed until this month. Then, just to show off a little, why not bring something to our monthly meeting for show-and-tell? We'd all like to see your latest project. And you can have enough time to really brag about it!

There is a lot of flying activity planned for this year. We have a good field, excellent instructors, fun events and even good food. We are a flying club so come out have a good time and fly!

A repeat paragraph from last month: Is it possible that one of you would like to become newsletter editor? I've been doing this for some time and would like to give someone else a chance to take on this responsibility. I've been WAMS newsletter letter many times but, unfortunately and not of my own making, I've been very busy for the past couple of months. The actual act of writing and emailing is not at all difficult; but editing, proofreading, and especially idea formulating can be quite time consuming, while extremely satisfying and gratifying; a pride of authorship sort of thing. I would, of course, help anyone with semi-professional assistance and maybe even write an editorial column each month.

And when you see **Sarge Bell, Cliff Hummer, Gary James, Buddy McReary, Richard Nemmann** and **Liburn Smith**, wish them a happy June birthday! Dave Thomas also had a June birthday. We will miss Dave. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Remember, spend your hobby money at home and use that excellent mail order catalog as a reference tool!

See you at the field.....

Jim Pope

A Founding and Charter WAMS Member

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