



# Skywriter



See Skymasters on the web at - [www.skymasters.org](http://www.skymasters.org)

## President's Message...

### February 13<sup>TH</sup> is an Important Business Meeting

We will discuss several issues that should be very important to every member.

- 1.) The 2001 Budget.
- 2.) The contract with the state for our flying field.
- 3.) Plans for noise control for 2002 and beyond.
- 4.) Helicopter flying rules.

I know some of you have other obligations that don't allow you to attend the meetings but if you just "choose" not to attend then don't complain about the outcome of this meeting.

#### This is Swap Meet Month

Skymasters has been praised because our Swap Meet is one of the only ones left that is truly a modeler's "garage sale." Take a little time and doing a little soul searching ... are you really ever going to build that kit that has been on the shelf

for four years? That model leaning in the corner that didn't fit your flying style or that you have progressed beyond ... are you really ever going to fly it again? And that special gadget that you bought at Toledo and thought you just had to have it, but you have used it only twice in the last six years ... is it time for someone else to "enjoy" having it? Dig that stuff out and bring it to the Swap Meet,



Day Dreaming of this Summer - Grumman 'Widgeon'

whether you sell it or not you'll enjoy visiting with people about it!

Joe Finkelstine has been signing up volunteers at the last two meetings and we will finalize our plans at the Feb 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**NOTE:** We have lined up an impressive list of speakers for all but two of the

meetings between now and June. Look for the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter and plan to take advantage of learning from these programs.

Be Swap-Happy this month!!!!

Darrell

**Note: Meeting location change for the February 13th Meeting**  
**We will be meeting at The Boys and Girls Club of Troy**



Academy of Model Aeronautics  
 Chartered Club #970

### 2002 Club Officers & Appointees...

President:	Darrel Watts	9279 Thornhill Dr	Clarkston	48348	248-391-4677
Vice Pres:	Paul Zabawa	PO Box 138	Metamora	48455	810-678-3332
Secretary:	Gary Weaks	2512 Red Fox Trail	Troy	48098	248-540-8358
Treasurer:	Bob Donohue	260 Four Seasons Dr	Lake Orion	48360	248-391-1385
Editor:	Mark Smith	1955 Hopefield	Lake Orion	48359	248-391-5970
C.F.I.:	Ron Sokacz	40714 Matlock	Sterling Hts	48310	810-977-1404
B.M.S.P.:	Bill Stark	1010 E. Clarkston	Lake Orion	48362	248-693-8639

Articles must be received by the 20th for next issue.      Articles may be reproduced from Skywriter.

## Can you identify this plane?

Name this Aircraft and win your name in next months issue of the Skywriter and front row seats at the Skymasters meeting of your choice!  
1st one to email or call me with the correct answer wins!



## ATTENTION INSTRUCTORS

Contact Ron Sokacz if your want to be an Skymasters Instructor for the 2002 Season. We are revamping our Instructor list, if you want to be on it YOU MUST contact Ron.  
**810-977-1404**

## Thanks again..

Hi Everyone, We left for Texas just a few days after the Christmas Party and all though we had brought a roster with us, we grabbed one without zip codes. Something the U.S. Post office frowns on.

We are sitting here with the nose of the motor home right up against the jetty at Port Arkansas Texas. The ships are coming and going, the fishermen are fishing and the porpoises and pelicans are playing. Ah..... retirement, it's ruff.

I am going through our mail, including the Skymasters News-

letter, that has just caught up with us, with Mark's address.

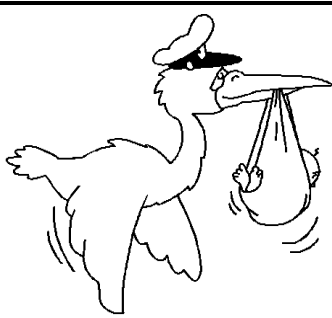
Donna and I were talking about the wonderful honor it was to receive the "Skymasters of the Year Award" and how surprised we were. As you could probably tell by the fact that Donna was "speechless". We can't say thanks enough to everyone for this wonderful honor. We have a great club and we both are so glad to be a part of it.

Have a good winter and we will see you all in the spring.

Bob & Donna Burns

## FAVORITE WEB SITES

- Get more information on batteries than you wanted to know at: [www.rcbatteryclinic.com](http://www.rcbatteryclinic.com)
- 2 Stroke & 4 stroke Gas engines, see the 4 stroke radial engine: [www.rcshowcase.com](http://www.rcshowcase.com)
- Great RTC planes by one of our own members at: [www.troybuiltmodels.com](http://www.troybuiltmodels.com)
- Check out the ads at: [www.fly-ima.org/ima/classifieds.html](http://www.fly-ima.org/ima/classifieds.html)



### Congratulations!

Dave & Laura Lange  
On their little bundle  
Kara Marie  
She arrived on  
January 9, 2002  
6lb-8.5oz 19.5"

### Congratulations!

Tony & Stacey Riera  
On their new bundle  
Mariah Lorenza  
She arrived on  
December 21, 2001  
8lb-4.6oz 20 3/4"



## From the Editor...

Welcome to the February 2002 issue of Skywriter! We had 2 interesting meetings in January. Bill Oberdieck talked about the AMA's history and it's future. Don Hindemann of Dremel Tools showed the latest modeling tools. If you don't attend the meetings you are missing out!

This issue will have a new feature "Welcome New Members".

Another new column is "Web Site Favorites" We are also asking members to send in their favorite web sites. I will feature some each month. Need help with floats for your plane - get to Steve's bull session for expert help. Page 6 has a calendar with upcoming events for the month of February.

Swap meet season is upon us. Flint & Owosso have their Swaps

this month. Try car pooling, half the fun is getting there. Our Swap meet is just around the corner. Contact Joe Finkelstine at 248-375-0530 if you can help out.

Send any articles, classifieds, news, comments to me at my Email-[masmith248@earthlink.net](mailto:masmith248@earthlink.net) or my address on the back cover.

Mark & Liz Smith (assistant editor)

# Skymasters "Krazy Snow Fly" ...

By: Steve Fredericks

## Krazy Snow Fly 2001

The Krazy Snow Fly was the final big event of the year and participation is growing every year. Over forty pilots braved the cold on December 31, 2001 to get in their final flight of the year. The temperatures were in the 20's as the pilots started arriving by 9:00 a.m. The coffee pot was on, the bonfire glowing and the chili was heating up fast while the first pilots took to the air.

The snow depth was about 2 to 3 inches so either skies or floats worked very well on the airplanes. The sky was filled with airplanes by 10:30 a.m. The fire pit was in heavy use by the pilots between flights. At times, the fire pit was the most popular spot at the field as this year the temperatures were lower than in previous years.

There were many new faces at this year's Krazy Snow Fly. It was a good time to meet new members and talk about your latest projects. Each year brings out a few more flyers than the last. Year-round flying in the north is becoming a reality.

As 11:00 a.m. approached, the five gallons of chili reached eating temperature. You had to be quick this year as the chili was ex-

cellent and did not last long. Every year I add an extra gallon to this evil brew. Looks like next year will be a six gallon concoction.

This will be my last year as event director of this event. I hope everybody enjoyed this year as much as I did. I will still brew the chili for the coming year as I am not ready to give out my top secret recipe yet. My wife and I would like to visit some of our relatives up in the U.P. over New Years next year so I will not be here to participate in the event. This is one of our most popular events of the year and it is also one of the easiest events to run. I am sure it will only grow in participation in the coming years.

Thanks to all the member who participated and especially the ones who helped me at this year's event. A special thanks to Bob Donahue who has helped me set up each year. Good luck to all the new winter flyers that are making our sport a year-round enjoyment.

Remember, the Bull Sessions are in full swing this year at my work shop. This is a great place to keep up your enthusiasm for our hobby through the winter.

Thanks again and good luck to all members in 2002.

Steve Fredericks

(Thanks Steve for another great Snow Fly)



Gary is that You? It's never that cold!



Bill Stark pilot with Steve "Chili-Man" Fredericks watching.



The Gang enjoying some hot chili and great times!

## Storage of your Ni-Cd R/C Packs

"How should I store my batteries at the end of the season? What should I do to them when I put them back in operation?" The batteries should be removed from the transmitter and plane for longer-term storage. Here in the south where a lot of us work out of our garage workshops I recommend putting them in the refrigerator (not the freezer) during the off-season. While not so important where your workshop rarely gets above 23 degrees C (74 F) the refrigerator is still a good bet. Why? The failure mode of Ni-Cds is separator failure; this is the material that keeps the plates from touching each other. When it fails the

cell shorts. At higher temperatures it oxidizes faster. In fact, the rate doubles for every 10 degrees C increase. "Should I store my batteries charged or discharged?" It doesn't really matter, they will self discharge in a few months stored at room temperature. If you are going to store them in the refrigerator me charge will remain for a lot longer so I would discharge them first to 4.4 volts and then put them away. Good cells will just set there in the discharged condition (the voltage can vary considerably but is usually above 1 volt). In a battery with damaged "worn out" separator in the cells, the cells are apt to short if left in a discharged condition. This is actually good since it is the first indication of a cell that's going bad and it is

best to replace the pack. A battery left on trickle charge will seldom short out since it is in the charged condition and any short that tries to develop will be zapped by the charge in the cell. Partial shorts (those having fairly high resistance) can be developing that can cause the cells to self discharge at a higher rate than normal and possibly leave you short in the middle of a flight after you just measured the cell when it came off charge with your ESV and everything looked OK. The reason I recommend removing the batteries from the transmitter and plane is to protect against "black wire" disease. Should a cell short while in storage there is a high probability that

*(Continued on page 7)*



### Skymasters Swap Shop

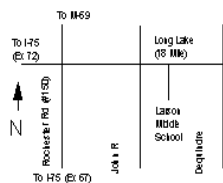
Join the Skymasters Radio Control Club for our annual Swap Shop on :

**Wednesday February 27, 2002**

Table set-up - 6PM, general entry - 7PM

Larson Middle School  
Long Lake (18 Mile), east of John R., Troy

- \* **TABLE \$5.00** One per person, first come first served. Includes one admission. No reservations.
- \* \$3-00 Admission - No table
- \* Kids under 18 - Free
- \* Door prize
- \* Refreshments available.
- \* 50/50 drawing.
- \* Raffles drawn throughout the evening.
- \* Please remember - no smoking in the school buildings.



Tables - \$5.00  
Food  
General Admission \$3.00  
Raffles  
Old 'gear'  
Drinks  
Junk  
Door Prize  
Crowds  
50/50  
Lots of 'stuff'  
Sell outs  
Stuff  
Bargains

For more information call Joe Finkelstine at 248-375-0530

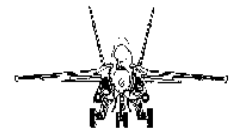


### Skymasters Bull Sessions

The Bull Sessions are Back for 2002!

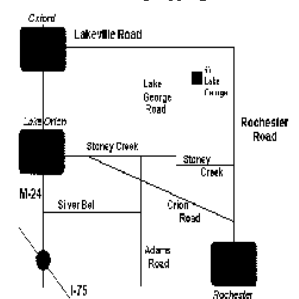
**January 12 and 26**  
**February 9 and 23**  
**March 9 and 23**

Steve Frederick's Workshop  
65 Lake George Road Oakland Twp  
9am - Noon



- \* The Bull sessions are returning this year! They are held at Steve Fredericks' shop. If you are not familiar with our "bull sessions" here's what goes on:
- o Bring your family and friends if you like.
- o Coffee, donuts and soda are available.
- o Bring you latest modeling buzz - completed or partially completed projects to show or ask for advice (we'll give you "lots" of advice), radios, plans, etc.

A great opportunity to get to know your fellow modelers. (Particularly valuable for those of you who are just getting started.)



**DIRECTIONS:**

From: Rochester area - Go north on Rochester Rd. to Stoney Creek Rd. west to Lake George Rd. - Go north on lake George Rd. approx. 1 1/2 miles.

From: Lapeer Rd. (M24) - Go east on Flint St. to where it intersects Orion Rd. Continue south-east on Orion Rd. to Stoney Creek Rd. Go east on Stoney Creek Rd. to Lake George Rd. Go north approx 1 mile.

For more information call Steve Fredericks at 248-693-6686

## **Larson Meeting – 01/09/02** **Introduction of 2002 officers and appointees**

**Visitors / New members:** *John and Mario Terenzie:* a father and son team new to the hobby who came upon an EZ Flier for Christmas.

*Mike Holmes:* Sail and electric flyer interested in getting into power flying.

**Swap Shop Update:** Joe Finkelstine, this year's director, described and circulated a work sign-up sheet. He is asking for help to fill 30-minute slots in the kitchen, door, and raffle. This year's Swap Shop will be Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Please consider helping out.

**Treasure's report:** Submitted by Bob Donohue and accepted.

**General Business:** Darrell announced some SKS Videos of our 2001 Float Fly are available for sale at the list price at the club meetings (you save the shipping charge). \*\*Don't forget to renew your membership before March and save \$5.

**Guest Speaker:** Darrell introduced Bill Oberdieck, AMA District 7 VP. Bill's interest in modeling started at a young age and progressed from carving solid balsa models and stick and tissue models through his present day interests which include large scale and full scale flying. Bill described the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) by reviewing its history. The AMA originated through the efforts of early modeling members of the National Aeronautics Association (NAA). In 1933 a subgroup of the NAA (which included the likes of Carl Goldberg and other model pioneers) started discussions to form a group just for the modelers. Lt. Alden is credited with the founding the AMA. In 1934 still under the NAA, the first Nats were held in Akron, Ohio. The following year the Nats were held here in Detroit. The first dues for AMA membership were a whopping \$3 per year. In 1966 the AMA was incorporated as a non-profit organization. In 1992 the National Flying site was opened in Muncie, Indiana and just last year the new head quarter's building was opened at Muncie. Membership has grown in the AMA; in 1951 there were 10,181 members, 17,000 in 1966, 63,000 in 1976, 105,000 in 1986 and in 2001 there were 170,000 members.

Some of the AMA's bigger issues now being discussed include Contest Directors' roles, responsibilities and training. Also, nomination of national officers, gas turbine engines, increasing the 55-pound rule, and sound reductions all are recent topics being addressed by

the AMA officers.

Bill's personal interests as our district VP include promoting giant scale aircraft, attracting the younger generations into the hobby, and obtaining flying sites for AMA chartered clubs.

### **Show and Tell:**

- John Hakala brought in a scratch-built 1903 Wright flier. It has twin electric motors and built to be an indoor or park flier.
- Mike Fleming brought in a static display P-51 built from Legos. It has movable control surfaces and removable engine covers to reveal the detail under the "hood".
- Wade Wiley showed his Hobbico Free Zone electric free flight. It is powered by nicads and weighs a mere 3 oz.
- Paul Zabawa brought in a GWF electric Tiger Moth park flier. Power is a 280 motor.
- Chris Hass showed his Picojet electric-powered jet ARF. 35" wingspan and speed 400 for power. Canopy was finished black with Fast Color brand paint, which is popular for the Lexan model car bodies.
- Joe Hass showed his Graupner Star Jet. It lists for \$99, weighs 2 pounds, 15 oz, has a 47" wingspan and is powered by two speed 400 pusher motors. This model will be a future RCM kit review.
- Jack Steele brought in a Hobby Lobby Champion park flier. It uses a 280 motor, weighs 12 oz and lists for \$99.
- Greg Brausa brought in a Great Planes ARF Cap 321. Engine is an O.S. 46 FX. It weighs 4 ½ to 5 pounds. This kit has been discontinued and replaced with other models in the Great Planes line-up.
- Roger Schmelling brought in a Sig Somethin' Extra that he won in a Skymaster's raffle. It is powered by a Saito 70 and a computer radio provides mixing of flapperons.
- Harry Etheridge displayed his bomb drop attachment on the bottom of a Sig LT-40. His ordinance was a badminton shuttlecock which when dropped has much less forward arch.
- Jim Held brought in a Balsa USA Northstar. He modified it to lighten the aircraft to 6 ¼ pounds. He used a center-located fuel tank and pump. Covering was Ultra-coat.

- Darrell Watts displayed the Balsa USA Northstar presented to him by the Skymasters at the Christmas party in recognition of his many years of dedication in making the Midwest Regional Float Fly the grand event that it is today.

### **Final Business:**

- Darrell covered some of the issues facing the BOD this year. This included the decision to discontinue the Multi-Engine event. The club still needs a volunteer to be the event director for the 4-Stroke event and one for the Krazy Snow Fly.
- A reminder about sound limits at the Scripps Road field was shared along with a possible plan to standardize the way that engine noise is measured.
- The club has a tentative five-year contract with Bald Mountain State Park. The draft is being reviewed by both the BOD and park officials.
- Helicopter use at the Scripps Road field is another item being discussed by the BOD.
- Finally the next general membership meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> will take place in a new location, the Boys and Girls Club of Troy. This alternate location will be used a few times this winter because of conflicts at Larson Middle School.

Meeting moved to adjourn.



**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS**

- Sherman Dickson
- Thomas Dickson
- Richard Grala
- Mike Holmes


# Skymasters Events...

\*\*\*NOTE LOCATION CHANGE FOR FEB 13, and APR 24 meetings \*\*\*  
 \*\*\* due to scheduling conflicts at Larson Middle School.\*\*\*

- **Sunday, February 3** 9:00 AM **Flint's R/C Swap Meet.** Flying Aces - Bristol Road west of I-475
- **Monday, February 4** 9:00 AM **Skymasters Retiree's and Want'a Be's Breakfast.** New location this year - Rams Horn Restaurant - Northeast corner Crooks & M-59 - Bob Burns 248-628-4666 for info.
- **Saturday, February 9** 9:00 AM **Skymasters Bull Session.** Steve Frederick's Shop 65 Lake George Rd. *See flyer in this issue.*
- **Wednesday, February 13** 7:30 PM **Skymasters Meeting.** The Boys and Girls Club of Troy The Brick Building on the Southeast corner of Long Lake and John R. (Enter the parking lot off of John R. Door marked "OFFICE") Business Meeting.
- **Sunday, February 17** 9:00 AM **Mid-Michigan Swap.** Chesaning Club - Baker College Owosso. *See flyer in this issue.*
- **Monday, February 18** 9:00 AM **Skymasters Retiree's and Want'a Be's Breakfast.** New location this year - Rams Horn Restaurant - Northeast corner Crooks & M-59 - Bob Burns 248-628-4666 for info.
- **Saturday, February 23** 9:00 AM **Skymasters Bull Session.** Steve Frederick's Shop 65 Lake George Rd. *See flyer in this issue.*
- **Wednesday, February 27** 7:30 PM **Skymasters Meeting.** Larson Middle School **Our annual Swap Shop!!!** *See flyer in this issue.*
- **Saturday, March 9** 9:00 AM **Skymasters Bull Session.** Steve Frederick's Shop 65 Lake George Rd. *See flyer in this issue.*
- **Wednesday, March 13** 7:30 PM **Skymasters Meeting.** Larson Middle School "A presentation on the Yankee Air Force." by Todd Hackbarth



## SKYMASTERS FEBRUARY 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 SWAP FLINT	4 RETIREE BREAKFAST	5	6 BOARD MEETING	7	8	9 BULL SESSION
10	11	12	13 MEETING B&G CLUB	14 	15	16
17 SWAP CHESANING	18 RETIREE BREAKFAST	19	20	21	22	23 BULL SESSION
24	25	26	27 SWAP SKYMASTER	28		

(Continued from page 4)

there will be some leakage that can lead ultimately to the "black wire" problem. Now when your batteries are coming out of storage, before charging, check the voltage without a load on the battery. It should read well over 4.0 volts even if it has not been charged all winter. They should be essentially fully discharged, flat as we say in the business. In this condition if the battery is going bad it will probably have shorted and you will read zero volts on that cell. It may be a soft short, one that could be blown away merely by the simple action of slow charging. Don't do it! It is just lying there waiting to bite you. Replace the pack. Cut out the "good" cells if you want and use them in something less critical than your model. If you have access to a cyclor running through a couple of charge/discharge cycles is a good idea just to make sure you are getting the capacity you are suppose to. Anything less than 80 of rated is suspect. Once at the field, pre-flight battery checks are in order, particularly at the beginning of the season. Since those that religiously check their flight packs with an expanded scale voltmeter seem to crash less (due to battery failure) one must assume that the ritual is smiled upon by the R/C Gods.

From: [www.rcbatteryclinic.com](http://www.rcbatteryclinic.com)



**MID-MICHIGAN RADIO CONTROL MODEL**

# SWAP MEET



<b>FEB. 17, 2002</b> SUNDAY 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Location: Baker College Gute Street Owosso, MI <i>Ample Parking</i>
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★ **SWAP**
★ **SELL**
★ **TRADE**

- HELICOPTERS
- AIRPLANES
- KITS
- BOATS
- CARS



D & M Electronics  
will be here to  
check your  
radio's, Gold  
Sticker, etc.

Admission - \$3.00  
17 & under - \$1.00

Tables - \$12.00     Make Checks Payable To:  
Chesaning Area  
Model Flying Club

All Tables **MUST** be paid in advance by no later than  
**January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002** or your reservations will be void.  
**THIS SHOW IS ALWAYS A SELL OUT!**  
**FIRST COME - FIRST SERVE**

## GREAT FOOD!!!



SPONSORED BY  
**CHESANING AREA  
MODEL FLYING CLUB, INC.**

Michael S. Freeman  
9069 Lake Road  
Otisville, MI 48463  
Ph: (989) 871-2673 after 5 p.m. E.S.T.  
Email: [free@millsds.net](mailto:free@millsds.net)  
Note: No calls between Dec. 23, 2001 thru Jan. 2, 2002

## SKYMASTERS CLASSIFIEDS

- **WANTED: Single Stick transmitter or system. Proline single stick—1973 or later, World Engines Expert, Futaba Aircraft Style. Contact: Don Paterson 248-642-2917 or Email rarebear4@home.com**
- **WANTED: Futaba "Super 7" transmitter (FPTUGF, FPT7UHF, FPT7UAF) Joe Hass 248-321-7934 joe hass@cmconnect.net**
- **FOR SALE: NIB VECO "TOMAHAWK" kit (circa 1960, checkerboard box) Joe Hass 248-321-7934 joe hass@cmconnect.net**
- **WANTED: Your classified ad here for free!**



# SKYMASTERS RADIO CONTROL CLUB OF MICHIGAN

**Mark Smith**  
1955 Hopefield  
Lake Orion, MI 48359

Web site: [www.skymasters.org](http://www.skymasters.org)  
Email: [skymasters@geocities.com](mailto:skymasters@geocities.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB 3.....Aces Flint Swap meet**
- FEB 4.....Retiree's Breakfast**
- FEB 9.....Skymasters Bull Session**
- FEB 13.....Meeting at Boys & Girls Club of Troy**
- FEB 17.....Chesaning Swap meet**
- FEB 18.....Retiree's Breakfast**
- FEB 23.....Skymasters Bull Session**
- FEB 27.....Skymasters Swap Meet**

## Skymasters Information...

Skymasters' field is located within the Bald Mountain State Park on Scripps Road (see map).

State Park Permits are required and can be obtained from the Park Headquarters located on Greenshield Road or at club events. Flying is permitted from 10 AM to 8 PM. The noise limit for 2002 is 94 dBa at 10 feet—this noise rule is strictly enforced.

In the summer, Wednesday evenings are Student Nights and there are usually

instructors around all day. Student night is also a pot luck buffet, bring something for the

grill & a dish to pass. Meet the Instructors and arrange for more instruction time together on other days. Our Chief Flight Instructor is Ron Sokacz (810) 977-1404.

From June to August, Club meetings are held at the field, on the first Saturday of the month at 12 Noon. A great chance to fly and socialize.

Winter meetings—September to May—are held at Larson Middle School (on Long Lake just east of John R—see map). On the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Bring a model for Show and Tell, enjoy coffee with donuts and listen to the speaker of the evening.

The Skywriter newsletter is sent to members, local hobby shops, and other R/C clubs in the area and around the country. All contributions are welcome. Please send articles to the Editor. If you know of anyone who may be interested in R/C Aviation, please give them a copy of this newsletter or a copy of an AMA magazine. It may spark their interest!

