



Sky Writer

See Skymasters on the web at - www.skymasters.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Toledo – Involvement Day – The Spring Flying Season is Upon Us!!! I can't believe how quickly this winter has gone by – after all it is officially "Spring." At least it has been reasonably warm. Be sure to read the article about Involvement elsewhere in this newsletter. It is **very important** that you participate!!!

As I mentioned in my last letter, for those of you who have never been to Toledo it really is a "must see" at least once. If you are down there look for my **"SEA-STINGER"** in the sport airplane section. Last year I told Bubba Spivey (owner of Lanier)

that I would bring him a seaplane version of his Stinger line of models. In reality, I kind of wish I wouldn't have done that. As usual it has taken a lot longer to complete than I had anticipated. The figuring and drawing and testing to make a Stinger 40 so that it will "convert" from a regular land airplane to a seaplane hull with a pod mounted motor took as much time as actually building it. But anyway it will be there.

There are a couple of issues being talked about a lot, so let me see if I can clarify the club's position:

1.) There will be no change to the club's Db rule (94 ant 10 feet) for 2002. If any change were to be considered sometime in the future, you would be notified via the newsletter that a proposition on sound would be coming up for a vote at a specific future meeting. A vote would be taken and the majority would prevail. Everybody clear on that now?

- That said, what we are going to be doing this year is strictly enforcing our current sound rule. We are going to be testing different engine, muffler, propeller combinations and passing that information on to you so you can be aware of the possibilities. (Particularly on larger engines and

airplanes.) Some people are concerned that our current rule, much less anything more restrictive, will result in our club becoming a club of gliders, electrics, and 40 size trainers. This is patently untrue. Many of us are already flying 7-10 foot models with large engines that will make the 94Db limit. As we go through the summer we will share with you how to make "sound systems" that will allow you to fly large airplanes if that is what you want to do. (Some of our most experienced modelers will share some of that information with you at our April 24th meeting.) It is true, I don't think ducted fans or many of the large IMAC planes with high performance engines will make our limit. At least not for a while, until, like the pattern guys, they develop sound systems that give them both performance and quietness. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that loudness equals power – its not "always" true.

2.) We will need more flight instructors for '02. Ron is not actively recruiting right now while he gets his procedures and guidelines in place. If you were an instructor in the past and you would like to continue to be

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Heads Up

Your Skymasters "Members Survey" will be coming to you in April. The only way we can maximize your enjoyment of this club is if we know what you want the club to be and to do. I tested it on the board members and it only takes about 10 minutes to fill it out. **So as soon as you get it, slow down a little bit, fill it out and return it to me. We have even enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope to make it easy for you.** I'm looking forward to hearing from you.



Academy of Model Aeronautics

Chartered Club #970
Gold Leader Club

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 Weeks	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
State Park:	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.

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an instructor we need to know that, please call Ron Sokacz. We would like to somehow refine our list to designate those who are "actively" making appointments and going out to the field to instruct and those who are qualified as an instructor but only available to instruct when they happen to be at the field. This is so we can give a list to a newcomer and when that person calls, the instructor he/she reaches is taking appointments and saying, "yes" not telling them to call somebody else, which can be very discouraging to a new member.

- For those of you who are instructors or were instructors last year and want to continue, Ron is holding an instructors meeting at **7 pm on May 8th - preceding our meeting.** This meeting is to talk through our instruction and sign off procedures so that all students get consistent training and treatment.

"Be proud to be a Skymaster." This club is known in this area and with AMA as an active and progressive club. We are known throughout the US and around the world for our float-flying event. Gary Walling was in a hobby shop in England last year and mentioned Skymasters and our float fly and the modelers present excitedly said, "oh yes we read all about that." I'll be in Toledo on Sunday, hope to see you there.

"Bald Mountain Involvement Day" Saturday April 20th

For those of you who are new, this is a day we donate to the park to assist them in getting the park ready for the summer season. **This volunteer commitment** (along with doing

what we say we are going to do at our field) has been central in cementing our relationship with the DNR. At Bald Mountain and in Lansing our club is held up as an example of park user commitment and cooperation. It is this positive relationship has allowed the DNR to support us in the face of complaints (about noise) and is moving us rapidly toward finalizing a five-year contract to keep our flying site.

What do we do? We divide into teams and complete projects that have been designated by the Park Manager. In the past we have done everything from assembling picnic tables, cleaning up trails and parking areas to painting signs and picnic shelters. There are jobs for everyone, regardless of any physical limitations.

I cannot overemphasize the im-

portance of your participation. To further encourage you we will have donuts and coffee when you arrive and we will provide lunch. Also, when you arrive, sign in at the lunch table and sign out when you leave. For each club member (family members count as one) who works a minimum of two hours **you will receive a \$10 gift certificate** so you can even earn back part of your dues.

The park management and Lansing are impressed with how much we get done but they are also very aware of "how many" people show up to work. So even if you can only be there for a very short time, show up, sign in, do a little work and go on to you other commitments. **JUST BE THERE RAIN OR SHINE!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Darrell Watts

HOW'S YOUR NICADS?...

The Nicad batteries that we use in our Transmitters and Aircraft wear out with time. If you have a battery pack that is more than 3 years old you should be keeping a close check on it by cycling every month.

If it is 5 years old or older you should replace it and be sure to properly dispose of the old cells. So - how do we tell the age of our batteries? Most Futaba battery packs and individual Sanyo battery cells have a 2 letter date code stamped somewhere on the pack or cell.

The first letter of the code is the year of manufacture.

1996 = "A"
1997 = "B"
1998 = "C"
1999 = "D"

2000 = "E"

2001 = "F"

2002 = "G"

2003 = "H"

2004 = "I", etc....

And the second letter is the month of manufacture.

January....."A"

February "B"

March "C", etc..

So - if you have a battery or pack with a date code of "CB" it was manufactured in February of 1998 - probably still OK but keep a close check on it. The pack in my 8UAF transmitter was "ZF" or June of 1995 so I replaced it. I found one pack with a date code

of "WC" which translates to 1992 - replace that one without question.

FROM THE EDITOR...

Welcome to the April Issue of the Skywriter. Toledo is here at last! And the start of the 2002 flying season. Al McGee is taking orders for Morgan Fuel orders must be placed by 4-10-02 call today! (see page 7).

Our "Bald Mountain Involvement Day" is this month, please try and come out, this greatly improves our standing with the DNR which helps us secure our flying field. Be sure and sign in so we can get an accurate count

of volunteers.

Check for messages on the back cover concerning membership and the 2002 gate combination. (May Issue)

Mark & Liz
masmith248@earthlink.net

SKYMASTER'S SWAP MEET... Photos by Dan Devine

By: Joe Finkelstine

Hi All, Well, the 2002 Skymasters swap meet went off smooth this year. Including the Kitchen revenues, the swap meet netted the club \$758. While this is not a large amount compared to like what the Toledo club makes, it is what we hope to do. For those of you new to the club, I would like to you to understand that we chose a different path for our swap meet some years ago. Traditionally, most swap meets have many tables taken up by retail hobby dealers and individual dealers. Our policy of not taking table reservations coupled to only one table per person, effectively keeps most dealers out of our swap meet. Most dealers need several tables to show and sell their stuff, and

our policy with tables makes for a financially unviable show for them. This policy was not set to exclude dealers, but was set to encourage a unique show that is modeler-to-modeler in its makeup. It is easy to recognize this by, as Pete Waters is fond of saying, all the junk that is for sale at our swap meet. A swap meet with Dealers will have a much higher percentage of neat and new stuff for sale. Each year someone always approaches me about expanding the swap meet to generate more income, etc. There are both pluses and minuses in this approach, and each year, like this one, I cop-out and say that if you feel strongly one way or another, talk to your BOD. That's what you elected them for.

There are many people for me to thank, and the first ones that come to mind are Bill Dezur, Greg Cardillo,

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A Couple of raffle tickets salesmen use "High pressure" Tactics on the crowd.



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and Gary Walling. These three helped me out considerably and I would like to thank them. Also deserving of thanks is just about everyone else in the club who pitched in for various shifts on the kitchen, raffle, etc. Thanks all; I think it is very obvious that without the entire club effort to pull this off, our swap meet would disappear.

On a personal note, I continued to sell off a bunch of stuff to make room for the big WWII ships I am working on, and I did quite well this time. I have always approached selling at a swap meet by applying very good prices and having at least two boxes of junk. The junk boxes attract everybody, because each and every one of us always is looking for that special part, etc. to finish a project, or just is looking for treasure. I would strongly advise that you always have a junk box at every swap meet you attend as a seller! – My pricing policy has always been that I would rather walk away with \$100 in my pocket, than take home a ship that I could hold onto for another 3 years, trying to get \$135 for. I can use the \$100 now. Some may argue that I am leaving a bunch of money on the table, but I would argue that I am selling at realistic prices that the market will bear. Sometimes we forget that for something we are selling, its value is determined by what someone is willing to pay, not what you paid for it! – Perhaps if you walk away from a swap meet with all of the stuff you brought, next time think about how you price. If you absolutely cannot lower your prices and you really want to sell, then I would suggest that you consider not selling that item in a swap meet, but perhaps try Ebay, or some other venue. This argument does not apply if you just like to dicker or haggle as a seller, and don't really care if you sell your wares. Believe it or not, we have several sellers like that at our swap meet. This is also a social event, so I like the fact that all types of buyers and sellers can meet on common ground.

Once again, thank you all for the help and commitment you continue to show each year. Our swap meet, like our float fly is well known. I'll see you all next year when I go begging for help again!

Joe Finkelstine

Larson Meeting 03/13/02

Visitors / New members:

- Neil Kieser, Skymasters previous member, currently a member of the Flying Pilgrims.
- Bob Sekara, Skymasters previous member. Currently flying a Tiger Trainer.
- Bill Eubanks, full-scale pilot, returning to the hobby with his son.

Swap Shop Update:

Although attendance was down a little from previous years, the Swap Shop was a nice social event and financially rewarding for our club. Thanks to Joe Finkelstine for coordinating the event and Bill Dezur for running the kitchen.

Guest Speaker:

Todd Hackbarth is an aviation historian and volunteer for the Yankee Airforce Museum. Todd was introduced by Darrell and gave a nice overview and history of the Yankee Airforce Museum, which was founded in 1981. The Yankee Airforce Museum is located at the Willow Run Airport which was the site of the Ford Motor Company plant which produced B-24 Liberator Bombers for WWII.

The original and long-term goal of the Yankee Airforce Museum is to acquire a flying example of a B-24 built at Willow Run. That is a formidable challenge because of the 8,685 B-24's built by Ford, only 4 remain in the entire world. Another 8700 Liberators were built by other companies and from the total only 12 remain and of those only 2 still fly. The country of India as late as the early 1970's used a Liberator for coastal patrols.

Although the Yankee Airforce Museum was unable to fulfill its original goal of obtaining a B-24, it has had renowned success in obtaining and restoring other notable large aircraft of WWII. These include a C-47, a B-17 and a current project, a B-25. The restoration and up-keep of these planes requires serious funds and untold volunteer hours. The B-17 alone costs \$2000 per hour to operate. Most of that goes for fuel as the four engines team up to burn 225 gallons an hour. These costs are offset by selling rides for \$400 each.

In addition to the flying aircraft, the museum

also has a wide range of static jets on lone from the U.S. Airforce including a B-52. The Museum itself has nine rooms of military artifacts from WWI and WWII through today's more modern equipment.

Find out more by visiting the Yankee Airforce Museum at www.yankeeairmuseum.org.

Show and Tell:

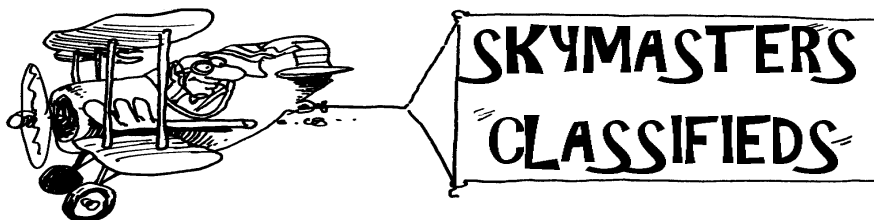
- Wade Wiley showed a Hanger 9 Cub, which he converted to electric power. It has a speed 700 motor, 13 cells pumping 34 amps and weighs 9 pounds.
- Tom Dixon brought in an Ace Alpha, covered with Econocoat, powered by a Thunder Tiger engine and tips the scales at 28 ounces.
- Pete Foss showed his Radical RC Edge 540 park flier. It weighs 12 ounces. The profile fuselage is constructed of balsa ply.
- Joe and Chris Hass displayed a Wattage Hawk small electric sport flier. It has a speed 380 motor and retails for \$60. It will be a future kit review article.
- Joe and Chris also brought in a Viper Twin electric. It uses 2 speed 400 motors and a new foam called R-Foam strengthened with carbon-fiber spars. It retails for \$150 complete and Joe claims that it is a great flier.

Final Business:

Greg Cardillo reviewed the events schedule and highlighted Bald Mountain Involvement Day, Saturday, April 20. This is the one day each year that we donate our services to the park as a way to keep up the great relationship we enjoy with the State Park. Volunteers are encouraged to start at 9:00 AM. See the *Skywriter* for other events and dates.

Sound discussion – Darrell reiterated the efforts that the club will try to take on this year as a way to keep our sound in check and maintain good relations with the existing and new neighbors. Nothing in our rules will change but the club will be enforcing the existing ones. Our general membership meeting on April 24 will include a discussion on sound control by experienced members of our club.

Meeting moved to adjourn.



- **WANTED:** Pica 1/5 scale Spitfire model. Someone was selling a partially built model at the February swap meet. If it has not sold yet I would like to buy it. Call Pete at 248 542 6162.
- **WANTED:** Your classified ad here for free!

INSTRUCTORS MEETING

THERE WILL BE AN INSTRUCTORS MEETING AT THE MAY 8 MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. RON WILL BE REVIEWING NEW PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL INSTRUCTORS. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING

New members Did you Know?

You can get a discount at local hobby shops with your Skymasters pilots card? Just present your card before they ring up your sale.



VOLENTTEER CORNER

- **CREW LEADERS NEEDED:** FOR BALD MOUNTAIN INVOLVEMENT DAY. CONTACT MARK SMITH
 - **KITCHEN HELP NEEDED:** FOR JULY FUN-FLY. CONTACT MARK SMITH
- HELP YOUR CLUB VOLENTTEER TODAY!

SKYMASTERS 2002 EVENT SCHEDULE

February 27 (Wednesday)	Swap Shop - Larson Middle School, Troy. AMA. Our annual event to buy and sell R/C equipment. Just getting started, or want to clean out (or fill up) your basement, fun for all. Rent a table and sell, sell, sell. Joe Finklestine (248) 375-0530
April 20 (Saturday!)	Bald Mountain Involvement Day - Bald Mountain Park Headquarters. A great start to Spring. Come out and volunteer to help our park prepare for the summer season. There are light jobs, heavy jobs and everything in between. We need <i>all</i> members out for this event! Mark Smith (248) 391-5970
May 18	Chet Brady Memorial Float Fly - Seven Lakes State Park, Holly. AMA. Our first Float Fly Event of the year. It adds a whole new dimension when flying from water - it's also great to watch. Flying starts at 9:30 AM. Pete Foss (248) 652-8756
May 19	Bald Mountain Float Fly - Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Trout Lake. AMA. The beach will be closed, and R/C float planes will take the place of swimmers. Another fun day at a great float plane site. <i>The Scripps Road Field will be closed for this event.</i> Ross Jones (248) 738-4435
June 2	Kids' Day - Scripps Road Field. Come and try R/C flying. Trainer aircraft and instructors will be available to guide "kids of all ages" through a short flight of a real R/C aircraft. Gary Weeks (248) 540-8358
June 8 (Saturday!)	Small Fry, Electric, and Sailplane - Scripps Road Field. AMA. Second great year for this event! 2 cycle engines to .25, 4 cycle to .30 (tow planes excluded), any size Electric or Glider. High Start, Power Pod, or Tow for Gliders. Pete Foss (248) 652-8756
July 14	Team Fun Fly - Scripps Road Field. Lots of exciting flying events, lots of fun, and even some trophies. There will also be a airplane raffle. Need a teammate, we'll find you one! Mark Smith (248) 391-5970
July 27 (Saturday!)	Harold 'Big H' Maseles 4 Stroke and Majestic Flyers - Scripps Road Field. AMA. Anything with a four stroke or a majestic flyer - old timers, slow biplanes. Come and hear the fantastic sound of these miniature four stroke engines. Bill Leppard (248) 693-2415
August 11	Warbirds and Scale - Scripps Road Field. AMA. From P51's to Tiger Moths, Cessnas to Tomcats. There should be lots of variety in the air and on the ground. Joe Finklestine (248) 375-0530
August 25	Corn Roast and Top Gun - Scripps Road Field. This is the club event of the year with our annual 'Top Gun' pilot competition. A field full of aircraft and some great flying - a great day out for all club members, their families, and our neighbors. Darrell Watts (248) 391-4677
September 7-8	Midwest Regional Float Fly - Island Lake State Park, Brighton. AMA. This is the big one! Float flyers from all over the Midwest bring all sizes, shapes, and color of aircraft imaginable and fly them for two days solid. A blast! Flying starts at 9:30 AM both days! Greg Cardillo
December 31 (Tuesday!)	Krazy Snow Fly - Scripps Road Field. Come and give your planes and winter clothes an outing. There's plenty of hot food and drinks, a fire, and some 'cool' flying. The more snow, the better! Paul Zabawa (810) 678-3332

Event Flying starts at 10 AM unless noted. Noise Limit of **94 dB at 10 feet** for all Bald Mountain Events
All State Park Events require daily or annual State Park Motor Vehicle Permit (available at events).

Skymasters Events...

- Monday, April 1 9:00 AM Skymasters Retiree's and Want'a Be's Breakfast. New location this year - Rams Horn Restaurant - Northeast corner Crooks & M-59
- Friday - Saturday - Sunday - April 5-6-7 Toledo Show. Get in a car pool and have a great time!
- Saturday, April 6 9:00 PM Indoor Dome flying "Oakland Yard" 5328 Highland Rd. Spectators \$1.00
- Wednesday, April 10 7:30 PM Skymasters Meeting. BOYS & GIRLS CLUB of Troy
National Weather service - Steve Considine
- Monday, April 15 9:00 AM Skymasters Retiree's and Want'a Be's Breakfast. New location this year - Rams Horn Restaurant - Northeast corner Crooks & M-59
- Saturday, April 20 9:00AM - ? Bald Mountain Involvement day! Come out to support your club.
- Saturday, April 20 9:00 PM Indoor Dome flying "Oakland Yard" 5328 Highland Rd. Spectators \$1.00
- Wednesday, April 24 7:30 PM Skymasters Meeting. Larson Middle School Panel on Sound at the field.



SKYMASTERS APRIL 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 RETIREE BREAKFAST	2	3 BOARD MEETING	4	5 TOLEDO	6 TOLEDO Dome Flying
7 TOLEDO	8	9	10 MEETING B&G CLUB	11	12	13
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME						
14	15 RETIREE BREAKFAST	16	17	18	19	20 BALD MOUNTIAN INVOLVEMENT DAY / DOME FLY
21	22	23	24 MEETING LARSON	25	26	27
28	29	30				



BALD MOUNTAIN INVOLVEMENT DAY

COME ON OUT AND DO A LITTLE
SOMETHING FOR YOUR CLUB!



JOBS FOR EVERYONE YOUNG AND
NOT SO YOUNG!

★ **FREE LUNCH** ★



FAMILY GIFT CERTIFICATE
FOR PARTICIPANTS!

"BALD MOUNTAIN STATE PARK HEADQUARTERS"
GREENSHIELD ROAD - EAST OFF LAPEER



APRIL 20 STARTING AT 9:00 AM



SKYMASTERS SPRING FUEL SALE...

10%.....	COOL POWER.....	\$10.00 ...	BULK
15%.....	COOL POWER.....	\$11.00 ...	BULK IF ORDERS PERMIT
15%.....	COOL OR OMEGA.....	\$12.00 ...	FACTORY PACK
25%.....	COOL OR OMEGA.....	\$15.00 ...	FACTORY PACK
15%.....	HELI FUEL.....	\$12.00 ...	FACTORY PACK
30%.....	HELI FUEL.....	\$18.50 ...	FACTORY PACK
FAI.....	COOL OR OMEGA.....	\$8.50 ...	FACTORY PACK
5%.....	COOL OR OMEGA.....	\$9.50 ...	FACTORY PACK
4 CYCLE.....	COOL OR OMEGA - 15%.....	\$12.00 ...	FACTORY PACK

CONTACT: AL McGEE TO ORDER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

248-589-0283

ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY APRIL 10, 2002



Skymasters Radio Control Club of Michigan

Mark Smith
1955 Hopefield
Lake Orion, MI 48359

Web site: www.skymasters.org
Email: skymasters@geocities.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 1.....Retiree's Breakfast
APRIL 5-6-7...TOLEDO SHOW
APRIL 10.....Meeting B&G CLUB of Troy
APRIL 15.....Retiree's Breakfast
APRIL 20.....Bald Mountain Involvement
APRIL 24.....Meeting at Larson
MAY 1.....Board Meeting
MAY 8.....Meeting at Larson

Skymasters Information.....

Skymaster's 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!

