



# SkyWriter

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

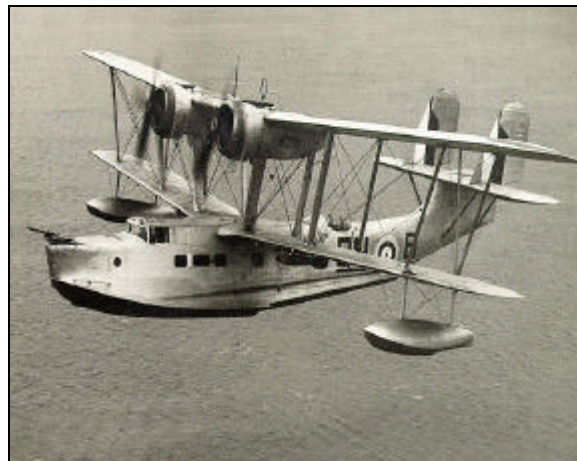
September is Here Already and the Big Float Fly is on Top of Us!

The "Corn Roast - Family Picnic" is behind us. We had perfect weather, great roasted corn (thanks to Chef Gary [as in Weaks]), an exciting Top Gun contest, lots of prizes and even a Good Humor ice cream truck. 118 club members and guests turned out to enjoy the festivities. See the article inside for more on the Corn Roast.

The main reason you are receiving this newsletter this early in the month is to ask for your immediate action for the September 7-8 Midwest Regional Float Fly.

#1 - We still need volunteers to help. We need kitchen servers Sunday morning --- raffle ticket sales Saturday afternoon and people to fill in names and phone

numbers on raffle tickets both days ---retrieval boat operators and assistants both days (adults only please) --- transmitter impound workers both days. Please call me immediately if you can fill any of these positions! (Darrell



248-391-4677)  
#2 - Saturday evening we have a very nice "western style" cookout with grilled chicken and all of the fixin's. Even if you can't be there to work or fly try to get by early enough on Saturday to see a

little bit of all of the amazing float planes and then stay for the dinner. The tickets are \$12/adult but you must make reservations in advance so we know how much food to order. CALL GARY (248-540-8358) BY 8 pm WEDNESDAY (9/4)

### TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION!

Once you call we guarantee your place with the caterer so you owe the club money whether you show up or not. Okay.

Club meetings start up this month. For you new members, remember they are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at Larson Middle School ( on Long Lake east of John R.).

A very short presidents letter this month. *Okay, don't everyone stand and applaud at once.*

See you at the Float Fly!!!



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 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	586-977-1404
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.

## TEACHING OPPORTUNITY!!

L a k e  
O r i o n  
S c h o o l s  
have con-  
tacted us  
about run-



ning another aero modeling class. They are opening a new middle school on Lake George road and Harold Reuter who has for 10 years done most of these classes is stretched too thin to take on another one.

The classes can be either one or two days a week depending on the time you have available. They start right after school (about 2:35 pm) and end at about 4:15 pm.

You need to be able to work with kids but the aero modeling part of it is really pretty easy. Harold has an class outline that he has used for years.

Please consider this opportunity to help the kids and spread the work on model airplanes.

Call me (248-391-4677 or email me at janeandjd@msn.com.).

Darrell Watts

## 1<sup>st</sup> Static Display Canterbury Village September 21-22

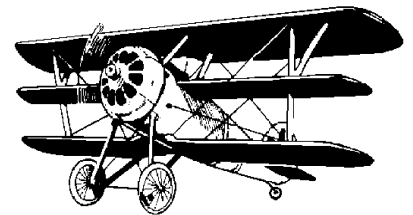


At a brief business meeting during the Corn Roast the members present voted to participate in two static display events. The first one is at Canterbury Village during their October Fest (yes I know the event is being held in September). We will want to have a really colorful and large display. Several of the members present at the Corn Roast signed up to bring planes. If you were not there but are willing to participate either call or email me (248-391-4677 – janeandjd@msn.com). I anticipate the hours will be from 1 to 6 pm each day.

The “October Fest” is one of their biggest traffic events. This will be a great way to expose our hobby and our club to a lot of people.

We will discuss this further at the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Static Display “Barn Days” at Friendship Park October 12



This display will be from 1-5 pm on Saturday only. Again we will discuss this one at the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and in the next newsletter. Again you can call or email me if you haven't already signed up to participate.

**Thanks for your support on these PR activities.  
It truly is an excellent way to build our image  
in the community.**

## FROM THE EDITOR...

Welcome to the September issue of the Skywriter. Wow August was a busy month. Fish Fry, War birds & Scale, Corn Roast, I had so many great pictures I had to print 10 pages this month! (Thanks Dan) You can see the pictures in color on our web site.

We have a lot more events coming up in September, “The Midwest Regional Float Fly” one of largest Float fly's in the Country. We need your help to keep it running smooth. Contact Darrell if you can help out, he needs help for Friday setup thru Sunday. This is a great way to pay

back the club for all the fun has given you! The meetings start up Sept. 11 with a review of the Survey taken in the spring and a review of the Float fly. We also have a static display at Canterbury Village Sept. 21-22.

Mark & Liz  
masmith248@earthlink.net

# "WARBIRDS & SCALE 2002" ...

BY: JOE FINKELSTINE

Hi All, well by now, all the dust has settled on another successful and fun Warbirds and scale event. I counted the following stats for our meet: 29 registered pilots, 52 ships on the flight line (at least when I took a quick count), and only a few crashes. I have been running this event for a few years now and it continues to be one of our best attended events as almost every member has at least one scale civy or military ship. I now have 5 Warbirds in various states of completion and I hope to have few ready for next year's event. It is safe to say that all were amazed at the "half-time" show put on by Gene Payson and his 42% Von Extra 260. This ship was on full 3D maneuvers for 15 minutes, it was awesome. Those of you who saw it got a glimpse of what the top caliber ships and their pilots go to battle with at T.O.C. and similar events. Give me ~ \$7000 and away I go! – If you want to read about Gene's magnificent ships go to [www.troybuiltmodels.com](http://www.troybuiltmodels.com) and have a look.

I want to give special thanks to Ross Jones my co-event director for his kitchen work, and as always smiling Laura Devine and family who continue to feed us.

Gene Payson won the best Civilian category (what a

*(Continued on page 4)*

PHOTOS BY: DAN DEVINE



The Warbird & Scale gang



Joe Finkelstine



Mike Katalinich



Mike Jones



Ross Jones

# "SCALE & WARBIRDS" ...



Vince Pettke



Greg Brausa



Bill Leppard



Tommy Dickson

(Continued from page 3)

surprise after that demo), and Gary Weaks won with his impeccable Wildcat (sorry Ross, but your P-51 continues to lose by one vote each year - I even voted for you to help ya win!).

I wanted to give away prizes this year that encouraged people to build and plan out a scale ship on their own. The best solution I could come up with was to provide scale plans from a good designer and let the winners take it from there. Roy Vallencourt graciously supplied 7 of his 8 plans to me within my \$150 budget and I had the enjoyable time of giving away all 7 sets, including the Hawker Hurricane set to myself! (I actually signed up as a pilot for the first time in hopes of winning one of his plan sets) - I just have to remember to give Ross his \$20 for picking my number.

His continues to be a popular event and I hope all enjoyed it, even if we did have a few crashes (and one near one!) -see you all next year with a new set of wings

~ Joe



Steve Fredericks



Bob Bloecker



Darrell Watts



Ross Hardy



Gary Weaks

**"THE FRYING OF THE FISH 2002" ... BY: BOB BURNS**

Another fish fry has come and gone. What a glorious day we had. The weather was perfect. The food fantastic and you people a great. This is a truly super club effort and a total family outing. We want to thank everyone for donating to the fish fund. We met all the bills and cooked 55 pounds of fish. Thanks to the ladies and the gentlemen that brought dishes for the buffet, it was super this year, we had 80 plus people.

Thanks to Joe Hoss for bringing the great Wall-eye fillets, thanks to Al and Steve for bringing the easy up sun shelters and thanks to Steve for the fry cooker. A special thanks to all the cooks, I am sure everyone will agree, that they were great enough to be hired at a 5 star restaurant. And a big thanks to all those who help clean up after wards, you made a hard job easy. If you missed the fish fry this year, come next year, we not only fry the fish we Cajun, grill and bake it too. Thanks to everyone, for without you and all your efforts this fish fry wouldn't be the success it is.

~Bob and Donna



OUR MASTER CHEFS AT WORK - EVERYBODY'S HAPPY!



**Float Flying at Stony Creek...**



The Skymasters and the Fraser Flying Clubs have joined forces to promote float flying at Stony Creek every Wednesday starting in May by providing the funding for renting the retrieval boat. We will be flying from 9am until Noon. We will be flying unless it is very windy or raining. After entering the park follow the signs toward the boat launch and golf course. Winter Cove is on the right after you pass the golf course. Stony Creek is north on Van Dyke M-53 to 26 mile road and then west on 26 Mile to the park entrance. There is a \$2.00 daily park fee or annual metro park passes are available.

*"Get your floats on and join us at Winter Cove every Wednesday."*

If you need additional information please contact:

**Jim Held at 248-641-9724 or email at [aheld19659@aol.com](mailto:aheld19659@aol.com).**



# AREA EVENTS...

AMRCC CONTEST SCHEDULE

- SEPTEMBER 1.....ROMEO..... "PEACH FESTIVAL AIR SHOW" .....BILL MULLALY 810-798-8701
- SEPTEMBER 4.....SKYMASTERS.....BOARD MEETING.....DARRELL WATTS 248-391-4677
- SEPTEMBER 7-8..... "MID-WEST REGIONAL FLOAT FLY" .....GREG CARDILLO 248-980-2812
- SEPTEMBER 7-8..... MIDWEST R/C.....AIR SHOW.....HOWARD KENDALL 248-437-5405
- SEPTEMBER 8.....MICHIGAN WHIRLYBIRDS.....HELI FUN FLY.....CARL JONES 810-367-6759
- SEPTEMBER 11.....SKYMASTERS.....LARSON MEETING.....TALK - SURVEY & FLOAT-FLY
- SEPTEMBER 14.....CHESANING.....FUN SCALE.....ROBERT MUNSEL 989-624-5956
- SEPTEMBER 21-22.....RCCD.....SCALE & OPEN COMBAT.....DON VERES 810-778-7362
- SEPTEMBER 21-22.....SIGNAL SEEKERS.....QUICKEE 500 PLYON.....BOB KANE 734-281-8514
- SEPTEMBER 25.....SKYMASTERS.....LARSON MEETING....KIT REVIEW-BUILDING-COVERING
- SEPTEMBER 28.....GDSHS.....SAILPLANE.....ADDISON OAKS.....ART SLAGLE 248-477-2228



## SKYMASTERS SEPTEMBER 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 ROMEO AIR SHOW	2 LABOR DAY	3	4 BOARD MEETING	5	6	7 MID-WEST FLOAT FLY
8 MID-WEST FLOAT FLY	9	10	11 SKYMASTER LARSON MEETING	12	13	14 CHESANING FUN SCALE
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 RCCD SIGNAL SEEKERS
22 RCCD SIGNAL SEEKERS	23	24	25 SKYMASTER LARSON MEETING	26	27	28
29	30					



# PROP WASH...

by: Joe Finkelstine

## "A most dangerous time"

Hi All, As you read this, the "summer" flying season at the field will be almost over and we will have a few (perhaps several) newly signed off pilots in the club. If you are newly signed off, this is the most dangerous time for you. Let me explain.

At this point in your flying career, it is analogous to when you just got your driver's license. You know enough to take controls, but experience and instinct are still immature. I have seen more ships lost in the 6-12 months following a sign off than any other time. I am not sure if this is an ego thing, or whatever, but I have seen it over my 10 years in the club with regularity.

Let me provide a few suggestions to help out at this point if you find your pilot card still new and shiny.

1) Burn several tanks of gas practicing just approaches to landing

2) Burn several tanks of gas practicing approaches with full stop landings

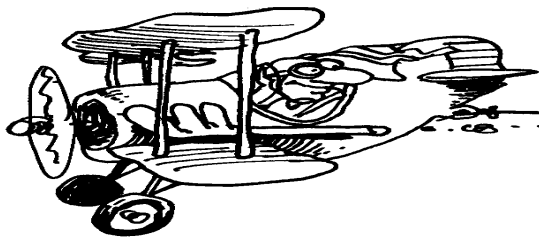
3) Burn several tanks of gas with unusual attitude recovery

For most pilots, knee-knocking time still occurs during landing. I still see veteran pilots get a little more nervous, and all of us screw up a landing or two with regularity. One of the differences though is that as you gain more experience, you are able to interpret and respond sooner when you need to take corrective action. As you become more comfortable landing, you will instinctually know your ships power off glide, how much flare, altitude to begin, etc. Equally important, you will be able to get the ship into correct landing configuration (speed, al-

titude, trim, etc.) sooner. I can find no substitute here other than lots and lots of landing practice. I went through 2-3 gallons of fuel with my trainer after sign off (8 ounces at a time on an Eagle II). I was comfortable (and sick of it!) after those three gallons, but I was considerably less nervous and turned my attention to having fun in the sky and not concerning myself with bringing the ship down. It is difficult for me to over-emphasize to all of you who are still a bit nervous on landing the value of just shooting landings all day on several tanks of gas can do to help you out. It is still O.K. to have a buddy box and an instructor help you out (By the way, only an instructor can be at the other end of a buddy box at our field)

My next suggestion of unusual attitude recovery is also to help you gain confidence in handling of your ship. I would first suggest that you get on a buddy box and get 3-4 mistakes high. At this point have your instructor get the ship in all kinds of po-

*(Continued on page 9)*



## SKYMASTERS CLASSIFIEDS

- FOR SALE: Hanger 9 electric Aspire sailplane. NIB, \$100.00. Jack Goodrich, daytime, 1-586-268-1546. Thanks
- FOR SALE: Co-Pilot device, new, \$90.00, Jack Goodrich, days 1-586-268-1546. Thanks

### FOR SALE: GIANT SCALE KITS

1. Great Planes - GIANT EXTRA 330L - Wing Span 100.5" - NIB - \$250.00
2. Top Flight - P51D MUSTANG - Gold Edition - Wing Span 84.5" - NIB - \$175.00

Vince Pettke 248-852-1625 / rc\_mom@yahoo.com

# "CORN ROAST & FAMILY PICNIC 2002" ...

WOW what a great day – perfect weather, flying, free food, prizes and lots of visiting. As I said in my opening letter 118 members and guests joined in on all of the activities.

Many people pitched in to get ready by putting up and taking down tents, moving tables, building a fire pit, helping serve, etc. A special thanks goes to Gary and Phyllis and my wife Jane for putting the food together.



## Lots of activities:

First the food...at noon Gary had the corn ready plus we had grilled mesquite chicken, hot-



dogs, potato salad, chips, and tow kinds of delicious cake. A little after 12:30 the Good Humor truck (as pre-arranged) and the kids got their choice of ice cream treats.

At 1:00 things got serious when Gary Weeks ran the "TOP GUN" competition. 10 pilots competed for the title. Only 6

total points separated 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> places...Joe Finkeltine was 4<sup>th</sup>, Ross Hardy was 3<sup>rd</sup> and Joe Hass was 2<sup>nd</sup>. Your TOP GUN for 2002 is Gene Payson. Gene did a beautiful routine with his 42% scale Extra 260.



(By the way, this airplane has a 16.5hp Dessert Aviation 150 and Db's at just under 90Db – wow.)

At 1:45 we had our "Air Show." Greg Cardillo and Pete Foss did some formation flying



with Joey and Ronnie Pettke's 40 size F-18 Hornets. Then Gene did a reprise with some more spectacular flying with his Extra. I have to tell you I thought I had convinced last year's TOP GUN (Gary Weeks) to show them how it is done but he came up with some excuse about not having the right airplane for his

low and slow routine --- oh well maybe next year Gary.



Shortly after 2 we had our prize drawings. (I apologize in advance, in the clean up I misplaced the list of winners so I'm doing this from memory and I can't think of a couple of names – sorry.) In the youth group Joey Pettke won a Tamiya tank kit. In the pilot category a gallon of fuel was won by Joe Hass, Jim Held, Vince Pettke



plus one more person. Greg Brausa won the Balsa USA Northstar. Among the ladies,



(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)



Mary Ellen Harris won a wine, bread and cheese basket from Canterbury Village. \$25 gift certificates from Dick Clark's

American Bandstand Grille, Alcatraz Micro Brewery, and Bolo-  
nia's Italian restaurant at Can-  
terbury village were won by,



PHOTOS BY: DAN DEVINE

Rosa Payson, Danielle Devine, Diane Reason, Murlene Nelson, Deloris Reuter, Marion Middleton, Linda Wood & two additional ladies (again I apologize for not remembering your names).

Everyone seemed to have a great time --- if you missed this one you missed a good one!

## PROP WASH...

(Continued from page 7)

sitions (inverted, spins, etc.) and your job is to get the ship back to straight and level flight. Try this for at least a gallon of fuel with progressively more challenging attempts to get the ship recovered. If you will do this, I can guarantee you will feel much more comfortable with any plane you fly, as recovery will move into the instinctual mode for you rather than hoping you have enough time to think about a response. I had to reply 100% on instinct at our scale meet when the ship I was flying had intermittent radio failure, There was no time to process input commands. This skill can be learned by all of you, and all it takes is lots of practice.

I once read a comment from a fellow flyer to a beginner who asked how to become a good pilot, and the response still resonates with me today. The instructions to becoming a good pilot are written at the bottom of a 55-gallon drum of fuel.

Finally, it is more than O.K. to continue to ask a flight instructor for help even though you are signed off. In fact it shows good judgment.

Hope you leave the field with the same number of pieces you brought.

~ Joe



**SKYMASTERS  
RADIO CONTROL  
CLUB OF MICHIGAN**

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

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

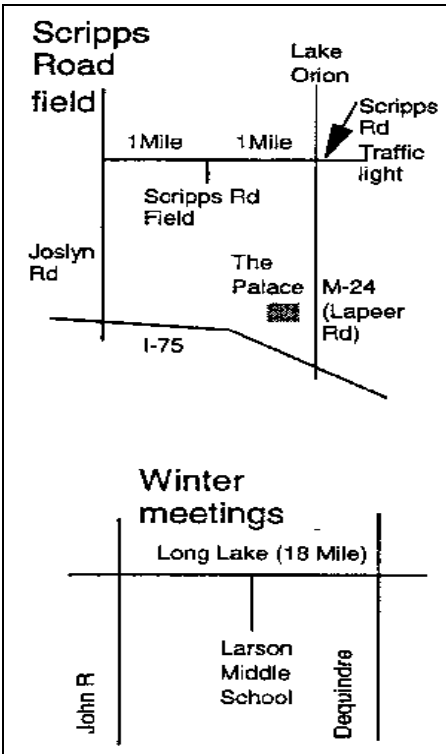
## UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 1.....ROMEO
  - SEPTEMBER 4.....BOARD MEETING
  - SEPTEMBER 7-8.....REGIONAL FLOAT FLY
  - SEPTEMBER 7-8.....MIDWEST R/C SHOW
  - SEPTEMBER 8.....MICHIGAN WHIRLYBIRDS
  - SEPTEMBER 11.....SKYMASTERS MEETING
  - SEPTEMBER 14.....CHESANING
  - SEPTEMBER 21-22.....RCCD
  - SEPTEMBER 21-22.....SIGNAL SEEKERS
  - SEPTEMBER 25.....SKYMASTERS MEETING
  - SEPTEMBER 28.....GDSHS
- SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE INFORMATION

# 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!