



Sky Writer

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Happy Holidays -

It is unbelievable but the holiday season is upon us again!!!

We still have two events left in 2002. The Christmas Party on December 11th and the Crazy Snow Fly on December 31st.

The Christmas Party is a great time to get the families together and get to know one another better. There will be door prizes for the ladies; a drawing for some kits and accessories for the pilots who bring a plane to display and Santa will be there with gifts for the children who are twelve years old and younger. Bob Burns volunteered and now Donna is doing much of the work to put together the potluck dinner. For details read the letter/article from Donna and Bob in this newsletter. I would make special note of the time - because it is a school night and to have dinner an earlier hour the party will start at 6:30 pm. Again - **set up display planes and social hour - 6:30 pm; dinner begins promptly at 7:30 pm.**

Paul Zabawa is the event director for the Crazy Snow Fly. The event takes place regardless of

weather. If the weather is - in the wildest stretch of the imagination - flyable, many brave souls fly their planes. Everyone in attendance enjoys the bonfire, chili, coffee, hot chocolate and cookies. (It is my understanding that Steve Fredericks

every weekend this winter call or email Dan and he will notify you as to whether the designated day will be Saturday or Sunday, depending on the weather forecast.

I want thank all of you for your support in 2002. We have faced some controversial issues and reached responsible consensus decisions. You gave the board statistically valid positions when almost 70% of you responded to our Membership Survey. Probably the most controversial issue was the sound control issue. By your surveys you overwhelmingly indicated that we should leave the Db limit where it is for now and at some point in the future, as technology permits, we should then consider whether or not we should make it more stringent.

All of you were informed in the two issues of this newsletter preceding the Nov. 13 meeting that we would decide on a future dues structure at that meeting. The meeting was well attended and we had a good discussion of the club's needs and financial position. Those present voted overwhelmingly (in fact it may have been unanimous) to

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has passed his secret chili recipe on to Paul.)

By the way, Dan Devine, who is spearheading the cold weather flying this year, has closed off three sides of the shelter with plywood so we can get in out of the wind. (That will be handy for the Snow Fly.) If you are interested in flying virtually



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 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
Membership:	John Billinger	943 Vanderpool	Troy	48083	248-680-3318

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raise the initiation fee to \$30 and the annual dues to \$70. The increases are to be held in a special account for the development of any future fields. This was the first dues increase in about 10 or 12 years and should put our club in good stead for several years to come.

The club had a successful year of events. The Swap Meet and the fall Float Fly were profitable and most of the flying events were well attended. The Bald Mountain Involvement Day attendance was down slightly. This is one that we really need strong support on - it does build huge goodwill for us in all of our dealings with the DNR. Finally, we conducted four PR events in Lake Orion Township and this has helped us a great deal in building a more familiar and positive relationship with the Township.

When Jane suggested that I volunteer for the position of President we thought it would only be for five or six months. However with the real estate

market being what it has been we are still here. We kid about this, but obviously without her support I would have been in a lot of trouble several times this year.

I've had a lot of help from many people but I would like to take this opportunity to specially thank the members of the Board. Paul Zabawa, vice president, has worked to keep our field in excellent condition and filled in for me at meetings when I have been out of town. Bob Donohue, treasurer, has worked long hours to get our financial records computerized and at the same time accept the membership applications

and dues and keep the rooster current. Gary Weaks, secretary, keeps detailed minutes of our club and board meetings and has spent a lot of time working on the potential field at Stoney Creek. These are the "elected" positions but then there are the appointed positions. Ron Sokacz, Chief Flight Instructor, has introduced some new procedures and kept our flight school solidly in the position as the best in the area. Mark Smith, Newsletter Editor, has introduced some new formats, lots of pictures and has kept our newsletter crisp, clean and fun to read. Bill Stark, Parks Liaison Officer, has been instrumental in our dealings with the parks, including pushing through our "new lease arrangement" with the park. (He just got back our new lease in mid-November! It is being reviewed by the officers and will be returned to the park manager by the time you are reading this.)

And now for next year...John Billinger has volunteered to serve as our "Membership Chairman" and we thank John for volunteering. All of your renewals and membership questions should go to John.

Last but not least I would like to thank Ross Jones for agreeing to step up to the very responsible position of president of this club for 2003. I'm sure that in his hands this club will continue to be one of the friendliest, most active and most professionally run clubs in the country.

So-o-o-o... to paraphrase, in the spirit of the season. ...above the rooftops, answer the call, fly-a-way, fly-a-way, fly-a-way, all.

~ Darrell

ELF BOWLING

Need a computer game for the kids or grandkids?
(free) Try elf bowling, it is a free download from Nstorm. I can highly recommend this game, it has many surprises. Try it for the holidays at:
www.nstorm.com



Dear Skymasters,

It is with great regret that I must resign from the club. I greatly enjoyed knowing every member I met. I do not feel comfortable solo driving a 50 mile round trip to the field. I will reserve the right to visit the field when the opportunity presents itself. Much luck and Happy Landings to all of you.

Jerry Blumenthal

FROM THE EDITOR...

Welcome to the December issue of the Skywriter. Well my first year as Newsletter Editor is over (Thank God, literally). The next year should be a breeze!

The Christmas party is this month please try to attend it is

always a good time.

Paul Zabawa is heading up the Snow fly this New Year's Eve, so strap on your skis, float, wheels or whatever and head out to the field. You might want to bring your "Tums" for this one!

I would like to take this time to wish you and yours

"The Happiest of Holidays"

Mark & Liz

masmith248@earthlink.net

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

SKYMASTERS FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 11, 2002.

"SOCIAL TIME" STARTS AT 6:30 - DINNER AT 7:30

LARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
LONG LAKE ROAD

Santa is coming on Dec 11 with gifts for the children. The Christmas party is different this year. The board, this year, decided in order to cut costs to save for a "New field fund" and because our Summer Wednesday night potlucks were such a success, that this year we would have a "A CHRISTMAS POTLUCK" We ask that you bring a dish to pass or a dessert. We already have donations of two big trays of Mostaccioli, and a big platter of chicken strips. A sliced ham and rolls, lemonade, pop and coffee. The plates, cups and silverware will be supplied too. Now we know bringing a potluck dish to pass is not always convenient for everyone. The most important thing is for YOU IS TO COME. There have been donations of crafts that will be in drawings for the ladies. If you have any additional crafts you would like to contribute for the drawing, PLEASE, bring them along. The more the fun. Pilots remember to bring a plane to display. Christmas is a time of renewing old friendships and for making new friendships. It's a time of joy of sharing and love. So please come, bring your families and wish everyone:

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS".

Bob and Donna Burns

If you have any questions you can reach Bob or Donna Burns at 248-628-4666 or e-mail us at oldbuzzard@aol.com after December 4th.

PS: If you haven't been to one of our potlucks please come we will do everything we can to make you feel WELCOME.

See you on December the 11th.





JUST FOR LAUGHS...
by: GEORGE DZENZEL

Squawks" are problem listings that pilots generally leave for maintenance crews to fix before the next flight. Here are some squawks submitted by US Air Force pilots and the replies from the maintenance crews.

(P) = Problem (S) = Solution

(P) Left inside main tire almost needs replacement

(S) Almost replaced left inside main tire

(P) Test flight OK, except autoland very rough

(S) Autoland not installed on this aircraft

(P) #2 Propeller seeping prop fluid

(S) #2 Propeller seepage normal - #1 #3 and #4 propellers lack normal seepage

(P) Something loose in cockpit

(S) Something tightened in cockpit

(P) Evidence of leak on right main

landinggear
(S) Evidence removed

(P) DME volume unbelievably loud
(S) Volume set to more believable level

(P) Dead bugs on windshield
(S) Live bugs on order

(P) Autopilot in altitude hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent
(S) Cannot reproduce problem on ground

(P) IFF inoperative
(S) IFF always inoperative in OFF mode (IFF-Identification Friend or Foe)

(P) Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick
(S) That's what they're there for

(P) Number three engine missing
(S) Engine found on right wing after brief search

(P) Aircraft handles funny
(S) Aircraft warned to straighten up, "fly right" and be serious

(P) Target Radar hums
(S) Reprogrammed Target Radar with the lyrics



Membership Renewals for 2003

All membership renewals and membership questions for 2003 should be addressed to:

John Billinger
943 Vanderpool
Troy, MI. 48083

You can phone John at
248-680-3318

or email him at
jbillinger@indus trywriters.com

Remember, if you are renewing by mail you must include a photocopy of your 2003 AMA card.

WINTER FLYERS

WANT TO FLY THIS WINTER? COME OUT AND JOIN US. THE WINTER FLYERS ARE OUT FLYING MOST WEEKENDS, DAN DEVINE WILL BE TAKING OVER THIS YEAR. IF YOU WANT TO BE ON HIS E-MAIL NOTIFICATION LIST SEND DAN AN E-MAIL AND HE WILL SIGN YOU UP!

DAN DEVINE - crossbows15@usol.com

(IF YOU WERE A MEMBER LAST YEAR PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL DAN WILL BE STARTING A NEW LIST THIS YEAR)



AREA EVENTS...

AMRCC CONTEST SCHEDULE

- DECEMBER 11....SKYMASTERS FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY. BOB & DONNA BURNS (pg 3)
- DECEMBER 25.....SKYMASTERS.....NO LARSON MEETING..DARRELL WATTS 248-391-4677
- DECEMBER 25....."MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL SKYMASTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES"
- DECEMBER 31.....KRAZY SNOW FLY.....AT THE FIELD.....PAUL ZABAWA...810-678-3332
- JANUARY 1.....CHESANING SNOW FLY.....JIM HAMILTON 989-770-5176



SKYMASTERS DECEMBER 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Skymasters Christmas Party	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28
29	30	31 Skymasters Krazy Snow fly	1 Chesaning Snow Fly	HAPPY NEW YEAR!		

Skymasters R/C Club 2003 Application For Membership



Information (print clearly)

Last Name: _____

AMA #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Birth Date: _____

Significant Other: _____

New Member () Renewal ()

First Name: _____

Pilot: () Student: ()

Home Phone: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Newsletter: Standard Mail () E-mail ()

Today's Date: _____

Frequencies: _____

Other Family Members Who Fly

Name: _____ AMA #: _____ Pilot () Student ()

Name: _____ AMA #: _____ Pilot () Student ()

Field Rules

- 1) Field hours are 10 AM - 8 PM (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- 2) Noise limit for 2003 is 94 dB at 10 feet.
- 3) All transmitters must be narrow band (Gold Sticker equivalent) excluding 53 mHz.
- 4) All receivers must be AMA approved narrow band (dual conversion or ABC&W) excluding 53 mHz.
- 5) Radio in impound when not in use - Membership card must be placed in slot on frequency board when pin is removed.
- 6) You must not fly behind the flight line.
- 7) AMA Safety Code must be followed.
- 8) All vehicles at field are required to have 2003 State Park Permit.

I have read the above rules and agree to abide by them and all other Skymasters and AMA rules and regulations.

Member's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Club Officer Use:

Date: _____ Dues Paid: CK () CA () AMA Verified _____ *Voted In _____

To renew by mail, send the following:

- 1) Check for \$70* (\$100 after February 28, 2003)
- 2) Photocopy of 2003 AMA Card
- 3) 2002 Skymasters Card
- 4) Self addressed stamped envelope
- 5) Completed & Signed Application
- 6) *New members \$70+\$30 Initiation Fee

Mail To: John Billinger
943 Vanderpool
Troy, MI 48083

Make checks payable to Skymasters

*We are asking **ALL MEMBERS** to fill out an application to help verify our records. Thank You.*



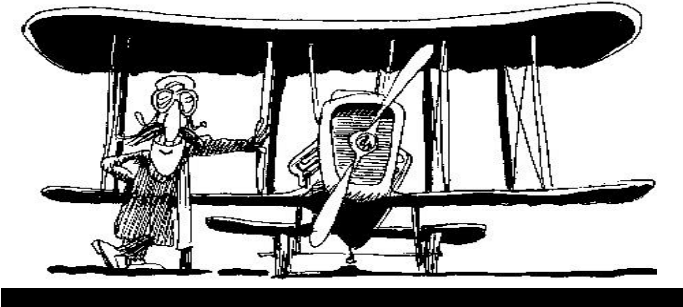
SKYMASTERS RADIO CONTROL CLUB OF MICHIGAN

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DECEMBER 11.....CHRISTMAS PARTY
- DECEMBER 31.....KRAZY SNOW FLY



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!

