



Academy of Model Aeronautics

Chartered Club #970
5 Year Gold Leader

SKYWRITER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

ROSS JONES

First and foremost, I would like to thank the 2002 board and Darrell Watts for the great work they did this year. Darrell has shown me the ropes and pointed me in the right direction, and I feel I have some rather large shoes to fill. It was evident at the Christmas party that Darrell definitely gave his all – right to the very end of his term. The man even sings!!! Other present and former board members have offered their help for the coming year, and I have a good feeling about taking on this new responsibility and towing the line for the club.

While I've never witnessed an election where the candidate didn't campaign with a platform – I've just been voted in! Some of you might be wondering - who did you get as President? Well, I'll tell you... I'm 36 years old, live in Waterford and have been married to Jamie almost 7 years. We have two little girls; Arynne, 4, and Riley, 2. We also have another little girl on the way due in mid-March next year. Jamie shares my interest in aviation from a historical perspective (we go to a

lot of museums), but I have been unable to get her into radio control – she is a great fan of this sport and readily volunteers at our events. My daughters *really* enjoy their fathers' hobby and can do wonderful, even damaging things with a razor

what I'm like as an individual. I am exceptionally approachable and have been told I have a witty, dry sense of humor. I've never been afraid to find the humor in situations. Don't worry – I believe in the long term scenario, and I can be quite serious when I need to be.

Why did I run for the Presidency of Skymasters? Power, fame, prestige? No, it was simply my turn. I've been a member of Skymasters since 1997. My first event with Skymasters was the Bald Mountain Float Fly. K.C. Satchell (A prominent Skymasters member who has since moved away) helped me regain my flying skills that day after many years of dormancy. Over the years it has become apparent that without a **“core group”** of members

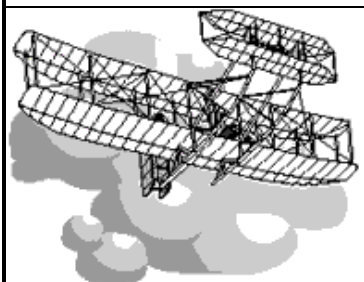
(members like K.C.) – the club simply could not function the way it does. This **“core group”** is present at every club event, meeting, public relations event and really runs the club behind the scenes. I've seen first hand how hard these folks work and as this group is relatively small, the rest of us all owe them

(Continued on page 2)



saw and a block of wood when given the chance... I think at this point for them, it's more about the tools than the aircraft.

I've been a sales professional all my life. I own my own machine tool sales business selling custom made medium and high production rotary transfer machines and related tooling. This will give you a clue as to



100 YEARS OF FLIGHT

2003 Club Officers & Appointees...

President:	Ross Jones	6028 Meadowgreen	Waterford	48327	248-738-4435
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

(Continued from page 1)

some "flight time." Over time, I started running the float fly @ Bald Mountain and assisting with other events but I wanted to do more. I also wanted to inspire others through my example to increase the ranks of this small "**core group**."

This leads into my platform for 2003 – at least, the platform I *would* have campaigned with, given the chance...

VOLUNTEERS. Do you want to know who I think first-class volunteers are? Look at your board. With the exception of myself and some added positions, these are the same folks as 2002! One of my major goals this year is to work people into volunteering more of their time (just a little), and increasing the size of the "**core group**" pool. Bob & Donna Burns are truly devoted, amazing volunteers, capping 2002 at the Christmas party with bushels of free food. This wasn't the first time for them, folks; someone needs to lend a hand next year.

NEW FIELD SEARCH. Darrel Watts, Gary Weaks and others have been spearheading the search for new, additional fields. I totally support their approach and reasoning behind obtaining new fields. I'm also looking for additional ideas for **fundraising** for *when* these projects come to fruition. As we voted in last month, there are dues increases for 2003 that should cover these added costs. There is increasing congestion around our field, and I don't see any changes to this trend. Field encroachment is, unfortunately a nationwide trend, and it isn't going to go away. On a positive note, I strongly believe that it's not

what you know but *who* you know. We have strong **relations** with most of our residential neighbors, the parks (Thank you Bill Stark!) and if we follow our own rules, I foresee no pitfalls. The right people are becoming familiar with us, and I believe that the right kind of familiarity can more readily translate into someone that supports you.

PRESS & NOISE. In the interests of getting more people familiar with us, I plan on getting more press this year at some of our events. Perhaps if we can portray what we are doing as a **sport** more than a **hobby**, we might be perceived differently. The average person thinks that these little airplanes that we fly are the cutest things! When relatives of mine see for the first time a 14x6 APC prop wind up to 9,500rpm, their perceptions change: rather than cute, this airplane becomes seriously cool! Combined with safety and common sense, you have an R/C candidate. The survey results that Darrell compiled last year are in good hands. One of the questions dealt with noise. Like the club, I believe that 94db will work for now. We're all thinking about it – but we need to make sure we are at 94db! More on that later.

Last year, I made a conscious effort to visit as many clubs I could in a visitor capacity. I flew at quite a few events both run under AMA and IMAA (I'm a member of IMAA also). After this experience, I've got to tell you that we have a real good thing here with the Skymasters group. I mean this both with the field quality, the people in our club and the quality of the events that

we run. We have a diverse group and I think the average member is a welcome individual here. We fly what I would call "normal" airplanes here, in a "normal" fashion. Skymasters has a few people that buy \$ 200.00 props and some that don't use props. A lot of the clubs have only one or the other. I personally, like this diverse approach. Now if we could do something about the people that give scale pilots (like myself) grief every time we nose in a Warbird on landing/takeoff/taxi we would really have something!!! No club is perfect after all!

Don't forget the Krazy Snow Fly on December 31st, run by Paul Zabawa! We'll be going over the 2003 Event Schedule soon. If you have an idea for an event, NOW is the time to let the board know. If I don't see you beforehand, I wish you all the happiest of holidays and a very good new year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

~Ross

FOR SALE

KADET LT-40 - BUILT
AND COVERED
OS 46FX
FOCUS 6 RADIO
NEVER FLOWN
ENGINE NEVER
STARTED.
KEN PARTON
810-614-9140
\$300.00

FROM THE EDITOR...

Welcome to the January Issue of the Skywriter. Wow, another year is gone. I tried to remember all the planes I smashed, it's easy to count them they are still in pieces in my garage. That is 3 for me, I hope you had better luck. Maybe this year

will be better, yea right! I'm trying to decide what to work on this winter, but it is usually spring before I do.

The 2003 Application in on page 9. Tear it out & save it. This is the last time it will be in the newsletter. Remember when

you fill it out to please print **clearly**. Some of us fly better than we write!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mark & Liz

masmith248@earthlink.net

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

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

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY...

BY: DARRELL WATTS

...and a Ho-Ho-Ho, Holly, Jolly Time was had by all!

Approximately 100 people turned out for the Skymasters Christmas Party. There was lots of delicious food, many models on display, gifts for all of the ladies, prizes for the pilots who brought planes for display plus at least a bottle of glue for all of the pilots present and Santa had gifts for all of the children 12 and under.

Bob Burns had volunteered and he and Donna organized the potluck dinner. Donna also credited Denise Cardillo and Carolyn Foss with major contributions in getting things together. One of our members had sent major amounts of main course items and everyone chipped in with lots and lots of delicious food.

Jane and Darrell Watts took care of getting the decorations there and several people helped put

them up. The place looked and sounded very festive. Jane also helped Santa select gifts for children.

Donna also coordinated gifts for the ladies. Various people had donated

Lange) spent time with the children and had nice gifts and a candy cane for each.

The officers for 2002 were recognized for their efforts and the officers for 2003 (the same people with the addition of John Billinger and Darrell being replaced by Ross Jones) were introduced.

Finally, Steve Fredericks was recognized for his contributions to the club as he was named Skymaster of the Year for 2002.

If you missed this one you missed a very warm and friendly evening. Also you missed a super meal with wide selection of great desserts. Greg Cardillo noted that perhaps we should be recognized as an "eating club with a flying problem." Mark your new calendar for the second Wednesday of December 2003 and plan on being there for next year's Skymasters Christmas Party.

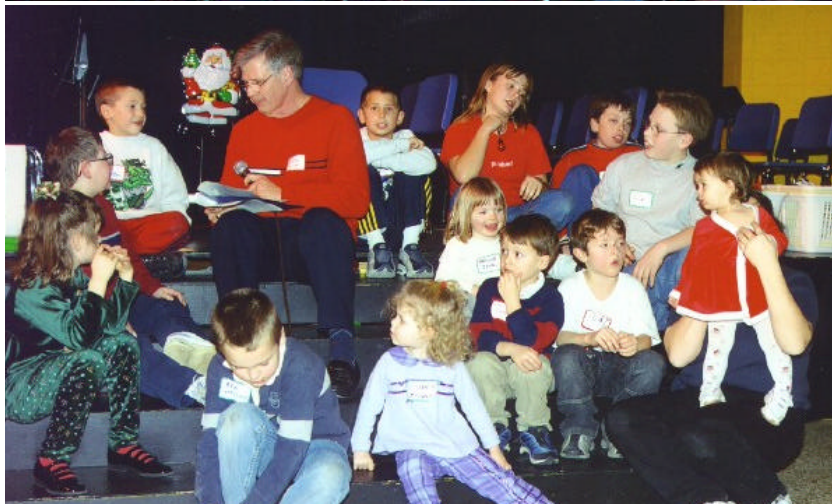
PICTURES ON PAGE 4&5



crafts, etc. and Sharon Edwards contributed several gifts so that every lady present took home a nice memento.

One of our members who said that Skymasters had been good to him so he anonymously donated three kits the battery cyler and glue for pilots' prizes. Chuck Slatterly, Chris Hass and Greg Cardillo won the kits and Jack Edwards won the battery cyler.

Santa (aka, David





PHOTO'S
BY:
DAN DEVINE
&
GREG CARDILLO

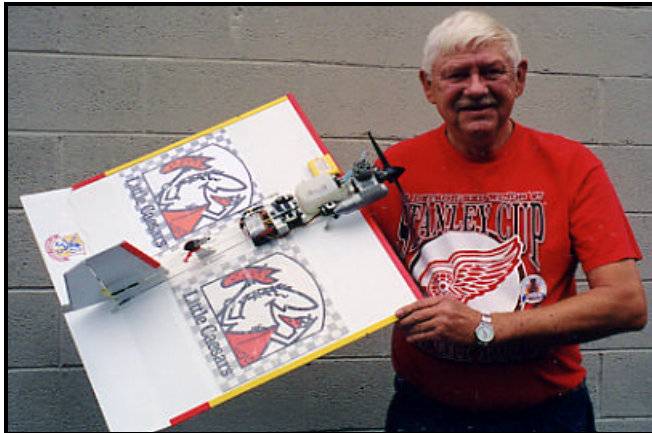
FLYING PIZZA BOX...

BY: JACK GOODRICH

The October R/C Report magazine has a detailed article of a novelty 40 size fun flyer, based mainly on a two foot square of Coroplast.

I built mine using stuff laying around my workshop, for approximately \$4.00 as I had a spare radio, O.S.40LA, tank, prop, etc. The Coroplast cost me \$1.00 from a local sign shop. It cost me 80 cents for 2 little Caesars pizza boxes. The article calls it a flying pizza box so you can pick your favorite brand of pizza.

I won't belabor you with the unbelievable



flight characteristics of the "PBF", I just wish I was a more accomplished pilot. I have had a half dozen of my near famous nose first landings with only damage to the prop.

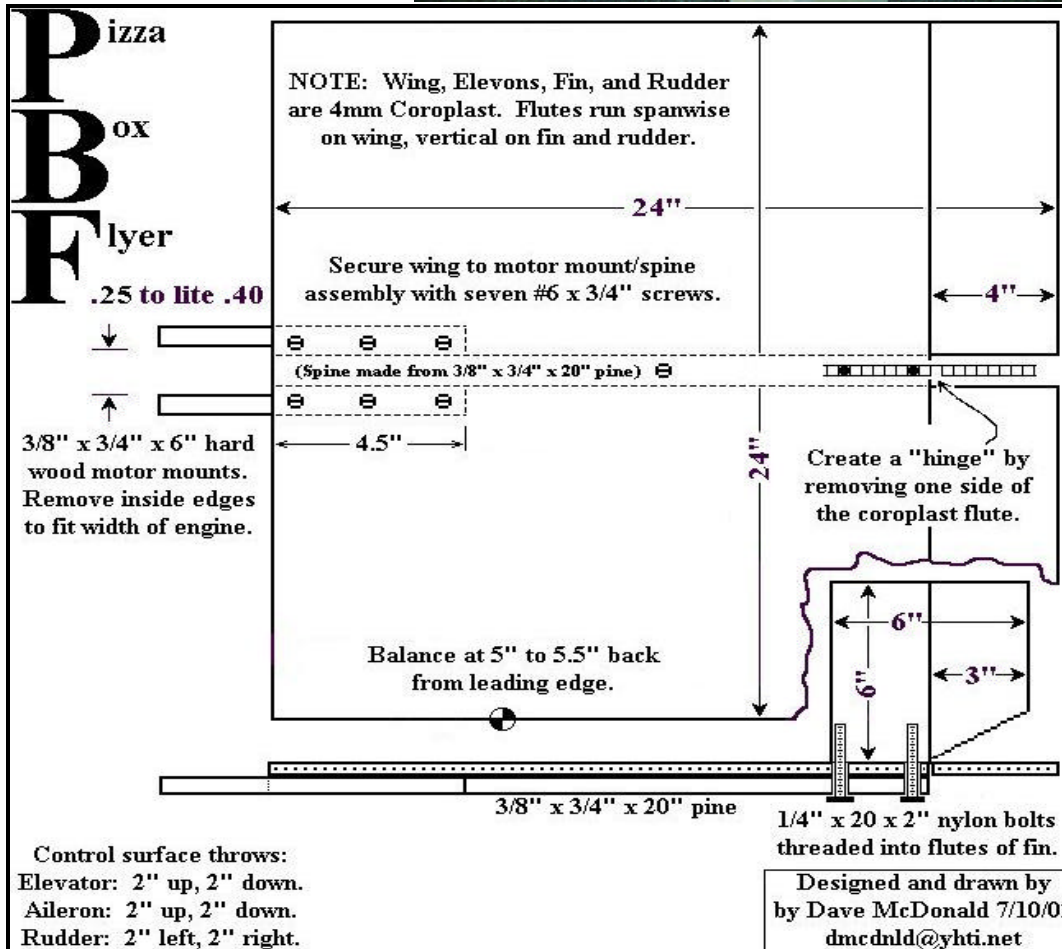
If you have any interest in building a "PBF" (you can easily do over a weekend) pick up an Issue of R/C report or try this web site <http://mypage.yhti.net/~dmcndld/pizzabox.htm> that's a long web address, but the info you will get is well worth it. It includes complete plans and couple dozen video clips on how to hand catch retrieves, hovering, near vertical ascents and descents, using a folding chair as a launch platform etc..

You can become the only kid on the block to have a 40 size 3D back yard flyer. The "PBF" is popular with some clubs having organized fun fly events with their "PBF"s. Hoping this story was of interest to you.

~Jack Goodrich

Note: I sent some photo's and a note to Mike Illich requesting him to autograph my model. He called and said he would, but to date we have not found a good time to do this.

(Web site problems? Try a search for "Flying pizza box")



Steve Fredericks "Skymaster of the Year" FOR 2002

At the Christmas Party Steve Fredericks was announced as the 2002 Skymaster of the Year. Steve has been in our club for ten years and the award this year would seem to honor his many years of service.

Steve has served as Vice President and as a flight instructor. For the first eight years of its existence, he was the event director for the Bald Mountain Involvement Day. An event that has greatly enhanced our standing with the Park and

with the DNR.

For many years Steve has stored and maintained the club trailers at his home. He was integrally involved in developing the Scripps Road field, including excavation, road development, building the shelter and more.

When Henderson's Hobbies closed and the Skymasters did not have a place to get together in the winter, Steve opened up his shop to the club for twice a month "Bull Sessions." For about six or seven years he has also served as the event director for the Krazy Snow Fly where his "stays with you for days" hot chili has become the



talk of the club.

All of us extend our congratulation to Steve and thank him for his exceptional contributions to this club.

Membership Renewals for 2003

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

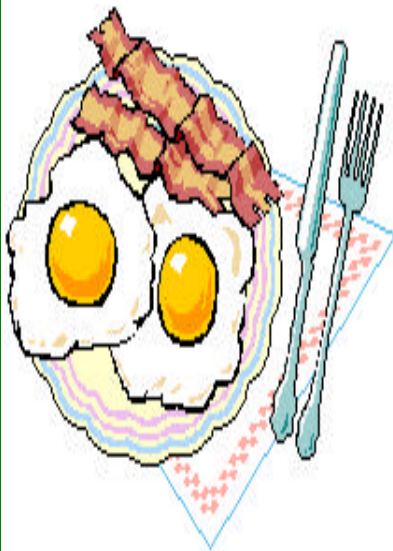
John Billinger
943 Vanderpool
Troy, MI. 48083

You can phone John at
248-680-3318

or email him at

jbillinger@industrywriters.com

**Remember, if you are
renewing by mail you
must include a photo-
copy of your 2003
AMA card.**



RETIREES & WANT-A-BEE'S BREAKFAST'S

Breakfast starting 9am at the "RAM'S HORN FAMILY RESTAURANT" located on the North East corner of Crooks Road and M-59. Take the Crooks road exit off M-59 north, the address is 2265 Crooks Road, Rochester Hills.

Breakfast's will be the first and third Monday of each month, throughout the winter. Come enjoy breakfast and good conversation.

Any questions call Bob Burns at 248-628-4666

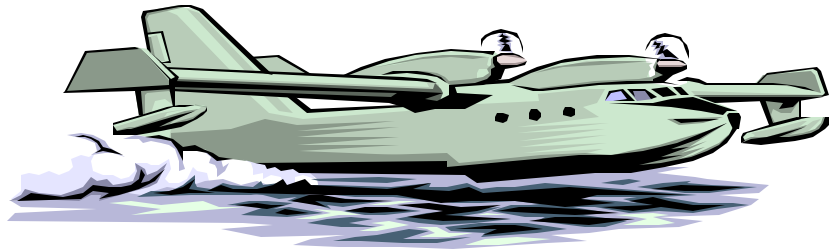
AREA EVENTS...

AMRCC CONTEST SCHEDULE

- DECEMBER 31.....SKYMASTERS KRAZY SNOW FLY.....PAUL ZABAWA 810-678-3332
- JANUARY 1.....CHESANING SNOW FLY.....JIM HAMILTON 989-770-5176
- JANUARY 6....SKYMASTERS RETIREES BREAKFAST.....BOB BURNS 248-628-4666
- JANUARY 8....SKYMASTERS.....LARSON MEETING.....ROSS JONES 248-391-4677
- JANUARY 20....SKYMASTERS RETIREES BREAKFAST.....BOB BURNS 248-628-4666
- JANUARY 22....SKYMASTERS.....LARSON MEETING.....ROSS JONES 248-391-4677
- JANUARY 26....RCCD....SWAP MEET - EAGLES HALL.....EMILIO CAFARELLI 586-751-8758

HOME OF THE

"MIDWEST REGIONAL FLOAT FLY"



SKYMASTERS JANUARY 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
HAPPY NEW YEAR!		31 Krazy Snow Fly	1 Chesaning Snow fly	2	3	4
5	6 Retirees Breakfast	7	8 Skymasters Meeting	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Retirees Breakfast	21	22 Skymasters Meeting	23	24	25
26 RCCD SWAP	27	28	29	30	31	

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

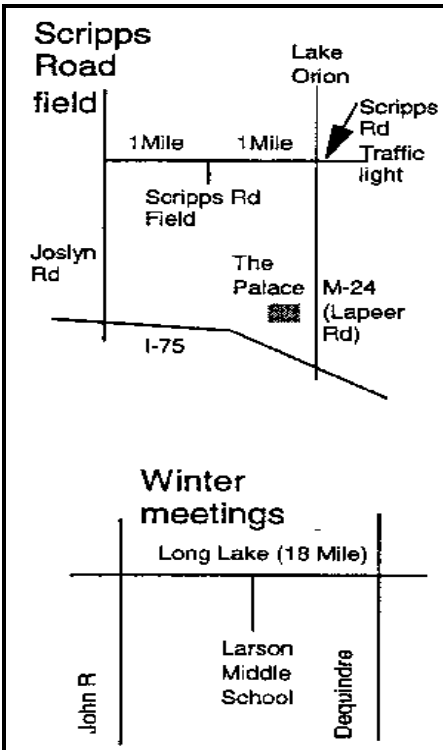
DECEMBER 31.....KRAZY SNOW FLY
 JANUARY 1.....CHESANING SNOW FLY
 JANUARY 6..... RETIREES BREAKFAST
 JANUARY 8.....LARSON MEETING
 JANUARY 20..... RETIREES BREAKFAST
 JANUARY 22.....LARSON MEETING
 JANUARY 26.....RCCD SWAP MEET



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 2003 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!