



Academy of Model Aeronautics

Chartered Club #970
5 Year Gold Leader Club



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

BY: ROSS JONES

Flying Season is Here! (At least for me, anyway!) I didn't even get close on the projects I had to do versus the time allotted, but I've at least got some things to fly this year. Nothing new, mind you, as everything on the schedule had a 'rebuild/repair' order on it. Surely you know of which I speak? Anyhow, some good things are happening. Let's have a look see...

The Lease. Its' official, and we have received it. Skymasters officials have also signed it. It is everything that last year's board drafted for the DNR and then some! To make a long story short, there are just a few provisions called for in the lease that affect members directly in a different manner than we are used to. There are some new provisions where we must lock the gate open - new locks are on the gates now to do this - so be sure to change your habits there. Also, rules are now posted on our bulletin board at the field. Complete Emergency contact information has been posted also.

My hat is off to last year's board for their success in their efforts on this one. Paul Zabawa, Bill Stark and me met with three State Park Officials on the 15th of April and we had a discussion about some of the terms in the lease. Paul had just graded and rolled the field prior to the meet-



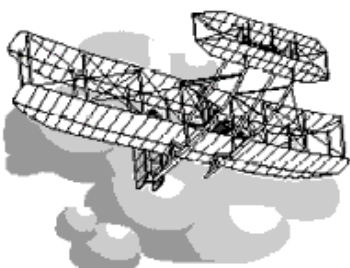
ing! (Thanks, Paul!). The three of us walked the officials through a typical day at Scripps Road Field including safety, frequency pins, talking to other pilots, flight/starting procedures and things that we take for granted. Bob Remer, who was one of the three, knew the drill, but the other two, Brenda and Anna had never seen our field. They all liked what they saw. I'm sure

they saw a professional group that took a lot of pride in their field. Brenda and Anna were most impressed when Bob mentioned our long standing participation in the Bald Mountain Cleanup day. Anna mentioned that it was quite rare for a group to work consistently every year to improve a State Park. For us to have done so for as many as we have was outstanding! It's working!

Cleanup Day success. While I never know what I'll be getting into at the cleanup day, I never fear it will be very organized. And it was. Other parks that I've talked with recently have had *all* of their staff

cleaning up after the last winter storm. I'm sure that the staff of Bald Mountain was very happy to have us at this time! Behind the scenes here, I know we Skymasters are very appreciated. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Safety. Maybe it was Spring Fever, or maybe it was the *topic* (safety), but I missed quite a few of you guys at the meeting on the



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)

9th of April! It's okay - I've got the soap box here! All kidding aside; when you go flying - go out there this month (and forever) and **think** about what you are doing before you do it. Follow the rules we all must abide by. Think about how your actions will affect others. **Talk** with the other pilots and be **honest** with yourself about your abilities with your ship - especially if it's a new one... These rules apply to life as well. I'm a nut about this stuff because I personally have seen a few family members and good friends get injured with life-long consequences. I wear a **helmet** for EVERYTHING now (well, almost everything)...

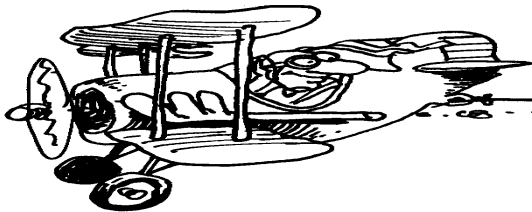
~ Ross

(Pass them out when you fly, :-)

CHET BRADY FLOAT FLY - MAY 17
SEVEN LAKES STATE PARK, HOLLY
 GRANGE HALL - FISH LAKE RD. - NORTH TO PARK ENTRANCE
 "SHOWTIME"
 9AM
 PETE FOSS - 248-236-0676



BALD MOUNTAIN FLOAT FLY - MAY 18
BALD MOUNTAIN BEACH
 EAST OFF LAPEER RD. NORTH OF SILVERBELL
 ROSS JONES 248-738-4435



SKYMASTERS
CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: ALL NEW NEVER FLOWN "Avistar" set up as a tail dragger, New OS 46FX, New Futaba 6xas computer radio, field box, electric starter, electric pump w/fuel, 12v battery, glo starter, voltage meter. Charge & fly! Must sell \$399.00 248-693-7265.

FOR SALE: The new "2002 FLOAT FLY" video is *now available*, only \$20 contact Bob Donohue 248-391-1385 or Darrel Watts 248-391-4677.



FROM THE EDITOR...

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

Welcome to the May Issue of the Skywriter. May 7 float fly resumes at Stony Creek. We also have 2 Float fly events this month if you have not tried it come on out and try float flying!

May 18 the field will be closed during the Bald Mountain

float fly and the new combo will be on the lock afterwards, check the address label of this newsletter for the new 2003 combination.

May 21 is our field fix up day! Bring a rake, or something (contact Paul Zabawa) and help

get the field ready for summer, a Bar-B-Q will be served to all the workers. (I use that term loosely)

Get out and fly!

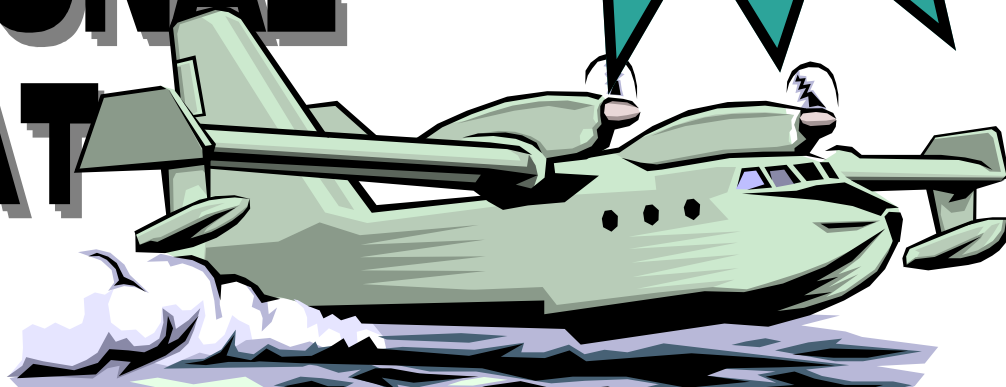
Mark & Liz

masmith248@earthlink.net

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

SKYMASTERS "MIDWEST REGIONAL FLOAT FLY"

"2003"
13TH ANNUAL



SATURDAY & SUNDAY September 6-7
ISLAnd lake state park

SKYMASTERS 2003 "MIDWEST REGIONAL FLOAT FLY" OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

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FREQUENCIES	/ / /
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BREAKFASTS @\$4	PIZZA BLAST @\$6

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- "FLY-IN PANCAKE BREAKFAST" SUNDAY MORNING \$4.00 PER PERSON 8:00AM - 9:00AM

BOB DONOHUE 248-391-1385

Mail to: Bob Donohue - 260 Four Seasons - Lake Orion - Mi. - 48360

PROP WASH...

Joe Finkelstine

Hi gang,

Has the following ever happened to you at the field?

You are standing watching a ship or two fly and someone you don't know strikes up a conversation with you and asks the question "Is this a good thing for kids to learn?" – I suspect that this has happened to almost every one of us at least once.

I have often thought of my answer before hand, especially since the "kid" doing the learning may also be an adult trying to determine if he/she would enjoy this hobby. For most of us, the immediate response is a resounding and enthusiastic yes! However, if we are not careful, our response may sound more like a justification of why we are in the hobby.

If you consider the reasons that someone gets into the hobby

against the reasons they stay in the hobby, I think you will see an evolution of ideas and justifications. Some of your original ideas for getting into the hobby will still be valid, but I am certain a few more have come about to keep you involved.

Since our flying season is approaching fast, you may find yourself being asked this question in the near future. Allow me to throw a few of my answers to this question I have given in the last few years

A) Multi technology/discipline integration skills – When I first try to say this, most people's eyes glaze over (reminding them of the science class they used to fall asleep in), but hear me out on this one. Think about the general skills and areas that must work together for a ship to fly. From a

very high

level, we have several mechanical and electrical disciplines that must work together. Any one who is in this hobby for more than a few years will soon gain the skills (whether they recognize it or not!) of integrating electrical and mechanical systems to work in an integrated and common purpose. Now, why is this valuable? Well, if you look at most of the skilled professions in this world, one key requirement of an individual will be their ability to integrate across disciplines. In my 20+ years in working for software companies, I can tell you that the people who do well have always been able to bring the knowledge of multiple disciplines together to solve complex problems. It is difficult to overstate how important this is in the technology driven world we live in. A student can go to school to learn a particular computer language only to find the world has moved on from his "chosen" language to another language by the time they graduate. If this student also learned the skills of problem analysis, resource allocation, etc., then all is not lost. This well-rounded student applies these core skills to the latest technology that is in use. As we mature (i.e. get older), our bag of tricks usually increases in individual disciplines. If you combine all of this with the ability to integrate these into common purpose goals, like making an RC ship fly, they will have demonstrated this highly valuable asset. Think about everything that has to work right to make your ship fly and stay in one piece. Now think about how much you have learned in electronics, material science,

STONY CREEK FLOAT FLYING



The Skymasters and the Fraser Flying Clubs have joined forces again this year to promote float flying at Stony Creek Metro Park. Starting May 7, every Wednesday weather permitting there will be flying at Winter Cove from 9:00 - 12:00. After entering the park follow the signs to the boat launch &

golf course, Winter Cove is on the right after you pass the golf course. Stony Creek is west of Van Dyke (M-53) on 26 mile road. There is a \$2.00 daily park fee or annual park pass is available.

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

For information contact: Jim Held 248-641-9724
aheld19659@aol.com

(Continued from page 4)

strength vs. weight trade-offs, etc. You have to understand each of these disciplines to some extent to make them work together. I would argue that in today's economy this is a significant justification to the inquisitive parent. Will his kid be able to show this on a resume? – Probably not, but when she gets in an interview and is asked, "Tell me how you solved a complex problem" she will have a great example from this hobby.

B) Patience and persistence – Well, I am sure most of you took at least a month to learn how to solo (except of course the young Nintendo kids, who solo after 2 minutes). Think about how many things in this society is instant gratification focused. We all intrinsically know as parents that blood, sweat, and toil will be needed in our children's lives. One of the key benefits of learning RC for children are that it is not easy. Most beginners soon realize that they are in for some work and they should be rightly proud of the fact when they solo. I like to have the parents of a younger student fly with me immediately after their son/daughter gets their wings. Believe me, it helps solidify the idea to the parent that this was a good accomplishment. I also do my best to bring the parent up when they first inquire about this hobby, but this one is a bit trickier as you might scare them off! Keep in mind that this difficulty (coupled to lack of persistence) is one of the key reasons we get half a dozen people each year who start but drop out. I would never recommend that you inform someone that learning to fly is easy. In the same breath, you must also say that it is doable by anyone

who is willing to give a solid and persistent effort.

C) Good old-fashioned craftsmanship – We have several club members who make outstanding ships that look good from 1 inch away all the way up to 1 mile away in the sky. Ours is but one of several hobbies that allow you to develop and display craftsmanship. Many things I see kids doing nowadays are passive and don't encourage much in the way of creativity and craftsmanship. This hobby certainly encourages this behavior.

D) Bringing together multiple generations. - Our hobby is one of the few I know of nowadays that grandparents, parents, and children can all enjoy. This doesn't mean all will enjoy it, but if you look at the age span in our club, it goes from 10 years old to 90. All ages can find something to keep them interested and challenged.

E) Hand-eye coordination – I am always amazed at the high level of hand eye coordination my children's generation displays when playing video games. Every time I get a younger one asking questions, I point out that RC flying is much more real and difficult than their silly shoot 'em up game because the laws of gravity are strictly enforced. No instant direction changes and infinite fuel allowed here!

One thing we also need to be cognizant of is that each generation has developed it's own favorite pastimes and technologies. My baby boomer generation was a transitional one in terms of technology. When I was a young lad in the 60's, we had no technology (i.e. Nintendo) to keep me in front of the TV, so I learned how to build go-carts and other mechanical things. My parents

generation was the one most enamored with flight and were the pioneers of the model flying we do.

My point here is that what motivates you to be in this hobby might not be relevant to the person you are talking with. You may very well find that none of the ideas I list above matter to the person who asked you (although I suspect that they will, or they would not be at our field and asking questions!). It certainly is OK to talk about what you like and what keeps you in the hobby, but I would suggest that you add value from the point of the person asking the question. One way to do this is to ask what they find interesting and start your conversation there.

For those that stay with the hobby, its continuance and relevancy is important. Part of keeping our hobby alive is the continual stream of newcomers. Take it on yourself to welcome visitors to our field and understand what interests them; perhaps you will bring in a new pilot! See ya at the field soon!



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AREA EVENTS...

AMRCC CONTEST SCHEDULE

- MAY 7.....SKYMASTERS.....STONY CREEK FLOAT FLYING SEASON BEGINS (SEE AD)
- MAY 14..... SKYMASTERS.....MEETING AT LARSON.....”JOHN BILLINGER TALKS ON RC”
- MAY 14-17.....JOE NALL....GREENVILLE, NC.....GAIN SCALE PLANES..... www.joenall.com
- MAY 17.....ROMEO SKYHAWKS..... “YOUTH DAY”PETE GAYNER 248-652-0843
- MAY 17..... “CHET BRADY FLOAT FLY”SEVEN LAKES.....PETE FOSS 248-236-0676
- MAY 18..... “BALD MOUNTAIN FLOAT FLY”ROSS JONES 248-738-4435
- MAY 18 & 25.....SIGNAL SEEKERS.....SAM 40 EVENT.....CHUCK HUTTON 734-761-9304
- MAY 21.....SKYMASTERS “GET THE FIELD READY FOR SUMMER”BAR-B-Q PARTY
- MAY 26.....YAF Memorial Day Open House.....Willow Run Airport, Belleville.....Yankee Air Force
- MAY 28.....SKYMASTERS.....STUDENT NIGHT/POTLUCK.....BOB BURNS 248-628-4666
- MAY 30-31-1.....WHILLYBIRDS FUN FLY.....MIDWEST R/C.....DARRELL BELL 313-942-6780
- MAY 31-JUNE1.....RCCD.....”WARBIRDS OVER LENOX”JAY LAWLESS 248-641-7768

SKYMASTERS MAY 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7 STONY CREEK FLOAT FLYING BEGINS	8	9	10
11 MOTHERS DAY	12	13	14 SKYMASTERS MEETING LARSON	15	16	17 SEVEN LAKES FLOATFLY ROMEO YOUTH DAY
18 BALD MOUNTAIN FLOAT FLY	19	20	21 Skymasters GET FIELD READY BAR-B-Q	22	23	24
25 SAM 40 MILAN	26 YAF OPEN HOUSE	27	28 STUDENT NIGHT POT LUCK	29	30 WHIRLLYBIRDS MIDWEST R/C	31 WHIRLLYBIRDS MIDWEST R/C RCCD/COMBAT

General Membership Meeting - 3/26/03 Larson Middle School

Introduction of officers and appointees:

Officers Present: Gary Weaks, presiding officer Paul Zabawa. Attendance was 51.

First Time / Visitors: John Fisher, student pilot.

Bald Mountain Involvement Day has been moved up one week to avoid conflicting with Easter Saturday. The new date is April 12. We will start at 9:00 AM at the Bald Mountain Park Headquarters on Greenshield Road. In addition to a good turn-out of the membership, we are in need of five members to be team leaders on that day. Please contact Gary Weaks (248-540-8358) for more information.

Our field clean-up day has been moved to a new day. It will now be held on May 21. It will conclude with the "lighting of the grills" to feed the hungry workers.

Video Librarian, Sherman Dixon informed the group that there are a lot of tardy tape returns. If you cannot make it to a meeting to return a borrowed tape please mail it back to Sherman. Thank you.

Program: Vince Pettke demonstrated *Monocoat* application techniques. Vince Pettke is well known in our club and beyond as one of the best-skilled at *Monocoat* application. His work as adorned the cover of *Radio Controlled Modeler Magazine* and captured in countless other photos stories around the hobby. Vince Prefers *Monocoat* brand film. However, his techniques will work for most iron-on polymer films.

The presentation started with an explanation of why some models look more pleasing than others. One key to an outstanding covering job is to have flawless seams where different colors are joined in the color scheme. A ragged edge will detract considerably from an otherwise good covering job. For this reason, Vince uses patterns extensively. A quick example was shown using wax paper to create a pattern on the aircraft and then transfer it to a sheet of *Monocoat*. The preparation of the wood is important. Vince recommends sanding with no finer than 220 grit. Also, the final strokes should be cross-grain. A paintbrush can be used to brush away any loose sawdust from the wood.

Once the pieces of covering are ready to apply, the iron temperature is important. Select 325 to 350 degrees. Vince always uses an Iron Sock to spread the heat more evenly and to ensure that the surface touching the covering is clean and free from defects. Change the sock often and always make sure the hem seams and stitching do not end up on the face of the

iron that contacts the covering. When applying the heat to the covering, make sure the edges are "tacked" down first. Then, starting in the center and using plenty of pressure, work the air out as you seal each piece from the center out. Use caution over plywood because it will heat up faster. View the covering with the reflection of a bright light. When the wood grain texture telegraphs through the covering it is securely applied. A heat gun can be used but sparingly.

Plan the order of application so that the "shingle effect" of the overlaps do not face into the airflow over the wing or fuselage. Use new, sharp knife blades for cutting the *Monocoat*. Even a slightly dull blade can pull and cause a jagged edge.

Protect the finished *Monocoat* with an automotive paste wax such as *Turtle Wax*.

Show and Tell:

- Chris and Joe Hass brought in a park flier that Joe equipped with a lithium polymer battery pack. This new technology in batteries offers a much longer capacity than a typical nickel-cadmium pack. However, the price is higher and the charging requirements are very specific. Joe demonstrated the aircraft by flying it in the confines of the auditorium to a very impressed audience.

- Wade Wiley showed an engine test bench and an after-market muffler for a Quadra 35 engine that he was very impressed with. While the stock muffler had a poor performance at 105 db, the muffler from B&B Bennet ran at 92 db.

The show-and-tell raffle was won by Wade Wiley.

Fuel Buy: Al McGee is purchasing bulk fuel again this year. Please contact him to get your order in.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30

General Membership meeting - 4/09/03

Larson Middle School

Introduction of officers and appointees:

Officers Present: Presiding officer Ross Jones, Gary Weaks, and Paul Zabawa
Attendance was 35.

First Time / Visitors: Jerry Bilot.

Up-coming events: Bald Mountain Involvement Day, April 12. The park needs our help this year to clean up after the ice storm. There are many parking and picnic areas cluttered with downed branches. Our two spring float fly's and the Yankee Airforce Museum Open House were reviewed.

On May 7th float flying starts at Stony Creek and continues every Wednesday into the fall as long as the weather allows. The time is 9:30 to noon.

Our field clean-up day has been moved

to a new day. It will now be held on May 21. It will conclude with the "lighting of the grills" to feed the hungry workers.

A new aircraft starting bench was demonstrated by Fred McConkie. The advantages of this kind of bench allow safe starting of almost any sized aircraft from a comfortable standing position. The bench has provisions for a flight box and transmitter all inconveniently located for starting up your plane. It also can be equipped with wheels to allow easy movement. Fred agreed to cut the required wood to make two of these starting benches. They will be assembled at the field during our field clean-up day, May 21. Thanks to Fred for his time and idea.

Program: Ross Jones reviewed the AMA and club safety rules. This is a required annual review for all AMA Gold Leader Clubs. Ross read and reviewed the AMA and Skymasters' safety rules. These are also posted at the field and on our web site. Everyone agreed that one thing that can improve safety is better communication when there are multiple planes in the air. The pilots and spotters should communicate to each other to avoid mishaps. Let the others know when you are landing, taking off, or performing any maneuver that obstructs the runway. Also let the others know when you are clear of the runway.

When starting your airplane, always have it secured or held by another person. Don't let yourself get distracted when starting the engine. This is not a time to be fielding questions and talking. With more and more electric aircraft in the hobby, some safety tips regarding these planes were covered. For instance, when retrieving an electric plane from the runway, always stay clear of the propeller. There may be enough energy left in the batteries to start the motor.

Show and Tell:

- Jim Held brought in an Aero. This North Star look-a-like with removable wings was modified with a full flying canard wing. It has not flown yet. Jim believes the extra control surface will really enhance its performance. We have no doubt.

- Howard Alexander brought in a 1/8 scale twin-engine Sea Bee floatplane. It is made of foam and fiberglass with a 71 inch wingspan. It is powered by two Norvell 25's and finished with Krylon paint.

- Ross Jones showed his 60 sized Big Stick powered by an O.S. 61. It is painted to resemble a British WWII camouflage scheme.

The show-and-tell raffle was won by Howard Alexander.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30

Bald Mountain Involvement Day...

GARY WEAKS

A big thanks to all Skymaster members and family who showed up for this years' Involvement Day! This is such an important event each year for our club because it strengthens our good relationship with the state park system. In turn we get exclusive use of our flying site at a very reasonable cost. This year we had over 50 people helping out. Our services were needed more than ever this year on the heels of the big ice storm that hit Oakland County just a week prior.



About half of our crew were busy clearing picnic areas and roadways of fallen branches. Some other big tasks included painting the exterior of the headquarters building, planting post barricades along park property, dismantling picnic tables for new lumber, sign painting and of course feeding the hungry workers. Thanks again to all who came out to help. ~Gary



Bob & Ron "Chefs Extraordinaire"



Harold & Bill in the sign shop.



Crews work on the beach areas.



Picnic tables getting unassembled.



Trails getting cleared of branches.



Hungry Skymasters head for the chow line.



Clearing the main road into the Beach.



Park Headquarters getting a coat of paint.



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

MAY 7.....STONY CREEK F.F. BEGINS
 MAY 14.....LARSON MEETING
 MAY 14-17.....JOE NALL
 MAY 17.....ROMEO SKYHAWKS YOUTH DAY
 MAY 17.....CHET BRADY/SEVEN LAKES
 MAY 18.....BALD MOUNTAIN FLOAT FLY
 MAY 18&25.....SIGNAL SEEKERS-SAM 40
 MAY 21.....SKYMASTER FIELD FIX-UP
 MAY 26.....WILLOW RUN OPEN HOUSE
 MAY 28.....STUDENT NIGHT/POTLUCK
 MAY 30-31-1.....WHILLYBIRDS FUN FLY
 MAY 31-JUNE 1.....RCCD COMBAT



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!

