



Academy of Model Aeronautics

Chartered Club #970  
5 Year Gold Leader Club

# Skypwriter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

BY: ROSS JONES

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's hard to believe that it has been one year already. Thanks to each and every one of you that have made this past year a successful one with Skymasters.

### LAND SWAP UPDATE:

As reported during the Christmas Party, the proposal in its entirety has been put on hold. State Senator Mike Bishop wrote a letter back to several Skymasters members detailing this. Thanks to the letters we and others have written, I believe that it opened the eyes of the powers that be that there was concern about this proposal shown by the community. While that was the status at that time, there have been more recent developments.

The land we lease is part of a parcel that was acquired partially through a Federal land & water conservation funds grant. As such, it is subject to some addi-

tional rules regarding its use, as we've mentioned in prior updates. One of the guidelines involves Federal approval of the land swap proposal. That has not happened in this case, and typically takes a bit of time. The land we lease is within park boundaries and is

nerships, land swaps, etc. We understand that this may be attempted here. The proposed boundary that is on the table supports the land swap!

We have some breathing room here in order to decide what our strategy will be. The board will meet in January and have some things to present in the meetings in January. Hang on!

### GENERAL NEWS:

As of this writing we still need a volunteer to run the swap meet. Remember the resume builder possibilities I mentioned in the last newsletter? Everything was accurate except for the date of November – it would be in February. We have a lot of things set up al-

ready. Details, details...

Skymasters Meetings. For 2004, we have an excellent lineup, see further in the newsletter for details.

Have a happy and safe 2004!



considered, as such, 'essential.' Now if you change the park boundaries (I think you know where I'm going here), making the land in question, 'nonessential,' then you have a free pass to try and arrange part-

### INSIDE This Issue

Presidents Message....	1
Christmas party.....	3-4
Prop Wash.....	5-6
Event Calendar.....	6
2004 Application.....	7

### 2004 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:	Joe Hass	1142 Brunswick Dr.	Rochester	48309	248-321-7934
Treasurer:	Joe Rubinstein	155 Cayuan	Lake Orion	48362	248-693-4265
Editor:	Mark Smith	1955 Hopefield Dr.	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:	Gary Weak	2512 Red Fox Trail	Troy	48098	248-540-8358

## Orion Senior Center...



Harold Reuter and I have arranged a unique opportunity in the community of Lake Orion. At the Orion Senior Center we have arranged for a 'class' consisting of 6 very eager 'seniors' of varying ages to build (through the winter) and fly (in the spring) a Sig

Kadet Trainer. Harold is working on arrangements with Lake Orion schools to possibly find some kids that might like to participate as well. The trainer and covering have been purchased. We need some additional items which I will explain further below.

The format of the class is to break the project up into components and assign them to an individual or team. The date and times that we have set for this class are as follows; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Kind of a "drop-in" arrangement. The start date is the 12<sup>th</sup> of January @ 1:00pm.

First, I'm looking for volunteers to sign up for one or more of the dates. As a lot of us work during those hours, so I want to let the whole club know about it. I had in mind to have framing people arrive during the early part of the project, with finishing people arranged to come later. I propose a signup sheet in the newsletter, with dates to grab. Have them send it to me.

Second, we need to borrow, or have donated, supplies such as knives, saws, scales, etc for building a plane of this type. Perishable items will be provided for by Orion Senior Center.

Mary Lou Enneking is the director at the senior center. She can be reached at (248) 693-2066. I am serving as coordinator.

ROSS



**AL HARRIMAN AND HIS "FLY BABY"  
POWERED BY A ZENOAH 23 GAS  
ENGINE**



**ROGER SCHMELLING WITH HIS  
"ULTRA STICK TWIN" IT HAS TWO OS  
LA 40'S FOR POWER**

## FOR SALE:

Great Planes Sportster 40 Biplane One owner, low miles. Fantastic ship with .40 2 stroke or .52 + four stroke. Covered in Coverite fabric, doped with Sig butyrate dope paint. Original Wheel pants and conservative (properly dressed) lady pilot named "Na." Asking \$125 – will bring to meetings to show.

Ross Jones      Rossandjamie@comcast.net      248-738-4435

## WINTER FLYERS

**WANT TO FLY THIS WINTER?  
THE WINTER FLYERS ARE  
OUT FLYING MOST WEEK-  
ENDS WE WILL BE FLYING  
SUNDAY'S FROM 12-3  
WEATHER PERMITTING.  
COME OUT AND JOIN US.**



## PLANE FOUND:

One sport plane, north of field & Scripps road.

Tricycle landing gear setup, white with blue trim, high wing with kids names and custom paint on tail.

Found by Oxford resident out hunting for game. Obviously this guy found some!

Call Chuck @ 248-608-1421

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED!  
WANT TO TRY YOUR HAND AT DESK-  
TOP PUBLISHING? WE NEED A NEW  
SKYWRITER EDITOR! SEE ROSS**



# Christmas Party Roundup...

BY: ROSS JONES

The Skymasters 2003 Christmas party was a great success! Despite the fact that more rain (rather than picture perfect snow) fell that evening than the total for the previous month there were around 80 attendees. We here in Michigan will settle for any weather – as we get it all anyway! Bob & Donna Burns, Jack and Sharon Edwards, the Foss's and the Cardillo's along with several volunteers made it all happen with preparations made before and during the event. The Burns set up the food and dinnerware and Joe Hass brought the chicken strips. A potluck event, the food selection was rounded out with an excellent selection of everything that you could want – including a lot of deserts. Funny how we always have plenty of those... It was great! My wife, Jamie, had prepared gifts for the kids – utilizing knowledge she has gained with our own three; namely, give them one to keep them busy during dinner and one later! There were a lot of happy kids and relieved parents as a result!

Rider's Hobby Shop presented a treasure trove of door prizes for the pilots. Joe Hass worked out a deal with Rider's and came with several kits and a large quantity of covering. The Stuka ARF, the largest of the kits was won by a guy that really deserved it – Bob Burns! The ladies gifts were true works of art, arranged by Sharon Edwards and Donna Burns. I presented gifts also to the board members.

One of the hard things about this position is remembering the order of



events, timing, coordination and keeping things moving. That's why I think this is a great resume builder – as mentioned in last month's newsletter. Anyway, when thanking people, I always forget at least one! Those ladies' gifts were really something and Sharon Edwards and Donna Burns really put a lot of heart into them. Of course, I completely forgot to mention them! I'm sure I've done that before, so there is a new years resolution – to take better notes! Thanks everyone!

Santa came to visit even after I sang (along with the audience). Darrell Watts sang last year and I know I paled in comparison. Knowing the lyrics helps! Anyway Santa brought lots of presents grouped by age category – labeled and organized by elf Jamie!

Thanks to Jack Fleming for helping out!

I sincerely hope all of you had a happy and safe holiday season, I see you in 2004!

*MORE PICTURES NEXT PAGE...*







# PROP WASH...

Joe Finkelstine

## Changing a plug...

Hi All,

Well, I waited until almost the last day before my editor imposed deadline to write this month's column, as I just could not settle on an idea to write about this month. One occurred to me this last Sunday as I was ticking off items on my "honey do" list. One item in particular got me thinking about RC in a round about way. I have one electrical plug in my garage and after 18 years in the house; it had finally worn out to the point where any chord plugged into one of the two outlets would easily fall out. This of course always happened while I was using the leaf blower on the other side of the house, so I decided to install the new plug while grumbling on my walk to plug in the leaf blower for the 5<sup>th</sup> time.

So on Sunday afternoon, I drove out to Home Depot, bought a new plug, and headed home thinking I had an easy task in front of me. After all, I ran all the wiring into my shop, so how much trouble could one little simple plug be?

Well, I got the cover off and noticed the plug in the garage actually was also serving as a connector for about 3 circuits in my house. Sitting in the little electrical box lots of wires, all of which used the existing plug as a connection point. 3 white wires, 3 black wires, and 3 ground wires weaved their way onto this old worn out plug and was not at all what I was expecting.

After scratching my chin for awhile and looking at the old plug, I came to the conclusion that I could pretty easily create the same connections and proceeded to change the plug with only one "minor" spark event (I sure wish they made non conductive needle nose pliers!)

How does this relate to RC? -

Well, I can honestly say that if I had looked at this mess of wires before I was into RC, I probably would have called an electrician (actually, my wife originally wishes I had, as my spark event threw the ground fault interrupt (GFI) and cut power to about 1/3 of the house until I reset it!)

The issue here is not that I muddled my way through changing a plug, but rather I have gained confidence in taking on projects since I joined RC that I never would have done otherwise. There are a couple of things at play here. First, is the skill set of working on all things RC that are transferable to other areas in our life? I became accustomed to working on electrical things from RC and my interest in computers, so I gained skills in soldering, tracing connections, etc. All of us in this hobby gain these same skills and I am sure you have many stories yourself on how a particular skill learned in RC transferred to another task you had to do.

To me though, the more important one is the mindset change that has slowly occurred to me over the years. When I was young, I loved building plastic models, but lacked the gumption to build the high skill level ones. I tried a few times, failed, and went back to the easy ones (I think I must have built the Revell USS Missouri battleship about 1 million times, always sinking her with a strategically placed black cat firecracker). While I may not be any better of a builder now, I would not hesitate to attempt any model now only because I know I can get help from fellow club members and that I am much better at figuring things out because of RC.

I am still in the early phases of designing a 1/5 scale F3F biplane and have recently concluded that I will need to design the landing gear

for this to proceed. I was hoping the 1/5 scale Robart Wildcat (F4F) gear would work, but after much study of 3 views, it has become obvious to me that there are just too many differences in the gear to make them interchangeable. The point here is that designing a gear like this will be a big time challenge for me, as I will have to fake that I am a mechanical engineer, then fake I am a machinist. My hesitation is now primarily one of time. Is it realistic in my home situation to take the ½ year or so to design and build (rebuild!) the gear given all of the projects I have going? A second hesitation is a quality issue. Since these would be scale and most likely a focal point of the design, can I build these things to look reasonable

## Membership Renewals for 2004

All membership renewals and membership questions for 2004 should be addressed to:

**GARY WEAKS**  
2512 Red Fox Trail  
Troy, MI. 48098

You can phone Gary at:

**248-540-8358**

or email him at:

Gary.T.Weaks@USA.dupont.com

**Remember, if you are renewing by mail you must include a photocopy of your 2004 AMA card & completed application.**

(Continued from page 5)

While this may seem a little abstract and perhaps a bit of a stretch, I would encourage you to think of this when you get asked by an inquiring parent of a youngster if this hobby is good for them. All this from changing a plug, just wait until next month when I have to paint the library! Keep the balsa dust flying!

## AREA EVENTS...

AMRCC CONTEST SCHEDULE

- ★ JANUARY 5.....RETIREES BREAKFAST.....RAMSHORN.....BOB BURNS 248-628-4666
- ★ JANUARY 14.....MEETING.....Electrodynamics.....ROSS JONES 248-738-4435
- ★ JANUARY 18.....SWAP MEET SAINT CLAIR PROP BUSTERS.....TODD 810-966-4546
- ★ JANUARY 18.....STURGIS SWAP - WINGDINGERS.....CRAIG 260-463-2568
- ★ JANUARY 19.....RETIREES BREAKFAST.....RAMSHORN.....BOB BURNS 248-628-4666
- ★ JANUARY 28.....MEETING.....TO BE ANNOUNCED.....ROSS JONES 248-738-4435
- ★ FEBRUARY 1.....FLINT R/C SWAP.....SCOTT 810-621-9428
- ★ FEBRUARY 14.....GRAND RAPIDS SWAP.....BOB 260-483-6144

## SKYMASTERS "JANUARY" 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5 RETIREES BREAKFAST	6	7	8	9	10 AUTO SHOW
11	12	13	14 LARSON MEETING	15	16	17
18 ST. CLAIR SWAP	19 RETIREES BREAKFAST	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 LARSON MEETING	29	30	31



# Skymasters R/C Club 2004 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 2004 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 2004 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 2004 AMA Card
- 3) 2003 Skymasters Card
- 4) Self addressed stamped envelope
- 5) Completed & Signed Application
- 6) \*New members \$70+\$30 Initiation Fee

Mail To:      Gary Weeks  
2512 Red Fox Trail  
Troy, MI 48098

Make checks payable to Skymasters

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



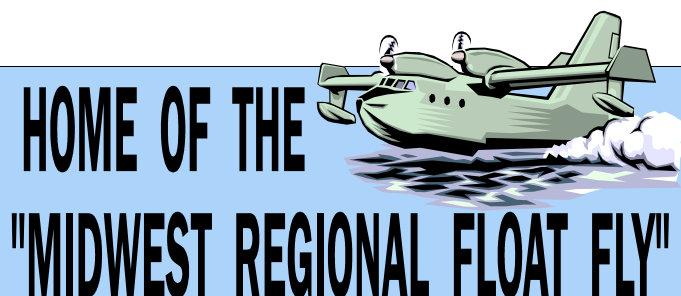
# SKYMASTERS RADIO CONTROL CLUB OF MICHIGAN

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

Web site: [www.skymasters.org](http://www.skymasters.org)  
 Email: [masmith248@earthlink.net](mailto:masmith248@earthlink.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY 5.....RETIREES BREAKFAST**  
**JANUARY 14.....MEETING**  
**JANUARY 18.....PROP BUSTERS SWAP**  
**JANUARY 18.....STURGIS SWAP**  
**JANUARY 19.....RETIREES BREAKFAST**  
**JANUARY 28.....MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 1.....FLINT R/C SWAP**  
**FEBRUARY 14.....GRAND RAPIDS SWAP**



## Skymasters Information.....

Skymasters 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!

