



Academy of Model Aeronautics

Chartered Club #970  
5 Year Gold Leader Club

# Skywriter

## 2007 TOP GUN



**John Fischer beat out all challengers to take the Top Gun title!**



### 2007 Club Officers & Appointees...

President:	Joe Hass	1142 Brunswick Dr.	Rochester Hills	48309	248-321-7934
Vice Pres:	Paul Zabawa	PO Box 138	Metamora	48455	810-678-3332
Secretary:	Dave Wendt	4549 Sedona	Clarkston	48348	248-969-8738
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Editor:	Pete Foss	562 Tanview Dr.	Oxford	48371	248-236-0676
CFI :	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 Weaks	2512 Red Fox Trail	Troy	48098	248-540-8358

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

BY: Joe Hass

August was phenomenally busy for the club and for my family. The Warbirds and Scale event took place on August 5 under the leadership of Dave Wendt. There will be a report on this event elsewhere.

Chris and I started out by driving down to Muncie for the Scale National Model Airplane Championships August 3-5. Chris flew in Open Fun Scale with the Cermak Pitts S2B. I flew Novice Fun Scale with P-51 Reno Racer called the Voodoo. Both of these are ARFs so anybody can participate. I could write a complete column on the experience, the importance of preparation and what you can learn when you are being judged (*You should - Pete*).

Just a few things include: Don't put the engine kill switch on anything but a spring loaded switch. Why? 'Cause when you get to the runway and your engine won't stay running it is very hard to figure out which one of the 8 switches is in the wrong position.

Another? Don't put the Retract Switch on the same side as the elevator/ aileron stick. Why? A P-51 pulls up the gear right after the wheels leave the ground. It is impossible to reach the switch and keep the airplane on course.

Even in Fun Scale you need a picture of the real airplane. Chris probably had the best as he was sitting inside the aircraft his Pitts was modeled after and included a shot, with him in the front seat, a moment after take off with smoke on. I was fortunate to take first place in my division. Besides the plaque I received a gift certificate from Balsa USA for one of their kits. As I was sitting there thinking which kit I would get Dave Johnson of Great Planes received his award for the Best Overall Scale Performance. His prize? A Great Planes Staggerwing Beech. He already has one (surprise!). While still in front of the crowd Dave offered to swap my certificate for the Staggerwing. I thought long and hard (for about 3 nanoseconds) and agreed to the swap. Skip Mast was kind enough to bring it home as we didn't have any room in the van. You should plan on going next year!

Got a call from Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson late Monday, August 6, confirming our trip to Muncie on Saturday, August 11. He asked a favor. Would I be willing to fly him to Hiram College Friday evening so that he could speak? We would then depart to Muncie Saturday morning. Twist my arm! A 1 hour trip over Lake Erie and Cleveland got us near Akron and to Portage County Airport where we were greeted by 3 Stearmans and a homebuilt 2/3 size P-51 on its wheels. Love those small airports! What I didn't know was that the speaking engagement included a total of 6 Tuskegee Airman and 2 B-17 pilots discussing the Problem Solving Techniques used by the Tuskegee Airman. If that wasn't enough a 21 year old student, who at one point was on academic probation and homeless, spoke on how he used these techniques to get his life back on track. An inspirational evening!



Saturday, August 11 was another beautiful day as we made our way across Ohio and Indiana to AMA headquarters where we landed at Reese Field. I won't say that this is a small airport but they occasionally mow the asphalt runway (the grass grows up through the cracks). Cubs, Peitenpols, Er-coupes, and Taylorcrafts abound. We had the "heavy iron" with a Cessna 182. Reese is on the south side of the AMA property so it is very convenient.

(Continued on page 3)

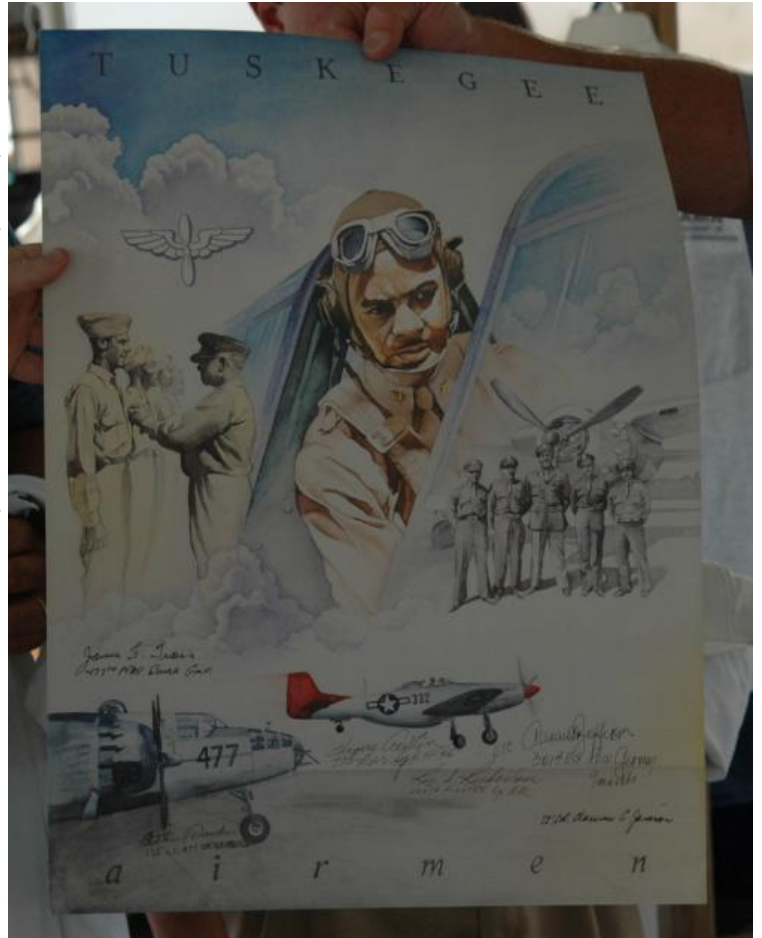


AMA Executive Director Jim Cherry and Museum Director Michael Smith were there to meet us. Jefferson was speaking at a noontime break at the annual International Radio Control Helicopter Association (IRCHA) gathering. Over 700 R/C heli pilots registered. The next largest event is the Joe Nall Fly In with about 540 pilots. You needed a golf cart to get from one end of the heli flight line to the other. There were WWII, Korean, Vietnam and Golf War vets in attendance for Jefferson's talk.

We had a Tuskegee airman poster, signed by the pilots who were at Hiram College the night before to present to the museum. Jefferson did his usual phenomenal job entertaining and informing the crowd. He provided autographs and pictures for anyone interested. AMA had a beautiful blow up of the April Model Aviation cover and a plaque for him.

We made our way to the Museum for a tour. Jefferson lit up like a kid at Christmas when he found a 1939 copy of *Flying Aces* in the library. Michael Smith was quick to make some copies for him as his originals were destroyed when his family thought he was killed after being shot down over Germany. It was very emotional as Jefferson signed a copy of his book "Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free" and Michael Smith put it on the shelf in the Library.

We were engaged in a bit of small talk in Jim Cherry's office when one of the Executive Council members knocked on the door accompanied by a local African American woman. She was a bit breathless inquiring if the Tuskegee Airman had left yet. When she saw Jefferson, she immediately asked if he knew a particular individual who was



her uncle. Jefferson not only knew him but filled in all the details on his particular airplane, etc. Wow, what a day! The flight back was peppered with Jefferson continuing to compliment the modeling community for their warm welcome. By the way, I couldn't get him to take the controls. Thank goodness my landings were all OK.

Three days later on the 15th, I was heading back down to Muncie to pick up Jim Cherry to spend the evening with us at our annual Fish Fry. I was very impressed during my conversations with Jim. I think he will do very well with the AMA. And speaking of impressed, was he ever impressed with the Sky-masters! Almost 100 people, complete families, were all together having a great time with airplanes (and food). He was particularly impressed with one of our younger pilots (Danny Craig – that's you) and the fact that we so willingly welcomed newcomers and got them on the sticks so quickly. Jim presented us with a Flag that flew over AMA Headquarters during the Nationals.

We had a special presentation that evening as well. Gary Weeks has been tireless in supporting the club with time, talent and money. We presented him with an Award of Appreciation for all of his work. But not before we had a little fun about his dress at certain events. See, Gary got tired of burning off all his body hair during the Corn Roast so he fashioned a protective suit. Not one to let a "Kodak Moment" go by (and with a lot of help from Greg Cardillo) we also presented Gary with a large photo in his "Dress for Success" outfit (*Check out this year's outfit on page 6! - Pete*).

Mr. Cherry then joined us at the Wooden Eagle to “solve the rest of the problems of the world”. Of course, by the time we got there, the Skymasters in attendance had already line up tables and had the plans for scale ship rolled out even before the drinks were ordered. Jim’s only question on the flight back Thursday morning was “Does this happen every week?” It was with a great deal of pride in each one of you Skymasters that I proudly said “Yes”. Thanks to Bob and Donna Burns and their team for again hosting the Fish Fry.

Speaking of Mr. Weaks, Gary had made all the arrangements for Aviation Day at the Detroit Science Center on August 19. Horizon supplied the simulator and the Center actually set up additional projection equipment so that the crowd could see the simulated flights. Chris did three rounds of demonstration flights with an aerobatic foamie and a helicopter in some very tight quarters. Over 1800 people attended the museum that rainy Sunday. Gary had plenty of Skymasters info to pass out.



Saturday, August 25 again found me in the air flying to Marquette to pick up my mother. Hard IFR on the way up but tail winds and clear skies for the return trip.

And clear skies are what we had for our Annual Corn Roast on August 26. Once again the Skymasters came together to put on a great event with perfect weather and a crowd approaching 100. Gary and Phyllis Weaks and their team took care of the corn. Greg Cardillo and his team worked the grill. Lots of others simply did what was necessary to make it a perfect day. Jim Cherry sent us a letter congratulating us on 10 years as an AMA Leader Club. Each attendee got a patch that can be sewn to a jacket or shirt. We still have plenty so if you didn’t get one please see me.

In addition to our annual “Top Gun” Competition we also had our “Cartoon Scale” Event. John Fischer did a great job with his flight to music to win the Top Gun trophy, Top Gun hat and bragging rights for the coming year. Congratulation John for a great flight! Jim Held, the inventor of the “Cartoon Scale” event was the pilot’s choice for the best conversion of the SIG Somethin’ Extra to an A-10 Warthog. Jim’s prize? A Somethin’ Extra kit!

I finished up the month with a flight to Chicago for a business meeting (wow is O’Hare’s airspace busy) and my bi-annual flight review. 21.4 flight hours in the month and some great experiences.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL FLOAT FLY SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9!** Our premier event is coming up this weekend. The MWRFF is the best float fly event anywhere. The prizes are pouring in. The long range weather forecast looks promising. The ready to fly Cessna 310 Super Prize (thanks again to Jim Held for putting it together) is ready. Second prize is a Plug and Play J-3 Cub from Horizon. All we need is you! Bring your float plane or just come out and enjoy the day! There is a great Pig Roast at the end of the day Saturday so stay for dinner. We do need some help with set up, tear down and throughout the event so come out and support your club.

NO MEETING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12... Due to the very busy schedule with the float fly we will not have a meeting on September 12. Instead Larson will host a full size aviation seminar sponsored by the Troy Oakland Pilots (TOPS) and MDOT. Skymasters are welcome to attend. We will need a few aircraft for display and someone to answer Skymasters questions.

STUDENT NIGHT CONTINUES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19... Since we are not going to have a meeting until September 26, Student Night and the Cookout and Pot Luck will continue until September 19. Thanks to Dairdre and Charlie McGlothlin for taking the lead on this.

MEETING TOPICS

Visit the website for more details but here is a short list of upcoming meeting topics:

- Sept.26 Mitch Dombrowski on Picture and Video Links from R/C aircraft.
- Oct. 10 Hobby Lobby. Jason Cole will bring the latest in electrics. In the gym.
- Oct. 24 President's Choice. First prize will be a radio. Got to be there to win. Fun!

SEE YOU AT THE MIDWEST REGIONAL FLOAT FLY!

Joe Hass

**SKYMASTERS R/C MICHIGAN**

**Skymasters R/C Club**  
 We'll Teach you to fly!  
 Join the Skymasters Radio Control Club for an R/C Aircraft Event

**Student Night & Pot Luck Dinners**

Every Wednesday from Memorial Day to Labor Day  
 Bald Mountain Scripps Road Field

Rain or shine! We always eat, we sometimes fly!"

**Student Night:**  
 Instructors available a day (weather permitting)  
 Open flying – with priority to student flights

**Pot Luck Dinner:**  
 For those participating we ask that you: bring something for the grill – enough to feed you and your guests  
 Bring a dish to pass (see note)  
 Bring your own (non-alcoholic) beverage

**Weather at open – rain or shine!**

94dba at 10 feet (unforced).

**SCRIPPS FIELD LOCATION**

•Dish to pass: Don't know what to bring? Each week a board will be up listing the items needed – from plates to condiments, charcoal, etc. Pick one of the needed items to bring instead! The potluck is sustained by those participating with no expense to club.

Flying field is located within the Bald Mountain Recreation Area, about 5 miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills on Scripps Road between Lapeer Rd (M24) and Joslyn Rd.

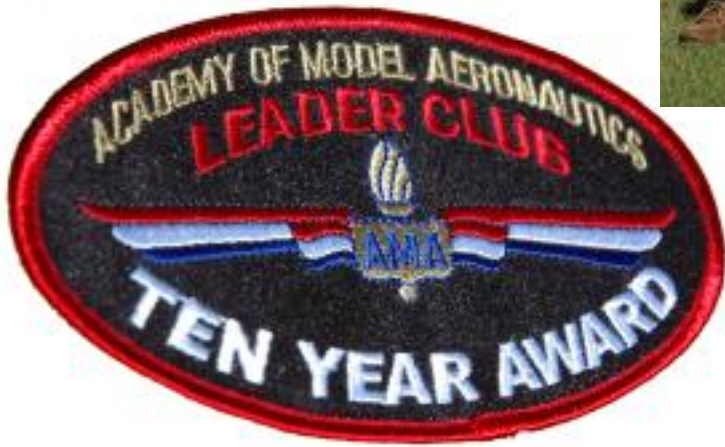
All cars need annual/daily State Park sticker – available at event.

For more information call Charles and Dairdre McGlothlin at 248-364-4194  
 Visit our website at [www.skymasters.org](http://www.skymasters.org)

Expired On Sept 19 2007



# 2007 Corn Roast, Top Gun and Cartoon Scale





# 2007 Warbirds and Scale



# UPCOMING SKYMASTERS EVENTS

## **Stony Creek Float Flying - Wednesdays Thru October**

### **Stony Creek Metropark - 9:00 AM**

Every Wednesday the weather allows. Come fly off water at Stony Creek Metro Park on Wednesday mornings. Flying from Winter Cove. Contact Jim Held for more info and to get on mailing list for cancellations.

[We'll be flying September 5th at Stony Creek. Cancellations posted at 8am Wednesday mornings.](#)

## **Midwest Regional Float Fly - Saturday/Sunday, September 8-9, 2007**

### **Island Lake State Park, Brighton - 9:30 AM**

This is the big one! Float flyers from all over the Midwest bring all sizes, shapes, and color of aircraft imaginable and fly them for two days solid. A blast! Flying starts at 9:30 AM both days!

## **\*NO Meeting\* - Wednesday, September 12, 2007**

### **Recovering from our Float Fly! ;-)- 7:00 PM**

Join the TOPS flying club (full scale) for a MDOT TOPS Flight Safety program at Larson if you are interested...

## **Skymasters Meeting - Wednesday, September 26, 2007**

### **Larson Middle School. 2222 E. Long Lake Road, Troy - 7:00 PM**

Summer Recap, Midwest Regional Float Fly recap, and more! (check back for details..)

## **Orion Township Barn Daze - Saturday, September 29, 2007**

### **Friendship Park - Baldwin Rd and Clarkston Rd - 11:00 AM**

Our annual Kid's Day once again combines with Orion Township Barn Daze. For a small donation (all proceeds to the park) - have a chance to fly a radio controlled model plane with one of our instructors. Also see a collection of our models on display. For Kid's of all ages! Flying till 5pm weather permitting.

**\*\*Scripps Road Field will be closed for this event\*\*** [\\*\\* Note Date Change - Rescheduled by Township \\*\\*](#)

## **Skymasters Meeting - Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

### **Larson Middle School. 2222 E. Long Lake Road, Troy - 7:00 PM**

Jason Cole from Hobby Lobby returns to Michigan and joins us for the evening! Always a popular meeting. See new products from Hobby Lobby, and ask any questions you might have...

## **Skymasters Meeting - Wednesday, October 24, 2007**

### **Larson Middle School. 2222 E. Long Lake Road, Troy - 7:00 PM**

President's Choice! Our annual 'rubber power' competition... Come see what Joe has cooked up for this year... Prizes to be won!

## **Retiree and Want'A Be's Breakfast - Monday, November 5, 2007**

### **Rams Horn Restaurant - 2265 Crooks Road, Rochester Hills - 9:00 AM**

First and third Monday of each month throughout the winter - Join us for breakfast and R/C talk. (SE corner of Crooks Rd and M-59)

## **Skymasters Meeting - Wednesday, November 7, 2007**

### **Larson Middle School. 2222 E. Long Lake Road, Troy - 7:00 PM**

Financial Review. Annual Elections.

**\*\* Note date change due to school conflict!! \*\***

## **Retiree and Want'A Be's Breakfast - Monday, November 19, 2007**

### **Rams Horn Restaurant - 2265 Crooks Road, Rochester Hills - 9:00 AM**

First and third Monday of each month throughout the winter - Join us for breakfast and R/C talk. (SE corner of Crooks Rd and M-59)

## **\*NO Meeting\* - Wednesday, November 28, 2007**

### **School Closed - Thanksgiving -**

Well - Thanksgiving is really a week earlier this year - but we traditionally only have one meeting in November, so enjoy some leftover turkey...



# 2007 Bob and Donna Burns' Fish Fry





# SKYMASTERS RADIO CONTROL CLUB OF MICHIGAN

**Pete Foss**  
**562 Tanview Dr.**  
**Oxford, MI. 48371**

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



PHOTOGRAPHY by  
Greg Cardillo



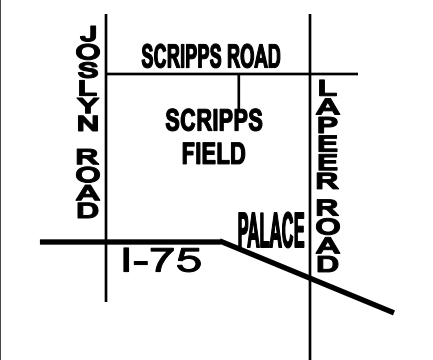
## Skymasters Information.....

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 2005 is 94 dBa at 10 feet—this noise rule is strictly enforced.

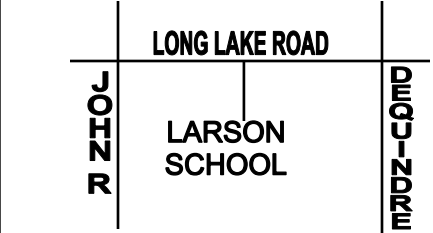
In the summer, Wednesday evenings are Student Nights and there are usually instruc-

tors around all 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 (586) 977-1404.

### SCRIPPS ROAD FIELD



### WINTER MEETINGS



the month at 8 PM . 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 7:00 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!

From June to August, Club meetings are held at the field, on the second Wednesday of