



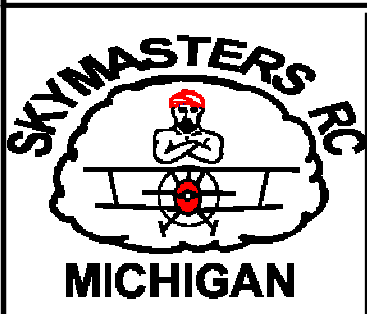
Chartered Club #970  
10 Year Gold Leader Club

# Skywriter

## Congratulations Gary Weaks!



Gary Weaks, with his wife Phyllis on hand, received the “Carl Goldberg Vital People Award” from AMA for his “dedication above and beyond, in support of the AMA and Model Aviation”.



### 2010 Club Officers & Appointees...

|             |             |                    |              |       |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| President:  | David Wendt | 4549 Sedona        | Clarkston    | 48348 | 248-969-8738 |
| Vice Pres:  | Paul Zabawa | PO Box 138         | Metamora     | 48455 | 810-678-3332 |
| Secretary:  | Dan Stolz   | 1311 Pondview Ln.  | Oxford       | 48371 | 248-236-0206 |
| Treasurer:  | Bob Donohue | 3323 Baldwin Woods | Orion        | 48359 | 248-915-9791 |
| 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...

This is a very busy time of the year for the Skymasters BOD. I'm going to do my best to bring you up to speed on everything we have accomplished since the last newsletter. Indoor flying has begun and one of the first tasks for the BOD was to re-visit the indoor safety rules. We were guided by the desire to provide the best possible venue for indoor flying in Michigan. We also needed to make sure appropriate safety rules are in place to keep pilots and spectators out of danger. In the end, I believe we have a set of rules that focuses on safety and still preserves the spirit of a quality indoor flying experience. We did spend a great deal of time responding to emails from people who objected to rules that had not been created yet. I do encourage the BOD to be open and objectively listen to the members. It's a good thing when members share their opinions and ideas with the BOD. I do however draw the line when people start sending threats via emails. There is no productivity in this type of behavior. Enough said on that topic.

The next big event is the Thanksgiving Indoor Fly on Friday, November 26. The event time changed this year because of a soccer tournament held at Ultimate. We moved the starting time to 2:00 p.m. Normally the event starts earlier but we still have the full four hour session and the entry fee is still just fifteen dollars. The same indoor rules apply to our holiday flying events as well as the regular Tuesday sessions. Please follow the rules and most importantly be aware of your surroundings. Please keep the safety of others foremost in your mind while flying.

The Christmas party is just around the corner. We will have a great buffet of food this year including three roasted turkeys and all the trimmings! The Christmas party is always a great time. The party is a pot luck style dinner with a visit from Santa for the kids. Each child will receive a gift and each Pilot has an opportunity to win some very nice prizes just for showing up. There will also be a prize for show and tell so bring a favorite plane to show and you just might go home with something nice.

The board has also been busy securing a new tractor for our field. We have known for some time now that our old Ford tractor could break down forcing us to make some difficult choices. Parts for the old Ford are now pretty hard to acquire. We did not want to find ourselves in a situation where the tractor broke down in the middle of the summer with no fast way of getting it fixed. In the worst case scenario we would be forced to purchase a new tractor in the middle of the summer. We were looking to find a great deal and we did not want time to be a factor in the purchasing process. As luck would have it, one of our members, Mark Smith found us a spectacular tractor at an unbeatable price. Our new tractor is a Kubota L3010 diesel and will almost certainly outlast me. The new tractor has all the options we were looking for and we did not break the bank to purchase it. Nice Job Mark!

Last I want to welcome our new members of the BOD! Our last meeting was the club final review and elections of new board members. The new board members are as follows.

President – Greg Cardillo

Vice President – Neil Krohn

Secretary – Dan Stolz

Treasurer – Bob Donohue

I know Paul was vice president for eight years and always did a spectacular job. Paul declined running this year to spend a little more time enjoying the hobby. Thank you Paul for all you have done over the years! As for myself, I served five years as the secretary and one year as President. I enjoyed my time serving the club and I thank you for the opportunity to help out.

David Wendt



Skymasters is honored to present to Gary Weaks the Academy of Model Aeronautics "Carl Goldberg Vital People Award". As described in the application by Joe Hass and David Wendt below, Gary has served Skymasters and the aviation community at large for many years by organizing or helping out at many events including Cloud Nine Café, Operation Cheer, Barn Daze, Aviation Day at the Detroit Science Center, etc. To me the best example of Gary's dedication is "Minute Maid", his trainer airplane. Gary has personally given demonstration flights and stick time to literally hundreds of visitors over the years, many of whom have joined the hobby and the club. Thanks Gary for all your hard work on behalf of Skymasters and the AMA. - Pete Foss

## Academy of Model Aeronautics

5161 East Memorial Drive  
Muncie, Indiana 47302  
(765) 287-1256 – Business  
(765) 289-4248 – Fax  
(800) 435-9262 – Membership Services  
<http://www.modelaircraft.org>



# *Academy of Model Aeronautics Carl Goldberg Vital People Award*

## Nomination Form

Nominee: **Gary Weaks** \_\_\_\_\_ AMA: **199247** \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the accomplishments and reasons why this individual should receive the Carl and Beth Goldberg Vital People Award. This award is intended to recognize those members who make substantial contributions to model aviation at a local level.

Few organizations are fortunate enough to have a member who epitomizes the values set out in the Carl Goldberg Vital People Award. The Skymasters Radio Control Club of Michigan has such an individual, Gary Weaks. Gary is a talented modeler who creates beautiful scale masterpieces, most from scratch. It is common that these aircraft include intricate scale retracts and folding wings. He routinely shares his design and building techniques with all who are interested, regardless of their affiliation with the Skymasters.

But Gary goes far beyond this. He has held numerous official positions with the Skymasters including his current position as Membership Director. He helps at numerous Skymasters events. He routinely flies demonstration flights at local air shows, sharing his passion for aviation with the crowd. As a private pilot he has served as a crew member in "Operation Cheer" the annual program where pilots fly their own aircraft, at their own expense, to distribute Christmas presents to needy children around the state of Michigan.

Gary continues his commitment to the aviation community through his work as a volunteer instructor and guide at the Detroit Science Center in Detroit, Michigan. Gary has donated a number of his scale aircraft for static display. He was the lightning rod that created the first Aviation Day at the Science Center. His program included a flight simulator driving a projector that filled a large wall with images, numerous aircraft for static display and actual flight demonstration inside the center. He captured the youth present by making sure that the indoor pilot was a young teenager.

Gary carries his youth involvement further by coordinating an annual outing at a local park near the Skymasters field that allows youngsters the opportunity to get some stick time with Skymasters Instructors. As a Skymaster Instructor he also routinely spends his time at the Skymasters field introducing visitors to the thrill of model aviation using his own aircraft and equipment.

Gary is a consummate gentleman who is indeed a "Vital Person" as he promotes our fine sport to all comers.

Date: February 26, 2010



# Skymasters R/C Club Winter 2010 / 2011 Indoor Flying

With the cooperation of Ultimate Soccer Arenas



In conjunction with Romeo Skyhawks, Radio Control Club of Detroit, Greater Detroit Soaring and Hiking Society.

## Field Rules (Updated 10/21/2010)

1. Sessions are typically Tuesdays 11am to 1pm per our agreement with Ultimate Soccer Arenas. Please arrive no earlier than 10:30am.  
Special events may require additional fees. No flights before or after allowed.
2. No aircraft can weigh more than 2 pounds ready to fly.  
Helicopters are limited to Blade 400/TREX 450 size (3s 2600 mAh battery max)
3. 3D flying must be done with a spotter and will be monitored by Flight Safety Officers.
4. All legal frequencies on 27mHz, 50/53mHz (with Ham License), 72mHz, 900mHz, and 2.4GHz permitted.
5. All 50mHz and 72mHz transmitters and receivers must be narrow band.
6. All transmitters, except 2.4GHz, must use frequency control. (72mHz control provided) There is no transmitter impound.
7. All flights must be 15 feet in front of established flight line, never behind it. Follow rules applicable at time of flight.
8. AMA Safety Code must be followed.
9. Fly in a courteous manner. Use a spotter or seek assistance if needed.
10. Designated area for helicopters is the South end of the field only. The West half of Heli field is for micro/mini Heli's and East half is for the larger Heli's.
11. Designated area for fixed wing 3D flight is the North end of the field only.
12. Micro flyers please stay in the corners. Do not stand and fly directly opposite the Sport flyers.
13. Only Sponsors may sell merchandise during the flying times.
14. Flying may be interrupted for announcements and demonstrations.
15. Pricing: Single Flying Session \$15.00; 5 Flying Sessions \$30.00;  
Season Pass (23 Two hour Flying Sessions) \$100.00
16. All Pilots must sign in at the registration table before flying.
17. Please clean your area and take any trash with you when you leave.
18. These rules are subject to change.
19. Skymasters reserves the right to refuse flight privileges.

## Please THANK our Sponsors!!!



# Jason Cole from Hobby Lobby

As we have for the last several years, Skymasters hosted a visit from Jason Cole, Marketing Director for Hobby Lobby. Jason brought several new offerings including the new eRC Micro Stick, several new EDFs including a Panther, F-86 and Mig, as well as several other scale airplanes. As you can see, over 100 people from all over southeast Michigan attended the meeting at Ultimate Soccer.



We took a short break during the meeting to test fly the new streamer combat ready eRC Micro Stik RTF. Lots of fun to fly and extremely maneuverable, they fly on standard single cell batteries with the included 2.4 GHz transmitter with built in charger.



Jason Cole displays the new F-86 ducted fan along with the F9F Panther and Mig 15. These receiver ready planes are a great deal for \$119!



Happy winners of door prizes from Hobby Lobby including 4 of the new streamer combat ready eRC Micro Sticks.



# President's Choice

This year the venue for President's choice was Ultimate Sports Areas in Pontiac. The event was pylon racing with RTF Hobby Zone Champs. The little plane proved to be very stable and a great choice for indoor pylon races. We ran heats of four pilots with the top two advancing to the next round. Finally we ended up with the top six competitors (Chris Hass, Brandon Odell, Pat Norton, Danny Craig, Jim Held, and Joe Rubinstein). The top six battled it out in a crowded frenzy for the top three positions. Chris Hass took the top position with Danny Craig securing the second place victory. Third place was too close to call so we had a final fly off between Pat Norton and Brandon Odell). Brandon won the fly off giving him the third place victory.

The rest of the arena was open for flying and plenty of people took advantage of the free space.



Roger Schmelling, Wade Wiley, Curt Craig and Paul Zabawa launch the Champs for a heat while John Hakula flies one of the planes. Looks like Roger and Paul put their pilots at a disadvantage right off the bat!



Bill Dezur, Robin Rissell and Gene Thuringer look pretty serious as they make their way around the course.



Bill Klems flew this Flyzone Micro Albatross RTF during the free open flying at President's Choice.

# PROP WASH...



Joe Finkelstine

*(Continued from last month's newsletter)*

Let's look at another common situation I get asked about that can be explained in a similar manner.

You are working on your heli on the bench, have everything set up and you turn on the heli, everything turns on and initializes properly. Eager to watch your gyro in action, you give a full left rudder stick, and watch as the tail rotor pitch arm moves the tail blades all the way (left or right depending on heli). you then center your rudder stick, and much to your disbelief, the tail blades don't go back to where they started, but in fact stay fully deflected. You immediately wonder what you did wrong, or even worse, you have to return the gyro to the hobby shop. Let's think this through before you get in the car.

Once you turned on the electronics (your heading hold gyro has no idea if your engine is running and it does not care) the gyro initialized and sprang to life. It then saw a pulse width from the rudder that said maximum left rotation, so it started moving the tail blades to increase rotation. It quickly moves them to maximum pitch, notices that the heading is not changing, so it keeps them fully deflected while you hold full left rudder stick, trying to get the heli to rotate. It sees an error condition, but it keeps trying. You then put the rudder stick back to center and the gyro says "hmmmm, I've just been commanded to hold heading, and the heading is not changing where I have the tail blades, so I won't move them - works for me!" - this is why the blades stay fully out (some newer gyros override this condition and send the blades back home because it has confused thousands of pilots and probably caused way to many service calls). To convince yourself the gyro is still working try the previous steps, then with your hands, manually rotate the heli (rudder stick in neutral) and watch the tail blade pitch change - it is still working to keep the heading .

One final topic I want to discuss with our gyros is that of gain. Since a gyro is a classic feedback control loop, there is always an issue in these situations with how aggressive and accurate the correction should be applied. If the correction is over applied, constant shaking and buzzing is common. If the correction is not aggressive enough, the heading hold will be slow to correct and the heading will often drift on climb or descent. From our viewpoint, we typically set gyro gain as a travel limit on a channel that is plugged into the gyro gain. To test the gain we bring the heli to a hover and make a rapid pirouette, then back to neutral. If the heli tail shakes for any length of time after stick returns to home, that is a clear sign that the gain is too high. To test for too low a gain, a rapid climb is commanded to the heli and an observation of the heading is made. If the gain is too low, the heli will typically slowly change heading in one direction on the way up, and slowly drift heading in the opposite direction on the way down. If gain is too high or low, we simply land, change the channel gain (I.E. we change the channel end point) and try the test all over again until it works.

Let's review some of my recommendations for setup and use:

- ◆ Read the manual that comes with the gyro, it actually explains how to connect it up and what to expect.
- ◆ If above is not possible, ask someone who uses the same gyro for setup help.
- ◆ You still need to set up the tail rotor system with the typical 90-90 rule, as is typically explained in the manual that came with the heli. - in short, the designer of your heli designed the mechanics to work best when servo arms, rods, bell cranks, etc. are all 90 degrees to each other at mid stick. You also need to insure the gyro units are mounted properly - usually with shock absorbing sticky tape.



(Continued from page 7)

- ◆ Don't forget you need to allocate a separate channel for the gyro gain on your radio.
- ◆ Even the best heading hold gyros won't work well if there is an out of balance shake on the heli. Out of balance blades, bent main shaft, etc. will drive a gyro nuts and then drive you nuts.
- ◆ Remember that you have two chances to get the tail reversed - one is to get the rudder channel reversed, the other is the reverse switch on the gyro - ask experienced pilots how to verify the gyro and corrections on the ground.
- ◆ I have seen some people overlook a setup item called limits - this is dangerous. Limits on your gyro physically limit how far the unit will command the servo to move - if not set, the servo could stall, or even worse, the tail blade unit could break - Make sure your gyro limits are set and it can't bind the tail unit.
- ◆ If your radio has revo mixing, insure it is inhibited - it is an old relic from the mechanical gyro days and should be eliminated from our radios, but it is not so far. If not inhibited, it will cause havoc with your patience.
- ◆ If you get a heli that is all "set up" don't forget that you will still need to set gain, direction, and mechanical limits - it's your radio doing the talking now, not the one it was set up with.
- ◆ Once you have your gyro up and running, gain set right - don't mess with it anymore, and certainly don't use your rudder trim - if your heli starts to drift in heading, that is a sign something is wrong and it should be attended to immediately.

All my helis have heading hold gyros and they are a very low maintenance item once set up and help all of us fly the crazy maneuvers that would not be possible otherwise.

Good flying

Joe



Fall float flying this fall at Seven Lakes State Park in Holly was fun for the few times the weather cooperated. Hopefully next year we can take better advantage of the Saturday flying.



## Skymasters R/C Club

In conjunction with Romeo Skyhawks,  
Radio Control Club of Detroit, Greater  
Detroit Soaring and Hiking Society  
Join us for an R/C Aircraft Event

# Thanksgiving Weekend Indoor Flying!

Friday - November 26, 2010 2pm - 6pm

Ultimate Soccer Arenas  
867 South Blvd, Pontiac, MI

Flying area is 365 ft by 260 ft with 45 ft to 75 foot ceilings!  
Ample space for concurrent flying of 3D, Heli, Sport Flying!



Temperature controlled, well lit. Restaurant on site.  
Check our website for other dates throughout the winter.



Pilots must show proof of AMA membership  
Spectators Welcome  
No admission charge!

4 Hour Session  
For \$15

Ultimate Soccer Arenas - [www.ultimatesoccerarenas.com](http://www.ultimatesoccerarenas.com)

For more information call David Wendt 248-703-2318  
Visit our website at [www.skymasters.org](http://www.skymasters.org)



# UPCOMING SKYMASTERS EVENTS

## Winter Weather Reminder

Our meetings are dependent on the status of the Troy School District. If Troy Schools are closed - or cancel after school activities, our events are cancelled as well. Please check local radio and TV stations for status. We will update the site as soon as possible in the event of a cancellation.

## Winter Indoor Flying! - Tuesdays Thru the Winter

### Ultimate Soccer Arena, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac, MI - 11:00 AM

Located just west of Opdyke, on the north side of South Blvd - a 365 ft by 260 ft facility with ceilings from 45 to 75 ft available for indoor flying from 11am to 1 pm!! Ample room for concurrent flying of 3D, Heli, and Sport. Purchase 5 sessions for just \$30 or season pass for all 23 sessions for just \$100(available at event) Single sessions available for \$15. Temperature controlled, well lit. Restaurant on site.

**\*NO Meeting\* - Wednesday, November 24, 2010**

**School Closed - Thanksgiving -**

## Thanksgiving Weekend Indoor Flying! - Friday, November 26, 2010

### Ultimate Soccer Arena, 867 South Blvd, Pontiac, MI - 2:00 PM

Located just west of Opdyke, on the north side of South Blvd - a 365 ft by 260 ft facility with ceilings from 45 to 75 ft available for indoor flying from 2pm to 6pm on Friday, November 26th!! Ample room for concurrent flying of 3D, Heli, and Sport. Temperature controlled, well lit. Restaurant on site. Just \$15 for 4 hours of flying!

## Retiree and Want'A Be's Breakfast - Monday, December 6, 2010

### The Red-Olive Restaurant, 1194 Walton Blvd, Rochester - 9:00 AM

First and third Monday of each month throughout the winter - Join us for breakfast and R/C talk. (located in the new strip mall directly across the street from Crittenton Hospital on Walton Blvd. just east of Livernois.) Restaurant features a \$3.59 breakfast special and all of their omelets are \$3.95 on weekday mornings. Contact Sherman Dickson or Fred Engleman for more information.

## Skymasters Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 8, 2010

### Larson Middle School. 2222 E. Long Lake Road, Troy - 6:30 PM

Our annual Christmas Party. Bring the family for food, fun, and a visit from Santa with gifts for the kids! Social time with Appetizers starts at 6:30. Pot Luck Dinner at 7:00.. Santa visits after dinner!!

## Retiree and Want'A Be's Breakfast - Monday, December 20, 2010

### The Red-Olive Restaurant, 1194 Walton Blvd, Rochester - 9:00 AM

First and third Monday of each month throughout the winter - Join us for breakfast and R/C talk. (located in the new strip mall directly across the street from Crittenton Hospital on Walton Blvd. just east of Livernois.) Restaurant features a \$3.59 breakfast special and all of their omelets are \$3.95 on weekday mornings. Contact Sherman Dickson or Fred Engleman for more information.

**\*NO Meeting\* - Wednesday, December 22, 2010**

**School Closed - Christmas Break -**

## Krazy Snow Fly - Friday, December 31, 2010

### Scripps Road Field, Lake Orion - 10:00 AM

Our last event of the year! Whether snow and ice; or maybe a sunny day - one of our most popular events. Come join us for some hot chili and weather permitting - flying to end the year.

## Skymasters Apparel

To order Skymasters hats, shirts, jackets, etc. please call Creative Embroidery at (248) 628-9351 or [creativeemb@att.net](mailto:creativeemb@att.net)



# 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 and Pete Foss**



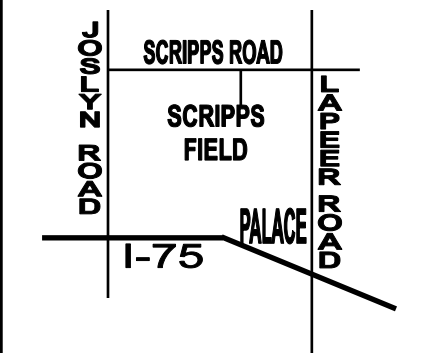
## Skymasters Information.....

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

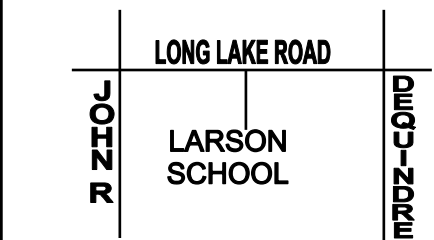
In the summer, Wednesday evenings are Student Nights and there are usually instruc-

tors around all night is also a

### SCRIPPS ROAD FIELD



### WINTER MEETINGS



Student 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.

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

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!