



Chartered Club #970
15 Year Gold Leader Club

Skywriter

Merry Christmas

Season's Greetings



2011 Club Officers & Appointees...

President:	Greg Cardillo	2086 Cedar Key Ct.	Lake Orion	48359	248-393-1056
Vice Pres.:	Neil Krohn	722 Leinster	Rochester	48309	248-375-0908
Secretary:	Dan Stolz	1311 Pondview Ln.	Oxford	48371	248-236-0206
Treasurer:	Bob Donohue	3323 Baldwin Woods	Lake Orion	48359	248-915-9791
Editor:	Mark Smith	1955 Hopefield	Lake Orion	48359	248-391-5970
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:	Randy MacInnes	8189 Easton Rd S.	Clarkston	48348	248-394-0414

President's Message...

Wow – where does the year go? It seems just yesterday I was writing my first President's Letter for this term – and already I'm writing my last.

Upcoming Events

We still have just a few events left this year...

On Friday, December 2nd, we again have the opportunity to be part of "Trees for Troops". One of our members, Frank Genovese and his wife Cathy, own Candy Cane Christmas Tree Farm (4780 Seymour Lake Rd, Oxford). We will be wrapping and loading trees donated by the Christmas Tree Growers Association of Michigan that will be shipped and given free to our troops and their families at military bases around the country. Join us to show our community support for our troops at 10am – bring gloves and dress warm!

Our Indoor Flying of course continues every Tuesday – with two special notes. Tuesday, December 20th will be the annual charity drive. Each year Ultimate Soccer has selected a charity to help with the holidays – this year it will include Pontiac Lighthouse – an organization that "provides inspiration and support for people in need as they move from crisis to self-sufficiency." More details will be coming as Ultimate works with them to identify their needs. Check your emails next week! Monday, December 26th will be a 4 hour flying session to try all those new Christmas presents out...

Our annual Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 7th at Larson. Bring the family, and come enjoy. The format is a pot-luck being coordinated by Fred and Edith Engelman – with a visit planned by Santa for the kids.

There are two "Retiree and Want'A Be's Breakfasts" remaining – December 5th and 19th. For the last one of the year(19th), spouses/significant others are encouraged to attend. (The breakfasts will continue in January.)

Our last event of the year is the Krazy Snow Fly, on Saturday, December 31st! Whatever Mother Nature may bring, we'll be out there with a big pot of Paul Zabawa's famous chili – and hopefully some flying fun! A great way to end the year.

The Past Year

It has been a very busy year, and overall a good one for Skymasters. From an unprecedented Estate Sale we were the benefactors of, to a large number of flying events, meetings, and get togethers – all of our events were successful – most with the cooperation of Mother Nature as well.

As I have said many times, this club can't accomplish what we do without the help of all those that volunteer their time and services! A big thank you to all those that have pitched in throughout the year. It isn't possible to list everyone here without of course missing some.

I do want to specifically thank those on the Board this

year. The officers – Vice President Neil Krohn, Secretary Dan Stolz, and Treasurer Bob Donohue; the appointed positions of Chief Flight Instructor Ron Sokacz, Chief Heli Instructor Scott Abbott, Membership Director Randy MacInnes, Newsletter Editor Mark Smith (yes my letter is coming!), Park Liaison Bill Stark, and Pete Foss assisting me with the website. Additionally to the members that contributed their time, opinions, and knowledge to the running of the club (and a few good meals J) attending the Board meetings, running events, and otherwise making things happen. A tremendous amount of effort occurs 'behind the scenes' to make this all possible.

The Future

Congratulations to the 2012 Skymasters Officers – President Dave Lange, Vice President Mark Smith, Secretary Ed Saumier, and Treasurer Bob Donohue. As the new Board gets ready for 2012 – I certainly wish them the best. I have offered my help to Dave to use as he sees fit.

To all – Please remember that this is a hobby/sport, and the intent is to be fun. All those helping to run the club are volunteers with full time jobs (even retirees tell me it's a full time job!) They deserve our thanks and support.

Enjoy the holidays, and as always.

Happy Landings!
Greg Cardillo

INDOOR FLYING



By:
Fred Engelman

GOLDBERG AWARD

By: Joe Hass

KEN MYERS WINS COVETED GOLDBERG VITAL PEOPLE AWARD

Ken Myers was awarded the Carl Goldberg Vital People Award in a surprise presentation during the annual Midwest R/C Society Swap Shop in Northville, MI USA on Sunday November 6, 2011. Over 200 modelers were in attendance. Through special arrangements, Ken's wife was there for the award as well.

Ken was recognized for his decades long work in promoting electric flight, in all of its many forms, through the AMPEER newsletter and the MID AM Electric Flies. Keith Shaw probably said it best "Ken provided the vehicle, through the AMPEER and his technical expertise, to help electric flight grow into the remarkable form it is today". Ken's unselfish willingness to help modelers around the world be successful has been appropriately recognized. The award application can be found elsewhere in this issue of the AMPEER. It was very difficult to compress all of Ken's contributions into the limited space available on the form. Imagine writing and, for many years printing and mailing, a monthly newsletter for over 20 years! Ken did it without hesitation.

After it was confirmed that Ken was the winner, work went in to high gear. The event director Rudy Reinhardt, officers of the Midwest Club and members of the EFO where all contacted. Last years Goldberg Award winner Gary Weaks from the Sky-masters R/C Club and past AMA Hall of Fame winners Keith Shaw and Pete Waters were present. Erin Dobbs at AMA headquarters expedited getting the award created and delivered to chief instigator Joe Hass as there were only a few days from the initial confirmation of Ken's award and the swap shop. Arrangements were made for the application to be framed with a large mat so that those in attendance could add their personal wishes to Ken.

The biggest challenge was to keep



the award a surprise. Fortunately Ken had moved to the back of the venue as the final preparations went into place. Jim Young graciously agreed to take pictures. At 10 AM Hass took to the microphone. After a brief explanation of the significance of the Goldberg award Ken's name was announced. As applause rose from the crowd Ken, smiling from ear to ear, made his way to the front of room. Reinhardt, who was standing next to Ken, stated that Ken was totally surprised. As evident by one of the pictures Ken was equally surprised by

the check that accompanied the award.

After the presentation Ken graciously accepted the best wishes and congratulations of all those who appreciated and benefitted from his contributions and generosity.

For those who have been involved in aeromodeling for a while the name Carl Goldberg (1912-1985) is synonymous with prolific free flight, control-line and R/C designs that forever changed the landscape of modeling. Carl worked for Comet Models, was one of the founder of American Hobby Specialties (which eventually became Top Flite Models) and founder of Carl Goldberg Models. A consummate gentleman, Carl helped modelers young and old and contributed to AMA during its formative years. Prior to his death he and his wife established the Carl Goldberg Vital People Award to recognize and reward those who make aeromodeling so rewarding. Nominations from the aeromodeling community are accepted by the AMA. A committee reviews those applications and makes the awards in November of each year.

Join all of us who know and work with Ken in congratulating him in this well deserved recognition.



ON THE WING



SUPER SWAP

FEBRUARY 4, 2012

Monday's Power Breakfast

**Red Olive
Breakfast Schedule**

**December 5, 2011
December 19, 2011
(Wives)**

**January 2, 2012
January 16, 2011**

Winter Indoor Flying!

Ultimate Soccer Arenas,
Pontiac
Indoor flying on
Tuesdays!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!

We are looking for a
newsletter editor.
Contact Dave Lange

Hello Skymasters,

I would like to personally thank the previous board, Greg Cardillo, Neil Krohn, Bob Donohue & Dan Stolz for their labors of the 2011 calendar year. Please take time to thank them as they have worked very hard to make this a successful year for all of us.

At the November 9th meeting, Ed Saumier as secretary, Bob Donohue as treasurer, Mark Smith as vice president were all elected to their positions with no contest. By vote, I was elected as president for the 2012 year. The three assigned board members have been chosen, and they are; Roger Schmelling, Randy MacInnes, and David Wendt. I would like to personally thank Roger, Randy, and Dave for standing up to contribute, all three have been more than generous with their time, hard work and efforts toward helping our club and ask for your full support for this team. In the upcoming year we look forward to introducing some changes to several of our events, as well as field enhancements.

As many of you know by now, we making changes to our 2012 Swap Meet. The new day will be Saturday, February 4th, 2012 at Baker College of Auburn Hills. The new venue allows for us to increase the amount of tables and parking which has always been a problem in the past, and it is free to our non-profit organization. Moving it to a Saturday should enable more participation from both inside and outside of our membership. Be sure to organize your workshops now, so you can unload some of those items that have been otherwise collecting dust!

At the November Skymasters meeting, there was discussion to consider changing our meeting location to the new Orion Senior Community Center. The location is just north of Scripps Rd on Joslyn. Moving the meetings to the community center will largely depend upon availability. Currently the Orion facility is still under construction, but is expected to be completed by January 1st, 2012. Pay close attention to meeting notices, due to the possibilities of trying a new site. We will begin January with one meeting, that being held on January 25th, 2012.

Hoping that the Holidays are starting with good spirit for all!

Dave Lange

Skymasters
General Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2011
Attendance: 35 Members

Greg Cardillo called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.

Greg Cardillo had the following announcements:

Indoor flying at Ultimate Soccer Arena has begun on Tuesday's from 11:00AM – 1:00PM. There will be a special session on Sunday, November 27 from 12:00PM – 4:00PM. Price will be \$15 for the four hour session. If you have a Gold Card, the price has been included. You may also use two punches from your "Standard" card.

December 7 is the annual Skymasters' Christmas Party. Appetizers will be at 6:30 with

dinner at 7:00PM. There will be a special visit from Santa for the kids.

The Krazy Snow Fly is scheduled for December 31 at 10:00AM. Hot Chili and some great flying are on the menu.

Greg Cardillo also went through the fiscal 2011 financial statements ending September 30, 2011 in detail. Skymasters' had a very good year financially including the proceeds from the estate sale.

The Skymasters' Board also considered the question of lowering the dues. Based on a financial analysis of cash flows for the upcoming year, the Board suggested the dues for regular members remain the same at \$70/year. Junior members will be reduced from \$10 to \$0. This matches the same policy for Juniors as the AMA.

It was the consensus of the general membership present to accept the Board's suggestion.

The Board is also looking at the Orion Center located on Joslyn Rd. to host future meetings. Early discussions sound promising. However, more discussion needs to take place before a final decision is made.

The elections for the 2012 year were conducted and your following officers are:

President – Dave Lange
Vice P. – Mark Smith
Treasurer – Bob Donohue
Secretary – Ed Saumier

Meeting adjourned at 8:13PM.

Submitted by:
Dan Stolz,
Skymasters Secretary



PROP WASH...



Joe Finkelstine

Project Paralysis

Well, after a long absence from this column, I am at last back for a bit anyways. I again struggled with a concept until I realized I had a familiar one staring me in the face over the last month or two.

I wonder if this is familiar to you. You walk into your shop (or area where you build/repair RC stuff) and look at the piles of more than a few incomplete projects. Some of them have been "idle" for a long time, some not so old, but all are silently singing out the same song, like a baseball player sitting far too long on the bench. "Play me, or trade me"

Some of you more industrious and well managed types might be tempted to build a list and prioritize, while at the other extreme, you might choose to work on whatever you feel like that night.

I however, often find myself stuck in that land of indecision populated by too many inputs and no outputs. All of those projects are important! – After all, would I ever buy something on an impulse? Would my priorities ever change? – I certainly never would get bored with a project! – So many things I want to do, and so little time. This leads far too often to the choice to stand in

the middle of the shop and tinker with something close until a temporary sense of urgency overtakes my random walk, or even worse, just stare at everything and do nothing.

This week for instance, I went to Flight Line and bought a Fancy Foam models MX-2 plus all the parts and pieces to complete it. I made a commitment to get this done within a 2 week window and fly it at our indoor. 1 week later and I am about 25% there. Just starting the fun part of adding all those little carbon fiber rods these little foamys seem to require everywhere.

The drive to finish this project is still high, but the rest of life continues its relentless pull on me and the project has sat several nights without work. If only I had no kids, no job, no plumbing in need of repair, no wife, no house, no life, I could actually finish one of these things.

So many times I would go downstairs already tired and exhausted and open the shop door to only hear all those projects shout their siren songs as they have learned I am defenseless.

When I was a bit younger I used to overcome this project inertia by planning these big 3 hour building sessions at night. The problem, which took far too long to recognize, was that it was clearly becoming progres-

sively impossible to find a 3 hour block of time after 5 PM and before bedtime. Even on the rare occasion I did have this time, I found my ability to hunch over a building board, or find a missing screw was no longer up to 3 straight hours.

I would walk from the shop and sit down at one of my flying simulators to justify letting my back stop hurting. This of course lead to a long session as I destroyed a couple dozen helicopters trying to learn inverted, or got shot down trying to stop a fleet of incoming He-111 bombers. The net of this was that the undone pile was not getting any smaller, and if I turned up the volume on the PC enough it drowned out all those projects trying to get trick me into going back into the shop.

Now that I am older and wiser, a new approach came to light after watching a special on the American revolutionary war. Our Patriots of the revolutionary war did not win by taking on the British in a frontal attack, they used hit and run! –At last, a way to trick those every noisy demons in my shop that I was actually going to work on them! My old approach of 3-4 hour mega builds was the frontal attack that was my Waterloo –

(Continued on page 8)

SeaPlaneSupply.com

**COMPUTER CUT FOAM FLOATS
ALL SIZES & SHAPES
MARK SMITH 248-391-5970**

(Continued from page 7)

they saw it coming and ganged up on my foolish approach. Defeat was assured...

Thinking like a revolutionary patriot, I formulated a hit and run approach. I would go into the shop, work for a half hour, then run like the dickens back up stairs before the projects would have a chance to gang up, and

before the wife would miss me. Hell, I've had bathroom breaks longer than that! It was the perfect plan – 30 minutes a night for 2 or 3 nights a week and the projects now know they have a formidable adversary!

Perhaps one day, the project will be finished, or I will finally give into the “play me or trade me” and join the minions at the

swap shop and get a table Really now, will you ever be able to finish all the kits, projects, and other things you have accumulated?

Of course you will

See you (hopefully) at the field with an actually completed plane someday. Joe



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY PROPBUSTERS
R/C MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB PRESENTS:
OUR 13TH ANNUAL**



R/C SWAP MEET

Open to
The Public

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 4th, 2011

**9:00 am to
1:00 pm**

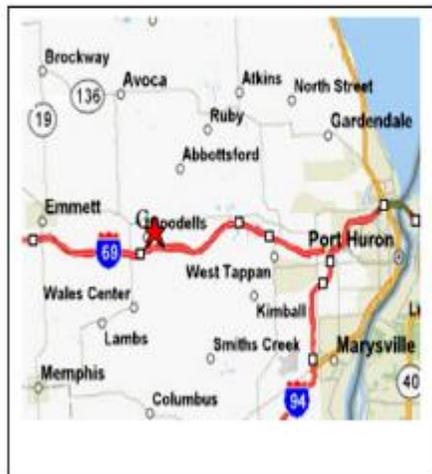
FREE TABLE SPACE - \$3.00 ADMISSION

If you have something to sell that is R/C related,
Call Sheila O. at (810) 367-6367 to reserve a table today.

Vendor set-up will begin at 8:30 AM.

Pancake Breakfast at 9:00

Come early for the Pancake,
Sausage, and Coffee Breakfast!



R/C MODEL SUPPLIES OF ALL TYPES - NEW & USED

PROPBUSTERS SWAP MEET IS LOCATED
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING AT
GOODELLS COUNTY PARK ON COUNTY PARK DRIVE.

www.SCCPROPBUSTERS.COM



Skymasters R/C Club

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

Winter Indoor Flying!

Tuesdays - November 1, 2011 thru March 27, 2012 *

**Mondays - Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day!
Thanksgiving and Christmas Week Holiday Sessions!**

Ultimate Soccer Arenas - 867 South Blvd, Pontiac, MI

R/C Flying Schedule: **Tuesday Sessions 11am-1pm**
MLK and Presidents Day
Nov 27th 12pm-4pm & Dec 26th 11am-3pm

* No session on
December 27th

**54 hours of
Indoor Flying!**



365 ft by 260 ft Flying Area with 45 ft to 75 foot ceilings.
Concurrent 3D, Heli, Sport Flying in different areas of arena!
Temperature controlled, well lit. Restaurant on site.



2 Hour Session \$10 – Five Session Punch Card \$30

4 Hour Sessions \$15 (or 2 'punches')

Pilots must show proof of AMA membership

Spectators Welcome – No admission charge!

Ultimate Soccer Arenas - www.ultimatesoccerarenas.com

**Season Pass
for \$100 includes
All 23 Mon/Tues Sessions
PLUS Holiday Flying!!**

For more information call Roger Schmelling 248-321-7599

Visit our website at www.skymasters.org



Skymasters R/C Club

We'll Teach you to fly!

Join the Skymasters Radio Control Club for an R/C Aircraft Event

Krazy Snow Fly!

**Saturday December 31, 2010
Bald Mountain Scripps Road Field**

Flying open to AMA members.

94dBa at 10 feet enforced.

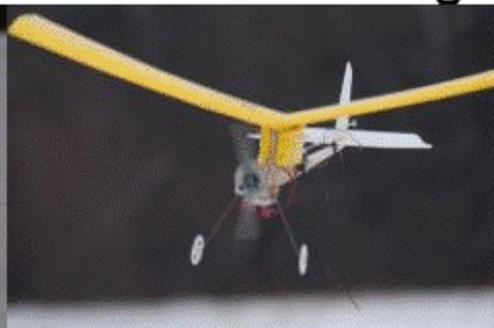
Event Flying starts at 10am



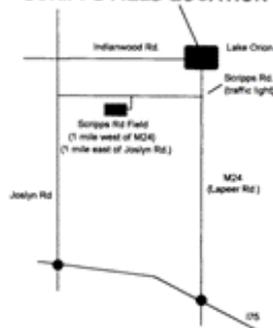
Public Welcome!

"PERSONALLY, I DON'T BELIEVE ALL THOSE STORIES YOU HEAR ABOUT FANATICISM IN THIS HOBBY!"

What will mother nature bring this year??



SCRIPPS FIELD LOCATION



- Lots of Parking
- Refreshments available at event
- Toilet located at field
- Great chance to see this exciting hobby!

No Landing Fee
Pilots Prizes!

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 vehicles need a Recreation Passport

(available from Secretary of State or DNR)

For more information call Paul Zabawa 810-678-3332

Visit our website at www.skymasters.org

DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 TREES FOR TROOPS	3
4 PROPBUSTER SWAP	5 BREAKFAST	6 INDOOR FLYING	7 CHRISTMAS PARTY	8	9	10
11	12	13 INDOOR FLYING	14	15	16	17
18	19 BREAKFAST	20 INDOOR FLYING	21	22	23	24
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 INDOOR FLYING	27	28	29	30	31 KRAZY SNOW FLY



**SKYMASTERS
RADIO CONTROL
CLUB OF MICHIGAN**

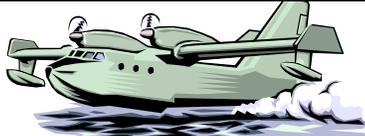
**SEE THE EXPANDED FULL
COLOR ISSUE ONLINE**

Mark Smith
1955 Hopefield
Lake Orion, MI 48359

Web site: www.skymasters.org
Email: newsletter@skymasters.org



PHOTOGRAPHY
by Fred Engelman

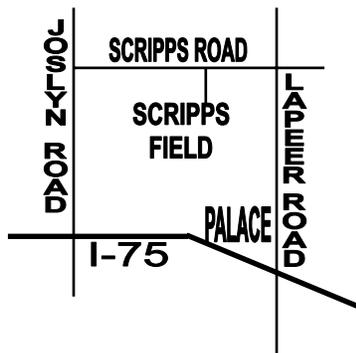
HOME OF THE 
"MIDWEST REGIONAL FLOAT FLY"

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-

SCRIPPS ROAD FIELD



WINTER MEETINGS



tors 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 (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!