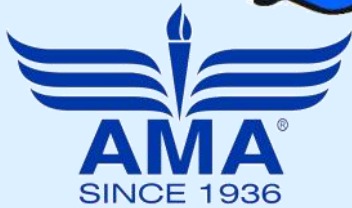


June

Skywriter

2015



**SKYMASTERS RADIO CONTROL CLUB
OF MICHIGAN**

AMA Chartered Club #970
16 Year Gold Leader Club

www.skymasters.org



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From the President...



It's another beautiful June day at Skymasters...

Skymasters is a very busy and involved club. We have the absolute best members who share a passion and love for an exciting and interesting hobby. The amount of ancillary activity to that simple hobby is astounding. We continue to be involved in our local community and contribute both locally and nationally to aviation related activities and especially to youth. Our members are very giving and generous. The same day that this

newsletter comes out (Monday June 1) we will be hosting a group of Cub Scouts at our flying field and sharing our love for this hobby with the scouts and their families and leaders. Hope you are/were there.

We've already had Involvement Day where we give a day to the State Park. This year, 30 members showed up to build floating dock sections and clear away brush and they made short work of some big projects. Then, our Field Opening Party was enjoyed with a great potluck and flying. We had a hearty crew show up for the Field Work Day and accomplished some tasks that continued our field improvement and beautification. We added a new

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

fence at the front entrance in order to remove an old rusty, falling apart metal farm fence and then we cleared some brush and cleaned up around the pavilion. We filled a 10 yard dumpster, yay!

We have another great summer set of events to continue the great traditions of our club. This month we will have a first ever, (I think), Swap Meet at our field on Saturday June 13, 1-3 p.m. Then on Wednesday June 17 at 6:00 p.m. we will have our annual Family Fish Fry at the field. Bring out your family, a dish to pass and drinks, for a delicious dinner of fish and chips provided by the club. We will also take a few minutes, and recognize some fellow Skymasters for their ongoing contributions to our club. Then on Sunday June 28 is our annual Electrics over Lake Orion, our Electric Fun Fly that is always a great time and a day to celebrate the way that those little electron thingy's have greatly influenced our hobby. Come out and expect to be amazed by a great air show.

Also in June, Wednesday Float Flying is available, PMAC will hold their Warbirds Festival, and there are several other events. As always check out the club website and calendar. I hope you've been catching my President's Blog on the front page of the site or under the FORUM heading. I've had fun posting them and appreciate the great comments and feedback.

Now, on to some (more) housekeeping and adjustments, in addition to the membership email that I sent the

other day announcing the changes for the gate lock code etc.

The EOC over this past winter has taken a look at our rules and procedures relating to our sign in and pin box at our flying field. I was of the opinion we either need to change the rule or enforce it. After a lot of input and discussion we/I have come to the following conclusion (s). Effective immediately, ANYONE FLYING AT THE FIELD, MEMBERS OR GUEST OF MEMBERS, **are required to sign in** at the clipboard located near the impound area. I would prefer that mem-



(Continued on page 3)

Our "prez" taking a turn at the wheel of the club tractor.

Front Cover:

A nice aerial shot of the 2015 Chet Brady memorial float fly at Trout Lake.



(Continued from page 2)

bers just sign in upon arrival to the field, flying or not, but, it is required for flying members. There are several good reasons for this, and one is that it is required by our lease from the state. This means EVERYONE...

I have tried to think how to best enforce this with long time (adults) members whom I know will resist this (or are not in the habit), and as of yet I haven't come up with any 100% effective enforcement method. I started spreading the rumor that I will confiscate your airplane if I find you flying at the field and haven't signed in, but I would probably end up with too many airplanes... ha-ha! But seriously, I ask us to work together to get us all in this simple habit of signing in each time you get to the field. It shouldn't be that hard and if everyone would just surprise me and do it I won't have to waste any more brain cells thinking of how to get compliance.

Next, another simple but, necessary adjustment. When I joined the club not to many years ago, (4) I was trained to sign in and pull a pin (a clothespin relating to your flying frequency and a (pink) 2.4 one if you were on 2.4 and then to put your membership card in the slot from where you took your pin and put the pin on your transmitter. Then upon departure you would return your clothespin to the box and take your card home. This is still a club rule but we are modifying it a little. **Effective immediately**, any member flying any aircraft is to have their membership card visible on their person, or visible on their transmitter or flight stand. I prefer that each of us wear their membership card in the small plastic pouch the club will provide that will clip on your shirt or hat. At some point (in the future) we will either provide each member with some sort of membership badge, or, at the least, next year our membership cards will have our names printed much bigger which will be an added (side) benefit of when wearing your membership credentials, we will be able to see others names. There is a picture of the AVERY #5397 clip style Badge Holders that are NOW available in the pin box. Each member should take (only) one, and place your membership card in it and then wear it when at the field. I appreciate



your compliance and believe me, if it weren't necessary, we would not be doing these things.

Anyway, that's enough of this month's message there is not much more to say other than let's go flying and enjoy the upcoming events! Let's continue to reach out to our visitors and especially our new members and make them feel welcome and a part of the group. Our instructors now have bright red t-shirts that say "Instructor" on them so they should be easy to see when on duty.

Take Care! Go Team Skymasters!!

Bob Chapdelaine

President, Skymasters RC



Powering your charger

Tech Talk
by
Paul Goelz



It is something many electric flyers take for granted.... you just connect your charger to a source of 12V and charge your packs, right? Well.... yes..... and no.

The 12V part is easy..... most chargers accept 12V as an input, so any 12V supply will do. Car battery, deep cycle marine battery, 120VAC to 12V

converter. But how much current do you need that 12V source to supply? Turns out the answer depends on the number of cells you are charging.

Due to the way our chargers work, the input current is roughly the same as the charge current..... but only when the charge voltage (the pack voltage) is the same as the input voltage. If the pack voltage is less than the input voltage, the input current is less than the charge current. And conversely, if the pack voltage is higher than the input voltage, the input current is also higher than the charge current. Why? Because the charger is supplying POWER to the pack during charge and POWER equals VOLTAGE multiplied by CURRENT.

If you want to do the math, multiply the charge current by the charge voltage. That is the output power. Now divide the output power by the input voltage and that will be roughly the input current (disregarding inefficiency in the charger). As an example, lets use a 4S LiPo pack. At full charge, the cells will be at 4.2V/cell or 16.8V for the pack. Lets say we are charging at 3A. That is $16.8 \times 3 = 50.4$ watts. At 12V to the charger, the input current would be $50.4 / 12 = 4.2$ amps. Again, disregarding inefficiency. Add maybe 10% to that current if you want to take power lost in the charger itself into account.

OK, so now you know how to predict the input current. That lets you decide what kind of AC power supply to use at home. But what about charging at the field? Seems simple enough.... just use your car battery, right?

Yes, but you need to take two things into account. First, you need to know how many charges can you expect before your car battery is drained too far to start your car. And second, if you are powering your charger from an accessory socket, you need to know if the charger input current will blow a fuse.

How many charges you can safely expect depends on the capacity of your car battery. Many car batteries are around 40AH (40 amp hours), so I use that figure when I charge in the field. For a wide safety margin, I try to only discharge my car battery to 50%. That would be 20AH in my case. So I can safely draw 20A for one hour or 10A for two hours or 5A for four hours, etc. In the example above of a 4S pack charging at 3A, that would be roughly five charges at 4.2A for one hour each. Of course, that assumes the pack was totally discharged before charging and we don't fly all the way to zero, *do we* ;) So in our real world, we might be able to get six charges before we removed 50% of the capacity of a 40AH car battery.

Some of you plug your chargers into your vehicle's accessory socket. This is very convenient, especially if your SUV has a socket in the rear. Just keep in mind that many vehicle accessory sockets are rated..... and fused..... at 10A. That 10A rating is easily exceeded when charging larger packs, or when using a charger with multiple outputs. In addition to possibly blowing the vehicle fuse, you need to pay attention to the accessory plug itself. Most accessory plugs are fused internally and when approaching the current rating of that fuse, the fuse gets very hot and the voltage to the charger sags. Better to connect directly to the car battery itself if at all possible.

And of course no discussion of field charging from a vehicle battery would be complete without the usual warning to **NEVER EVER charge IN your vehicle**. If the charger and pack are in or on your vehicle, a battery fire can easily set your vehicle on fire. **ALWAYS** charge at the end of cables that are long enough to place the charger and pack outside the vehicle. 'Nuff said, OK?

Have fun and charge safely,

Paul

Field Opening

Click any photo to view the entire photo album on the Skymasters web site



Field Work Day



*Click any photo
to view the entire
photo album on the
Skymasters
web site*



Chet Brady Float Fly



*Click any photo to view
the entire photo album
on the Skymasters web
site*

Cub Scouts at Camp Rotary

*Click any photo to view
the entire photo album
on the Skymasters web
site*



At The Field

Click any photo to view the entire photo album on the Skymasters web site



2015 CLUB EVENTS

SKYMASTERS RC CLUB – LAKE ORION, MI

February 2015

Saturday February 21 – Swap Meet - CERC Building; Lake Orion 9:00 a.m.

April 2015

Saturday April 18 – Involvement Day – Bald Mountain, Main Park

May 2015

Saturday May 9 – Cub Scout Event – Camp Rotary, Ray Township

Wednesday May 13 – Field Opening Party & Potluck – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

Student Flight Training Begins

Saturday May 16 – Field Work Day – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

Sunday May 17 – Spring Float Fly [Chet Brady] – Bald Mountain Lake; Lake Orion

June 2015

Wednesday June 17 – Fish Fry Dinner & Member Appreciation – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

Sunday June 28 – Electric Fly In – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

July 2015

Saturday July 11 – Recreation 101 – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

Sunday July 26 – Helicopter Fly In – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

August 2015

Sunday August 2 – Warbirds and Scale Fly In – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

Sunday August 23 – Corn Roast and Top Gun Flying – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

September 2015

Sat & Sunday September 12-13 – 25th Midwest Regional Float Fly – Island Lake State Park; Brighton

Saturday September 19 – Skymasters Fun Fly – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

October 2015

*Saturday October 17 – Field Closing Party – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion

November 2015

Tuesday November 3 – Indoor Flying Season Begins – Ultimate Soccer Arenas; Auburn Hills

December 2015

Thursday December 10 – Christmas Party – Orion Center; Lake Orion

Thursday December 31 – Krazy Snow Fly – Scripps Road Flying Field; Lake Orion



SAT. JUNE 13, 1PM SKYMASTERS RC SWAP-SALE

RC Swap Meet at Skymasters Flying Field

Fill your vehicle with anything RC you want to swap or sell and come out to our Scripps Road flying field; ¾ mile west of M-24 on Scripps Road. Located on Scripps Road between Joslyn and M-24. Recreation Passport required and may be purchased on site. No reservations and no tables provided, unless you bring. Swap/sales take place in the parking lot. Setup begins at 12:30 p.m. due to earlier event. Field is part of Bald Mountain Recreation Area.



Open to neighboring clubs and all RC enthusiast. Email: swapmeet@skymasters.org with any questions.

SKYMASTERS
SCRIPPS ROAD
FLYING FIELD

1:00-3:00 P.M.
PARKING LOT

BYOT
BRING YOUR OWN
TABLE IF NEEDED

SWAP TAKES PLACE
IN PARKING LOT AT
YOUR VEHICLE

COME AND FIND
SOME GREAT ITEMS

SKYMASTERS RC
CLUB OF MICHIGAN

West Scripps Road
Lake Orion, MI 48362

www.skymasters.org

Saturday June 13, 2015
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Come Fly With Us At The 41st Annual



R/C Fly-In

June 12, 13, & 14, 2015

SIG Field

Montezuma, Iowa



SIG AIRPLANES NOT REQUIRED

**A R/C Fly-In open to all types of R/C model airplanes - glow, gas, and electric powered.
Any Brands. Fun Fly events and special prize drawings for pilots.**

**PRE-REGISTRATION BY MAIL IS RECOMMENDED
ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND TX CHECK-IN AT 8:00 A.M. FRIDAY
PILOT'S MEETING AT 10:00 A.M. FRIDAY AND 9:00 A.M. SATURDAY
FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SITE**

ENTRY FEE: \$15.00 PER PILOT

**For more information and an Entry Form, contact:
Bob Nelson, Contest Director or go to SIG website: www.sigmfg.com**

**SIG Mfg. Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 520
Montezuma, IA 50171-0520
Phone: 641-623-5154
Email: bobnelson@sigmfg.com**

**Concession Stand
At Field
AMA SANCTIONED**



SHOCK
"ALPS"
of GAYORD
ALL ELECTRIC FLY-IN
SAT. JUNE 20 2015

AMA Sanction # 1274

Featuring

John Doe & Jane Doe

Field opens at 8:00 AM Flying Starts at 9:00 AM

All pilots must have a current AMA card.

FOOD BY DETROIT CONY ISLAND OF GAYLORD 989 705-1633

Directions: I-75 to the 282 exit go West 2.5 miles on M-32 to N. Townline Rd. Turn North go 4 miles to Theisen Rd.

Turn West go 2.5 Miles to Alps Field

Address: Near 4692 Theisen Rd

GPS Cordiant's 45°05'10.79"N 84°45'37.92W

Contacts:

Don Held 231 584-2662 edge540m@gmail.com

Don Storing 989 732-6364 snod34@chartermi.net

Alps Fly-IN July 25th Alps Splash-In August 29th & 30th



Flying open
to AMA
members.

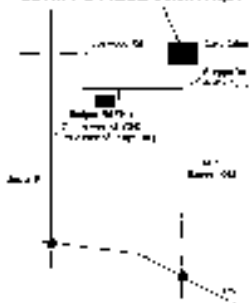
ELECTRICS' OVER

$\frac{e}{LO} = \text{FUN}$

LAKE ORION

Sunday June 28, 2015
Skymasters Field
10AM – 8PM

SCRIPPS FIELD LOCATION



- Lots of Parking
- Refreshments available at event
- 94 dBa 10AM-8PM.

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 require a Recreation Passport available from Secretary of State or DNR.

For more information email petefoss@skymasters.org
Visit our website at www.skymasters.org

ON THE WING

NEW FLYING HOURS!

QUIET ELECTRICS only from 8AM to 10AM and 8PM to 10PM

The noise limit during these hours is 80 dBa at 10 feet. If in doubt, don't fly.

Regular flying is permitted between 10 AM to 8 PM

The noise limit during these hours remains 94 dBa at 10 feet.

These noise limits are enforced



Skymasters Pot Luck (Wednesday evenings at 6PM at the field)

For those participating we ask that you:

- Bring something for the grill - enough to at least feed you and your guests
- Bring a dish to pass (see notes below)
- Bring your own (non-alcoholic) beverage

We eat at 6pm - rain or shine! The potluck is sustained by those participating, with no expense to the club.

Something for the grill:

The obvious choices are burgers, sausages/brats and hotdogs - but other alternatives are welcome. If you bring it - we will cook it! Already this year we have cooked pork tenderloin and chops, salmon, venison burgers and more.



Next Skymasters Meeting

To Be Announced

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Student Night & Pot Luck Scripps Field Addison Oaks Float Fly 9AM	4 CARDS War- birds 9AM Grand Ledge	5 CARDS War- birds 9AM Grand Ledge	6 CARDS War- birds 9AM Grand Ledge FunScale event 10AM Romeo Sky-
7 CARDS War- birds 9AM Grand Ledge	8	9	10 Student Night & Pot Luck Scripps Field Addison Oaks Float Fly 9AM	11	12	13 Skymasters Tailgate Swap 1PM Scripps field PMAC War- birds 4PM
14	15	16	17 Fish Fry & Student Night 6PM Scripps Field Addison Oaks Float Fly 9AM	18	19	20 ALPS Electric Fly 9AM Gaylord
21	22	23	24 Student Night & Pot Luck Scripps Field Addison Oaks Float Fly 9AM	25	26	27
28 Skymasters Electric Fly 10AM Scripps field	29	30				

Skymasters Information...

The Skymasters field is located in Lake Orion, within the Bald Mountain Recreational Area on Scripps Road, between M24 and Joslyn (see map). A recreation passport or sticker is required and can be obtained from the Park Headquarters located on Greenshield Road or you can check the box on your tab renewal for a "Recreational Passport".

Flying hours:

QUIET ELECTRICS ONLY from 8AM to 10AM and 8PM to 10PM.

The noise limit is 80dBa at ten feet.

Regular flying is permitted between 10 AM to 8 PM. **The noise limit is 94 dBa at 10 feet.** These noise

limits are enforced.

Wednesday evening (through August) is Family Night with flying and a pot luck buffet. Bring something for the grill & a dish to pass.

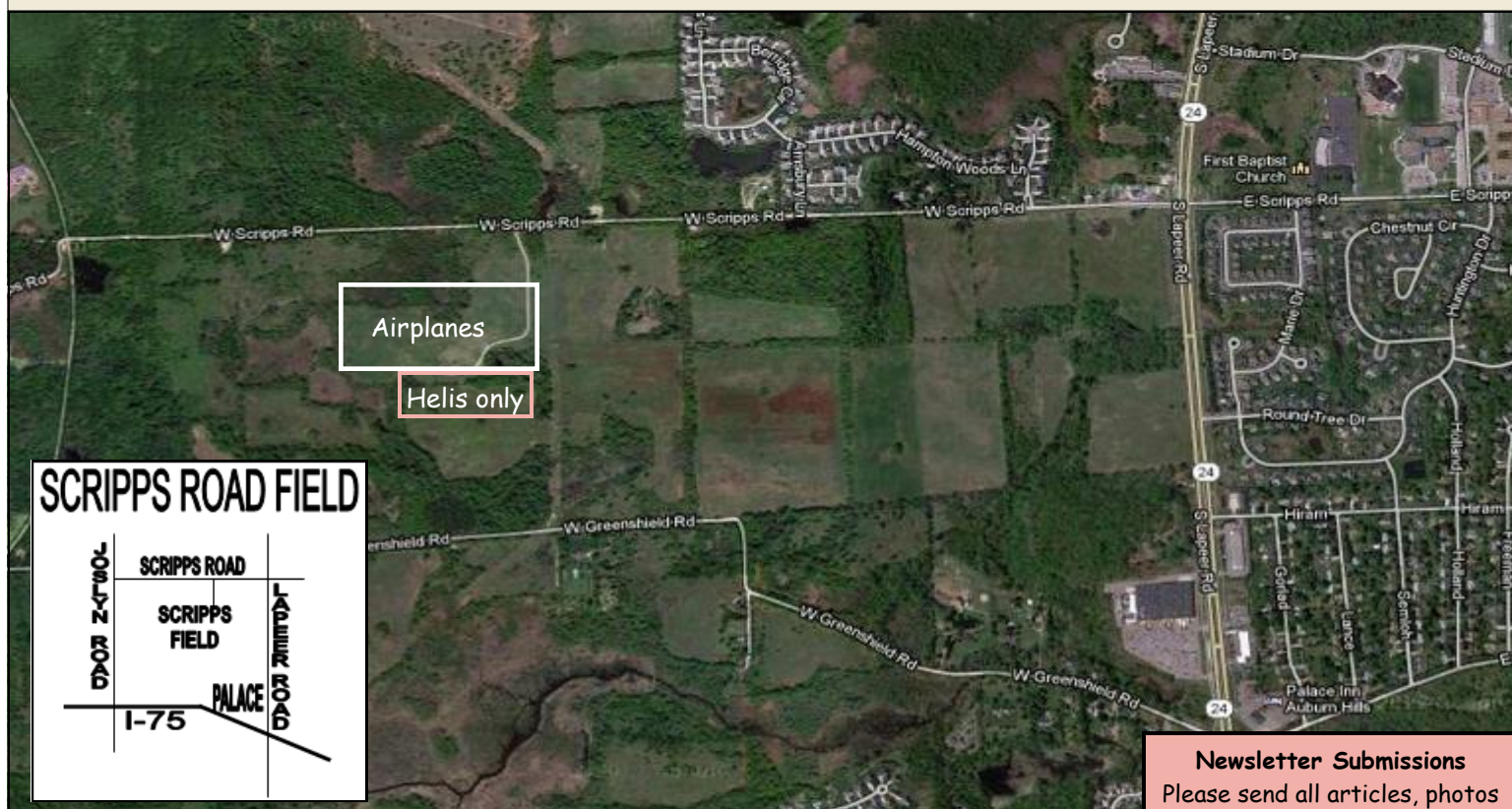
Wednesday 5PM to 8PM is also Student Night (through August)

Meet the instructors and arrange for more instruction time together on other days. Our Chief Flight Instructor is Ken Gutelius, 248-892-2943, cfi@skymasters.org

From June through August, club meetings are held at the field, on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 PM. A great chance to fly and socialize. **Winter meetings**

(September through May) are held at the Orion Center, 1335 Joslyn, in Lake Orion. Check the calendar here or on the [web site](#) for specifics. Bring a model for Show and Tell, enjoy coffee and donuts and listen to the speaker of the evening.

The Skywriter newsletter is available online at the Skymasters web site and is free to all. It may also be printed from the web site if desired. All contributions are welcome. Please send photos and articles to newsletter@skymasters.org If you know of anyone who may be interested in R/C Aviation, please give them a link to this newsletter or give them a copy of an AMA magazine. It may spark their interest!



2015 Club Officers & Appointees...

President:	Bob Chapdelaine	Lake Orion	president@skymasters.org
Vice Pres.:	John Billinger	Troy	vicepresident@skymasters.org
Secretary:	Pete Foss	Oxford	secretary@skymasters.org
Treasurer:	Phil Saunders	Rochester Hills	treasurer@skymasters.org
Editor:	Paul Goelz	Rochester Hills	newsletter@skymasters.org
Membership:	Jim Satawa	Lake Orion	membership@skymasters.org
CFI	Ken Gutelius	Lake Orion	cfi@skymasters.org
EOC at large	Mike Bard	Oxford	pslides@ameritech.net
EOC at large	Gary Wells	Oxford	gwells50@gmail.com
EOC at large	Paul Goelz	Rochester Hills	newsletter@skymasters.org

Newsletter Submissions

Please send all articles, photos and announcements to the Skywriter editor at:

newsletter@skymasters.org
Deadline is the 20th of each month.

The Skywriter newsletter is published monthly by the Skymasters Radio Control Club of Michigan

www.skymasters.org