



Academy of Model Aeronautics

INFORMATION BOOKLET 2008

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

On behalf of all Skymasters, I want to extend a warm welcome to all new members of our RC Flying Club, and a "Thank you" to all the hard working members that have made this Club into what it is today.

This booklet represents our effort to provide each member with a comprehensive information package about the history of Skymasters, meetings, activities, rules, procedures, benefits, committees, and the Club by-laws. Under separate cover, you will also receive an up-to-date membership roster with addresses and phone numbers. I'm sure you will find this booklet very interesting informative, and useful.

Pay particular attention to the field flying rules and safety procedures. Our greatest concern is for safety and for the ability to keep our flying fields as long as possible. New members are the lifeblood of the club. We are constantly on the look out for leaders and for workers that are willing to make even the smallest contribution towards furthering the development of our club. Do not hesitate to let your officers know that you want to help. We need you, and will appreciate any help that you can offer.

Joe Hass
SKYMASTERS CLUB PRESIDENT

SKYMASTERS HISTORY

The Skymasters RC Club was founded in 1974 and today it is one of the largest model airplane club in the country and boasts several nationally recognized modelers. In fact, members of our club have been on the US Scale FAI Team and many members contribute articles to our national model magazines.

It all started in early 1974 when a few RC flyers, who had lost a flying field and were looking for a decent place to fly and a club to join. The only RC hobby shop in the area was in Warren at 13 Mile and Mound. The RC flyers in the area were flying in any spot which offered hope of takeoff and landing without instant re-kitting. The first field was found behind the Joshua Doore Furniture Store on 14 Mile, east of Dequindre. At this field, a model shop owner put up a sign that said "model airport". The City Manager became mildly upset and wanted to know who authorized a model airport in his city. That was the end of the 14 Mile field.

A group of RC pilots decided to form a club. Our first few meetings were held in Tom Marzlak's house in Warren. Approximately 13 or 14 RC flyers were present. Even then, as a fledgling club, we had coffee and doughnuts and a 50/50 drawing. In those early days meetings were held in various places: members' basements, work places after hours, at the field, wherever we could find a location. We chose our first officers by the volunteer method--whoever wanted to get things started. Tom Marzlak was the first President with Jerry Parent as Vice President, "Big H" Maseles was the Secretary/Treasurer. In this early effort to form our Club we kicked around different names such as "Skynights", "Airmasters", and a number of others and finally decided on "Skymasters". We did not want the name to spell out a specific location because our members were from different areas around this section of Southeast Michigan. At this same time, Ed Atkins, a member who was a commercial artist, said he would design a logo for our Club. He decided that as long as the "Genie" was the master of the air waves we would place him on a bi-plane in the sky.

Other presidents followed over the years: Al Honeycomb, Cliff Tacie, Chet Brady, Jack Goodrich, Bill Leppard, Harlan Neuville, Dave Killian, Tom Weiss, Larry Phillips, Gary Wells, Barry Ptak, Ed Saumier, Jim Hauck, Vince Pettke, Darrell Watts, Pete Foss, Kevin Phillips, Greg Cardillo, Joe Finkelstine, Gary Weeks, Ross Hardy, Ross Jones, and Joe Hass. Many of these served multiple terms.

In 1974 we started to fly as a club by the south entrance of the Hampton Estates. The field was off Auburn Road just east of Rochester Road. We flew there for a couple of years. When the traffic got too heavy, we had to find another field. Also Wakeford and Wayne Herbert, better known as Butch and Dutch, drove across Auburn Road in Butch's pickup into a big field. They found it to be fairly flat, but covered with weeds 2 to 4 feet high. An agreement was signed with the owners on June 3, 1975, which permitted us to use the field for our activities. At Auburn Rd. we had 67 acres of weeds. With mountains of work by the members and Roy Morgan's tractor, it was finally cut, raked, hauled and burned. We finally had an excellent area to fly, with a school and a golf course far to the east, M-59 to the south and Auburn Rd. 200 yards north. For several years, Roy Morgan spent hours cutting the grass for us. Then another member, Chet Brady, contributed his tractor for our use. Now the club had a tractor that could be left at a nearby location to keep the field well groomed.

At about this same time a new hobby shop arrived on the scene. Henderson's Family Hobbies on Auburn Road, east of Dequindre Road, which was great for the club. Bob and Glenna Henderson and our club hit it off very well. The hobby shop grew into what some say

was the best in the state, and Skymasters owes much to Bob and Glenna's "back room". There every Saturday morning, RC modelers from all around gathered to show off their craft, help beginners, swap technical data, general information about our hobby, and help each other out.

The Club was growing quickly, and on June 22, 1976, we filed articles of incorporation with the State of Michigan and became a non-profit organization. As a corporation we are governed by a Constitution and By-Laws.

One of the greatest challenges for clubs all across the United States is securing, developing, and maintaining good flying fields. In 1976, the club's old timers started looking around for a backup field and found a landfill on Hamlin Rd., west of Ryan Rd. in Shelby Township. With hundreds of hours of volunteer labor, we eventually had a pretty good grass field. The wisdom of the old timers was verified when we lost the Auburn Rd field due to a neighbors noise complaint. An incident that happens all too frequently with model clubs across the nation today. We were back to one field. Again the search for a backup field was on.

We found an abandoned gravel pit off Tienken Road, east of Rochester. The owner's permission was granted and we were back to work. The big job here was covering the gravel and growing grass. Again it was an adequate field but some lawless off road vehicle drivers and motorcyclists found our nice, flat grassy field a nice change from hill climbing. Art Gruner and others spent many fruitless hours repairing their damage. We finally gave up.

Back to one field. But providence had given us a new resource--The Flying Tigers. They were a group of modelers within Skymasters, consisting of retirees. They searched Rochester, Pontiac, and Lake Orion Areas; and found likely fields in Bald Mountain Recreation Area. Now came many hours of phone calls, meetings with park rangers and trips to Lansing. Mr. Butterfield, in charge of state park grounds, obtained permission for us to develop 20 acres of state park land on Greenshield Road. We also had to satisfy the Lake Orion Township officials. Many thanks must go to Chet Brady, Felix Cole, Tom Weiss, Larry Phillips, and other Skymasters members for their successful pursuit of this goal. More hard volunteer work and we had a marvelous field.

Then in 1989 we lost the Hamlin field to commercial development. In 1990, with the prospect of losing the Greenshield Road field looming because a couple of neighbors were complaining about noise, we leased a parcel of sod farm a few miles west of Oxford. This field was obtained through the efforts of the members of the field committee.

The Greenshield field was lost in the Fall of 1990 and the State Park officials and the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) officials worked with us (Ed Saumier, Joe Hass, Chet Brady and a cast of dozens) to complete the development of our new Scripps Road field (still in Bald Mountain Park). After removing dozens of trees, 6000 dollars worth of bulldozing, grading courtesy of Gary Van Hevel, rock picking, rolling, seeding, rolling, seeding, etc. the field began to take shape. Over the next year or so the runway was seeded several times but the grass wouldn't fill in very well. After lots of discussion, 4000 yards of sod were purchased from Baldwin Meadows Sod Farm . Led by "The Dirty Dozen" (they know who they are), many club members spent the better part of a week of evenings plus a weekend laying the sod to produce an excellent runway.

The wisdom of two flying fields was again proven out. In August 1992, we were informed that our lease at Baldwin Meadows Sod Farm would not be renewed for 1993. We had lost another field to noise complaints from neighbors.

In the summer of 1994 the club lost a very good friend when Henderson's Family Hobbies on Auburn Road closed when Bob and Glenna Henderson retired. Their retirement party was bittersweet indeed but we wish them well. To compensate for the lost of Saturday mornings in the winter, Steve Fredericks started hosting greatly appreciated bi-weekly "Bull Sessions" in his shop.

We have enjoyed over 15 years at our current Scripps Road location, and have a great relationship with both the DNR and Orion Township, and look forward to many more years. We continue to support the community around us while promoting the R/C hobby. Our "Bald Mountain Involvement Day" and participation in "Orion Township Barn Daze" are key activities for us.

Our club has gotten national recognition for our events, especially the "Midwest Regional Float Fly" which has been the subject of over 10 feature articles in national magazines, 3 cover photos, and 6 feature videos. Our club has been able to attract nationally known speakers and companies to come share their time and knowledge with us at our club meetings. We have a premier student instruction program to help newcomers getting started. Our membership has grown over the last several years, and we look forward to introducing more people to this wonderful hobby!

Many thanks are due to the volunteers who have worked so hard: running our concession stands, welding trailers and gates, making and painting signs, building transmitter impound stands, building and repairing fences, seeding, mowing, fertilizing, running contests, running the Club, instructing fledglings, and working on the many committees that are needed to maintain our access to flying sites and to keep the Club growing! We couldn't do it without you.

Harold "Big H" Maseles - 1986

Pete Foss – 1998

Greg Cardillo – 2002, 2008

SKYMASTERS MEETINGS

Skymasters RC Club became incorporated on June 22, 1976 and as such, we are required to hold business meetings in accordance with our By-Laws. Any member or guest is welcome to attend. *These are not typical club meetings!* Our meetings (during September through May) are dedicated to providing information or entertainment regarding some aspect of radio control flying (videos, special guest speakers, how-to sessions, etc.) We have had the privilege of many nationally known speakers and companies coming to share an evening with us.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

September through May:

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Larson Middle School

222 E. Long Lake Road Troy, MI

(Just east of John R. - South side)

June through August

The 2nd Wednesday of each month

8:00 PM following Student Night

Scripps Road Field

(Be prompt, summer meetings are very short.)

SKYMASTERS MEMBERSHIP

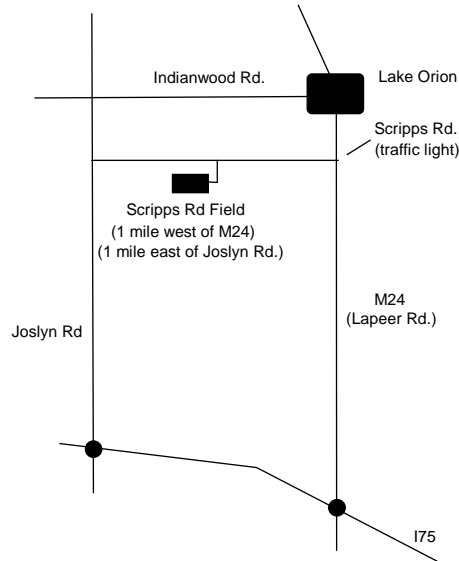
Membership in Skymasters is available to any individual that has an interest in the hobby and meets the specific requirements of Skymasters and the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). Prospective members must attend one Skymasters meeting to be eligible to join the club at the second meeting. While anyone can join our Club; in order to fly, you must be a member of AMA. This provides you with liability insurance and also protects the Club. If you chose to join, you must be voted into the Club as a member in good standing. Please see the Club Treasurer for the details concerning financial obligations for membership. (2008 Obligations: \$70 per year dues plus a \$30 initiation for Family Memberships; \$10 per year dues with no initiation fee for Junior Memberships.)

ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS MEMBERSHIP

To join you must obtain an application blank (At most hobby shops, our flying field, or online at <http://www.modelaircraft.org>). Send in the form and payment to AMA as directed. With FAX or online submission, you will have a receipt the same day as proof of membership. Allow three to four weeks for delivery of your membership card.

FLYING FIELDS

SCRIPPS FIELD LOCATION



FLIGHT RULES and FLYING PROCEDURES CHECKLIST

These rules and procedures are attached to this booklet.

PHILOSOPHY

The aforementioned rules are a minimum to promote safety. Maximum safety can only occur if we go beyond the mechanical functions to the basis of safety, courtesy and patience. Only by displaying both of these virtues can the most possible control of a situation be realized. Most accidents happen when discourtesy or impatience is allowed to assume control of one's emotions, creating hurried actions that result in errors in judgment. Noise is going to be of concern to some neighbors as long as it exists. We should always be aware of the potential loss of our flying fields due to errors in judgment by any member. We must not just live up to the "letter of the law" but also go beyond and try to meet the Spirit by reducing noise through use of the best available muffling devices and flying techniques. Let's preserve our flying field.

PLEASE FOLLOW CLUB RULES

When you have completed your model and feel it is ready to fly, contact any member that is designated as an instructor in our membership directory. No matter how long you have been building models or even if you have soloed full-scale aircraft, you will need help in learning to fly RC. It is very difficult, and sometimes dangerous to learn to fly by yourself. Telephone any of our instructors. Arrange to meet him at a mutually agreed upon location to look over your airplane. Allow him to look over your airplane. Allow him to constructively critique your aircraft. Time spent now will pay off handsomely when you see your model fly for the first time. Two final recommendations: Try to have one or two instructors throughout your training as you will have better continuity. Once you are a licensed pilot, keep flying your trainer. We may have signed your license but you are not ready for that P51 Mustang that you've just finished.

Ron Sokacz - Chief Flight Instructor

INFORMATION MATERIALS

NEWSLETTER: Skymasters publishes a monthly Club Newsletter. This newsletter is edited by a volunteer member who is known as the editor. Typically found in the newsletter are articles on Club event - both schedules and results, informational articles, safety articles, and editorial articles. This is not a rigid format and other articles or columns may be added as the membership desires. Remember it is your Club paper.

WEBSITE: Skymasters maintains a club website at <http://www.skymasters.org> . You can find current event schedules, information on all our events, current and past newsletters, photos and more. A daily RSS feed is available at <http://www.skymasters.org/rss/skymasters.xml> featuring events in the next 10 days if you would like to subscribe with your favorite reader.

CLUB INSIGNIA: Caps, jacket patches and order forms for jackets, shirts, etc. with the Skymasters logo printed on them are coming once again....

VIDEO TAPES: The Club has a large video tape library. We are converting many of the tapes to DVD format. At this time it consists of tapes on building, covering, and flying RC airplanes. We have tapes on how to build and fly RC helicopters, and we have the RC Video Magazine tapes. We also have tape of Club contests and events. Club members may obtain these tapes from the designated librarian. The tapes may be used for 14 days free of charge. After this period there is a one-dollar per day fine. The Club Librarian is a volunteer, if you owe a fine - pay it - and then if you have a question, discuss the Club policy with the Executive Operating Committee.

BOOKS MAGAZINES, AND PLANS: Printed materials on almost every phase of RC aircraft modeling are available. This printed matter is usually found in hobby stores that specialize in products for our sport. In these magazines or books one can most often find listings for building plans, reference books, or instructional manuals. Probably the most complete library of books is the RC Modeler Anthology Library. It contains everything you ever wanted to know about RC and then some.

COMMITTEES: Skymasters must rely on its members to make the Club successful. It is with your support and involvement on Club committees that will assist us in reaching the purposes of Skymasters..."To further the advancement of the radio controlled miniature aircraft in all of its aspects as a sport." Some committees are standing committees but most are created for a specific project by the President. Please speak up when the President requests volunteers.

FLYING EVENTS

Each year the Club puts on many events. All of the events are designed to provide flyers a chance to exhibit their aircraft and flying for all to enjoy. Many of the events are sanctioned by the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) . These events follow AMA regulations and are the same for all modelers and RC clubs throughout the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Events are not only for the members, but for their families as well. Safety for all contestants and spectators is the primary consideration of all Skymasters Club members. The following is a sample from the usual yearly list of events. The event schedule is available early each year.

SWAP MEET: This event is usually sometime in February. Members have the chance to sell, buy, or trade their items with other members of the Club.

BALD MOUNTAIN INVOLVEMENT DAY: This is a day we give back to the park. Usually a Saturday in April, Skymasters and their families volunteer their time to assist the park. Projects range from painting signs to building fishing piers, and the footbridge that is part of the Rathburg Memorial Trail around Trout Lake.

STUDENT NIGHTS and POTLUCK DINNERS: Every Wednesday over the summer is dedicated to students. Students are of course welcome anytime at our field, but we insure instructors are always available on Wednesdays. Regardless of the weather, we always enjoy a “potluck dinner” at 6pm. We fire up the grill, cook whatever members have brought, and eat well... Once a year is a Fish Fry – don’t miss that one!

FLOAT-FLYS: These events are for those who enjoy flying off of water. For most part – the flying is just for fun, everyone just enjoys watching to see if the planes can survive without a dunking. Two spring float-flys are usually held in May. Throughout the summer, float-flying has been held at Stoney Creek Metropark one morning each week. Our largest event is the “Midwest Regional Float-Fly”, held in early September. Optionally at this event, pilots can choose to enter a judged contest.

ELECTRIC FLY IN: Electric powered aircraft are growing in popularity as advances in battery technology and electronics allow virtually any plane to be flown on electric power – and often with better performance! This event is usually held in June.

WARBIRDS AND SCALE: This event is usually held around July/August and consists of military and civilian scale aircraft. Any model which “looks like” a full size aircraft is welcome. You can see anything from a Sopwith Pup to jets.

CORN ROAST AND TOP GUN: One of our more popular events is held around late August when the corn is ready. This corn is free, all you eat. The idea behind the event is to have fun!!! For those who choose to compete, we also crown our Top Gun flier for the year.

KRAZY SNOW FLY: This one never changes dates... December 31 of each year. We never know if we will need wheels, skis, floats... We do know there will be a big pot of chili, and lots of fun.

Note : Most of our flying events are held on weekends. Refreshments are usually available. Visitors are welcome--no charge (State Park Sticker required). Some events require an entrance fee to fly in but your reward could be one of many prizes we give out. Every one of our members can participate.