

# The Wright Flyer



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Newsletter of the WRIGHT FLYERS R/C Club

Website: [www.joeld.net/wfrc](http://www.joeld.net/wfrc)

## Meeting Highlights

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

On Tuesday, October 12th, the Wright Flyers held the monthly membership meeting at the Monticello Middle School. The club had been assigned to room #29 but was relocated to room #30 for this evening.

The meeting was called to order by president Wayne VanDenBoom at 7:12 PM. There were 12 members present including five club officers.

Leo Davids reviewed the minutes of the September meeting as published in the October issue of the club newsletter. The minutes were approved as published with no additions or corrections.

Perry Dziuk gave a treasury report. With no activity since last meeting, the balance in the treasury remained is \$3924.47

Leo Davids, at the urging of Wayne VanDenBoom, purchased two SKLZ Sport-Brella's from Costco.



The next meeting is scheduled for **7:00 PM** on Tuesday, **November 9th, 2010**. It will be held in **Room 29** of the **Monticello Middle School**.

These are the same as Wayne found at Home Depot and used this past summer at the field after outfitting all the safety tables in the pits with holders for the umbrellas. Wayne proposed that the club take ownership of these two umbrellas to use for prizes in future club events. The proposition was approved and the 2 umbrellas became club property for the sum of \$85.50.

Nate Ewing reported that the fall weed control spraying of the field has yet to take place. He expects that with his family's farm work winding down, they would get to treating the flying field for weeds over the next week or so.

Tom Springer mowed the field again this month to bring the total mowings for the season to 9 or 10. All of the members who participated in mowing the field this season felt that they would rather have the \$50 stipend that was offered for every mowing a member undertook go toward a fund to enhance the club's annual picnic/fun-fly next summer.

Tom Springer reported that the weather station he had been installing is now operational with a website on the internet displaying the data transmitted from it mounted on the shelter. Joel Dirnberger will put a link

to the website (<http://aprs.fi>) on the WFRC club website. Tom will get his friend Roy who engineered and operates the weather station on his Ham radio license to give the club a short presentation on the system at our next meeting.

Tom Springer has acquired used surgical tools from a hospital that he will bring to the next meeting for anyone who wants them for their model building/repairing work.

Wayne VanDenBoom said he will bring a club t-shirt to one of the next two meetings to raffle off in a drawing among those in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

## Weather Station

*by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary*

About a year ago, Tom Springer, noted as a somewhat industrious member of WFRC, proposed he could put a weather station at the Montissippi Flying Field. His motivation was to have access via the internet to crucial conditions that figure in a go/no-go decision weather-wise whenever you want to fly at the field. Tom got club approval to integrate basic weather station hardware with a ham radio repeater to broadcast the stations measurements to ham receivers that could be used to upload the data to the internet. He would supply the equipment and installation labor gratis and have a properly licensed radio operator manage the station. Tom felt that he could install the station and have it up and running in the spring of this year to provide flying weather reporting for the heart of the 2010 flying season.

Alas, Tom had a busy schedule that wasn't easily synched with his able technical assistant Roy. Undaunted, they put on concerted drive to accomplish the project this fall. The station first went live broadcasting on October 12th. Its internet linkup is officially tied with an amateur radio system called the Amateur Position Reporting System (APRS).

A presentation of the station data can be viewed on the URL [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi) and on an internet database archive at [www.findu.com](http://www.findu.com). The call sign for the weather station at the field is WOREW-2 which can help you recognize the station on either of the two mentioned web sites. The two web sites offer some different tabular and graphic presentation of the present and archived data the station gathers.

Unless you are interested in seeing various other stations that are in Minnesota (or all over the country for that matter), Joel Dirnberger has added links to the

club's web site at [www.joeld.net/wfrc](http://www.joeld.net/wfrc) on the Field Info page where you can view the station data in a couple of graphic formats for up to a year prior as well as just the latest reported conditions.

Tom hopes to have Roy, his "station operator", at our upcoming meeting to present as much information about the station workings as we would like to hear. Tom has put a great deal of effort into this project in his usual low key manner. Please give the station a look on the internet and see if it can help you get more enjoyment from being part of WFRC Club.





### Club Offices Up for Grabs

*by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary*

It's that time of year when club officers are elected or re-elected for another term of service. If you are chomping to take a more active role in guiding the

club along, we have members who have served a long time that would be willing to take a sabbatical so that new blood could rejuvenate our sleepy little group. We don't have a formal nominating committee to gather candidates, so you need to volunteer your services at the November meeting (either in person or by proxy) to secure a place in the December officer installation for next year.

### Scouting Site for Float Flying

*by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary*

Our annual club float fly was scrubbed this past spring because of weather. We had been looking to try new sites because of the problems that the Twin Lakes site has presented. Big Lake's Lakeside Park was going to be an alternative with its large shoreline and great park facilities. The only real concern is the parking charge in the official lot.

Mike Ferretti, an avid float flyer in our club, has been scouting some sites and he may have found a gem at the park in the city of Elk River on Orono Lake. On Sunday, October 16th, Leo Davids and Ken Storie joined Mike to try some flying on Orono Lake. Set up near the Orono Park public boat launch, there was ample parking right behind the beach. The park grounds themselves also have picnic tables, shelter and grilles for cooking. The park uses portable toilets for their bathroom facilities.

The real test was the length and breath of open area adjacent to the west shoreline. From US Highway 10 on the north to apartment and commercial buildings off the south end, there is a generous 1500 feet of open air over the lake. The opposite shore is about 900 feet away. Although this is a little more restricted than Big Lake would be, none of the planes we flew felt hemmed in by the site limits. Mike flew a glow powered 40-sized Cub (77" wingspan), Ken had a 2-





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cycle gas engine large sized plane and Leo flew his 38" wingspan foamy Taylor Craft electric.

We all three agreed that this location is much better suited for float flying than the Twin Lakes site. There is no conflict with nearby established RC flying fields. It would not be quite as open as Big Lake but with Orono Park's free parking and similar park amenities it would be a viable alternate if arrangements to use the Lakeside Park on Big Lake are too difficult to negotiate.

### Tips and Tricks

*both from the Beachmasters RC Club newsletter, Ocean Park, Washington*

#### Gluing on Canopies

Before gluing on your airplane's canopy, put a small hole in some obscure place to allow air circulation under the canopy. This will keep your canopy from popping off in the summer when the air inside

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### 2010 Club Officers

Pres ..... Wayne Van Den Boom ..... 763-443-4440  
VP..... Tom Springer ..... 612-221-4087  
Treasurer .... Perry Dzuik ..... 763-477-6865  
Secretary .... Leo Davids ..... 763-263-3577  
Safety Off ... Garth Landefeld ..... 763-497-5828  
News Ed ..... Jean Davids ..... 763-263-3577

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### Café Express

Want club logo apparel & other items? Shop here:  
<http://www.cafepress.com/wrightflyersrc>.

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If you have news or ideas for articles you would like to see, you can email me at [jedweb@charter.net](mailto:jedweb@charter.net) or call me at 763-263-3577. Jean Davids

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expands or from collapsing in the winter when the air shrinks.

#### Soldering Wires

Unless you have nerves of steel, it's difficult to hold two wires still while you solder them together, even if one is clamped to your workbench. An easy solution to this problem is to glue two wooden clothespins to a wooden base, about an inch apart. Now, slip the wires to be soldered into the clamping part of the clothespins, and they will be held together without jiggling. You can put the clothespins side by side rather than nose to nose. This keeps them from interfering with longer wires. You will probably have to sand the gripping part to create a larger grip area.