

The Wright Flyer



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Newsletter of the WRIGHT FLYERS R/C Club

Website: www.joeld.net/wfrc

Meeting Highlights

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

On Tuesday, April 12th, the Wright Flyers held the monthly membership meeting at the Monticello Middle School, room #29. This is the last indoor meeting until October. For the next five months, the meetings will be held at the Montissippi Park Field

The meeting was called to order by president Wayne VanDenBoom at 7:08 PM. There were 10 people in attendance, including 3 club officers, 4 members and 3 guests.

Leo Davids read the minutes of the March meeting as published in the April newsletter. The minutes were approved with a typo correction to the treasury report (\$113.94 for newsletter expenses instead of \$4113.94).

There was no treasury report given at this evening's meeting.

One of our club members contacted Wayne and Leo concerning a possible source of lawn mowing service for the field this summer. The club member has a friend that operates a business on the side locally in Monticello who is willing to cut the field for \$125 a time whenever we request the service. Of the four members who mowed the field gratis last year, only Tom Springer was at the meeting to respond. He felt that he could continue to mow it this year whenever it was needed. So the decision was to leave the mowing to Tom and any other members who volunteer so that the club money that might have gone to mowing would be available for club social activities.

Wayne questioned if we still wanted to have the alternate date for the club float fly on the day after the scheduled date of Saturday, May 7th, as that would be Mother's Day. Discussion that followed noted that the

The next meeting is scheduled for **7:00 PM** on Tuesday, **May 10th**, 2011. It will be held at the Montissippi Flying Field. This is the first of our summer meetings to be held at the field.

following weekend will be fishing season opener. The consensus was to leave the bad weather alternate on Mother's Day. Tom Springer reiterated that he would bring food and cook at the float fly but needs to leave at noon.

Wayne volunteered to bring food to cook for the field cleanup day coming this Saturday, the 16th of April. The weather looks suspect, so Wayne will make a decision Friday evening and email members if the cleanup needs to be shifted to Sunday, the 17th of April.

John Kossieck reported that his in-law can get 16x100 foot sections of paper machine belting from the mill he works at in Cloquet. Whenever some becomes available, John will have to haul it down from there to the field for us to examine and try to make into runway.

Tom Springer is researching what it would take to tie video cameras into the weather station unit he installed at the field last fall. If they could be integrated into the station, we might be able to access live video of the field on the internet. The members at the meeting were intrigued with that kind of surveillance capability so Tom will continue his investigation and report back on what he might be able to provide.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Show & Tell

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

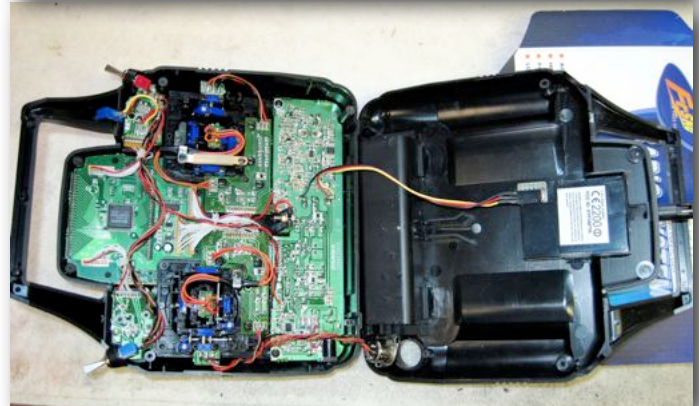
Leo Davids presented his winter project which is a F-4 Phantom EDF airplane which Hobby Lobby carried until about a year ago. Leo bought just the fuselage, wings, tail surfaces and fan unit when Hobby Lobby had a closeout sale on their replacement parts for the full ARF. He purchased a canopy kit, drop tank kit and nose cone from Park Fliers Plastics who offered these parts as upgrades to what was included in the ARF version. The drop tank setup allows the distasteful fixed landing gear to be left off so as to be able to belly land without distress to the underside of the plane. Leo supplied servos, electric motor, speed control and receiver to fill out the otherwise ARF supplied electronics. The plane is about 41" long with a wingspan of 27" and weighs about 2.5 pounds with a 4s-2200mah battery. The expected flying speed will be in the 60+ mph range with 4-6 minute flight times.



Leo also brought in his old Airtronics RD6000 radio transmitter which he has used for 8-9 years on 72 MHz. He has been caught up by the latest rage in RC modeling which is "hacking" RC transmitters by retrofitting them with new 2.4 GHz spread spectrum RF modules. Leo chose a brand called FrSky which offer various configurations by which you can either truly "hack" the radio circuitry or just switch a plug-in RF module to their spread spectrum protocol (some Hitec, JR and Futaba radios can be done this way).

Once you have your old 72 MHz radio transmitting on 2.4 GHz, you can buy the FrSky receivers in 4 to 8 channel configurations from \$15 to \$25 each. The FrSky 2.4 GHz transmitter module itself is about \$20-\$35. Leo presented a modified "hack" of his

Airtronics, in that he bought a FrSky module for a JR radio and then cut out the rear case of his Airtronics radio to accept the module similar to how it would have plugged into the JR radio in the first place. Leo initially purchased 3 receivers from FrSky to test the system and initial results have encouraged him to buy 5 more receivers to fill the 8-model memory that the Airtronics RD6000 transmitter supports.



RD6000 DIY conversion (left) along side Airtronics RDS8000 radio factory produced spread spectrum (right)

Upcoming Events

Big Sky Hobby Swap Meets have evolved into one of the largest RC events in Minnesota. The store is located on 3402 Federal Drive in Eagan. This is just east of the Pilot Knob and Yankee Doodle Roads intersection. The next swap meet is on Sunday, May 22, 2011, from 8am to noon. The store will be open and a complimentary brunch will be available inside. Plus they will be giving away some prizes. They have a huge parking lot that goes all the way around the store. It really fills up, along with parking on the street.

Hobby Warehouse Swap Meet - This 16th annual event is being held in the parking lot around their store on Sunday, May 22nd, from 8AM to Noon. The location is 7144 Chicago Ave So. in Richfield. There is no sellers fee and food/refreshments will be available.

WFRC Club Float Fly - The annual event is being held on Saturday, May 7th, from 10AM to 2PM at the park on Lake Orono in Elk River. The club will provide food and a retrieval boat. The park is on the south side of US Highway 10 as you approach Elk River from the west. The traffic lights on US 10 and Joplin St. are the most identifiable south exit from US 10. Then go left on Orono Rd two blocks for a left on Gray St. The park is on the right side. There are baseball fields on the west side of the park that might serve as areas to fly electric parkflyer aircraft. Alternate date in case of inclement weather is Sunday, May 8th.

TCRC Spring Float Fly - Saturday, May 14th, 10 AM, on Bush Lake in Bloomington. Check their website at www.tcrconline.com for details as the event approaches.

North Mankato Electric Air Park Dedication - The city of North Mankato is holding an open fly-in and dedication at their new park, Forsberg Field at 2075 Lookout Drive on Saturday, May 21st. The ceremony will run from 11 AM to noon. Open flying will be going on all day (7 am to dark) except during the dedication. There are no fees to fly and no AMA is required. Cub Scouts will serve refreshments. The field has 75'x150' asphalt for runways. Take the Highway 14 exit to New Ulm from US169, turning right on Lookout Drive.

Grassfield Club Electric Fly-in - The annual event is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th, at the Club Field in Brooklyn Park at 101st St. off US169. Check their website at www.grassfieldrc.org for details as the event approaches.

Field Cleanup Day

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

Although the plan for field cleanup had been scheduled later in April this year to avoid the lagging cold weather, it was still the wrong date. So the evening before, our president (no, not Obama!) moved the cleanup back a day to Sunday, April 17th. Initially, that didn't seem to be a big improvement but by early afternoon the benefits of procrastination could be easily appreciated. During the chilly & windy morning, a substantial labor crew dug and distributed dirt on the field to fill ruts and holes left by man and animal alike. Our massive roller was hitched up and run over the entire surface of the field to produce a super smooth surface from which to launch and retrieve aircraft. A new wind sock was put up and, just as importantly, so were the revised 2011 AMA safety rules on the signage in the pit area. As promised, Wayne VanDenBoom served a lunch of grilled hot dogs, salad, chips and beverages. Just after 1 PM the wind started to drop and the sun warmed those hardy souls so that flying could commence in earnest. Thanks to the dozen or so members and family who were able to switch dates at the last minute to make the field cleanup a success.

TechLazer/Light Point Laser

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

Tom Springer invited Mike Hanson and Wade Wendorf to the meeting to introduce the club to the companies they formed to do CNC laser work. Wade's company, Light Point Laser does engraving/etching on all kinds of material such as wood, metal, glass, plastic, tile, granite, brick, vinyl, marble, cloth and leather. Together Wade and Mike do custom wood kit cutting for model aircraft. They are located in the Anoka/Ramsey area and have been RC fliers for many years.

They brought along a short kit they are selling for an 80" wingspan Consolidated PBY Catalina. They





In This Issue

- ✓ Meeting Highlights
 - ✓ Show & Tell
 - ✓ Upcoming Events
 - ✓ Field Cleanup Day
 - ✓ TechLazer/Light Point Laser
-

generally supply all the intricate cut parts and stringers. The sheeting, blocks, canopies, cowlings and landing gear are not included but they can often recommend sources for some of the parts. The other kit they have worked out production for is the Lockheed P-2 Neptune.

They recently set up a run on the discontinued Top Flite P-39 Bell Airacobra that was requested by our own Tom Springer. Tom has their kit and so far he is very impressed with the workmanship and material. If you have a favorite plane that is not in production, you can work with them to find drawings so they can digitize it for their computer controlled laser cutter. If you design a plane on CAD software, they can work with your drawing files to cut you a kit. They can also do some custom cutting of markings from vinyl or iron-on plastic covering.

The website they are starting is: www.TechLazer.com.

2011 Club Officers

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Secretary	Leo Davids	763-263-3577
Safety Off ...	Garth Landefeld	763-497-5828
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Want club logo apparel & other items? Shop here:
<http://www.cafepress.com/wrightflyersrc>.

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

They can be contacted by email at Mike@TechLazer.com (Ph: 763-286-3728) or Wade@LazerTech.com (Ph: 763-232-1684).

