

# The Wright Flyer



Volume 26 Issue 4

AMA #4143

April 2012

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, March 13th, the Wright Flyers held the monthly membership meeting at the Monticello Middle School. This was the sixth indoor meeting of the season. The next meeting at the school will be the last until next October.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by president Garth Landefeld. There were 5 officers and 10 members present.

A motion to approve the February meeting minutes as published in the March newsletter was made, seconded and affirmed by voice vote.

A treasury report was given. Starting with a balance of \$4349, expenses were incurred for \$117.83 in newsletter and PO box rental. Dues collected added \$450 for a current balance of \$4681.42.

Jeff Nelson has received two written proposals for mowing the field at Montissippi Park. Aqua Green quoted \$106.88 for each mowing. They require 3 days advance notice. Because we would be an unproven customer, they require payment up front for each mowing service. The other quote came from Carefree Lawn Service for \$130 plus tax. Carefree had been hired by the Club back in 2004 to mow the field for a year but wanted a increase from the \$100 charge to \$150 for the next year so they were dropped. Motion was made, seconded and voice affirmed to have Aqua Green provide mowing on call through Jeff Nelson. If anyone notices the grass getting too long, they should contact Jeff who will notify the mowing service.

Garth found prices to buy a storage container for the field at \$2500 identical to prices Jeff Nelson

The next meeting is scheduled for  
**7:00 PM** on Tuesday, **April 10th,**  
2012. It will be held in **Room 29** of the  
**Monticello Middle School.**

found. Only other possibility would be if a damaged container became available for possibly \$1000. With the new lawn mowing service being retained, search for a building to house club mowing equipment is tabled for the season.

Annual Spring field maintenance activities were brought up for discussion. Leo Davids reported that the field was in good shape and only a couple gopher holes were found. He will fill them and roll the field as soon as the frost is out, probably in the next two weeks. Two of the 4x8 tables in the pit area need to be replaced. Jason Brehmer volunteered to make table bases from pipe that Dave Martin has available. Garth will inspect the shelter roof to see if some shingles can be replaced or if re-roofing is a better solution to the damage. The shelter and roofing is original from its construction in 1993. John Kossieck will take up the small runway mat on the field and store it over in the woods by the roller until or if we ever find enough material to do an entire 200 foot by 60 foot mat runway. The current piece has frayed edges sticking up and grass growing under it making it more of a detriment than benefit for mowing and flying. Because there is no real need for a designated day for members to perform an overall field cleanup, as was past

tradition before the flying season starts, none will be scheduled.

Garth will contact the portable toilet rental service to have a unit at the field starting the first Monday of April through the end of October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

## Show & Tell

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

Leo Davids brought in a JR X-378 transmitter he purchased at the TCRC auction in February. It is well appointed model that JR designed in 2002 and produced for a number of years as 72 MHz 8-model memory computer radio. Leo showed how readily he was able to make a conversion of this transmitter to



the 2.4 GHz spread spectrum with the components that are available from FrSky. The radio didn't have a plug-in RF module but inside the transmitter's case, the RF circuitry was segregated nicely onto a board that could be unplugged, removed to facilitate connection of a FrSky 2.4 GHz RF board of similar



size. The new antenna and button/LED board were also easily mounted on the case of the transmitter. This is the third conversion Leo has done with the FrSky 2.4 GHz system and the third brand of transmitter converted as well. The previous conversions were an Airtronics RD6000 and a Futaba 7C. The Airtronics was the most difficult because the RF circuits are not segregated onto removable board. The Futaba wasn't quite as easy to do as the JR even though the Futaba's RF circuit is segregated onto a board. However, the the trainer jack also resides on the RF board so it had to remain in the case. The functionality of all three conversions has been excellent. The FrSky RF modules for a transmitter are under \$20 and full range dual antenna receivers are 1/3 to 1/2 the cost of comparable spread spectrum receivers that JR, Futaba and Airtronics provide for their native systems. The FrSky channel shifting (ACCST) technology has been "scientifically" tested and anecdotal reports confirm that it has the frequency agility to withstand very congested usage of the 2.4 GHz spectrum comparable to the best Futaba, Airtronics, Spektrum and Hitec have to offer.

## St. Patrick's Day Combat Build

by Leo Davids, WFRC Secretary

On Saturday, March 17th, eight of the WFRC Club members headed to Garth Landefeld's home to participate in a building marathon. The subject of this build was a sheet foam constructed combat plane that Joel Dirnberger designed called the BluFO. His design was based on a delta wing aircraft called the BFW (Blue foam Wonder) that a number of our club members first saw at a Paynesville club event a couple of years ago.

Garth supplied his basement and lunch. Joel supplied the Dow BlueCor fan-fold foam, cutting templates, carbon fiber, tape and glue along with some servos, motors and speed controls. Leo Davids purchased a number of motors, batteries, speed controls, servos and miscellaneous hardware. There were enough materials to build six receiver-ready aircraft and two more airframes.

All the participants arrived at Garth's promptly at 10:30 AM and Joel began demonstrating and orchestrating production in short order. The general production line consisted of a team cutting the parts out of the foam sheets, a team assembling the parts into airframes and a team connecting the control linkages and installing the power systems. The first aircraft off the line was test run with different props to find the combination that would not exceed the power system's nominal capability of 140 watts. Two different props that were on hand met the power goal and were fitted to the six receiver-ready planes.

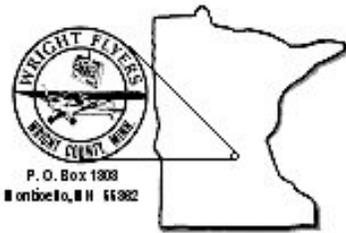
After about 9 hours of working, eating and drinking, the aircraft production was doled out to members of the build. The six receiver-ready aircraft cost each participant \$44.50 for the materials and \$8 per battery. Garth retained the two airframe-only units to be offered to anyone in the club interested. The less than one aircraft per hour production rate was not up to Asian standards by any means but we were able to compete pretty well on price, as long as no one wanted to make a profit.

Counting the two prototypes Joel initially built, there are now 8 flyable BluFO's in the club. To date, John Kossieck, Jason Brehmer, Leo Davids and Garth Landefeld have successfully flown their BluFO's. Leo and Joel even went to the next level taking Joel's two prototypes into combat sporting 15-foot streamers. No streamers were cut during this round of combat but a wingtip fin was knocked off as a result of mid-

air contact between these two aircraft.

The stage is now set for MCOM (mass combat over Monticello) whenever the Team BluFO pilots can all convene in a chivalrous fashion at the Monticello Park Field.





---

## In This Issue

---

- ✓ Meeting Highlights
  - ✓ Show & Tell
  - ✓ St. Patrick's Day Combat Build
- 



---

## 2012 Club Officers

Pres ..... Garth Landefeld .....763-497-0986  
VP..... Joel Dirnberger..... 763-878-2252  
Treasurer .... Perry Dzuik .....763-477-6865  
Secretary .... Leo Davids ..... 763-263-3577  
Safety Off ... Jeff Nelson .....763-295-2575  
News Ed ..... Jean Davids ..... 763-263-3577

---

## Café Express

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](mailto:jedweb@charter.net) or call me at 763-263-3577. Jean Davids

---

