

the

# Monitor

May

The MRCS Officers

2013

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**Newsletter Editor:**

Ken Myers

**Next Meeting: Date:** Wednesday, May 1

**Time:** 6:00 pm or earlier, 7 Mi. Rd. Flying Field

**What's In This Issue:**

Saving Our Hobby - Model Rocketry – The April Business Meeting – April Show and Tell – Pointy Objects and Li-Pos Don't Mix! - Announcing the 2013 Mid-Am –Upcoming Events

## **Saving Our Hobby**

*The following is reprinted from the  
Detroit Aero Modelers March newsletter.*

"There has recently been an increase in concern about videos and still photos taken from drones. The problem centers on invasion of privacy. With the proliferation of RTF quadcopters outfitted with cameras, it has become simple for anyone to plunk down some money, and go "window-shopping" in the neighborhood, without any flight training.

If we don't want laws that paint with a wide brush outlawing R/C flight, we should be very outgoing in describing what it is that we do, and emphasize that we are doing it only in public airspace! Now is NOT the time to be posting videos shot from you model as it cruises down the back streets of your neighborhood, and over the neighbor's pool!"

Let's all do it right and share that we are doing it 'right' with everyone we come into contact with.

## **The April Meeting**

### **Model Rocketry**

Presenter Roger Wilfong

Roger has been involved in model rocketry from many years and has competed at the national level.

Model rocketry is a hobby that has grown up in parallel to RC flight. Roger spoke about the current technology and capabilities and covered Model Rockets, Rocket Gliders and Boost Gliders.

He reported on the early history of model rockets starting in 1957.

National Association of Model Rocketry (NAR) is the national organization.

### **Helicopter Frequencies**

21, 27, 29, 39, 41

### **Sailplane Frequencies**

11, 12



The first model rockets used fuses and then moved on to electric ignition. The rocket motors are designated by Letter, number, number. There are black powder motors and composite motors. There are now reloadable motors that are safety designed to not explode. The propellant is pre-manufactured. Rockets using up to size G motors are considered model rockets. Anything above G-size motors requires special conditions and permits.

Vern Estes started mass production of model rocket motors in 1958.

Rocket contests include altitude, duration, craftsmanship and more. When going for altitude, motors of the same class compete against each other.

There are a myriad of events and sub-events at model rocket meets.

There are NAR sanctioned competitions and also FAI events.

### The Meeting

**Lynn Morgan** noted that the paid membership of 51 is a lot 'lighter' than in previous years.

**Mike Russell** gave the treasurer's report. If you have specific questions about the state of our finances, please ask Mike or any officer.

**Ken Myers** noted that the sanction for the July 13 and 14 Mid-Am has been applied for. He also asked for continued help of Midwest members.

Ken also noted that video equipped planes, helicopters and quadcopters appear to be posing a threat to the continued existence of our hobby, as we know it. He shared information that he'd received from the AMA regarding proposed legislation restricting the use of 'drones/UAVs'.

**Arthur Deane** reminded everyone that there is no FPV flying at our field.

He also noted that with the membership down, we will have to cut back on expenditures whenever and wherever possible. We do have expenses that we can't cut and coming up with more expenses. For now, it looks like we will end the year 'in the hole'.

Several members shared their thoughts on what to do about this situation.

Arthur reminded everyone that the Friends of the Field appeal does help and will be especially helpful this year. If you are one of the many users of the field, you might really want to consider a contribution this year. If you use the field and believe in it, please donate.

### April Show and Tell



**Bob McDonald** brought in a completed Sig Ryan STA. It is a very beautiful model with great detailing. The photo hardly begins to do it justice. It weighs in at about 9 lb. The engine is a Surpass 60 4-stroke. It is covered with Coverall rayon and dope and the

fuselage is fiberglass. It is finished with car paint with clear uruathane on top.



**Mike Russell** brought in one of the six planes he completed this winter. It is a Sig 40-Star 40. It uses a 4-stroke Magnum .52 2-stroke engine. Mike looks for what works for him and really enjoys scratch-building.



**Paul Sockow** shared his brand-new E-flite Carbon Z Splendor. It uses a 50-size motor and 6S 4000mAh Li-Po pack, so there will be plenty of power in this 650 sq.in. model. The wing attaches with 4-bolts and one bolt attaches the tail. It comes

with a Spektrum Rx with the A3X gyro. It only took an hour to assemble. Everything for \$445.

### **A Letter from Roger Wilfong Regarding ‘Drone’ Legislation**

*This is the site that Ken referred to at the meeting and Roger is referring to in his letter. It is a map showing the United States and the proposed privacy legislation.*

<http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/drone-legislation/>

Ken,

I share your concern on state legislation to regulate modeling activities. I have read the current bill am cautiously optimistic that it is not targeted at private, hobby use of model airplanes. The bill appears to establish conditions and limits on the use of UAVs, and any information gathered through the use of UAVs by Michigan government and government subdivisions within the state. I do not see any reference to private use of model aircraft.

Prior to reading the bill, I had considered writing my state representatives to both educate them on the presence and positive aspects of modeling, and to voice opposition to legislation restricting recreational use of models aircraft. I am reconsidering that. I think any communication with our government representatives needs to be carefully crafted to both educate them about the hobby and not alarm them about the potential for private individuals using off-the-shelf equipment to perform the activities that HB 4455 intends to restrict (or at least control) government from preforming.

The recent disclosure about federal use of UAVs has heightened the public’s awareness of the capabilities of small, remotely piloted aircraft. I am concerned that individuals may perceive our activities as infringing on their privacy, but I do not know how to address those concerns without causing additional alarm. Your thoughts are welcome.

I think (hope?) we are not currently at risk; however, I believe we need to continue to be vigilant



and aware of what is going on in Lansing and our local communities.

Roger

### **Pointy Objects and Li-Pos Don't Mix!**

From Peter Waters



A nice model, a sharp X-acto knife, a very tight space to trim excess balsa, AND.... WHOOSH! The 'hand grenade', was rapidly jerked out of the plane and slung outside the door!



*As they used to say on one of my favorite TV shows, "Let's be careful out there!" KM*

### **Mid-America Electric Flies Saturday, July 13 & Sunday, July 14, 2013**

Hosted by the:  
**Ann Arbor Falcons and Electric Flyers Only**

Flying Site Provided by the:  
**Midwest R/C Society**

Contest Directors are:

**Ken Myers** phone (248) 669-8124 or  
kmyersefo@theampeer.org

<http://www.theampeer.org> for updates & info

**Keith Shaw** (734) 973-6309

Flying both days at the Midwest R/C Society Flying Field - 7 Mile Rd., Salem Twp., MI

Registration: 9 A.M. both days

Flying from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sat. & 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Sunday

**Pilot Entry Fee \$15 a day or \$25 both days**

**Parking Donation Requested from Spectators**

#### **Saturday's Awards**

Best Scale

Most Beautiful

Best Ducted Fan

Best Sport Plane

CD's Choice

#### **Sunday's Awards**

Best Scale

Most Beautiful

Best Mini-Electric

Best Multi-motor

CD's Choice

Planes Must Fly To Be Considered for Any Award

Saturday's & Sunday's Awards:

Plaques for 1st in each category

**Open Flying Possible on Friday**

**Night Flying Possible, Weather Permitting,**

**Friday & Saturday Nights**

Refreshments available at the field both days.

Potluck picnic at the field on Saturday evening.

Come, Look, Listen, Learn - Fly Electric - Fly the Future!

**Merchandise drawing for ALL entrants**

To change your email address contact Ken Myers at [kmyersefo@mac.com](mailto:kmyersefo@mac.com)

The 2013 membership application is available at the club Web site,  
<http://www.midwestrcsociety.org>,  
for downloading with the link on the homepage.

**IMPORTANT: Channels 36 & 56 May NOT be used at the 7 Mile Rd. Field**

**Upcoming Events:**

**May 1, Wednesday**, Midwest monthly meeting at the 7 Mile Rd. Flying Field, first flying meeting of the year!, 6 p.m. or earlier. Bring a plane and let's fly!

**June 22 & 23 ,Sat. & Sunday**, Frankenmuth Aeromodlers, 2013 Sloan Museum Auto Fair Model Aircraft static display, for more info: Larry Launstein Jr, 810-624-2075

**July 13 & 14**, Saturday & Sunday, 29th Annual Mid-America Electric Fliers, MRCS 7 Mile Rd. field, Ken Myers, 248-669-8124, Web site info & flyer <http://www.theampeer.org>

**Bob McDonald's** Beautiful Ryan STA built from a Sig Kit. More in the April Show and Tell.



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