



April 2011

Updates *by Andy Kunz, andy@andykunz.us*

It's been several months since we've had a newsletter. Lots-of-work and not-so-much-club-news have conspired together to keep newsletters from happening. This month, though, we have some things to mention, so a newsletter is definitely happening.

First item is – nice weather has started to arrive. Unfortunately, at this time of year it usually happens on weekdays during normal working hours. With the nice weather comes a need to clean up the field after the winter. The wind storm last week flipped and broke the starting table, sending it to the far end of the hangar. We need to get it back in service – only an hour or two should be needed. Volunteers should contact Pete Bergstrom. We have materials to build a couple more of these, too. Last year John Hammond and Pete got the parts ready, now all we need is somebody to do a little assembly work. By the way, the porta-john also went flying – down to the tree line, past the track! All I can say is, good thing it isn't July!!!

Second item – upcoming events. Contest/Event Directors – get your paperwork in with the AMA for sanctions if applicable. Make flyers so we can put them on our website. Check the website to make sure the information for your event is accurate.

Third item – the website has been updated. Many thanks to Paul Reese for providing updated logos in a format that fits the new website layout. Have you been there lately? www.elifield.com Part of the web stuff that's been happening is a brand new Facebook page. Lee Anderson and his daughter created this page for us, and a link to it is on our website. Check it out!

And while on the subject of Lee – he was sick for a while, but is back in action now and ready to accept your DUES. Dues were due in March, and many have not yet paid. Lee will be sending out bills soon, but please remember that it's OUR responsibility to pay, not his to send out bills first.

Last item – planning ahead. At the last meeting we discussed taking a club trip to the National Museum of the USAF in Dayton <http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil> A tentative date of Saturday, January 21, 2012 has been proposed. The cost will be \$45 per person for the charter bus, leaving about 4AM and returning about 10PM. If you are interested in going, please contact me. We have not yet committed to this; we're checking on the interest of our club members. If there's not enough, we'll drop it.

COMING SOON Modeling Events

Last time we were looking at E-Fest. Thanks go out to Dave Smalley, John Hammond, Vic Audo, Mike Hildebrandt, Dan Kooi, and Amanda Weldy for staffing our booth there.

Our first club event for this season is turning out bigger than we originally planned. The Monticello Railway Museum is working with us to present a "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" event. This will highlight the train museum, a local Mustang car club, and our own Builders Contest and Swap Meet. We've extended invitations to other local clubs to join us on May 21 to make it a success for all.

2011 Club Modeling Events

Builders Contest/Swap Meet/" <i>Planes, Trains, and Automobiles</i> "	May 21
<i>JR AeroTow</i> at Monticello Airport	June 2 – 5
Eli Field <i>Open House and Fireworks</i>	July 3 (Sunday)
" <i>Horizon Fly-In for Real Life</i> " – charity benefit	July 22-24
<i>Illini SuperJets</i>	Aug 25 – 28
<i>North Central IMAC Championships</i>	Sept 16 – 18

2011 Nearby Modeling Events

Classic Pattern contest www.foxvalleyaero.com	May 28
Sangamon Valley Autism benefit http://www.sangamonvalleyrc.org	June 25

This list will grow!

2011 Club Meeting Schedule

- May 2 General Meeting – Club Field
- May 16 Board Meeting – Mike Hilderbrandt's house

- Jun 6 General Meeting – Club Field
- Jun 20 Board Meeting – Mike Hilderbrandt's house

2011 Officers

- President – Pete Bergstrom - Pete17e@aol.com – 217-840-3400
- Vice-President – Mike Hilderbrandt – mhilderbrandt@hotmail.com
- Safety Officer – Mike McConville – mikem@horizonhobby.com
- Treasurer – Lee Anderson – lv2sail@mchsi.com
- Membership Secretary – Jeff Cash – jcash@horizonhobby.com

The Last Word by Pete Bergstrom, President, pete17e@aol.com

Well the good weather has finally arrived after our long winter. I don't know about you but for some reason this year I expected the warm weather to appear on March 1st. Boy was I disappointed day after day. It really played with my head for the next 6 weeks. I can't imagine winters in Alaska!

The good weather brings with it a chance to get back out to the field and do some flying or driving of all our winter projects ... you did build something new this winter, didn't you? If you are in the final stages of assembly you should get a move on because our 2nd Annual Builder's contest is coming up on May 21st.

With the warmer weather comes the need to maintain our field in the condition we have all become accustomed to. So far this year we have had Turf Doctors (our mowing service) roll both sides of the runway with their 2000 pound roller and the results are pretty impressive. We still need to aggressively reseed to continue the grass growth out there and add to the lushness of the grass. But all this takes funds to accomplish ... which leads me to my next topic:

Dues. Last fall during our September meeting we all agreed to change the membership year from July 1 - June 30 to Jan 1- Dec 31, which means that on Jan 1 current members owed the club ½ year of their membership for the balance of 2011. So far the renewal rate for existing members is running only about 40%. Please get your dues into Lee Anderson soon so we can fund the expenses we continue to occur and have the best flying field in the area.

Andy has hit upon the upcoming events for the year so I'll just reinforce what he has already communicated. In order for us to honor the facility we have and to continue to promote the general well fare of our RC community we all need to pitch in at each of these events to pass on the general goodwill of RC'ers and be great hosts for our guests. Please contact the event leadership for each event and volunteer to step in and do what is necessary to help out with what you are good at!

One of the challenges for these upcoming events that the BOD identified in our January meetings was both participant and general spectator parking for these events. Andy Kunz and Lee Anderson agreed to take a look at the overall picture and develop a plan. I know it may not seem like much of a topic to be 'gifted' in, but we will need a lot of manpower over the course of the summer to be the parking directors and greeters for our events. And this is actually a huge job because it is the parking people who will provide the initial contact with our guests and set the tone for the event for them. Smiling faces for all who arrive and a hearty hello are the only requirements for these positions.

I'm planning on a work party day Saturday May 7th from 9-12am. We have some general cleanup to do around the hangar; we need to finish building the airplane starting stands we started last year and repair the one that was built after it took a tumble in the wind. I look forward to seeing everyone there. Bring some planes to fly in the afternoon once we are done. I'll bring some good hot dogs to cook up on the grill and we'll make a day of it.

Until then - safe modeling!

Pete