



March SIRS

Model Aviation
Club



AMA District VI Chapter 621 Founded in 1964

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NOTE March 2nd not March 9th

March 2nd 2023

St Mary's Church School cafeteria.
527 W. Jackson, Bloomington, IL
Enter the school from the parking lot behind the church.
Doors open at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:00 PM
Indoor flying in the Gym before and after the meeting

Control line balloon burst May 11th
POC Jerry Worden jwfly1697@msn.com

Vintage Model Aviation Day/SIRS 60th Anniversary
June 22nd-23rd
POC Jerry Worden jwfly1697@msn.com

Model Aviation Day August 10
POC Steve Meyer steves_tile@yahoo.com

SIRS IMAC Challenge Sept 14th-15th
POC Kris Akers kris.akers101@gmail.com

Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon October 5th, 6th as a backup
POC John Cralley jccrall@ilstu.edu

Thompson Cup TBD
POC Justin Worden justin.worden@nussbaum.com

S.I.R.S. March 2024

I am going to start with great news. A member of our club donated a weather station as well as the operational cost for a year! By now this is old news, but thanks go out to the Leavens family for getting it up and running. More information than I will ever use but, a useful tool none the less. Our runway lies east to west 90 degrees by 270 degrees.

Work has begun on the east end of the runway. Thanks to everyone involved in the endeavor! Including mother nature...She was kind to us this winter!

Hopefully at the upcoming meeting we will be able to predict what weekend we choose for a dedication for long time member Merle Jackson who passed away last fall as well as the manner in which we will honor him.

I want to help everyone with time off plans....So far we have this to offer for 2024.

In May:

Jerry Worden is hosting a control line balloon bust on May 11th. We saw it on You Tube and it looks like a lot of fun. Come out and challenge your hand to eye coordination. This could turn into one of those "picnic Saturdays"! We will hear about a little bit later.

In June:

Jerry Worden will be directing the 60th Anniversary Celebration 2024 on June 22nd and 23rd. We hope to see a lot of vintage aircraft as well as war birds. But, Jerry has stated: Bring what you have! Nitro, electric, c/l, (rubber band powered). It's our 60th anniversary! Let the past and present be represented! Let's fly and have fun!!!

In August:

Steve Meyers will be directing Model Aviation Day 2024 on Saturday August 10th. Special Olympics has a place in my heart for my own family reasons. You will hear more about this event in upcoming newsletters because....We want some serious member support to ensure any goal that is set is exceeded! That's a definition of what a club does!!!!

In September:

Kris Akers will be directing the SIRS IMAC Challenge event on Sept. 14th and 15th. Looking to the future this event has the potential to snowball into something much larger. With that in mind I would like to offer them Friday Sept 13 as a closed field as a S.I.R.S. courtesy for their practice sessions. If you didn't come out last year, definitely set the dates on your calendar. The people that participate are a hoot, bar none! The aircraft they bring are not only awesome and mostly huge, the technology, the craftsmanship, the money, yes I said it out loud, but, in the air they are even more impressive. Every person I spoke with (and oh yeah I spoke with all of them) are some of the nicest people and, like the rest of us they love to share their hobby.

I know "set routine" flying is not for everyone but, when it's freestyle time that's an altogether different story. They bring their own music and they ROCK!!! Put it on your bucket list and try not to get hooked...

In October:

The tenacious John Cralley will be directing the "Annual Worldwide Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon" The official dates are October 5 - 6 with October 12 -13 as "Rain Dates." We usually only fly on Saturday here at the SIRS Field with Sunday as the "Rain Date." There is no reason not to fly both dates (10/5 & 10/6) if the club wants to make it a two day event. The overall goal of the Fly-A-Thon is to see how many Ringmaster flights can be put up in a Weekend worldwide! This man is clearly unstoppable and highly contagious. I started glow flight on Cox control line rigs until I moved on to R/C. Well now I can say I have returned to my roots. I will once again join him this year and hopefully set a personal best on going around in circles. We will have planes to spare, so come out and show what you learned at Jerry's Balloon Bust! Just another fine way to spend a day!

Sept/Oct? More information for the Thompson Cup will be forthcoming. Jerry Worden is the defending champion, and welcomes all pilots to try and dethrone him. I personally plan on winning this year!! After my dismal performance last year, I need redemption and I'm gonna put on my best Chuck Yeager and look for the checkered flag!!

This leaves a lot of weekends to do a "Picnic fly in". Impromptu, nothing extremely organized, just good food, good company and, great flying. As with mostly everyone, family life and work will play a big part in my ability to create one. Sooo if your headed out on a fine sunny day use the chat, make a call. You just never know what you might stir up!

I hope all of you are in good health and spirit. I am looking forward to the upcoming season.

Blue Skies,

Randy Doss
SIRS Club President

SIRS Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2024

After an hour of in-door flying, President Randy Doss called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the St Mary's gym. There were 17 members present.

Larry read the minutes from the January 20 meeting. Dennis gave the Treasurer's report for January. Both reports were approved as given.

Old Business

Jerry continues working on a proposal for constructing an RC dirt track in the southeast corner of the field.

An event for remembrance of Merle Jackson is still under discussion. Randy is the contact person. Nothing finalized at this time.

The Annual Vintage Model Aviation Day/Open House to be held along with the SIRS 60th anniversary celebration on June 22 and 23 was originally planned to be held in conjunction with the Funks Grove Bicentennial Celebration. The Funks Grove event is somewhat up in the air at this time, but the SIRS event will be held as planned. All models are welcome to participate with emphasis on vintage. Jerry is coordinating and suggesting a light lunch on Saturday with an evening meal.

The AMA grant applications for field improvements will be announced in May. Dave Leavens submitted an application on behalf of SIRS with the expenses incurred from the shed expansion project.

Dave and Dewayne Leavens have been investigating the installment of a remotely accessible weather station at the field. Randy surprised the group by presenting a nice, new (not cheap!) weather station donated to get the ball rolling, along with the first year's internet paid for! Dave will install a smart phone in the shed that can be accessed at any time via smart phone for real-time weather conditions on the flight line! Details forthcoming regarding the link. One member's generosity for the advancement of the club!

New Business

Due to a scheduling conflict at St Mary's, the March meeting may be held the first Saturday in March rather than the usual 2nd Saturday. John Cralley to confirm.

Excitement is building for the possible first annual Jerry Warden Balloon Burst to be held at the May meeting!

In addition to the Vintage Model Aviation/Open House/60th anniversary event, the following events are being considered for this year...Model Aviation Day, Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon, and IMAC. Dates to follow.

Dewayne Leavens was the winner of the door prize! Not sure, but I think it was, once again, a generous gift certificate from the Atlanta Locker. Randy definitely has great contacts...or dirt on somebody!

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned to an hour of in-door flying.

Next meeting: 7:00 pm, March 2nd, 2024, St Mary's. Indoor flying at 6:00 pm and after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted.

Larry Kupferschmid, Secretary

Horizon Hobby RC Fest June 7-8, 2024 MONTICELLO, IL

***SIRS Indoor Flying
Fridays 5:30 to 9:00
Mt. Hope/Funks Grove Park District.
Located on the west side of West Street, Mclean, IL. School gym.***

Scan this to find our flying field



AMA EVENTS

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/event-calendar>

The 2024 dues are \$100 and due April 1st 2024

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

AMA # (or applied for) _____

Phone: home _____ cell _____

Email _____

Make Check Payable to "SIRS Inc." and Mail to : (or bring to a meeting)

Dennis Garrigus
1301 Heritage Road
Normal, IL 61761

New member's dues will be prorated to expire on March 31st.

**Can't find your check book try PAYPAL
Fast, easy, and safe.
sirsrc23@gmail.com**

Please send me any upcoming events. Please send photos or any other information you would like to see in the newsletter.

Dave Leavens, Editor
gpen2@yahoo.com

On The Field

The title will bring thoughts of irony to some, but to make a mistake, you must know the rules/pilot etiquette or just plain common sense. I have no excuse because I like to think I have all three. However, what about the new soon to be pilots or those that have never been in a club before? We can't always think of everything but we can share what we know! I am well left of perfect and I don't know it all. So any corrections (other than grammar and spelling) will be in the next newsletter. If they will let me do it again.

My first endeavor will be the subject of "Spotters."

The first time I visited a flying club I wanted to be "that guy" standing tall and flying an aircraft with two sticks and radio waves. Then I decided standing out there next to "that guy" would certainly be a thrill, and it is! However, a spotter has duties and responsibilities; he is the eyes, ears and amplifier for the pilot. The spotter needs to be aware of the other aircraft in the air, giving information to the pilot as well as taking instructions from the pilot. The spotter is the person that has situational awareness. While the pilot focuses on flying, the spotter is always looking for convergence (midair collision possibilities), birds, full size aircraft since we do share the sky. He is looking for anything that could make it hazardous to continue the flight.

The spotter should also know his or her responsibility upon hearing different commands, for example:

Deadstick or Engine out:

When an aircraft no longer has forward propulsion, the other flying pilots will vector out of the pattern to give the "deadstick" all the room possible to make a safe recovery. As the spotter, you would let your pilot know where the aircraft is so he can determine the best flight path to avoid interference. It is most important that with other aircraft in the air all looking to stay out of the way, remaining situationally aware is essential!

Emergency landing:

Same as "deadstick" with the added attraction that loss of control of the aircraft is a possibility. Ducking and or dodging may be involved. This is where we find out if you like your pilot!

On The Field:

When a person or persons move onto the field for any reason, the pilot maintains a safe altitude and the spotter informs the pilot as to where this is happening and when they are clear. The spotter will also inform the field of; "Taking Off" as well as the intention to land.

There are other instances that can occur. Conversation and information are the key. These two people work as a team to have a safe and successful flight. It's not always intense to be a spotter; in fact, you could possibly fly "that guy's" airplane because he forgot to put on his sunglasses. You could be Jerry Worden putting on your best airshow announcers voice, and just loud enough for the pilot to hear. Describing your every move makes you feel like you're the man of the moment! I cherish that memory.

I hope that somewhere here I have entertained or maybe slipped in a little schooling that someone may use.

Fly happy,

Randy Doss
SIRS Club President