

S.P.A.R.K.S FLIGHTLINE

The newsletter of the South Park Area Radio Kontrol Society

AMA Charter #1633

May 2016

IMAA Chapter #510

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The next meeting of SPARKS is to be held at **Flying Field** Wednesday, May 11th at **7:00**. Note this is the **second** Wednesday of the month.

April Minutes

The April 13th, 2016 meeting was called to order by President Lou Mattes at 7:03 pm. 9 members were present. The minutes from the December meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Old Business

We didn't decide on changing the lock on the gate.

We marked trees that we intend to cut down.

New Business

Missed Approach will be having a Fun Fly event at the Finleyville Airport on Saturday July 9th with a rain date of Sunday July 10th.

We discussed the flea market at J&C scheduled for May 1st.

Ed Andrews mentioned that Chuck Gratner's Riley B was a huge hit at the Toledo show with many wanting to build one of their own.

We had a guest who was considering joining the club.

Lou Mattes won the 50/50.

Club Notices

Here are tentative meeting times and places. There will be an email if there are any changes.

Jan. & Feb. ----- No meetings

Mar. & Apr. ----- 7:00 pm at Whitehall Borough Bldg.

May to Sept. ----- 7:00 pm at the Sparks field

Oct to Dec ----- 7:00 pm at Whitehall Borough Bldg.

The meeting date will be the Second Wednesday of the month.

Show and Tell

Jerry O'Connor showed his Moki 5 cylinder Engine with an electric start. He plans to put this in his giant scale Waco biplane.

FAA vs. Self Regulation

All of us are aware of the continuing issues with FAA regulation of the hobby. While we may consider some of their rules overkill we have to be aware that we hurt ourselves by not enforcing our own rules and demonstrating common sense. The rapid increase in technology has given us a sense that we don't have to be as careful as before. This is both because there is less need for instructors and because we are tempted to experiment in ways that are unwise. The FAA has responded by

calling for design and building standards. In addition, widely available electric aircraft like quads and park flyers have encouraged even AMA members to feel like they don't need a designated field. The recent development of cheap lightweight cameras has led to First Person View flying which has opened up problems with the FAA.

Golden Knights and F-22 Raptor. Tickets available at Shop N Save.

While in the past planes were relatively difficult to fly and required plenty of help from an instructor today they come with fail-safe's and auto pilot features. If your plane doesn't bank more than 45 degrees you may feel that you can fly anywhere without help. This is also true if you have a camera for first person view. Quads add to this problem because their stability makes them easier to fly in a crowded area. Quads have also interfered with firefighting, medical helicopters and other things. No one would have attempted this with a warbird. Greater access to technology has also led to impressive but ill advised experiments. Last year an 18 year old engineering student in Connecticut posted a YouTube video which showed him firing a pistol remotely from a quadcopter. In the age of terrorism this is understandably drawing the ire of government officials. Because the FAA worries that more of this is coming they are calling for more regulations of self designed models. You should still of course be able to do your own obscure World War One fighter but we have to demonstrate that we know where the line is. Another issue is cameras. Again traditional RC planes couldn't be flown in crowded areas but quads can, so when cameras are mounted to them this leads to privacy issues. Also you may fly further away than you would in the past so the FAA and the AMA have agreed that FPV flying requires spotters. If we keep these issues in mind and follow the rules we can more easily avoid further interference from the FAA.

Upcoming Events

5/21/2016 - 5/22/2016 – Westmoreland County International Air show. Arnold Palmer Regional Airport Latrobe, PA. Acts include the Army