

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

The newsletter of the South Park Area Radio Kontrol Society

AMA Charter #1633

September 2016

IMAA Chapter #510

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The next meeting of SPARKS is to be held at **Flying Field** Wednesday, September 14th at **7:00**. Note this is the **second** Wednesday of the month.

2 Fun Scale fly. The Airport is a 417 Roy E Furman Hwy in Waynesburg.

August Minutes

The August 10th, 2016 meeting was called to order by President Lou Mattes at 7:10 pm. 10 members were present. The minutes from the July meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read by Lou and approved.

Brian McCord and Dave Walter were voted in as new members.

Jim Radcliffe 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.

Old Business

We discussed getting a No Parking sign for the road where the path branches off above the field.

Lou mentioned that the trees were supposed to be cut down on August 15th.

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

New Business

We agreed to pay for use of the Whitehall Borough Building.

The National Association of Scale Aeromodelers Scale Classic will take place at the Greene County Airport in Waynesburg, PA from September 23 to the 25. There are a variety of scale events for both RC and Control Line. There are team and single events and designer events. On Saturday there will be a World War

Tech Tips

If you have tried to cut parts such as long thin strips with a straight edge then you know that it can be frustrating to keep the straight edge from moving as you cut. To solve this glue some sandpaper to the bottom of the straight edge with spray adhesive. This will keep the straight edge from moving.

Onboard Lights

With the days getting shorter there is less available flying time. While we will eventually have to hang it up for the year you can make the most of the evening hours with flying lights. You won't want to fly in pitch blackness but this will give you a boost as the sun is setting. Even on a cloudy day when there is some sunlight the lights will make it easier for you to see what your plane is doing. Light systems come in different varieties from LED Strips, similar to a string of Christmas lights to super bright single bulbs at the end of a wire. There are also different methods of powering them. Some run off the receiver pack, particularly for small models while bigger ones may have a dedicated battery. The LED strip lights come in 36 or 72 inch lengths and contain 60 to 100 LEDs. You will have to think about what kind of plane you have and whether you want scale or just functional lights. For a park flyer Ram offers the 132 LED system. This weighs only 6 grams and uses only 6ma so it is not a problem on a small park flyer. Lights may be flashing or non flashing and come in different colors. You can put a different color strip on each side of a wing to better determine your orientation. You can arrange the lights in a T tracing the airplanes shape so that you can easily see what you are doing. Similar LED systems are available from RC Gear. On a bigger model you may want to use a landing light system. Ram offers a system with two high intensity bulbs to mount on the leading edge of the wing and a standard lead for plugging into your receiver. This way you can control it with a transmitter switch to turn the lights on and off. This system weighs 1oz so the weight is negligible on a large plane. Another option is programmable flashing navigation lights. These have a red light on one wingtip, green on the other and a white strobe light in the tail. This system includes a flasher circuit board and a 9 volt battery. Ram has different lengths of wire for whichever system you choose so you can match it to a particular size model. There are also a variety of ARFs with built in lighting systems such as the Great Planes Cirrus SR22T.