

THE

January 2006



# SIGNAL SQUEAKER

AMA Chartered Club #371

A. M. R. C. C. Member

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SIGNAL SEEKERS R/C CLUB

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<i>NEWSLETTER</i>	<i>Jerry Wino P.O. Box 614, Garden City MI 48135</i>
<i>TRUSTEES</i>	<i>Bob Dunlap, Randy Ryan. Jay Duncan, George Cooley (alt) Field Safety Officer-Charles Lee</i>
<i>MEETINGS</i>	<i>Fourth Monday of every month at Garden City Log Cabin at 7:30 PM</i>

**Next meeting: Monday, January 23 7:30 PM at Maplewood Center**

Happy new year one and all. Another holiday season come and gone. Pretty soon the Weak Signals Toledo show will be here before we know it. Speaking of the Weak Signals, Their president, Jim Skolmowski, Wrote a pretty good piece on the front page of their recent newsletter. It had some

pretty good points in it, so we're going to go ahead and include a portion of it in this newsletter. I'd like to thank them for that and thank Jim for bringing out those good ideas.

That's about it for now in this slow season. Happy flying to any die hards who may be freezing and flying! -Ed

## SIGNAL SEEKERS RC CLUB MEETING

Meeting Date: December 22, 2005

Meeting was called to order by President Bob McDonald.

### REPORTS:

- The Minutes were approved as written and the Treasures's Report was approved as read.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- The election of officers for 2006 was held. All current officers were reelected plus our new Field Safety Officer Charles Lee. The Trustees are Bob Dunlap, Randy Ryan and Jay Dunkin with the alternate being George Cooley.
- The Christmas Raffle had the following winners:
  - \$300:- Ron Stadimyer
  - \$150:- Tom Melita
  - \$75:- Tom Melita
- The Merit Raffle was held and each member present received a prize. There were a few prizes left over that will be used in the Monthly Raffle in the coming months.

### MONTHLY RAFFLE:

- .Four Star 40:- John Brzys.

## NOTE

The Raffle Committee in particular and the Club in general wish to thank those individuals who donated prizes (mostly plane kits) for the Merit Raffle.

## Thanks to the Weak Signals for this

Over the years I have seen a lot of good ideas and proposals fall by the wayside and never get acted on. We talk about things, we throw out great ideas and a year later we are discussing the same issue. When you have a proposal sometimes you have to be a good salesman to make it happen. I would suggest to all members to think their ideas through before presenting them to the membership. Present your ideas and be prepared to explain to the club why we need to do it, what are the benefits to the club and what are the negatives if we fail to do it. If there is going to be an expense try to have a ballpark cost. And then, be prepared to follow through and make it happen. This is where the biggest breakdown occurs. If you are going to propose it, you should be prepared to write it, chair it, build it, buy it or install it. Keeping this idea in mind can really help us make some progress.

It's a tradition for many of us to fly on New Years Day. Wind, rain, snow, sub zero weather, come hell or high snows flying on New Years Day is a must. I recall some really ugly years where the snow has been falling, the visibility is low, the wind was howling and the temperature was below zero. Take off, one quick lap, land it, and get back by the fireplace to lie to each other about our flying skills. Come on out and join the tradition, we usually start late morning.

I would like to wish you all a very wonderful holiday season.

That's the way I see it,

Jim Skolmowski

## Criminal inCOMPETENCE

■ The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 7:50 am, flashed a gun and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

■ Drug-possession defendant Christopher so-and-so, on trial in March in Pontiac, Michigan, said he had been searched without a warrant. The prosecutor said the officer didn't need a warrant because a "bulge" in Christopher's jacket could have been a gun. Nonsense, said Christopher, who happened to be wearing the same jacket that day in court. He handed it over so the judge could see it. The judge discovered a packet of cocaine in the pocket and laughed so hard he required a five-minute recess to compose himself.

## 'Til Death Do Us Part

The funeral of a woman in Denmark had a strange twist to it recently when the family noticed that the body in the casket was not that of their dear departed aunt, but that of a similar looking lady.

According to the newspaper Ekstra-Bladet, the family's loved one had mistakenly been buried a couple of days earlier at another ceremony with nobody present.

Both of the deceased women, in their late '70s, had died at the same time, of the same causes at the same hospital.

The hospital apologized for any undue stress to the family and claimed that workers could not tell the bodies apart from each other in the morgue.

Elizabeth  
Taylor  
spent six  
of her eight  
honeymoons  
at the  
Beverly Hills  
Hotel.

# Safety and Keeping your Flying Site

by Jay Mealy, AMA Programs Director

Much has been written about safety. As it relates to model aircraft activities, safety is a word that is used in almost every paragraph written or conversation spoken. It is a must-use word in our area of interest—if for no other reason than it sounds good.

But what does safety really mean when it comes to keeping a flying field?

In the Webster's New World Dictionary, safety is defined as "the quality or condition of being safe; freedom from danger, injury, or damage; security." Good definition. It sounds right, and pretty much describes the condition we would expect to find at a safe flying field.

However, is that the only definition of safety? Hasn't Mr. Webster pretty much nailed it? Doesn't that say it all? The answer is no!

Let's set up a scenario. Say there are five other people at your flying field, and if you ask each one of them what his or her definition of safety is you would get five different answers. So now Mr. Webster has five other definitions to compete with plus yours which makes six. What I'm getting at is that there are probably as many definitions for safety as there are people.

You may say, "Maybe we can't define safety, but we all know what it is." or "You have to be safe so you can enjoy your hobby without getting hurt," or even "You must be safe so others are not fearful of not enjoying their flying activities because of your unsafe behavior or vice versa."

What we are really bringing to light is that safety is nebulous. It's a tough concept to get your arms around and even tougher to appreciate, comprehend, and most importantly to put into action.

For the time being; however, let's assume that everyone has a good grasp of what safety is all about and return to our original question of what safety means when it comes to keeping a flying site.

There are two problems clubs are faced with: external problems and internal problems. External problems are those involving neighbors, community, or any entity outside the club that may pose a problem that the club cannot control. On the other hand, internal problems are those such as "How do we get more members to the meetings," or "What is the best way to keep the gophers off the runway?"

When a call comes into the AMA Headquarters from a club with an internal problem, the number one item of discussion is safety. Maybe there's a member who never quite got the hang of making right turns so he flies behind the flightline and over the pits. Or perhaps there's a show boater who ignores the field rules to selfishly fulfill some personal need for attention. We all could add to this list and we have all experienced this type of behavior.

The clubs that recognize this behavior as inappropriate and call for assistance are the clubs that survive. We can provide recommendations about how to correct such problems and provide examples of what other club have done in similar situations. The clubs that allow this type of behavior to continue unchecked are possibly setting a course for extinction.

The majority of modelers operates in a safe manner and is uncomfortable with the unsafe actions of others. If the club as a whole is not doing anything to end unsafe actions, then the members will begin to compensate for their discomfort in their own ways.

Unsafe flight operations are like a rust spot on your car. If you don't take steps to eliminate the rust it will eventually consume your entire car or at least make it unusable. The same thing can happen to a club and its flying site.

It begins subtly. The number of active fliers at the field on any given day starts to decrease, fewer members show up at club meetings, and less people participate in club functions. Members may start participating at other club sites or just decide to back off flying their models for awhile. Whatever their cure, they are going to pursue it because they are not having good, safe fun at their own flying site.

The negative results of unsafe flying practices can take many forms but the end results are the same: loss of a club, loss of a flying site, or heaven forbid, something much worse. For these reasons it is imperative for clubs—and all members—to take a strong position when it comes to safety at the club field. Don't allow people to do dumb things in the air, on the flightline, in the pits, or anywhere else.

Clubs that operate safely have more fun, make more friends within the club and within their communities, and virtually guarantee their longevity and success.

If you would like to be part of the Flying Site Assistance column in Model Aviation, please feel free to share any success stories—or not-so-successful stories—with Joe Beshar and Wes De Cou. Often the successes and/or mistakes of others can be learning experiences for us all.

# Pardon the Pur

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the raft it sank – proving once and for all that *you can't have your kayak and heat, too.*



Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton field and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as *the lesser of two weevils.*



A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He sidles up to the bar and announces: *"I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."*



A neutron goes into a bar and asks the bartender, "How much for a beer?" The bartender replies, *"For you, no charge."*



Two atoms are walking down the street and they run in to each other. One says to the other, "Are you all right?" "No, I lost an electron!" "Are you sure?" "Yeah, *I'm positive!*"



Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused his dentist's Novocaine during root canal work? He wanted to *transcend dental medication!*



A group of chess enthusiasts had checked into a hotel, and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, *"I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."*



There was a man who entered a local paper's pun contest. He sent ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win. Unfortunately, *no pun in ten did.*



## FAMILY STRESS TEST

Test your family to see if you need counselling. Score 0 if the statement is never true, 1 if it is rarely true, 2 if it is sometimes true, and 3 if it is always true.

- \_\_\_ Conversations often begin with "Put the gun down, and then we can talk".
- \_\_\_ The school principal has your number on speed-dial.
- \_\_\_ People have trouble understanding your kids, because they learned to speak through clenched teeth.
- \_\_\_ You are trying to get your four-year-old to switch to decaf.
- \_\_\_ No one has time to wait for microwave TV dinners.
- \_\_\_ The number of jobs held down by family members exceeds the number of people in the family.
- \_\_\_ The cat is on Valium.
- \_\_\_ "Family meetings" are often mediated by law enforcement officials.
- \_\_\_ You have to check your kid's day-timer to see if he can take out the trash.
- \_\_\_ Maxwell House gives you industrial rates.

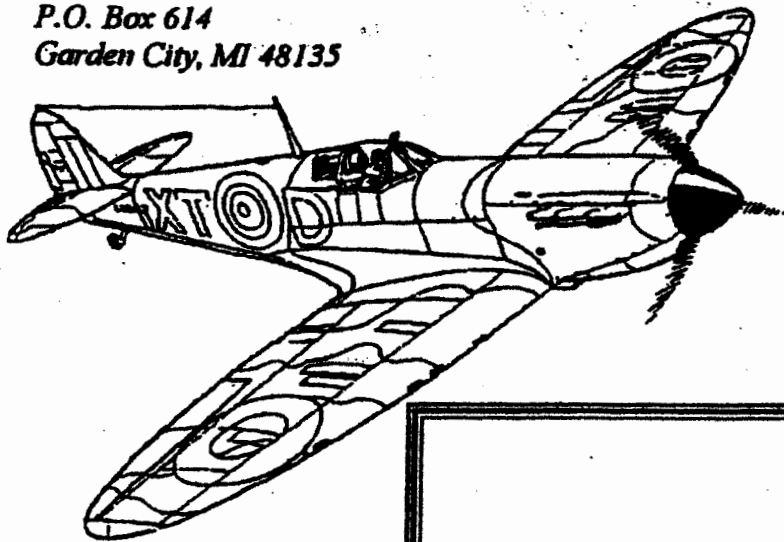


### SCORING:

- 30 a perfect score. Welcome to the neighborhood!
- 20-29 You are doing reasonably well, but still have too little going on in your life. Crank it up.
- 10-19 You have mastered some of the aspects of the stress-filled life, but still have a long way to go. Have you considered a parallel career path?
- 0-9 Enjoying all that extra time? What do you DO anyway?



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