

SMAC NEWSLETTER

Our annual 4th of July cook out and fireworks display was the best ever. This year it was held at our new field, which has enough parking to handle any event...we thought. Our parking lot was almost filled to capacity by the time the fireworks display got underway. Try to imagine how we would have handled this kind of crowd at our old field. It would have been an overwhelming challenge, to say the least.

The food was marvelous, not only in taste, but in presentation. There were many examples of patriotic themes in the decoration of cakes and pies, with many fruit salads in the theme of the day. There was a grand array of Macaroni salads, Cole slaw, and potato salads, not to mention a delicious pile of superbly prepared hamburgers.

We had food in abundance for everyone, even seconds and thirds. What an accomplishment, seeing that we had the biggest crowd in the history of our Club. At the time we were sitting down to eat, there were 75 people in attendance. Then, they kept coming until dusk. No one counted after that time, but we must have had at least 125 or 150 people watching our fireworks display.

No one counted the cars, but our parking lot was almost filled to capacity. The club should be proud of what we accomplished on the 4th. and we did it and made it look so easy. Isn't it amazing what can be accomplished, without a lot of hassle, when everyone works together.

Our Social director, in the spirit of the occasion, led all of us in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was an appropriate and moving way to move into our fireworks display.

At the end of the display when everyone was preparing to leave, it was great to see so many people pitch in and clean up the aftermath of our event.

We should all say a rousing "Well done" to everyone!!!!

FIELD SAFETY

We all know the basics of field safety, never stand in front of a running engine, don't reach over the prop to remove the glow plug battery, Never go to the field alone and fly, etc. We all know these rules, and sometimes we all "bend" them a little. But even if we obey all the rules, there may be circumstances that can cause us harm anyway.

One of our members was testing an engine at home by restraining it to the ground. He was standing in the near vicinity of the revving prop, when it reportedly shattered. He was struck in the leg causing a severe laceration. Fortunately, he was able to call an ambulance and the EMT's arrived promptly and were able to control the bleeding.

He was taken to the emergency room where he received 19 stitches to close the wound. This could have been a tragedy if he had been at the field alone, with no cell phone, and no one to drive him to the hospital.

All of us should use this unfortunate incident to redouble our efforts to take a look at the things we do every day, without thinking that could cause us or one of our fellow modelers a lot of pain and suffering, or worse...

HELICOPTER REVIVAL

There seems to be a revival of interest in helicopters in our club. Many years ago there were a few guys with them, but no one ever learned to fly past the hovering stage.

A few years ago one of our members bought one and with much perseverance learned to fly, and fly really well. He seems to be the catalyst for the desire of several of our members to also learn to fly them.

We now have three excellent heli pilots and one other that is perched on the edge ready, at any moment, to plunge into the exciting world of full blown helicopter flight.

We have a number of members that have them, some assembled and some still in their boxes that are waiting for an unknown and unseen motivation to leap into the fascinating world that is helicopter flying.

Our system of taking off and landing at the special helicopter pad, then joining in the traffic pattern with airplanes is working really well, thanks to the thoughtfulness of all involved, heli, and fixed wing pilots.

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

The above statement is from a famous movie, and it seems to be the case with our club. Since we obtained our new field we have had a surge in membership. In the last few days there have been two very interesting contacts from media sources.

The first was from KENTUCKY LIVING MAGAZINE. They are interested in doing a story on our club. Our fun fly on the 28th of August seems to be the time frame they would like to do the article.

The next contact was from CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS. They want to do a documentary of sorts on our club, as a community interest story for their local TV Channel.

These two items will most likely be on the agenda to be discussed by the entire membership at our next meeting, which is the first Saturday in August. Please, everyone try to attend, we have a lot to discuss.

We also have many things to get smoothed out about our Fun Fly at the next meeting, such as the raffle. Mike Crawford has a set of miniature tools he is donating to be used as a prize in the raffle. David Phelps has a new kit in the box that he is donating, and Jami and I are donating one of our R/C skydiver kits. If anyone else has something nice to donate please let us know at the meeting.

DEBT ASSESSMENT

The debt assessment \$5.00 for each member per month is going really well. Linda Crawford is the collection lady, so please try to remember each month

to give her your money. If we keep up the good work our runway will be paid for before you know it!!

SPECIAL EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

We are hoping that Lou McFarland will get checked out on his turbine powered model in time to do a demonstration for us at our fun fly. Some of the frustrated jet jockeys in our midst may well faint or swoon at the sight, sound and smell of that little jet as it thunders across the sky.

We're also hoping to have the "Green River Boys" to give us a demonstration of combat flying. There are some secret projects going on in our club now, they may well be **COMBAT AIRCRAFT**.

That's it for July, if you have anything you would like put in the newsletter, please let me know. Until next time....Go to the field and have some FUN....

