



# Crosswinds

October  
2005



## SPARKS 2005 - 2006 Officers

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Jim Greer Vice President	281-370-5615
George Terry Treasurer	281-356-4315
Diane Marson Secretary & Newsletter Editor	281-374-8915

## SPARKS Flight Instructors

### Chief Instructor

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### Flight Instructors, Airplanes

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Jim Greer	281-270-5615
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Jack Jones	281-252-3159
Ted Karis	281-970-7786
Richard Lewis	281-351-8540
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### Ground Instructors, Airplanes

Vic Baney	281-357-1357
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### Helicopters

Charles Jones	832-978-3688
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## SPARKS WEBSITE

[www.sparksrc.com](http://www.sparksrc.com)

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## From the Cockpit by Duane Neeffe

Welcome to the October issue of the SPARKS newsletter-Crosswinds. Diane Marson has produced another great newsletter. Thanks to all of you who have contributed articles and remember that if you contribute to the newsletter you will receive a free raffle ticket for the next club meeting raffle.

Our next business meeting will be held Wednesday, October 5, 2005. We will be discussing several very important items at this meeting including the upcoming pattern contest, the fall fun fly, and of course securing a new field. We will not have a program this meeting due to time required to discuss these items. Negotiations with the land owner for the field off Boudreaux Road have been taking place. Currently we have not yet agreed on a price for the field. Everyone should continually be looking for a new flying site. If you know of any possible sites please contact Vic Baney, Dean Nistetter, or myself.

Chris Fredona our program chairman will be working towards having a November meeting program. Please help Chris by giving him your input regarding programs you have enjoyed at previous meetings or would like to see at future meetings. Please come to the meeting and participate.

Feel free to bring your latest new model for a model of the month presentation. The best model of the month will be eligible for a free raffle ticket. At the last meeting we raffled off a Venus 40 pattern airplane with Super Tiger 40 engine and numerous other prizes donated by Kirk Massey from New Creations RC and George Harrington of Falcon Batteries who presented the program.

Please remember that Safety should be number one for all of us. We should always try to set a good example for others especially our new members and younger members. Please remember to not taxi your airplane from or into the pit area. If you have any concerns regarding safety at our flying field please let Vice President and Safety Officer Jim Greer [jgreer16@houston.rr.com](mailto:jgreer16@houston.rr.com) or myself [dneefe@aol.com](mailto:dneefe@aol.com) know your concerns.

Remember set a good example fly safely!

**Secretary's note:** Since I was unable to post the September meeting minutes on the website for viewing, I am including a condensed version here. The treasurer's report was given at the meeting but not included in this condensed version. The complete minutes will be presented at the October 7th meeting.

### Condensed SPARKS Meeting Minutes - Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Meeting was called to order by President Duane Neeffe at 7 p.m.

In attendance were two new members, Don Menk and Mark Hunt and visitors, Alan Buckner and Bob Acme. Mr. Acme, owner of Pro Craft Models, is relocating both his business and home in the Cypress area.

The Club website is currently offline due to server failure and it will be necessary to relocate to a commercial server shortly. Our club member, Kenny Manchester, has been graciously hosting and editing it for six years at no cost to SPARKS.

Kenny has offered to convert it to the new server for us. The estimated cost of between \$250.00 and \$400.00 is nominal, since our newsletter and other valuable information are contained there for easy access by members and visitors. The status of the website will be reported to members as soon as possible.

Solo Pilot Certificates were presented to new members Ed Menville and Michael Schultz.

In the absence of Vice President/Safety Officer Jim Greer, Duane reminded us to use caution when taxiing around the pits or pilots stations and always restrain or carry your plane in these areas. Please do not point the plane at the pilot station, or pits after landing.

Vic Baney has talked with the landowner of the property off Boudreaux Rd. again in regards to a possible lease in the event our Club is required to move in the near future.

There are several details to be discussed and Vic will report the progress at the next meeting.

Richard Lewis presented the club with a proposal to host a "Pattern Competition" the weekend of October 21, 22 and 23 rd. Normally held in Louisiana, the previous host club is unable to accommodate the meet. Several of our members, Richard Lewis, Glen Watson, Mark Hunt and Jim Sheffield, compete in pattern flying at the Nationals and thought it would be advantageous to SPARKS to be the host club. There will be several other accomplished pilots in addition to our four members who will attend. The entry level "Sportsman Class" will be open to any pilot who wishes to participate.

An "introduction to pattern flying" clinic will be held at Sparks on a weekend before the meet to acquaint any of us who wish to fly in this class. Motion was made and approved by the membership to host the meet. More details will follow soon.

Kirk Massey of New Creations R/C in Willis presented a very informative program about Electric Flight. Various types and sizes of electric motors were displayed and the aspects of matching the proper motor and plane size discussed. Brushless motor technology and LiPo batteries have revolutionized electric flight. George Harrington, owner of Falcon Batteries also educated us in the use and care of lithium batteries. Both Kirk and George are very experienced and shared their valuable knowledge in electric power with us. They generously donated their products for our monthly raffle.

Model of the month was won by Roderick Kuntz and his kit built "Great Planes Cub" powered by an OS .70 4-stroke motor.

The Fall Fun Fly was mentioned and Ian Bange and Ashley Hartmann offered to organize it. Details will follow at the next meeting.

There were many happy winners of the over a dozen raffle prizes.

Meeting was adjourned by Duane at 9:15 p.m.

**Solo certificates are presented to Ed Menville (left) and Michael Schultz (right) by President Duane Neeffe.**



**George Harrington of Falcon Batteries and Kirk Massey of New Creations R/C with their exhibits to highlight their presentation at the September meeting.**

# September Model of the Month

## Roderick Kuntz and his Great Planes Cub



The plane started out as a Great Planes .40 size Piper Cub. The kit itself was built per instructions. I covered it with Top Flite flat olive drab Mono-Kote. The markings were all painted onto white UltraKote. The plane was modeled as a Dutch Piper Cub consistent with a number of Cubs that were captured by the German forces in Denmark during the beginning of World War Two. The cub is pulled around quickly by an O.S. .70 four stroke. This plane is a great flyer that is fun and relaxing to fly.....just like a Cub. Maiden flight was on Monday, September 5.

### Maiden Flight

*Photo to right*—Photo and commentary by Rod Kuntz

Steve Tavary with his new Ace Cloud Dancer ARF. Powered by a Thunder Tiger .46 it flew and handled great. Maiden flight was Monday, September 5.



Sunday, September 4th found several new planes at SPARKS...

*Photo to right and below-*  
Dean Nistetter with his 540 Edge by Carden Aircraft



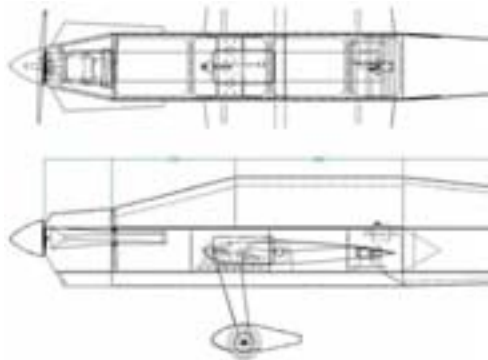
*Photo right -*  
A newly acquired Edge for Jim Greer



*Photo left—* Gave Virene has been busy building foamies for various members.

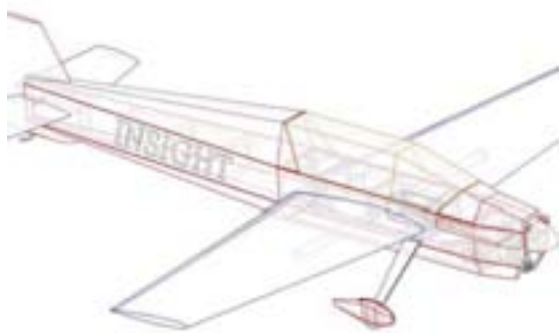
# ***INSIGHT<sup>2</sup>***

## ***F3A / SPORT R/C AIRCRAFT by Mark Hunt***



The original idea for the INSIGHT was an exercise in frugality. Almost 3 years ago, I began to become hooked on precision aerobatics. I wanted a competitive 2 meter size pattern aircraft, however, I did not feel like I would be able to afford a competitive setup. I started by designing a plane in Solid Edge software, around my well-used OS 160fx. My first version of the Insight turned out to fly extremely well on my OS160fx. However, as with most every design, it could be better.

I set out to improve the design, and things turned out very well. I changed the wing plan-form, airfoils, stab, vertical fin, fuse shape, and fuse length and height. I wanted to create an aircraft that would be more capable of upper level sequences. Also of great importance was to build a lighter airframe. The Insight is now in its Version 4 form. The construction consists of exclusively foam and balsa. Without any fiberglass or plastic parts necessary to complete the aircraft, we will likely never have a parts supply issue. An added benefit is that the model can be built and covered completely with a monokote type film, (less costly for those without paint experience or setup) or it can be finished with fiberglass and painted as desired.



The Insight has performed beyond my expectations. It helped me take 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 402 (Intermediate) class pattern at this year's NATS. A second Insight is also flying under the ownership of Jim Sheffield (also a new SPARKS member). Since making the plans available, several more Insights are now under construction in places as far away as Australia.



Jim Sheffield's Insight (personalized with a nice rounded canopy - 10lbs. 2oz.)



My Son Matthew with my Insight



#### Specifications:

- Span: 74"
- Length: 78"
- Area: 890 sq. in.
- Weight: 9 lbs. 12 oz.
- Engine YS140 Sport
- Radio: Futaba
- Finish: Wings—Monokote      Fuse, Tail—Paint

Plans and foam cores are available.

Webpage: [www.geocities.com/markhunt\\_2000/INSIGHT](http://www.geocities.com/markhunt_2000/INSIGHT)

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions about the plane (flyintexan@houston.rr.com)....or just catch me out at the field on any given Sat. or Sun. morning.

## Funny "In Flight" Humor submitted by Homer Davis

My friend in Iraq, Garry Adrain, sent the attached cute sayings by various flight attendants.

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in flight "safety lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining.....just picture yourself on any of these flights..

Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

1. On a Southwest flight (SW has no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"
2. On a Continental Flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."
3. On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."
4. "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane"
5. "Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."
6. As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Ronald Reagan, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA! "
7. After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."
8. From a Southwest Airlines employee: "Welcome aboard Southwest Flight 245 to Tampa.. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."
9. "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite."
10. "Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."
11. "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."
12. "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

13. And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

14. Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City the flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."

15. Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

16. Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

17. An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the Passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

18. After a real crusher of a landing in Phoenix, the attendant came on with, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."

19. Part of a flight attendant's arrival announcement: "We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of US Airways."

20. Heard on a Southwest Airline flight. "Ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to smoke, the smoking section on this airplane is on the wing and if you can light 'em, you can smoke 'em."

21. A plane was taking off from Kennedy Airport. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight Number 293, nonstop from New York to Los Angeles. The weather ahead is good and, therefore, we should have a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax... OH, MY GOD!" Silence followed, and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!" A passenger in Coach yelled, "That's nothing. You should see the back of mine!"

## R/C flying in Singapore by Rod Kuntz

After living in Singapore for a number of years, going back on business was a lot of fun. Just a few quick facts about Singapore:

- The name means Lion City and is derived from the Malay language
- It is an island, city & state (Republic)
- Financial and hi-tech hub of Asia
- 4.4 million people is just 693 sq.km. area (the island is approximately 28 miles x 12 miles)
- Second highest population density of any country at 6389/sq. km. (USA is 30/sq. km.)
- Has the world's busiest port.
- Has received the World's Best Airport award many times (30 million passengers through in 2004)
- Singapore Airlines has been voted the best airline in the world many times
- Unemployment just 3.3%
- Very low crime rate (drug possession is automatic death penalty, including visitors)

Has one of the cleanest and most efficient and modern Mass Rapid Transit systems in the world, moving over 2 million commuters EVERY DAY

Anyway, while there I had to research the R/C situation. All the R/C hobby shops seem to be located in one building – makes price shopping easier. Based on checking a few planes and engines the prices are similar to what we pay here, with some of the planes



*The famous Merlion ( half fish/half lion) guarding the entrance to Singapore river with hotels in background.*

Sunday morning found me at the Radio Modelers Singapore club. The club is over 40 years old, located on the West coast just across the Straits of Johor to Malaysia. The largest club in Singapore, I was told it has around 110 members. I turned up and received a very warm and welcome reception from everyone (typical in almost all R/C clubs).

Anthony took me around, showed me the flying field, gave me some club history and made some introductions for me. Like our club they have a grass runway about 300 yards long and fly everything up to large scale and jets from it.

The wind was blowing fairly briskly that morning (I estimated about 15 mph) but that did not seem to bother anyone. Flying is limit to mostly Sundays. Flying during the week is not permitted as the Singapore Air Force fly maneuvers along the coast next to the flying field

*A picture of part of the financial skyline in downtown Singapore with some of the Parliament buildings in foreground.*

Here's some photos.....



Young David by frequency board..SAFETY FIRST.



Mr. Chong running up prior to lift off.. he was a very informative gentleman.



A lovely 20 year old Kyoshu Valencia with brushless electric and 2x2000 maH batteries to make it go.



Nice Giles 200 powered by Mentor 1.40



Good looking Tiger with OS .91 2-stroke



Runway with open pilot stations...note safety fence along entire pit/spectator area.

R/C in Singapore, con't.



*Photo left:  
Serious pattern plane power: YS 1.40 fuel injected  
with tuned pipe (Fashion pattern plane).*

*Photo below:  
his Fashion pattern plane (see above photo) was  
flown in 1999 Pensacola World Championships by  
this gentleman's son.*



*Richard brought out some of the serious  
hardware in his van...Left top is a Raven  
½ scale with 3W-70 twin. Right is an  
Aeroworks Ultimate 33% with 3W-100  
twin. Bottom is H540T with ZDZ-80.*

*Richard getting one of the  
“smaller” planes ready to  
roll.*



One of the members at this club that flies jets took third in the Top Gun competition last year. All in all, with the warm welcome I got a very enjoyable morning (also much cheaper than shopping).

# *1<sup>st</sup> Annual SPARKS Pattern Contest*



**When: October 22, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005**

**SPARKS field located in Northwest Houston [www.sparksrc.com](http://www.sparksrc.com)**

**Entry Fee: \$25 (food available on site)**

Trophies will be awarded in all classes through 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Any AMA legal aircraft may be flown in Sportsman

Field will be available for practice on Friday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>



**3rd Annual**

**Best Electrics in South Texas**

**October 7th, 8th and 9th, 2005**

**Hosted by Tri County Barnstormers**

**& New Creations R/C**

**New Waverly, Texas**

**Electric Aircraft of all sizes**

**For more information and registration form:**

**[www.tri-countybarnstormers.com](http://www.tri-countybarnstormers.com)**

**Or contact [smrosko@cox-internet.com](mailto:smrosko@cox-internet.com)**

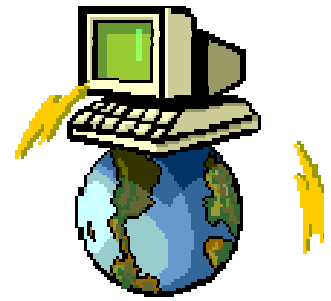
**Concession available on Saturday and Sunday**

**Hourly Raffle drawings and on site vendor specials**

## Interesting web sites.....

This really cool video submitted by Dean Nistetter

<http://www.flashmob.eik.It/video/DPelectric.wmv>



Since hurricanes have been the BIG story lately, here is an interesting site submitted by Ted Karis

Kind of reminds me of the cross country that Gabe, Len, my dad and I flew in a few weeks ago.

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2508.htm>

Many thanks to the contributors for this issue of *Crosswinds...*

Homer Davis      Mark Hunt      Ted Karis

Rod Kuntz      Dean Nistetter

Please send your articles, photos, tips, web sites and items of interest to me at [dgmarson@earthlink.net](mailto:dgmarson@earthlink.net)

## Please support our local hobby shops

Toys for Big Boys.....

### Larry's Hobbies

156 FM 1960 East  
Houston, TX 77073

281-443-7373

Kirk Massey

### New Creations

R/C Electric Flight

9735 County Line Road  
Willis, TX 77378

936 856-4630  
newcreations-rc.com

### *Randy's Hobbies*

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