



Sparky Wessels in Remembrance

Sparky will be remembered by all of us for his flair for flying and his dedication to the Springfield RC Club. He was a board member for many years, served as Vice President in 2005, and a CD for numerous events. He carried on for his dad by continuing to CD the "Doc Wessels Memorial Float Fly that has been held for nearly two decades at Lake Springfield. Sparky was a wheeler and dealer in the nicest sense of the word, trying to promote trades, swap meets and simple, general interest in flying. He always had a new plane and we delighted in having him at the field on the line. With Sparky there was never a dull moment from taking care of raffles at the monthly meetings to greeting everyone at the field with a slap on the shoulder and a hearty welcome. His field box was the epitome of a treasure chest which he quickly shared with anyone in need. You would see his delivery truck all over, especially at Sleeth's Hobby Shop in the mornings. His routes carried him to Monet and his truck was routinely sighted along HWY 60. He was at the field whenever he could be there and was always at the Chili Fly, the club's first event of the year. He cooked, painted (he was a professional painter), and was a great help in maintaining the field taking on any and all jobs. He flew the hottest planes and put them through their paces.

He and Doc Wessels were a fixture at the flying field, and with Doc's passing, Sparky took over and became a fixture. Both past and present club members will miss his laughter, and his flying. From a member who knew him for the past 25+ years at the field he will be missed.
-Russ Rhodes

One of the Last Flights

As far as we know, one of Sparky's last flights was Monday, March 16. He came to the field after work with his new Piper Pawnee in the delivery truck. We ribbed him about flying it, but we knew he wouldn't. He came to the field to fly an electric powered Predator he had obtained at the swap meet a few days before. Bryon Scott helped him with the difficulty Sparky was having trying to mount the wings on this bird. After some struggle, the model was ready to be launched. With Sparky at the controls, I took the model to the south end of the runway and gave it a toss into the air as Sparky hit the throttle. I think it was slightly tail heavy and it was all over the air. There were several times Bryon and I thought it was all over for this model. As Sparky struggled to keep the model in the air, kind of, I tried to adjust the trims based on what I saw in the air. I kept telling Sparky to throttle back and let the model float. Finally, he took my advice and the model seemed to tame down. He finally "landed" it in the weeds. It was a wild ride!

We all have only so many flights left. Enjoy each of them, for, like Sparky, the next flight may be the last.

-Barry

Swap Meet – Outstanding Success

A swap meet was held Saturday, March 7 at Cal-Tronics.. Attendance was overwhelming. This was the brain child of the late Sparky Wessels – a testament as to the impact one person can have on the R/C community!!

Next club meeting:
Thursday, April 2, 7 pm
Library Center
S Campbell
Room A

Field Maintenance Day
Saturday, April 18

Night Fly
Saturday April 11
Conditions Permitting

Sparky Wessels
Memorial Service
Sunday, March 29
3:00 PM
Flying Field

Minutes of the Springfield
R/C Club Meeting
March 5, 2009
Justin Heath

Meeting was called to order with 15 members and 2 guests present. Bob Schwandt read the treasurer's report and was approved as read. Bob also reported we have 52 members. Barry Harper was thanked for the fine job he has done on the newsletter. Lanora Campbell was thanked for the coffee and cookies.

Old Business:

Justin Heath sent off for our charter and insurance and it has been received for 2009. Field maintenance was discussed. April 18th at 10 a.m. is the big day. Several things were discussed that need to be done. Mark Copeland said he'd bring his tractor to smooth the bump at the end of the runway. The

north and west wall of the clubhouse needs painting from hail damage from last year. Grub Killer should be spread to get rid of the moles. Bob Schwandt volunteered to pick up Grub Killer and white paint to bring to Field Day. A reminder about the Indoor Swap Meet on March 7th was announced. Bring all your goods. Sparkey reminded the club

that the Float Fly is July 18th and 19th and details are being worked out.

New Business:

A new potty pumper was discussed and after seeing the prices the club decided to stick with who we have. Bryon Scott was announced as a new Board member filling the vacant position. Members discussed and decided to remove the

Heli Fly because of lack of interest. Several members shared stories of building new planes and retiring others.

Motion was made and seconded and meeting was unanimously adjourned.



The picture above best typifies Spark and the Wessels. He, his mom and his dad were always at club contests and events, and generally they contributed to the running of many of them. Now Sparky, too, is gone and has joined his parents.



To the Springfield R/C Flying Club.

On behalf of the Bolivar Sport Flyers, we would like to convey our sincerest condolences regarding the loss of Sparky Wessels. What a tragedy it is to lose such a fun loving, out going man. Although not a member, he was always welcome at our field. We will miss him and his sidekick Jorgi as they made the rounds during our events. Our events and visits to the Springfield R/C club will not be the same without Sparky. You could say he was an icon at the flying field.

Sparky always asked how my little girl was doing. That always amazed me he cared considering the fact she pelted him with rocks when he tried to talk to her at a Springfield R/C pattern event. I was sitting on the glider in front of the shelter while she played in the rocks. Sparky bends down and asked her name. She looked at him and proceeded to drill him right in the chest before either one of us could react. Trying not to blow soda out of my nose, I made sure Sparky was okay. Sparky didn't seem to mind a bit.....at least that's what he said.

Sparky, you will be missed. May the winds be light and straight down the runway. May you always land smoothly on all three points....because we all know that would be a first.

Adam Quennoz
President, Bolivar Sport Flyers

**Sparky's
Seawind
August 12, 2006**



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