



# ARCS NEWS

Dec 6, 2009

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## Family Christmas Party and Club Meeting– Friday, December 11, 7PM at Walt’s

### President’s Message:

- It’s Christmas Party Time! Come on down to Walt’s on Friday and help us celebrate. Mike Amie is in charge of the food and it promises to be great. The fun starts at 7PM. Bring the family.
- Walt’s Secret Santa Sale seemed to be a success again this year. There was quite a bit of interest in our booth and lots of new stuff to see and buy. It was an especially good day for me. See page 3.
- Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers:
  - Bruce Throne is recovering from gall bladder surgery. All is going well.
  - Walt Throne is scheduled for another hip replacement (his 3rd). No, he doesn’t have 3 hips. One of the previous replacements came loose. He offered some CA to his doctor who wasn’t amused.
  - Bob Oxford is awaiting surgery for a kidney stone “the size of a golf ball”. Looks like you win the prize for the largest kidney stone, Bob.

Good luck to all 3 of you!

- We decided to barricade the road during the winter to prevent unauthorized traffic. Let me know if you see any problems. This is not the kind of thing we have a lot of control over.
- The Model Forum planning is well under way. Prize requests have gone out to about 145 vendors with some positive responses already. This should be a good indication of how well the economy is doing. There will be a swap shop again.
- The STARS are having their annual auction on Jan 15th. Should be fun and maybe there will be good deals. Starts at 6:00
- Be sure to renew your AMA and Club memberships. They will need to be up to date to fly on New Years Day.
- Speaking of New Years Day, we will be in the main hangar starting at 11 AM. There will be food. Bring an airplane and lets have some fun!
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

See you at the meeting.

638-2824

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**From the AMA Web site: Some good information about the responsibilities of a spotter. I guess it's not just to keep the pilot company.**

**From Mid-Missouri Radio Control Association**

## **Pilot Spotter's Responsibility**

**by Bob Ackerman**

While at the field recently I was asked, "What does a pilot spotter do?" I quickly told him, "spot for the pilot." I thought about my response for a few minutes and I realized that was not a good answer.

Do you know what the responsibility of the pilot spotter is? I asked a few pilots and I got the same answer from most, "spot for the pilot." So, what does that mean?

The pilot spotter, or just spotter, is a safety person for the pilot. The pilot and spotter should be a team working together for the safety of the pilot, the spotter, the aircraft, and all parties at or near the field.

Whereas the pilot has the responsibility of flying his/her aircraft in a safe manner, the spotter has many other responsibilities, which include:

- Relay messages from the flightline and safety personnel to the pilot about landing aircraft, aircraft emergencies, or dead-stick landings by other aircraft on the field, and other information important to the pilot flying the aircraft. The pilot may be concentrating on the aircraft in flight and may not hear or pay attention to background messages on the field.
- Relay messages from the pilot to the flightline and/or safety personnel about the pilot's landing, emergency, or dead-stick landings, and other information that needs to be passed from the pilot to others.
- Be the eyes of the pilot away from the aircraft. Watch the flightline and inform your pilot of aircraft taxiing in front of the pilot, people on the runway line, obstacles on the ground if the pilot walks around while flying, or other safety issues that your pilot should be aware of.
- Watch the other aircraft in flight and inform your pilot of aircraft that may cross the flight path of his or her aircraft. Changes in pattern direction or aircraft in different flight types (aerobatic vs. pattern flight) crossing your pilot's flight path should be reported.
- Keep the pilot advised of the type of aircraft that are being started for flight. Some pilots may be flying the pattern and if a 3-D aerobatic aircraft is getting ready to fly, the pilot may decide to fly at a different altitude or land the aircraft.
- Minimize the distractions to the pilot in flight. The spotter is the eyes and ears for the pilot. Anything that could distract the attention of the pilot should be explained so that the pilot can keep his/her eyes on the aircraft and not look at the distraction.
- A pilot spotter may also assist the pilot at contests, such as a pattern contest, by providing information to the pilot about the next maneuver at key points of the flight.

This is not a complete list of responsibilities that the spotter has. Some pilots will have specific instructions for their spotters as to what to do, what to watch for, and what to explain. Each pilot and spotter should discuss these responsibilities before each flight.

Every field has different rules for the use of a pilot spotter during flight operations. Most fields do not require a spotter when no organized event is scheduled, or the number of pilots flying is low. Other fields require a spotter on all flight activities. Most fields require the use of a pilot spotter during all scheduled events. Do check with your club or field rules about the use of a spotter.

The ultimate purpose of a pilot spotter is to increase safety for all. So be a good spotter and help keep our field, and our pilots, safe.

## ARCS Membership Application/Renewal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check all that apply:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

 New Member initiation fee \$ 5.00

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

 Junior Member (under 18, parent *NOT* a member) \$10.00

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

 Junior Member (under 18, parent *IS* a member) \$ 0.00

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

 Senior Member (over 65) \$15.00

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

 Regular Member (18-65) \$35.00

AMA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

 Late Fee (after Jan. 31, Renewals only) \$ 5.00

Radio Channel(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this form and payment to:

Add up all applicable fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to: **ARCS**

At Walt's Secret Santa Sale, I was awarded the "Carl Goldberg Vital People Award". Carl Goldberg Co. originated this program but had to let it drop due to difficult financial times. The AMA has picked it up this year and presented 5 of these awards. I was quite surprised to receive such an honor! Thanks to Walt and Bruce for the nomination and all the kind words! Thanks also to Mike Moore for secretly mustering up so many club members to help share in this moment. I suspected something was up when my whole family showed up. Thanks also to all the club members who came out to show their support. We certainly have a great group of people. Sorry to run on about it but I'm still shocked.



Dave Mathewson, Me and Gary Fitch

## Calendar

Fri, Dec 11	7PM Walt's	Club Meeting/Family Christmas Party
Fri, Jan 1, 2010	11 AM at the field	New Years Day Fun Fly
Fri, Jan 8	7PM Walt's	Club Meeting
Fri, Jan 15	6PM Walt's	STARS Auction
Fri, Jan 29	6PM Syracuse Academy of Science	Set up for Forum
Sat, Jan 30	9AM Syracuse Academy of Science	Model Forum
Fri, Feb 12	7PM Walt's	Club Meeting
Sun, Mar 7	11AM STARS Field	STARS Annual Snow Fly