

the L.A.S.S. Edition

March 2010

Secretary's Notes

by Wilson Hardy

The February 2, 2010 meeting of the Lincoln Area Soaring Society was called to order by President Tom Wild at the Willard Community Center just three minutes after 7:30pm. President Wild started off the meeting with an update on what happened with his Spektrum receiver that didn't work. Horizon Hobby sent him a new one, the problem is that the new receiver is the next better (hence next larger) receiver and it may not fit in the plane where he had hoped to put the smaller one. So much for bigger is better.

Treasurer Baker and past Treasurer Jack Berry put the club dues in the bank when they did the switch and update to the checkbook. The proceeds from the Bill Kimball estate were deposited. Treasurer Baker brought a thank-you letter for all the membership present to sign. Thank you again to Mr. Kimball's family for the kind donation to our club.

Skipping onto important business? President Wild announced that there would be six more weeks of winter thanks to the Groundhog and his rotten old shadow. Dick Britton added to the frivolity with a short story of having groundhog as a dish at dinner time when he was a kid. Times must have been hard back then.

OLD BUSINESS

In the short Old Business section of the meeting Treasurer Baker mentioned that the Lancaster Event Center liked the signs that the LASS club put up and they think it has helped to curb the unwanted R/C aircraft flying there. That is a good indication that the club's investment is paying off.

NEW BUSINESS

As short as the Old Business section in the meeting was the New Business section made up for it. President Wild said he had signed up for the Midwest Slope Challenge for 2010 and that there were issues with the website. In that line he also stated that from the MWSC link tag the information about the old "Fun One" plane is in full array. The "Fun One" is again for sale and at a much higher price than when it first came out. Even so if a person wants one, they are available again. Newsletter Editor Allan Worrest then spoke up and gave a plea for more information to put in the newsletter. Otherwise, he will have to write an article on his Electric indoor pattern plane. At this juncture Treasurer Baker spoke up and said that Paul Write is flying indoor 3D stuff. President Wild admitted Paul has gone over to the "Dark Side". Back to the real business meeting President Wild stated that dues are due by March or pay the consequences.

The advertised upcoming event is the Lincoln Sky Knights' auction on the first Saturday of February in Waverly at the Community Center. The LASS and SWIFT events will

Minutes (Continued on page 2)

Spitfire (non)update on (non)progress.....

by Paul Wright

Have you ever had one of those days? Well, I seem to be having one of those projects. I got all the bits together before I started. I worked out all the logistics and even made a list of how I was going to attack this monster. Then I came back to the States in Mid-September. As most of you know, my Dad has been declared unfit to take care of his finances due to Alzheimer's Disease. In August, I became the head of the family trusts that he set up about 25 years ago. What I did not realize

is just how onerous a job this would be. As is usually the case in circumstances like this, I came to discover that things had been slipping unnoticed for awhile. I ended up taking on

Spitfire Minutes (Continued on page 2)

**CLUB MEETING Tuesday
March 2, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Willard Community Center
Folsom & West B Street
Lincoln, NE**

Minutes (Continued from page 1)

more than likely be at the LASS field (Lancaster Event Center).

Model of the Month just happened to be a repair job done by President Wild on his most winning "Fun One" model. The fuselage was broken halfway between the wing saddle and the empennage. The fiberglass patch looked strong and straight and made a neat repair. Next month the finish and paint for show. Secretary Wilson Hardy brought his plane bag he made to keep his "Sierra" from being beat up anymore than it has been. Red duck canvas on the outside and gunmetal gray on the inside with black trim.

The meeting was over at 8:34pm.

Spitfire (Continued from page 1)

a mess that stretched from a non-functional furnace to the very doorstep of the IRS.

Again, some of you are aware that we had planned to sell our house this past autumn and move to a location that had better schools for 7th grade upwards. Our local school has just reported a 42% drop in knife crime on the campus. Wow, happy days. Let's throw a party!

Anyway, while sorting out the finances for my Dad and doing the 101 little jobs it takes to get a house ready to market, the Spitfire just sat there quietly mocking me from the corner of the shop. It's not like I was out there much to listen. In fact, if the freezer with the frozen pizzas was not out there, I doubt I would have heard it at all. Oh well, I trudged through the list of jobs and got them all done – bar one; getting the carpets cleaned.

Now I will digress from my digression and tell you about English plumbing. Our local water company serves 40,000 households. It loses 4.2 million gallons of drinking water every day through its leaking distribution system. These are the published 2006 figures. For every 1 gallon of water consumed, 100 gallons are lost to leaks. The environmental agency has gotten involved now because if they fix the leaks, 3 out of every 4 streams in the area would run dry. So to get permission to fix the leaks, they have to do both environmental and wildlife impact studies. I am not making this up, I couldn't if I tried.

Regional Events

Feb. 28 Lincoln Sky Knights Indoor Flying at Calvert Recreation Center at 4500 Stockwell Street , Lincoln 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM - See announcement in the January newsletter.
Also March 14 & 28

Since England is still desperately trying to prepare for the impending German invasion under Hitler, the law of the land is that every house shall store enough water to last for 2 weeks of normal usage (around here that's approximately 0.5 of a bath and 2 teeth brushings). To this end, each house has a bloody great tank of water in the attic. These range from the modern 100 gallon units to the rub-a-dub-dub unit that was in our loft that held 275 gallons (I guess the original builders bathed more). This is not too bad an idea given the state of the water distribution system, but it makes for some interesting facts about house plumbing. Basically, the mains water supply feeds the tank and the rest of the house operates by gravity from the there. But that would be another digression and I am losing track as it is.

Back to the original digression – the carpet cleaner. So the house is all polished and shined up. The messes have been cleverly packed away and I even touched up the paint here and there. The photographs had all been done by the estate agent and the ad for the website had been approved. All we had to do was pull the lever and complete strangers could start tromping through our home. Enter the carpet cleaner – stage left. Houses in England have a unique feature not found in the States called an airing cupboard. This is like a hall closet that contains the hot water cylinder and a mess of other pipe work. Imagine human intestines made of copper and you get the idea. Well, several of these pipes are about 2" in diameter and are connected directly to the tank in the loft. This would be the tank that is

Spitfire (Continued on page 3)



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Secretary: Wilson Hardy

Treasurer: Jim Baker
Editor: Allan Worrest

Spitfire (Continued from page 2)

made of 40 year old plastic and has sat in the attic through that many hot summers and cold winters. It was one of these 2" pipes that the carpet cleaner hit with his wand when he cleaned the carpet under the door sill of the airing cupboard. So there I sat at the kitchen table pretending to work with what sounds like a jet engine running in the hallway when the carpet guy pokes his head around the corner and says "Hey mate, are you aware that there is water pouring out of your loft?" What else is there to say in this situation but the obvious? "No, I wasn't".

I turned the corner for the upstairs to see an empty suitcase hanging ten on a drywall surfboard riding a pretty gnarly wave down the staircase towards me. Although the suitcase's form was not great, it was still a surprising sight to find in my hallway. The fist surfer was quickly followed by the rest of the upstairs ceiling complete with fireworks as the light fixture ripped the wires out of the junction box and plunged us into darkness. I knew it just was not going to be my day.

So here I sit in my almost brand new house. New walls, new ceilings, new carpet and new paint surround me. The tank has been downgraded from Jacuzzi to large bucket. We have found a better school that we can get Rose into and life is settling back into a routine that probably does not include moving. Did I mention that the only logical place for all our worldly possessions during the renovation was my workshop? Oh, sorry. The only logical place for all our worldly possessions during the renovation was my workshop.

Christmas came and went amongst the smell of paint and

carpet glue. The house has been put back together and the pictures re-hung. The months from September through mid January went by in seemingly never ending series of crappy days and worse nights. When I finally put my shop back together, indoor season was 1/2 over. In fact, there is only one more meet left in early March.

As I have been labouring away getting ready for the indoor flying, the quiet mocking from the Spitfire has turned to open contempt. As it sits there day in and day out taking up entirely too much space, I have to give in and silence it sooner rather than later. Hopefully, the next report you read will actually have something remotely related to aircraft construction in it.

Cheers,
Paul



Tom Wild brought to the February meeting his repaired Fun One





Wilson Hardy supplied the above picture and the one to the right of the plane bag he made. The picture below of Wilson's bag was taken by the editor at the February meeting.



Paul Wright has been accused of going over to the "Dark Side" with his involvement in indoor 3D. Pictured is the Editor's 4-Site, the same model Paul has. More on Paul's and this one in the next month's newsletter. My plane will have its maiden outing at the February 28 LSK indoor event.