



# AIRMAIL

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## Summertime is here!

Hello Blacksheep, well here we are. It is officially summer on the 28<sup>th</sup>. However the weather certainly seems to have an early start on that date. With elevated temperatures and lots of sunshine. Be sure to remember to bring some sunscreen with you to the field. Oh besides bringing it, you should also put some of it on.

There are drinks in the refrigerator but nothing works as well as good ole water. Bring some with you and stay hydrated. We don't want anyone coming down with a heat stroke.

## Spotters and their role at the field!

I recently had two experiences that helped me realize just how important a good spotter can be when you are flying an RC airplane. Besides keeping you company while you are flying and occasionally yelling "YOU DA MAN"!

They can also be a big help when things start getting a little bit crazy. Case in point, Darrell Wilson and I recently went down to Neosho to attend the 4 state flyers RC club, fun fly. It was a blast. Great bunch of guys and a fun field to fly off of. Lots of wind on the day we were there but heck we are in Missouri right?

I was in the role of spotter for Darrell when another pilot took off in a Hanger 9 30cc Valent

(beautiful Airplane by the way). Now this is one big airplane and I am keeping my keen spotter eye on it when I saw him line up for a landing. I thought he was high coming in and I alerted Darrell "he is landing from left to right, he is high and may go around".

Well he made a dive for the runway, changed his mind and pulled it up hard, stalled and almost crashed before it powered up and pulled out. Now I have my hand on Darrell's shoulder to pull him out of the way if necessary on the next pass. This time he is coming in lower, but he is drifting towards us and the flight line. I tell Darrell he is going to miss us but he will be right in front of you left to right.

He cleared us but the folks further down the flight line ---- well they took flight and he went around again. I suggested to Darrell that he land quickly and let's get off this flight line. Darrell executed one of the quickest and nicest landing I have seen in some time and we both went into reverse. Another pilot took over and managed to get the Valent down in all the wind. But it was crazy there for a while.

The second episode involved me as a pilot and Bobby Vaught as my spotter. Bobby and I had been working on the buddy box getting some flying time in for Bobby. I took over and wanted to get in a few laps before landing. I am having fun and



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Bobby speaks up and says there is a big black cloud behind us. Ok I will be down in a minute, flew another lap. Bobby waits a little bit and said I really think you should land, that big black cloud is getting closer. Ok Bobby I just need to make one more pass. Bobby says Ron I mean get the airplane down now! I do and turn around and Bobby was right that was one big black ugly cloud and it was charging right down on us! We all started getting gear into the cars and airplanes under cover as quickly as we could. The downpour was intense and lasted quite a while. Without Bobby spotting for me and dragging me off the field I would most likely have lost an airplane. Next time Bobby tells me to get off the field I am going off the field on the very first alert, I promise Bobby. If you have a spotter it doesn't make sense not to listen to what he is telling you. Ron

## Dennis Mood

I think most of you know by now that Dennis Mood is moving to K.C. the first of June. All of us at the Springfield RC club certainly want to wish Dennis and his family the very best. Dennis was always a member that you could count on for assistance in any project the club took on. I am sure some other RC club in the K. C. area will be happy to have him join them. **Best of everything Dennis from all of the Blacksheep!**

## Aviation Quotes!

- 1 Instrument flying is an unnatural act probably punishable by God!
- 2 Both optimists and pessimists contribute to the society. The optimist invents the airplane. The pessimist invents the parachute.
- 3 If helicopters are so safe, how come there are no vintage/classic helicopter fly-ins?

## Mystery Airplane

Okay let's see if you guys can figure out this one. Clue it was the first civilian aircraft to feature retractable landing gear. This one hangs in the Charlotte Airport. I had a heck of time identifying it. Answer will be in the next newsletter or you can buy me a doughnut and I will tell all. Ron

