



Next Meeting

October 3, 2013

S. Campbell  
Library Center

Next Event

Club Christmas  
Party  
December 5, 2013

Springfield Lake  
Boathouse

Check us out on

Facebook!

Springfield  
RC Club

Share in the  
hobby!



# AIRMAIL

VOLUME 25 :: ISSUE 8 :: SEPTEMBER :: 2013

## President's Corner

Once again it's time to nominate officers and board members for next year and the meeting this week will be primarily devoted to that task. If you have not been an officer or board member you should really consider it. It's very little work and my motto has always been "if you are going to be involved, be in charge"! It's easy, fun and remember—you're going to be at the meeting anyway :)

Be sure to thank Aaron Pennington when you see him for taking over newsletter duties. Despite his mention of my "spectacular, but unintentional inverted landing" he put this one together and it looks great. Good job Aaron!

October: Officer/Board nominations  
November: Elections  
December: Christmas Party!!

I am trying to talk Monica into catering the Christmas Party for us again this year. She's changed the focus of her business but I think she'll do it. I certainly hope so because the food was great! The Boathouse is a fantastic place for the party. If you didn't make it last year you should really try to make it this year. Good times.

See you at the field  
Wes "Scott" Parker

## 2014 Officer Elections

Want to be an officer or board member for 2014? Elections are next month. All positions are available to be filled with some new blood. Make a difference and let your voice be heard! To volunteer just tell a board member to put you on the list.

## Needed for Christmas Party

Start collecting any pictures you'd like included in the "year in review" DVD. Someone you'd like recognized for their efforts? Please let Wes Parker know.

## A Big Thank You!

To Adam George for ordering and installing the new windsock at the field. This was a much needed upgrade. The old one was looking pretty sad.

## Last Events for 2013

Club Meeting 10/03  
Club Meeting 11/07  
Christmas Party—12/05

## Membership Renewal

Is just around the corner, don't forget to renew your Club and AMA membership.



David Sleeth -Owner

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For more information - Officers, Board Members and contacts see the website



## Meeting Minutes

With the resignation of James Parks and no acting secretary we have no official meeting minutes. These are the unofficial minutes.

- We opened the meeting at 7pm with several members present. The August meeting was cancelled so there were no previous minutes to report. Russ wasn't able to attend the meeting so no treasures report was given.
- We announced the resignation of James Parks as club secretary and newsletter editor. James recently moved to Arizona to be closer to his family.
- Officer positions for next year were discussed. Mike Hilton volunteered to contact members and put together a slate of nominees for the next meeting.
- We stated that if he remained as club president he was only responsible for two events. The annual Charity Fly and the Float Fly. If we are to have any other events someone else will have to step up, organize and run the event.
- Dennis Mood made a suggestion to setup a static display at the mall to publicize the club. It was discussed and decided that the expense involved outweighed the benefits to the club.
- Mike Hilton said he has been working on prize donations for our events. He stated that all that was needed to secure these donations was the clubs 503C nonprofit paperwork. He asked the club to provide him with the needed paperwork so he could pursue the donations.
- Meeting was adjourned about 7:35pm. And flying commenced.

Several guys brought something to fly. The weather was great, but it proved to be a rough evening for some. Adam George lost his Ultra Stick 120 to a possible power switch failure. Wes put on quite a show with his Carl Goldberg

Ultimate Bipe that ended in a spectacular, but unintentional inverted landing! If you missed this amazing flight Keith got it on video and posted it on our Facebook page.

The engine on Butch's Big Stik 40 threw a rod, ending his flying for the evening. The flying continued into the darkness with Bryon's LED lit Senior and Darrell Wilson's LED lit Sky Scout. I will say this is the first time I have seen a glow plane flown at night. Both planes were really cool. I am going to have to really consider putting LED's on my slow stick so I can join in the fun.

## Weather

The weather effects all RC pilots one way or another. Some beginning pilots look for calm days where as more experienced pilots don't worry as much with the winds, but more the wind direction. I have a pretty busy schedule so I have to try to plan my flying times several days ahead. One tool I found that helps with this task is a website called [windfinder.com](http://windfinder.com) This website gives a wind forecast seven days ahead and breaks it down each day in three hour intervals. It forecasts not only the wind speed but also the direction, temperature, precipitation, etc. I have been using this site for almost two years and I have found their forecast to be fairly accurate. Check it out, it might help you plan your next flying day.

## Newsletter Editor

With James resigning we were without a newsletter for August. So after some consideration, I decided to volunteer for the job. I have some big shoes to fill. I plan to continue James' trend of publishing an all-inclusive newsletter, with articles, photos, tips and tricks. If you would like to submit an article or photos please email them to me on or before the 10th of each month. This newsletter is my first attempt and I hope it meets your expectations.

*Aaron Pennington*

## How to Prevent Sparking

by Scott Paschen

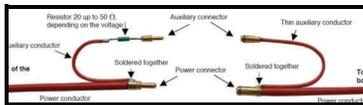
**When connecting** a LiPo pack to the controller, strong sparking commonly occurs. Fast charging of the controller filter capacitors causes this.

The higher the voltage equals the higher the cell count, and the lower the internal resistance means the better the quality of the pack. The better the capacitors in the controller and the higher the capacity of the capacitors, the bigger the spark.

In addition to the small shock (because of the sparking), the charging current of the capacitors may be, in extreme cases, so great that damage or destruction of the capacitors occurs.

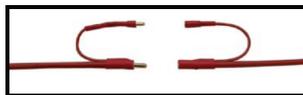
A simple procedure can eliminate sparking when connecting the battery pack, thus protecting the filter capacitors.

How to connect the positive leg or wire is shown in Photo 1.



**Photo 1.**  
Click on the thumbnail to enlarge.

Connectors, as well as the resistor, are insulated by heat-shrink tubing and shown in Photo 2.



**Photo 2.**  
Click on the thumbnail to enlarge.

### How to connect the battery:

1. Connect the "-" leg of the battery to the "-" on the controller.
2. In the positive circuit, first connect the "+" leg of the controller to the auxiliary connector (to which a resistor with tens of ohms is connected in serial).

This will limit the charging current when connecting the wires and will charge the filter capacitors without sparking.

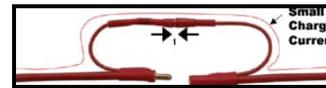
3. Now connect the power wires (sparking will not occur). You may start the motor now.

There are no special requirements on the auxiliary connector. The current is small (1 to 2 amps) and lasts for a short time.

There are also no requirements on the resistor. Any type is sufficient such as metallized 0.6W, size 0207, value between 20 to 50Ω depending on the voltage of the battery pack. Also, those for 4-6 LiPos use 20Ω, for 10 LiPos 33Ω, those for 12-15 LiPos that use 51Ω will work. However, it is not necessary to use these exact values because of wide variation.

### Connect the positive leg

Connect the new auxiliary connector first. Capacitors are charged with small current. Sparking will *not* occur. (Photo 3.)



**Photo 3.**  
Click on the thumbnail to enlarge.

Now connect the power connectors (sparking will not occur). The main current to the controller and the motor during operation passes through these power connectors and conductors. (Photo 4.)



**Photo 4.**  
Click on the thumbnail to enlarge.



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