

Spring 2017

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## Cincinnati Silent Flyers

The ONLY all-electric RC club in Hamilton County

**President:** Steve Harness

**Vice President:** Kevin Krieg

**Safety Officer:** Craig Eisentrout

**Treasurer:** Craig Rouse

**Newsletter Editor:** Jerry Biscopink

**Field Maintenance:** Jerry Biscopink

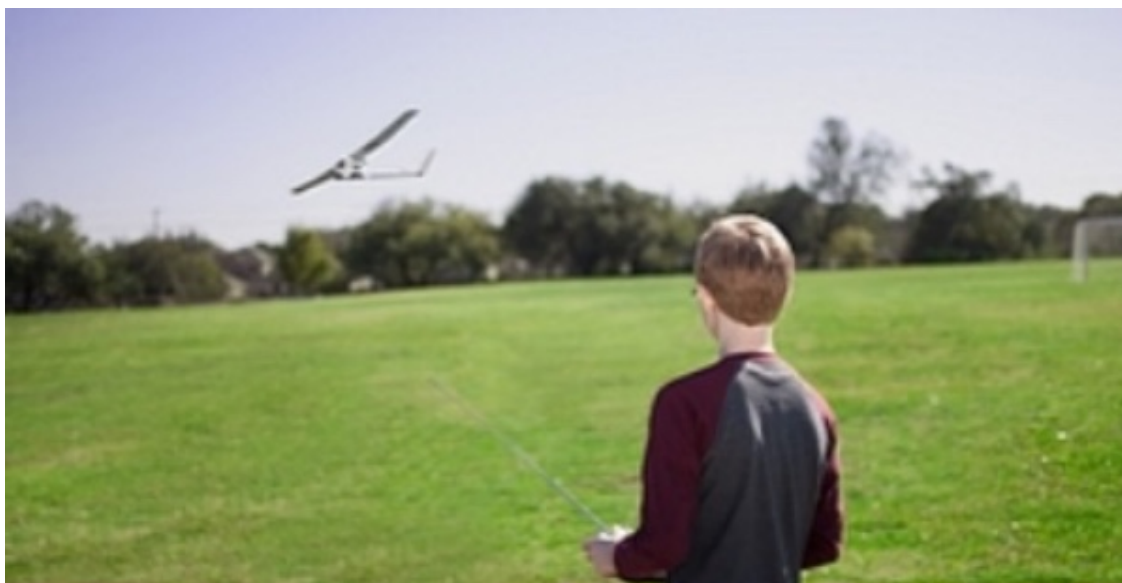
### Welcome to our Spring 2017 Newsletter

Hello pilots! Hope this finds everyone doing well. President Steve Harness and all the CSF officers are excited about the kickoff of another outdoor flying season. A number of events have already been scheduled that were designed to increase club participation as well as to attract new members. The goal is to assure that the CSF club supports your own personal flying interests while providing a facility for all members to enjoy the RC aviation hobby.

So, time to get your aircraft out of the rafters, dusted off, tuned up and ready to go. Have a safe and fun year and always keep the club officers informed of anything they can do to improve your enjoyment of the club and the airfield facilities!

And for a real treat, read the article in this issue about Jim Ryan, one of our outstanding CSF members. You have probably seen Jim's emails lately as he has been cleaning out some of his inventory and generously offering sale proceeds to the club. Jim has a unique and extremely interesting background in this hobby that you will enjoy learning about. Jim is a great resource for the helicopter pilots and scratch builders in the club.

See you at the field!



### **President's Corner**

I am happy to report that we have come across a few unique sources of new members for the CSF! A few weeks ago, I was contacted by the activities coordinator for Twin Towers. It seems that there are several residents who are active and looking for something to do in their spare time. Most of these folks are still working and driving.

In the next several weeks, we will be planning to spend an evening at Twin Towers in their auditorium putting on demonstration flights and hands-on training with residents. We are asking for volunteers with Vapors/Embers /etc. who would be willing to help take the residents up for a few introductory flights. If you would be willing to help, just drop me an email at [harness2017@gmail.com](mailto:harness2017@gmail.com).

Along the same lines, we are also looking to partner with a local high school science department to promote RC flying and aviation education. The nearest highs schools are Winton Woods, Mt. Healthy, Northwest and Finneytown. [FliteTest.com](http://FliteTest.com) (see vendor spotlight article below) has a very comprehensive and detailed Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program specially developed for high school science students. Again, we will be looking for club members willing to spend a few hours working with young people in our area to promote aviation education and RC!!

And, don't forget, we will begin **New Pilot Flight Training** on Wednesday, May 3

from 6:30 pm until dusk! All members are welcome to help out with ground school, aircraft pre-flight and flight training. It's a great opportunity for CSF members to meet and talk with folks new to our club and to RC aviation!

Good Flying!

**Steve Harness**  
**CSF Club President**



### **Treasurer's Update**

The field is getting greener and the weather is getting warmer. Some of our club members have already made several trips out to the field to get some of that cherished flying time in. I'm sure we'll be seeing more of each other in the coming weeks and hopefully will be getting some additional new members when training starts as well!

To keep the field and the other assets we have properly



## **Spring Safety Reminder**

Fellow CSF'ers,  
As the outdoor flying season begins (for most of us), I want to remind you of a few important club safety items. First, all battery charging should be done with the battery placed **inside a protective (lipo) bag** or similar device. Second, no spinning props in the pits. Please remove the prop if you plan on powering up your aircraft under the canopy. Third, if you didn't realize it, there are fire extinguishers under some of the bench tops and in the power box for the charging stations. Fourth, if you need to call 911, we will have directions to give the dispatcher posted under the canopy.

For FPV flyers, use common sense.

maintained (mowing, shelter repairs, port-o-let cleaning, charging station maintenance, etc) takes money. A big thank you to everyone who has paid their dues and a special thanks to those who have made additional donations to the club. We love to have a first class facility in which to fly and to show off to others. If you are thinking of becoming a member this year, please consider sending in your dues soon! Don't miss out on any of the fun this flying season.

The club does have to pay to have many of our services rendered. I think everyone would like to keep this a great place to fly and to enjoy great companionship with those who share the love of our hobby.

Remember, the dues are only \$55/year for a single membership and only \$75/year for an entire family membership. TRULY A BARGAIN!

Please make out your check to Cincinnati Silent Flyers, then send it to:

Craig Rouse, CSF Treasurer  
4140 Wenbrook Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45241

Cheers,

**Craig "Deuce" Rouse**  
**CSF Treasurer**

In all cases, anyone flying FPV must keep the aircraft within line of sight at all times. If you are flying around with others (other than when competing in FPV drone racing) you are advised to use a spotter.

Finally, many of us use a programmed "Throttle Lock" on our transmitters to prevent accidentally throttling up, but even then there are potential "oopses". A simple yet effective safety solution that you may want to consider is the use of a rubber band (as shown in the picture below) to keep the throttle lever from being accidentally advanced.



Stay Safe and enjoy your time in the air!

**Craig "Ace" Eisentrout**  
**CSF Safety Officer**





### Field Maintenance Report

Hi Pilots- This is an update on several important field maintenance items for 2017. As always, we will be asking for volunteers to help trim weeds around the field and sidewalks. This work will be scheduled for Saturday mornings once a month between 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Come out for as long as you can and give us your support when you can. Bring a plane along with you and fly when you are finished! We start at 8 a.m. and never go past 10:00 a.m. Main tools required are weed whackers and leaf blowers. I will schedule our cleanup sessions a week ahead of time and will send out a notice on the Silent Flyers "All Members" email list. Many hands makes light work so your help is appreciated in advance.

Another project that we are planning to undertake this year is seal coating the runway. The runway is one of our most valuable assets and it is currently in need of sealing. We plan to get bids for this work so if you have connections with anyone in the



### Weekday Evening Flight Group

A common request that we have heard from club members is their desire to fly on a weekday evening with other club members. Several of our members have work schedules that don't allow them to fly routinely on weekends. Others want to fly without the morning "sun factor."

Club members show up during the weekday evenings and find nobody at the field and for many of us, flying with our other club members is really half the fun (especially when you see how some of us fly).

In order to address this, we are offering a regularly scheduled evening each week for any member wishing to fly during the week to come out and know that they will be joined by at least one other club member. This year we will be scheduling a regular Thursday evening general flight night for any style aircraft. In order to assure that

asphalt sealing business that might give us a club discount then please send them directly to me. I will set a time to meet with them at the field and go over their quotes with them.

I can be contacted at  
[jbiscopink@aol.com](mailto:jbiscopink@aol.com)

Finally, as always, it is club members who we depend upon to keep our field and all of our field assets clean and serviceable. Please help out in this area in any way you can. If you generate trash at the field then take it home when you leave. If you see something that needs to be cleaned up then please pitch in and help out. There is really nobody to clean up after us but our own members. I respectfully suggest that a good approach is to always try to leave the field better than when you arrived.

Thanks for your support and have a great flying season,

**Jerry Biscopink**  
**Field Maintenance Coordinator**



**Cub and Cessna Day**

there is always someone there when you arrive we will issue a "CSF All Members" email each Thursday morning advising the status of the Thursday evening flight plan. Our hope is to develop a regular group of weekday evening flyers. And, cool, windless evenings are just a great time to get out and fly. The first scheduled evening will be Thursday, April 6. Be sure to first check your email before coming to the field these evenings.



### **CSF Open House - May 6**

We have selected Saturday, May 6 for our annual open house. This is always a really fun event for club members as we show off our field and aircraft to the community. This is also a perfect time to speak about our club with those guests interested in the hobby who often become our future members. More details will be sent to all members prior to the date, but mark your calendars now. If you have never attended an open house then you have missed out on a good time. We will have the grill fired up

(And Other High Wings)

Mark your calendars now for a full day dedicated to "tranquil and civilized flight" at the first "Cub, Cessna and High Wing Day". This event is currently scheduled for Saturday, June 10. This event is being planned to showcase all of our members with high wing aircraft (and doesn't everybody own one?). We will even let members fly their Apprentices and Tundras!!! The goal is to just get out and get something up in the air. This is an opportunity for those of us who appreciate flying in more of a scale style to "burn up" the sky over CSF Harness Field. Look for another reminder closer to the event but save the date now—should be a great day of flying!

so bring a lawn chair and plan to come and eat lunch and spend some time with your fellow club members. It is a great opportunity to reunite with club members you have not seen in a while.





### **Meet CSF Club Member- Jim Ryan**

(Note: This section will be used to spotlight a club member in each issue.)

We asked club member Jim Ryan to tell us a little about himself and his interests in aviation and CSF. Here are his words:

" After a false start in the '70's when a \$300 radio was outside the means of a farm kid, I got into RC for real in 1988. I love scale models. In '92 I moved to Cincinnati and joined GCRCC. They had lots of guys flying scale models, mostly very sport scale - light and fun to fly. Following their lead, I built a 65" Mustang with retracts, flaps and drop tanks. I'm a scratch builder at heart and quickly gravitated to designing my own airplanes, including a 12' span B-29 and a rocket-powered X-1 to drop from it. Some of you have seen this at the Flying Circus.

In 1995, I got interested in electric power thanks to an online forum. Electric power was really a challenge then, both because of the available hardware and the thin knowledge base. The internet was crucial to success because the very first electric airplane I saw fly was my own scratch built design.



In early '96, I built a fun scale P-38 for Speed 400 power and took it to the MidAm electric fly near Ann Arbor. There I saw Dave Grife doing a slow roll on climb out in his 80" Mosquito and I was instantly hooked. I came home and sold every nitro airplane I owned and went all-in with electric. I also started flying with a growing group of electric flyers up at VOA, including longtime electric pioneer Don Belfort. I thought electric power was really taking off while my nitro buddies at GCRCC thought I had lost my mind.

Over twenty years ago, there were few really flyable warbirds with electric power, so the editors at Model Aviation News magazine approached me to publish my P-38. That was a milestone for me and I started producing and publishing one new design per year. First was a Hellcat, then a Bearcat and so on. Today, I've published more than a dozen scale designs. Thanks to laser cutting I was able to offer kits, eventually selling several thousand. After publishing a few of my articles, the folks at Air Age magazine asked me to become a contributing editor and write for them on a regular basis.

By 2005, I was getting a little stale with my warbirds. They were all successful designs. I had an established formula and there were no surprises. A friend talked me into buying a small helicopter and helis quickly took over my life. My first scale helicopter was a scratch designed tandem-rotor Chinook--nothing like jumping right into the deep end of the pool. At that time, I barely knew how to fly a simple pod and boom, but the Chinook was a success and I went on from there.

My next design was my AH-56 Cheyenne, a helicopter I'd always loved. It was the most challenging project I'd done. I had to learn to mold fiberglass and the narrow fuselage made it like building a ship in a bottle. From there, I moved up to bigger helicopters. That is when I built the OH-6 "Loach" that many of you have seen. The "Loach" remains my every weekend flyer.

I joined CSF in 2011. I'd known about CSF for a couple years and had exchanged email with Steve Harness. I just never got around to stopping by. Finally, a call from an old friend attending the CSF open house convinced me to drive over. I met some guys at the field and immediately joined. From where I live in Greenhills it is less than a 2 mile drive.

Aeromodeling has been one of the biggest sources of enjoyment in my life. What started as a hobby grew into a long-term writing gig. Make no mistake, tech writing is work. With a steady stream of deadlines, I don't always get to choose my next project. I have several airplanes designed and still waiting for time to be built. But writing has brought me in contact with people all over the country and has allowed me to build projects that would have been outside my means. All in all- I feel pretty lucky.

Finally, CSF is a great group and I love having such a great venue so close to my home. We're all short of time these days, and foam ARFs have been a game changer bringing more people into the hobby. Still, I'm a builder first and foremost and I'd encourage anyone to try building a real balsa kit. There's nothing like doing a maiden flight with an airplane you built yourself- and besides, working with balsa is just good for the soul."



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FliteTest is an RC model aviation company located in northern Ohio. It was started in a garage a few years ago and has grown tremendously. They have a focus on developing personal bonds with the users in the RC community. They advertise their company as the "one stop" gateway to all things about RC aircraft. The company now offers a broad line of RC aviation products including quick build kits, clothing and other swag. Several CSF members fly FliteTest

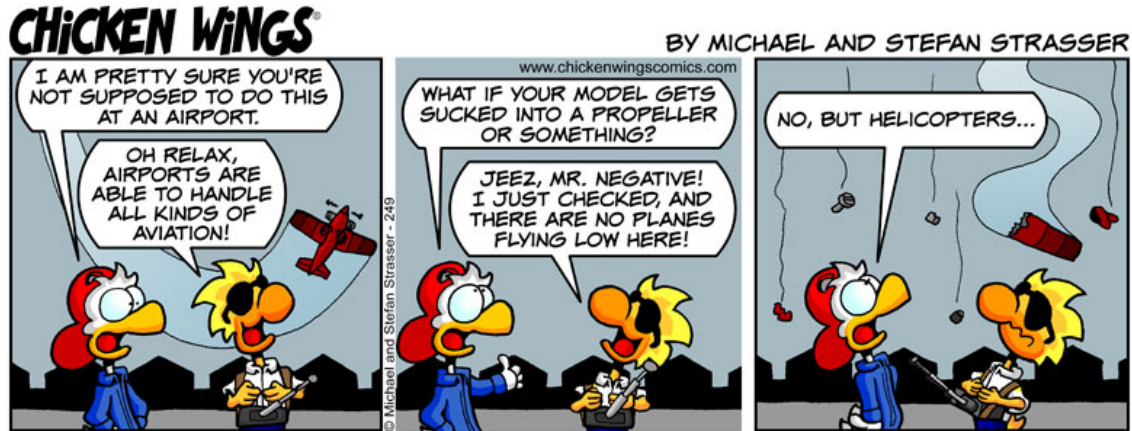
foamboard airplanes that are available by downloading free plans or as "quick build" kits that can be purchased directly from the FliteTest online store. These airplanes are fun to build, fun to fly and are very economical. And, did I mention that they really fly great! FliteTest has a large presence on YouTube and has literally made hundreds of videos that you can view on their channel dealing with all aspects of foamboard airplane builds, FPV setups and gear and multirotors including FPV racing quads. Most recently they are expanding their videos into the area of general aviation. If you have not been introduced yet to this company, here is their link <http://www.flitetest.com>. Also of interest is the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program that they have developed for schools. CSF is interested in reaching out to high schools and club president Steve Harness in support of this vision has contacted FliteTest regarding their STEM offerings. It would be great to see CSF supporting a STEM program focused on aviation in a local area school.

Look at some of the foamboard planes flying at the CSF field this year and you will see a number of very neat FliteTest designs. This is a good way to start developing your own building skills. Some of the newest designs have a very scale appearance such as the Fokker DR1 triplane (pictured below) and the SE5 biplane.



Also, take a look at their annual FliteTest gathering, **FliteFest**, which is nearly a week long outdoor event in northern Ohio. This year due to popular demand,

they are holding a separate West Coast event in California too. FliteTest is making the RC aviation hobby economical for everyone and by doing so is really breathing new life in the hobby by attracting a whole new group of future pilots. Look them up, you won't be sorry!



AMA Reminder: "Know Before You Fly"

Questions and comments can be directed to

[Jerry Biscopink, Newsletter Editor.](#)

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