

January 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**Secretary:** David Raines

### CSF Winter Newsletter

Hello Silent Flyers and welcome to our 2017 newsletter! We are already getting excited to get out to the field for another great flying season this year. We will be working hard to make your CSF club experience an excellent one in 2017.

The club newsletter will be used to help keep members abreast of club activities and as one of several methods to improve club communications. We will also use the newsletter to request and gather opinions from club members in order to improve enjoyment of the CSF club experience. Thanks as always for your active support and --- just keep flying!

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### President's Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR! As the Cincinnati Silent Flyers (CSF) moves into our 14th year, I wanted to take a few moments to reflect on where we have been and where we are heading. When CSF was first chartered in 2003, we had very humble beginnings with only four members. A few were "drafted" to fill AMA required officer positions. Since that time, we have seen our membership increase and decrease over the years. The growth was due to our open, welcoming attitude to visitors and new members. The years where membership decreased seemed to be tied to the economy. Many people had less

disposable income and therefore could not afford to enter or remain in the hobby. In 2003, our airfield consisted of a runway and concrete "pit" area surrounded by waist-high grass and weeds. Over time, we were able to get a small area cleared so we could stand at the flight line without wading into the brush and weeds.

Back in 2003, our aircraft were mostly 3-channel (rudder/elevator/throttle) powered by geared brushed motors, NiMH or NiCd batteries and analogue transmitter/receiver controls. They were slow and cumbersome, but it was still a thrill to watch them take off, fly around (mostly) under our control and (hopefully) land in one piece. Electric powered helicopters didn't even exist, let alone the now common low-cost gyroscopes and digital spread-spectrum radios.

Over these last 14 years, we've seen remarkable leaps in technology with brushless motors, LiPo batteries, 3-axis gyroscopes, flybar-less helis, first person view (FPV), and GPS programmable aircraft. All of these technologies have only enhanced the hobby.

During this time, we have also made remarkable improvements to our airfield with the addition of work benches, covered pit area, and a solar powered charging station. We mow the grass on a regular schedule to make it easier to locate and retrieve those "off-runway" landings.

Hopefully, you have reviewed the emailed list of scheduled activities for this upcoming flying season. These are really only the starting point for this year as we have many other ideas floating around in the "skunk works." However we do need YOUR help. If you have any ideas for an activity, can help us with new pilot training, or are willing to help with one of our planned activities, please feel free to drop me an email at [harness2017@gmail.com](mailto:harness2017@gmail.com).

We plan to actively grow our membership in 2017 (see membership article below). If you have ideas or suggestions on how to attract new members, please let me or one of our club offices know.

We all come from different backgrounds but share the same enjoyment of RC flying. It is that shared enjoyment that makes this a great hobby and makes CSF a great organization.

Warmer temperatures and gentle winds!

Steve Harness  
CSF President

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### **From The Treasurer**

Dues are a pain! You have to remember to pay them every year. You get bugged by the club Treasurer to send in your hard earned money. Then there are the AMA dues...

The Cincinnati Silent Flyers have a very nice, accessible facility that is better than many others. Your club dues are not used to just pad our bank account. They are necessary to cover real annual costs such as: field rental, field maintenance items, field insurance, Port-0-Let rental, indoor insurance, AMA Charter fee, grass mowing and more.

We have a small club. The dues and donations we received last year covered all of our costs—breaking a little more than even. The CSF club is very fortunate to have some members that have made extra donations to the club over and above the cost of their memberships. I personally thank everyone who has contributed; these donations have helped greatly. Many of us spend a lot of money in this hobby. In my opinion, the cost of our dues is a small price to pay for access to a great facility.

If you have still not paid your 2017 club dues then please send them in as soon as possible.

Soft landings,

Craig "Deuce" Rouse  
CSF Treasurer

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## **CSF Indoor Flying — A Great Success!!!**

I have been surprised! Perhaps, I shouldn't have been. We still want to fly even in the colder months. I'm not sure that I want to call this winter because it hasn't been that cold yet and we haven't had much—if any—snow!

I have to say that I was a bit worried when I brought up the idea of starting indoor flying again. We didn't have it last year, or maybe even the last two years. When I last coordinated the indoor flying we had averaged two or three flyers per session. This was barely enough to pay for the insurance.

At the time of this writing, the CSF club has held four flying sessions at the Mt. Healthy gym, and the response has been great! The flying sessions have been open to non-members this season so we have had flyers from the Hawks, the Anderson flying club, flyers who are not affiliated with any club, as well as CSF club members. Last session saw eighteen flyers in the gym—more than we have seen in many years! Dave Raines and others brought gates to test the skill of the drone pilots. I am personally learning a lot from those drone pilots and they have actually gotten me hooked on drone flying as well. Ah, more money to spend! I'm glad I'm retired.

Flying indoors is really a lot of fun. We still have four more flying dates this year. I'll continue sending out reminders before each date. If you have not tried this before then I encourage you to "come on out."

Cheers!

Craig "Deuce" Rouse  
Indoor Flying Coordinator and CSF Treasurer

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## CSF Club Membership Update

CSF is fortunate to have a core group of members who have actively supported and promoted the club for many years. These dedicated members continue to provide support and leadership for many club activities. Unfortunately, in recent years we have seen a decline in membership for a number of reasons. One of the biggest reasons is that we have simply not actively recruited enough new members. While we are still able to support a viable club at current membership levels (See Deuce's comments above) it has required the club treasurer to request donations in addition to annual membership income. To address the membership gap, we want to encourage all existing active members to recruit potential new members. This is as simple as providing prospective members with an open invitation to visit our club. One of the biggest advantages of a CSF membership is the fact that this is an all electric club. More people today are flying electric model aircraft than ever before. It is often intimidating for both new and veteran pilots to compete for flying time at clubs that allow larger gas powered aircraft.

Facts are, we know that many potential members just don't know that CSF exists. These people only need an invitation to come out and see what we have to offer. Let's make it a goal for every member to work to actively recruit one new pilot to at least visit our club in 2017. We have the capacity to handle more members and with this comes the potential for new friendships and learning opportunities for everyone. Just remember that recruiting new members is every member's responsibility. Know someone who used to belong to CSF but dropped out? Ask them to consider coming back this year.

Thanks,

CSF Executive Committee

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**Safety Corner - Winter Work**



## **Field Maintenance 2017**

Your club officers recently met and discussed general CSF field conditions and maintenance projects for 2017. We are very interested in keeping the flying field in excellent condition. In support of this, we will be looking at a number of projects to assure our club is providing the best possible flying experience for all of our members. At this time, our plan is to continue to contract out the mowing as we have done in recent years. Club members will still be asked for a few hours a month to support weed trimming and pothole filling as needed. These requests will be sent out separately at least a week ahead of time with reminders the day before the scheduled maintenance. This is a case where "many hands makes light work." So if you can support these maintenance requests, it is always appreciated.

Club member support in this area assures that our field remains in excellent condition. Member participation on maintenance

Hi Fellow Silent Flyers! It's midwinter but never too early to think about the upcoming flying season. I don't know about you, but several of my planes "winter" in the garage (those that didn't get dinged last year—i.e., not many). Even though there is some warmth in the garage there is a lot of temperature variation that can lead to expansion and contraction of joints, especially hinges. Before you get to the field, check out the integrity of your flight surfaces—give them a tug or two. Also, check out how solid your motor attachments are.

If you have a Spektrum radio, there's a good chance that you had a firmware update over the winter. Oftentimes, your receivers need to be re-bound to your transmitter after installing updates. Take a few minutes to rebind your receiver and check that your control surfaces all move in the direction that you want.

Lastly, it would be a good time to check all your Lipo's. If they look more like a bratwurst than a block of wood then consider retiring them.

You are encouraged to recycle them at Batteries Plus Bulbs among other recycling facilities.

KEEP SAFE! See you at the field soon.

projects allows us to keep our costs low and club dues at the very reasonable level they are today. If you have suggestions or concerns regarding any maintenance issue at the field, feel free to contact me directly at any time.

Craig "Ace" Eisentrout

Club Safety Officer

Thanks in advance and wishing you great flying in 2017!

Jerry Biscopink  
Field Maintenance Coordinator



### **Winter Building Recommendation**

Looking for a way to stay active in the hobby on those days that you can't fly? The line of micro kits from Stevens Aeromodel is an excellent way to have fun in the hobby by building your own micro scale model aircraft (see Stevens Fokker D VII above). Several club members have had very positive experiences building these kits and recommend them to club members who may want to develop building skills, as well as those who are already experienced builders. The kits come with some of the best instructions that you will ever see and feature a unique laser cut interlocking design that assures a positive warp-free finished airplanes. There are many designs to choose from with new ones being added each year. Kit costs begin at around \$39.00. And these little beauties are fully capable of



RC flight. If you are interested, go to [stevensaero.com](http://stevensaero.com) or visit their booth at the upcoming Toledo RC show.

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### **Weekday Warriors**

(Scheduled Regular Weekday Flying)

Some of our members prefer the opportunity to improve their flying skills while doing some solitary flying. Other members enjoy club flying with other club members present. For the latter group, the ability to "show up" on almost any weekend day offers a good chance of finding other members actively using the airfield. During the week, however, this can be more "hit or miss" in terms of finding anyone flying. Some of our members have indicated that they would like to fly more often but prefer to fly with other members at the field. They indicated that they are often working on weekends and would like to find a weekday evening to fly and wish other members could be at the field to join them.

To address this, Steve Harness and his club officers will be working to arrange several evening events such as "combat flying" on weekday evenings. We want to make these fun events.

Additionally, you are requested to write to the newsletter editor with your ideas/preferences of an evening day of the week that you would be willing to fly on a regular basis if joined by others. We will collect this information and coordinate an open fly evening on a weekly basis, if we find enough interest. We want to make sure that every member has a chance to get out to the field every week and enjoy this great hobby while meeting and enjoying



our other club members.

Don't forget—[let us know your schedule preferences by emailing the newsletter editor at this link.](#)

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**A good reason to listen to Ace and perform your preflight inspections.  
Let's Stay Safe!**

(BTW: This picture was not taken at CSF!)



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### **Final Thoughts**

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter and we welcome your comments. If you would like to supply written content to the newsletter, have recommendations to improve the newsletter, or would like to send captioned pictures from club events, please contact Jerry Biscopink, CSF Newsletter editor.

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