

# KCRC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2008

Meeting; Tuesday, 12-August  
7:00 pm, at the Field!



## KNOX COUNTY RADIO CONTROL

### PROPWASH

August

2008

PHIL SPELT KCRC PRESIDENT

#### How fortunate is KCRC?

I had an "interesting" experience the weekend of July 26-27. On Friday, I arrived at a field I had not flown at for a Pattern Contest. The flying field was great - a paved runway that looked as if it had just been paved, new, bright, crisp lines, and beyond that a LARGE, FLAT grass area. The south end of the north-south field was bounded by an active military base - NO flying over that, and to the east, where the pilots faced, a golf course about 500 feet out - fly high over that. These restrictions notwithstanding, the field is, all in all, a great-looking place to fly.

However, there is a serious problem lurking under the surface at this club. Because the R/C field is in a public park, the club has very little control over who flies at the field. Because this is a Public Park, anyone who has an AMA license must be permitted to fly there - club member or not.

This fact became a real problem the Friday before the contest. There was some club opposition to the event (ANY event that closed the field), and two teenagers flew 3D on Friday late afternoon while we were practicing for the contest. They also threatened to come out Saturday, and fly any time they wanted to - threats that were made to some of the pattern flyers from out of town. The result was that the 5, or so, out-of-towners left before the contest.

So, why is KCRC fortunate? First, because we have no members that would do something like that. Second, KCRC controls every aspect of our field. The Knox County Parks and Recreation, and Mr. Doug Bataille (Commissioner) have given KCRC the complete responsibility for our field. When the Marine Reserve unit on Alcoa Highway in Knoxville wants to use our facility for their Annual Mud Run, they contact US, not the Parks And Recreation Department.

Over the years, we have developed and maintained a very good relationship with our landlords - a relationship our officers and Board members intend to keep up. Because of this relationship, we would not have the type of problem described here. We need to continue to be courteous and helpful, to each other, and to visitors who drop by our field.

**KCRC is, indeed, very fortunate!**

Meanwhile, this is the Wingman turning final...pfs

### MINUTES: JULY MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on July 8th by President Phil Spelt with 13 members present. (Attendance

is still a problem, possibly because of gas prices, or possibly just because of lack of interest.)

Minutes from the June meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Joel Hebert gave the Treasury report; the club is still solvent. Report approved.

#### old business

Bill Dodge has been working on the cracks in the runway and has gotten most of the crosswise cracks filled but still plans to do the rest of them but ran out of the money that was approved at the last meeting. A motion was approved to allow whatever money he needs to finish the job. Good job, Bill. (ed. photos in "At the Field" section.)

An observation; If you can find someone in our club willing to do some work, then give him all the money he needs to finish the job cause you might not find any one else willing.

Some discussion was held on the AMA pattern contest that we will sponsor at the Harriman Field in August. Plans are going ahead but the amount of, or lack of, interest will ultimately determine the fate of the contest. There has not been a lot of enthusiasm shown so far. With gas prices around four dollars a gallon, it could be that there will not be a lot of traveling by out of state flyers. On the other hand, there may be enough local flyers to make it interesting. We use to have club contests that served to provide training and enjoyment to members of the local clubs. Another observation; If we were to have a local contest, we could have it at our field, but holding it at Harriman might encourage some of their flyers to participate. Frankly, I would like to see some local contests, perhaps held something like a fun fly.

#### new business

No events scheduled for the future at this time.

There was a discussion about some club activity for this fall. Perhaps a picnic some time in October. Phil Spelt asked about interest in a float fly in September. There was a fair amount of support from the few members in attendance so these could possibly be scheduled. Help will be needed and some one to ramrod the picnic is needed. Phil Spelt indicated he would probably CD the float fly, but someone needs to step forward on the picnic.

Joel Hebert has agreed to reserve a room at the Fellowship Church for the winter meetings. Directions to the church are on the website.

Phil Cope and Phil Spelt gave health reports on Marc Sobelewski, Dennis Hunt and Doll Thompson. All are in need of our prayers.

A couple of new members were introduced; Jeff Cody and Ron Shelto. Jeff is getting help from Phil Cope and Ron is

flying by himself having already soloed. Both are flying electric as of now.

**Model of the month;** No entries for this month.

**Crash of the Month;** Crash of the Month always brings out some entertaining stories about members who are not there to defend themselves. Some of the stories this month concerned a couple of electric flyers who got downwind and ran out of volts and ended in the trees. It's always entertaining when you are not the one scrambling around down there in the boonies.

Warren Oliver was there and talked about his misadventures with a couple of models and won the glue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Minutes by Jim Scarbrough, secretary

**AT THE FIELD**  
(photos by Gary Lindner)



Bill Dodge hard at work on your runway, filling those pesky cracks that grow wider and deeper every year.



This is painstaking work.



The filler works best when applied on a hot day.



Its's done inch by inch.

**MANY THANKS, BILL,  
FROM ALL OF KCRC!!!**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

2-Aug...House Mountain Fly-In (was postponed due to rain) see web site for flyer with directions and details;

<http://home.comcast.net/~jerzee4/HMRC/>

23-24 Aug-2008....KCRC AMA contest (@Tennessee Eagles field or House Mountain Radio Control / Thompson Airpark)

## DOLL THOMPSON

2008



Many KCRC'ers first heard the news in an email from Bud Weisser; "It is with great sorrow I must report the passing of one of our members. Elmer "Doll" Thompson passed away about 3:00 pm, July 16, 2008."

*Jeff Prosize was one of many members who was very close to Doll and has contributed the following;*

When I joined KCRC a few years ago, one of the first members that befriended me was a gentleman named Doll Thompson. I still remember the first conversation I had with him. I had given \$5 to a man in our parking lot who said his pickup truck needed to be towed. Doll contributed another \$25, and then 10 minutes later we watched as the man drove away from our field in a truck that didn't need towing after all. I turned to Doll and said "I think we just got ripped off." He shook his head and said "Well, we did the right thing. The rest is between him and God."

Doll was known to most people for two things: his passion for fishing and his passion for flying. But those who knew him best know that his real legacy is his generosity toward other people. He helped more friends and family members than we will ever know, and most often he did it quietly and without fanfare to avoid embarrassing anyone. That is the true

measure of a Samaritan: not the extent of his generosity that we know about, but the extent that we don't know about.

In recent years, Doll became one of my very best friends. We talked almost every day: about flying, about politics, about business, and about anything else that needed discussing. I frequently called him from faraway places such as China and India just to hear him say "you sound like you're next door!" And when it was raining or snowing outside, I'd call him and say "I'm at the field; where is everybody?" because I knew what his reply would be: "Well, you must have just missed me!"

I do miss Doll, as does everyone else at KCRC. He passed away on July 16 after a long illness. In his 78 years, he did more living than most of us could do in 100. And while time may heal the Doll-shaped hole in my heart, the impression that it left will never go away.

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### MODEL TECHNIQUE

No Model Technique this month...just a moment of silence for Doll.

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**AMA Chapter 594 Knoxville Tennessee  
2008 KCRC Officers**

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**other club positions**

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