

# THE CLANKING ARMOR

October - 2013  
AMA CLUB # 405

PO Box 83605  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
68501-3605



*NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE LINCOLN SKY KNIGHTS R/C CLUB*

## President's Message

We are now near the end of another flying season for all but the hearty of wing nuts. Dues were set at the last meeting and club officers nominated. Sadly we had 1 person over a quorum and weren't able to find someone to take on the job of treasurer and still may need a VP/CD. Anyone willing to fill these posts please contact me. We need to fill them now!

We had a great turnout at the Boy Scout promotion, a lot of planes for display and flying demos as well. Rob did a fine job with the Scouts and Dave brought his pulse jet to get them started on the early need for hearing aids! With over 650 Scouts alone I hope we were able to stir some interest in the hobby and also show our support for the community

At this time we do not have any plans for indoor flying or a place to hold it. It is sad to see it go but with all things they only happen if the members make it so. We will get it off the metro sight to avoid confusion.

The winterizing of the field should be in work starting this week with the watering system, if you have the time to clean off the mower decks or put things away or help mouse proof the Club house.

Happy Flying!

## Secretary's Report

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.  
Minutes for October meeting approved.

## VP/CD Report

We had a good turnout for Leonard's fun fly. Boy scouts demo at pioneer park 12-5 oct.12

## Treasurer's Report

Bills paid and report approved.

## Safety Officer's Report

No problems reported.

## Old Business

The well pump is repaired.

The weather station is replaced, info is on website.

The rules committee met should have a report next month

## New Business

The water system will be drained next month.

A motion made and approved to fertilize and aerate the grass runway.

## Nomination of Officers

President: Alan Zinnecker

VP/CD: Gary Dunkle

Secretary: Wilson Hardy

Treasurer: **VACANT**

## New Members

No new Members.

## Models of the Month

Alan Worrest showed us a very small flybarless mini copter

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:20p.m.

## Update on the Wings Across America

WAA-08 Pilots,

I know I said that my last email I sent a few months ago was my "final email" but I did want to send you an update on the SQiRT and let you know what happened when I visited the National Model Aviation Museum to donate the SQiRT on Friday. I feel I owe you that much and it is my pleasure to let you know how it went. First of all, thank you for all the kind words and responses I received from my last "final" email. They really did mean a lot to me. And it has been my pleasure to send the winter and summer updates on the SQiRT's progress for the past 5 years. I hoped you enjoyed reading them. After all, this has been your adventure as much as it has been mine. I hope I can remember all that I need to say in this email since this will really will be my final email to you all. At least I think so anyway. ☺ So this year you will get three emails from me instead of two.

On Friday, 18 Oct, I signed the Deed of Gift and donated the SQiRT, the travel case, pilot log books, spare parts and all the "valuables" that have been traveling with the SQiRT to the National Model Aviation Museum (NMAM) in Muncie, Indiana. If you have never been to the AMA headquarters or the NMAM you are missing out and owe it to yourself to visit. I have talked to a lot of people that have visited and they always have great things to say about it. Since this was my first time to visit let me just say that they are a first class operation. I was extremely impressed with the museum and their professionalism. It is definitely worth your time to go there at least once. (And now you have another reason to go.) I recommend at least one of those days be a Saturday so you can speak

with a man named OC. He is a volunteer at the museum and has been an AMA member since 1938. He is a wealth of information about model aviation and has some great stories to share. I'm sure he would enjoy speaking with you as much as you with him.

Friday started off with me arriving at the museum about 1125. Glen Crandall pilot number 388 was already there and Don Way pilot 338 followed me in shortly after. We introduced each other and all shook hands since this was the first time we had all met in person even though we have "known" each other through the WAA-08 adventure for a long time now. Don brought along his lovely wife Lisa who surprisingly shown a big interest in our hobby and the WAA-08 adventure. I wonder if all wives are this interested in model aviation? It was really great to meet The Way's and Glen in person. Glen came all the way up from GA and The Way's came down from northern Indiana. I wish more WAA-08 pilots could have made it to the donation ceremony but I am glad that they were there to show their support.

Maria VanVreede brought the travel case out for us that Rusty Kennedy had dropped off the day before. We glanced over the contents in the box and the SQiRT. I was impressed with how well she has held up through the years and commented that she is one tough bird. Because I know that every landing she had was not always a gentle one. We talked about the signatures and how many of them were faded from time and handling. We also checked out the SQiRT to make sure she was still flightworthy. Even though the wind was blowing 12-15 mph we decided that we had to fly one last time. I mean how could we refuse the opportunity to fly an airplane that will be going into the NMAM and never be flown again?

Glen, Don, Lisa and I along with the SQiRT drove out to site 3. If you have

never been to the AMA flying site, let me tell you it is a beautiful flying field and has close to a thousand acres with a number of different flying sites for all kinds of modeling/flying activities that can happen at one time. As luck would have it, there was a group of students who formed an aviation club called the Flying Cougars visiting from Thurgood Marshall High School and they wanted to come out and watch the fun. After arriving at site 3, Glen and Don assembled the SQUIRT and did the preflight checks while I briefed the students on what to expect and how we will fly the SQUIRT in such a strong wind. I also explained why we were here in the middle of October at the AMA field in the blowing wind flying a small parkflyer. They were pretty excited to learn all about the SQUIRT and the Wings Across America 2008 adventure.

I asked Don if he wanted to go first and he politely suggested that I fly first. Glen steadied the airplane and I attempted a ROG but the wind was blowing so strong it tumbled the plane nose to tail over. I thought for a second it was all over, but the SQUIRT is a lot tougher than that. My second launch was a hand launch which was much smoother. But the wind was so strong the SQUIRT was staying in one place. I didn't want to risk any harm to the SQUIRT doing anything more than just hovering in the wind. As much as I wanted to do some loops and rolls as I practiced the day before with my own SQUIRT, I just didn't want to risk it. After all flying was one thing, getting crazy with a history making model airplane is another. ☺ Don's turn was next. He did a hand launch as well but he had more nerve than I and actually did some loops. He did a great job flying the SQUIRT in the wind and the Flying Cougars was cheering him on. He made a very sweet landing in the wind and she even stayed up on the gear. A very great final landing for a wonderful plane that has traveled around the USA. Very well done Don! After that we took some photos and

headed back to the museum. Since we were an hour and a half out from the ceremony we decided to head to lunch. We ate at a place called 12th Street Diner. I had the BBQ sandwich and fries. It was tasty. After lunch we headed back to the museum for the donation ceremony.

When we got back Sharon Brooks and her two daughters arrived. Sharon is Don Jiskra's daughter. She was the one who made the 2011 collage for us. It was great to finally meet her in person. We assembled in the museum next to the 1950s hobby shop for the donation ceremony. Mark Benson was there to film the ceremony as Maria started it off by introducing Michael Smith the museum director. Michael gave a nice speech about the WAA-08 adventure and how it brought a group of modelers all across the country together. Then it was my turn to give my speech. I think it lasted all of 5 minutes. After that, I signed the paperwork that officially gave the SQUIRT to the NMAM. Walter Grasmick, Bill Stevens, and Steve Griffin will also have to sign the paperwork. I thought that was fitting since they were involved with the WAA-08 adventure from the beginning and had given so much to the adventure for the last 5.5 years. We could not have had a successful WAA-08 adventure, if at all, without their efforts and dedication.

And that was that! Model aviation history has been made. Thanks to you and everyone else involved. I truly appreciate everyone's role in making this happen and you should be proud of your role you had in it. I hope everyone gets the chance to visit the SQUIRT at the NMAM. I'm not sure when the SQUIRT will go on display. Just call ahead to make sure she is out there. I know I plan to take my family to Muncie as soon as we can get away.

After that, Maria gave Glen, Lisa, Don and I a full tour of the museum. Which I don't have to say, but it was an awesome tour!

After that we said our goodbyes and thank yous. It was great to meet Don, Lisa and Glen and all the wonderful folks at the AMA.

I was going to meet Glen at the Air Force Museum in Dayton on Saturday, which one of the finest aviation museums in the country, but it was raining out on Saturday and I didn't feel like driving 7 hours there and back in the rain. We got really lucky with the weather on Friday. Even though it was windy, it was sunny and "warm enough." I did go back to the AMA gift store though on Saturday and bought some souvenirs for my family and finally bought my leader member hat that I have meaning to get for so long.

I have attached a photo of Michael speaking at the donation ceremony and one of me touching the box with nitrile gloves on. I was teasing Maria about it since not 15 minutes before we were touching the SQuiRT with our bare hands and even flew it earlier in the day without gloves on. But now the SQuiRT and contents will only be touched with gloved hands to protect her through the ages



**And I will close this email with the speech that I gave in Muncie:**

Thank you Michael, Maria, Wings Across America 2008 pilots, and friends for being here at the SQuiRT's donation ceremony.

"RC Airplane Makes It Back To Gloucester After Trip Around U.S." That was what the headline said in my hometown newspaper. Can we take a moment to think about that for a second? A model airplane took a trip around the United States. An RC airplane was flown in 48 of our United States by over 800 pilots in a five year 26,000 mile journey. Wow! That is remarkable.

What can one really say about an adventure like this? It has truly been a humbling experience. That little model airplane has been flown by over 800 pilots. And I bet she probably has over 1,000 flights on her. That itself is amazing let alone has traveled around promoting model aviation and the AMA all across the USA. It is hard to imagine that 333 pilots raised their hand to say "I'd like to participate and join in the fun." When is the last time you could round up 333 people from all walks of life and all across the USA to focus on a single goal? With their help, this little airplane that started out on a journey in a small eastern Virginia town in May 2008 has traveled over 26,500 miles around the USA creating headlines, recruiting AMA members and bringing newcomers into our hobby. I often

said that without those pilots, I would have just had a new plane in a pretty box sitting in my garage. And just imagine all the stories the SQuiRT could tell from her travels. Truly an amazing adventure and certainly very humbling indeed.

I cannot begin to thank all of the people involved that donated so much of their time and effort to make this happen. From our sponsors like MaxAmps and others who helped get us started and kept the airplane flying and to the pilots in all 48 states who kept the SQuiRT moving along from person to person. I can't forget about people like Don Jiskra who volunteered to be our treasurer when Greg Stephenson passed away. Don gave so much to the adventure with his never-ending dedication and he kept me going even when I felt like giving up after a few rough spots along the way and as the months turned into years. He also did a wonderful job of creating and distributing pilot certificates and the Wings Across America 2008 Collages. And Walter Grasmick who volunteered to run the Wings Across America 2008 website for us and had to put up with sometimes daily updates as the SQuiRT went from pilot to pilot. And also Don Way who took over for Don continued with the tradition of creating pilot certificates. These certificates were a wonderful way to provide a small token of our appreciation for their hard work. And of course I can't forget about Steve Griffin who built the beautiful travel box for the SQuiRT's travels. Although I'm not sure if it looks better now or when she left my house in Virginia. Last but not least, Bill Stevens for designing and donating the SQuiRT and the original DX6i radio for the adventure. Without that gift, I'm not sure we would have gotten off the ground. Hard to believe that was over five and a half years ago.

So here we are today, 5 Years, 145 Days, 21 Hours, and 50 Minutes later since the journey began, at the world famous Academy of Model Aeronautics' National

Model Aviation Museum. This is hallowed ground for model aviation enthusiasts. So many beautiful and historic models grace the displays inside this building. It is wonderful knowing that the Wings Across America 2008 airplane will be with these other historic models and that Wings Across America pilots and their families can come visit the museum to see the SQuiRT, the travel case, pilot's log books and all the other mementos and know that they had a part in making model aviation history.

On behalf of all the Wings Across America 2008 pilots and their families who helped make this adventure possible, it is with honor that I donate the Stevens AeroModel SQuiRT to your museum. May she be safe with you here and serve as a permanent reminder of what 333 dedicated model aviation enthusiasts can do when they set their mind to something.

Here is a video of Don and I flying the SQuiRT at the AMA field (many thanks goes to Lisa for the excellent video work):  
<http://youtu.be/fpwV9YAXQZY>

Here is our completed pilot's map. This will give you a sense of how many pilots actually flew the SQuiRT:

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&gl=us&ptab=2&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=117500992742145332077.000454ec54246d01cdc5&mid=1382278737>

Next month will be the Fall Fun Fly report.

**WE NEED A CLUB TREASURER.**  
**ANYONE INTERESTED PLEASE**  
**CONTACT ALAN ZINNECKER**

**Lincoln Sky Knights**  
**PO Box 83605**  
**Lincoln, NE 68501-3605**

<http://www.lincolnskyknights.org>



**For information on the web about  
local events and activities**

<http://metrorcflying.com/>

**WHO TO CALL FOR HELP!**

<b>Rich Kuenning</b>	<b>464-3256</b>
<b>Ron Vogel</b>	<b>466-0031</b>
<b>Bill Davis</b>	<b>475-2305</b>
<b>Wilson Hardy</b>	<b>890-3161</b>
<b>Dennis Osburn</b>	<b>470-0271</b>
<b>Mike Yearley</b>	<b>475-1609</b>
<b>Leonard Akert</b>	<b>489-6277</b>

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**Nick Wheatley** [eve6w@hotmail.com](mailto:eve6w@hotmail.com)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**2013 Event Schedule**

November 1<sup>st</sup>: Election of club officers

**2013 LSK Officers**

**President:** **Alan Zinnecker**  
**432-9066** [azinnecker@windstream.net](mailto:azinnecker@windstream.net)

**VP/CD:**

**Treasurer:** **Mike Yearly**  
**476-1609** [firstchair2@msn.com](mailto:firstchair2@msn.com)

**Secretary:** **Jerry Robinson**  
**464-2397** [jrstoy@aol.com](mailto:jrstoy@aol.com)

**Safety Officer:** **Brad Pankoke**  
**797-8710** [bradpankoke@hotmail.com](mailto:bradpankoke@hotmail.com)

**Executive Committee:**

**Don Svoboda**  
**Ric Feldman**  
**Gary Dunkel**

**Webmaster:** **Rich Kuenning**

**PLEASE REMEMBER!! IF YOU ARE THE LAST  
PERSON AT THE FIELD IN THE EVENING,  
PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE CLUBHOUSE AND  
THE GATE ARE LOCKED!!!!**

**Tuesday night flying will run from May thru  
September. Guests can receive introductory  
flights from our members.**

**Meetings are the first Friday of every month  
except December at the LSK field at 7:30 PM**