

Propeller Teller – December 2007

Official Newsletter of M.A.R.K.S.
(Miniature Aircraft Radio Kontrol Society)

A.M.A. Charter 133

2007 Edition

Find a Marks Club Motto!

How about: “We fly the friendly skies -
But we crash into the unfriendly rocks”

newsletters@rcmarks.org

We are Looking for a good Club Motto (dh)

The MARKS club is healthy and prosperous with a lot of active members, being such it's about time that the club members came up with a catchy motto. Start thinking of something appropriate for the club and send it to the e-mail address above. By the February meeting there should be enough motto applications that the members can vote for the one that will be proudly displayed on the WEB site and in the Newsletter.

November 14, 2007 meeting info (dh)

The AMA Convention is January 11-12-13, 2008 the club will be at booths #834 & 836 (this is toward the rear of the building). The models that will be distributed to the raffle winners will be temporarily assembled for display at the booth. After the drawing the models will be dissembled and put back into their boxes for shipment.

The club members learned last month that the OS 40 LA motor will no longer be available so we have been searching for a replacement motor; so far it looks like the Magnum 28 might be the choice. After all of the motor research we have now learned that our pylon racer will no longer be made. A possible alternative is AirBorne Models Sky Raider \$79.00 it has a 54 inch wingspan and is listed at 5 pounds. There will be more research into this in the coming weeks. If you are interested in this topic, there is thread on our Forum (Events » Pylon Races » Pylon Racing 2008 – Quo Vadis?) where you can learn more about it.

After the meeting there were two models on display: George Manning brought his new freshly painted Jet (“Flash”) and John Skolnick his large KMP P40N. Both planes looked great, but it seemed that during the vote there were more WWII fans present so that John took home the Model of the Month award.



Greenspot Action (dh)

I started my RC flying about 3 or 4 years ago, one of the first people I met was Roger Foor, he was flying a Kwick Fly II plane from Hobby People. Every time I have been out flying and Roger was there he always had this same plane. I noticed that the pilot inside the cockpit was not attached and was just bouncing around, when I pointed this out to Roger he said that he would fix it someday. Somewhere around the first part of November 2007 I met up with Roger at Greenspot and, yes, he was flying the Kwick Fly. On his first flight of the day the canopy came loose and the pilot ejected to safely land on the ground but he took immediate cover and we were unable to locate him. Roger reattached the canopy and was able to fly again. Today November 14, 2007 Roger took off on his 1000th and first flight, about five minutes into the flight of hard aerobatics one of his ailerons detached itself from the wing (while the plane was in a hard maneuver close to the ground) Roger was unable to recover in time and the result was a less than perfect landing in the Greenspot burrow pit. Or was Roger secretly drilling for oil and this was just a cover up? – We'll find out next time when we come back.



Roger posing with the fuse of his Kwick.



Finally an opportunity to see what is inside this ARF wing!

Editors Comments

If you experience stories that you would like to share with other club members then please submit some text and pictures to the editors (newsletters@rcmarks.org) we are always looking for cool or fun stories. And as you can see from the story above, even a crash can make a good story. Other good materials are pictures or building descriptions of your current projects. –

Update concerning our new Greenspot Field (abl)

Comment from the Editors: The following text was already sent to all members that are on the MARKS e-mail list – if you would also like to receive MARKS specific e-mail updates, then please provide your e-mail address when you renew your MARKS membership.

---- Beginning e-mail 12-8-07 -----

We have been waiting for this moment for quite some time and those who have been at our Christmas Party on Thursday already know what I am talking about: I am delighted to let you know that we received the second and last permit from the BLM this week. This is the permit that will allow us to build the new RC flying field that we had proposed in the Greenspot burrow pit.

Our lease will start on December 30th 2007 and it is good for three years – the maximum that the BLM allows for these types of land use permits. The lease is extendable ad infinitum if we play according to the rules and if there are no other, more important uses for the public land that we are occupying (which there are none currently planned).

What does this mean for the MARKS Club?

It means first and foremost that we can start developing the new Greenspot site. The following is a list of what we are currently planning for this new flying site:

- A field with a decent concrete runway; currently we are considering a runway between 600 – 750ft in length and 45 – 65 ft in width.
- A system of taxiway with safety fences protecting pilots and visitors
- A separate flying area dedicated for 3D flying, including helicopters
- A large covered area with tables for setting up planes and an area with tables and seats for visitors.
- A full-size storage container and tower that allows us to keep our gear at the field. The tower features an observation platform for members and spectators; during events it will host the "command center".
- An unpaved parking area

This is the basic plan for the new flying field as it was submitted in our proposal and as it has been accepted by the BLM and other stake holders involved. The construction will happen in four phases. The main runway will be built during the first phase, so that the field is operational as soon as possible.

The five figures below give you a glimpse in what we are planning to build.

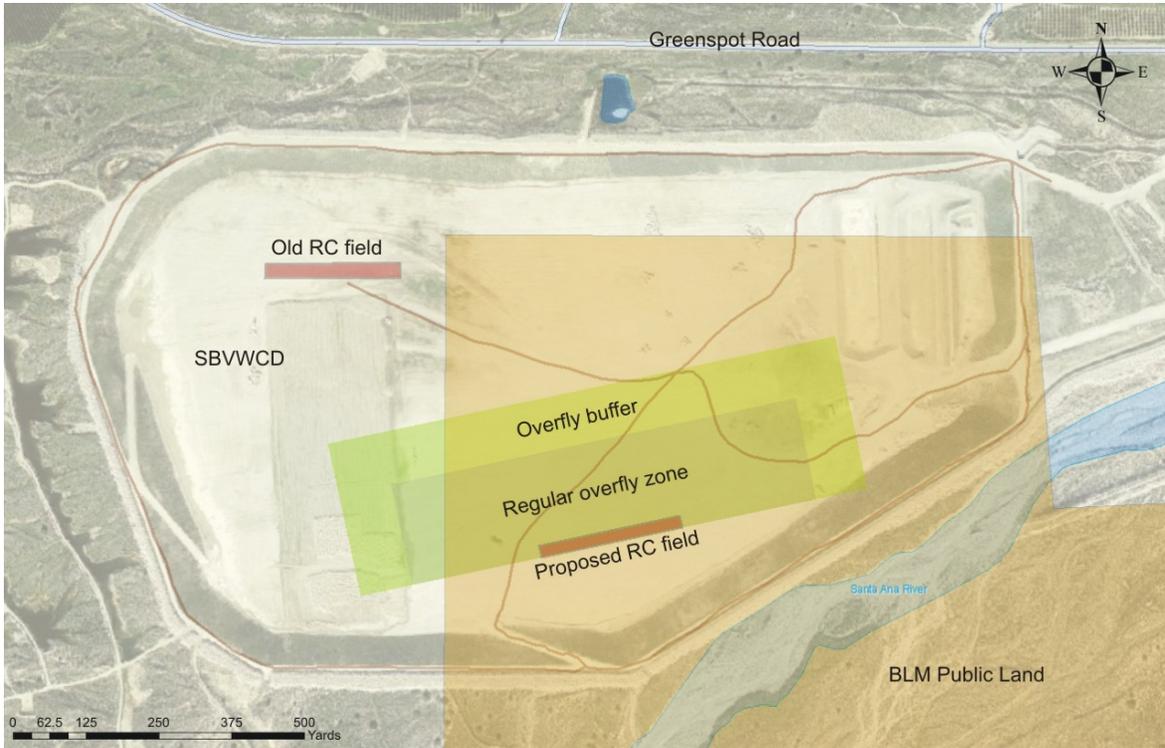


Fig 1. Approximate Location of the new field

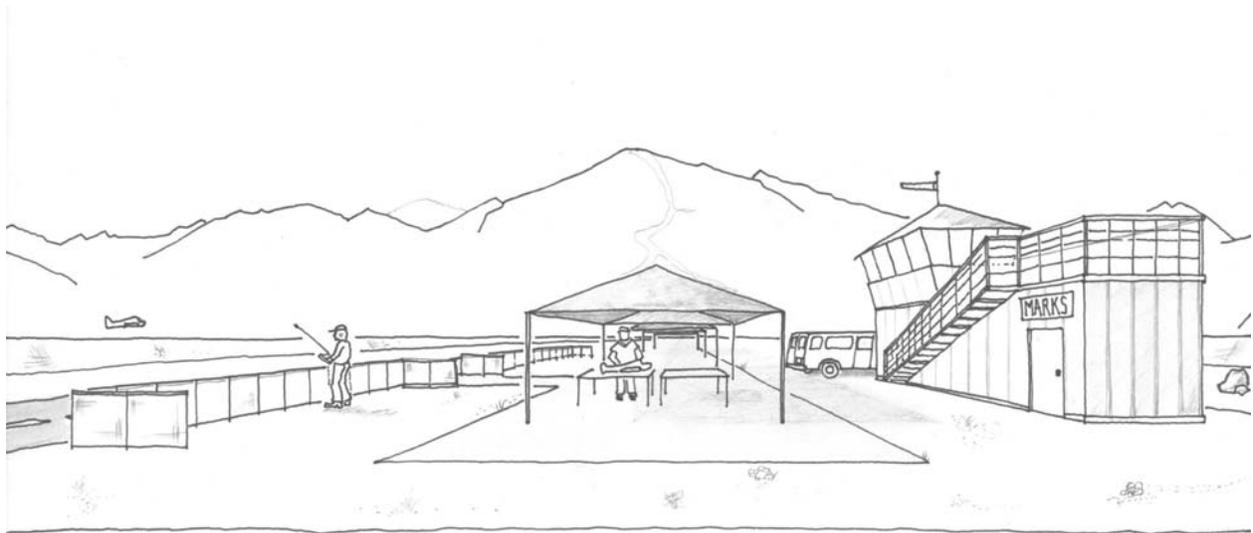


Fig 2. Artists rendering of the facilities



Fig 3. Conceptual view of the storage container with tower



Fig 4. Proposed shades (Picture from Coachella Valley Radio Control Club, Palm Springs)

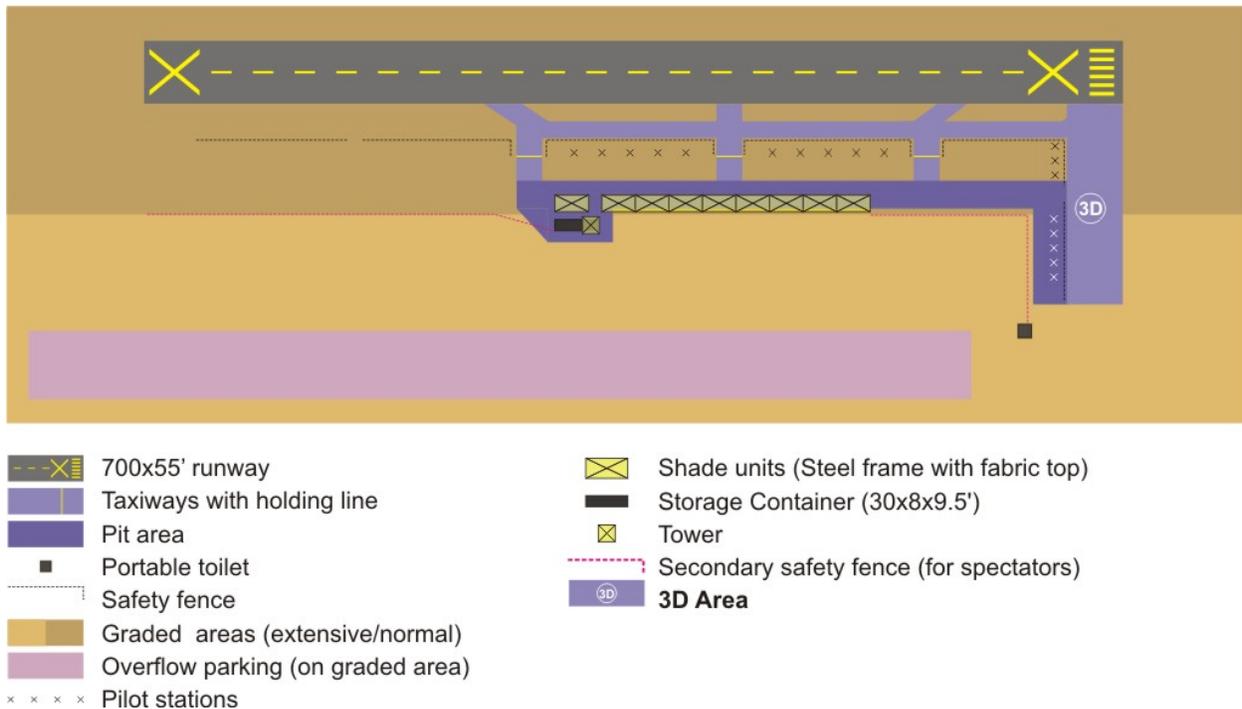


Fig 5. Final stage of the project

So what does this mean for the MARKS Club? It means that if we focus our efforts and work together into realizing this project, we will have *one of the finest RC flying fields in Southern California*, with exceptionally favorable conditions, such as, year round flying, low winds, optimal field direction, right exposure concerning the sun, remote but very accessible location, and a great scenery to name just a few of the qualities the new field will have. Finally, the infrastructure of the new field will allow us to host local or even regional events with style, which -besides being exciting and colorful to host- will provide another source of income for our club in the future.

What does this mean for us, the club members?

We will finally have a great flying field where we have the prospect of safely enjoying our hobby for years to come and where we can fly anything from small electric planes, over helicopters, to jets. The new Greenspot field will be a great place if you want to fly or just watch the activities and spend time with a great group of people sharing an interest in aviation. Last but not least: Convenience. The planned facilities will allow us to keep our "overhead", such as setting up Ez-Ups and tables to a minimum and spend more time enjoying our hobby in a great environment.

How can we realize the new Greenspot field?

We have already done a lot of work planning the new field and creating the right setup and onset for this projects. However, there is still a lot to do on all levels and that is where we would like to ask **all members to contribute**. We need people with a variety of skills and professional backgrounds, with construction knowledge, connections, ideas, initiative, as well as people that can tell the difference between a shovel and a pick. – **It is important to realize that everybody can help with this project in one way or another. And if everyone helps then we will have this field ready in no time** – Just to give you some perspective, we are planning to have a usable runway within half a year if not earlier, it all depends on everybody's participation, effort, and commitment.

Therefore, I would like you to think of ways how you can contribute. Below is a list of questions that you can ask yourself. If you have other ideas and suggestions how you or others can help with this project please let me know. I will then compile a list of your input (I.e., skills, resources, equipment, ideas, etc) for our Board of Directors. The Board is then going to analyze the feedback and assess our situation and create work groups that will be tasked to take on the responsibility for a project (A list of the current projects is attached below). If you are interested in participating in one of these work groups please let me know.

I cannot emphasize enough how important your contributions are - again if we all help each other then this will be a very quick and fun project and the result will be rewarding for everybody.

Some questions that you can ask yourself:

Please read through these questions and take a moment to think how you could contribute and send me your thoughts.

- Do I have a special **professional skill** that could be of use?
E.g., driving heavy equipment, surveying, welding, engineering, or other construction related skills – Even if you think that I am already aware of this please send it again.
- Do you have or can you organize **equipment and tools** that we could use?
E.g., Construction tools, generators, water trucks, trucks, graders, heavy equipment, surveying instruments, transportation equipment, etc.
- Do you know **people or organizations** that could help us out either by offering us their services at cost or donating them?
- Do you know places where we can **get construction materials** at a good price or even for free?
- Are you available for **manual work** at the field?
E.g., shoveling, grading, painting, digging, woodwork, welding etc.
- Do you know **people or organizations that would financially support our club** for this project? They can do so from next year on (1-1-2008) and deduct any contribution from their taxes because by then we will have applied for an tax-free IRS status (Section 501(c)(3)).
- Do you have **another talent or skill** that isn't mentioned here and that you think could be of value for constructing the new field?
E.g., Accounting wizard, CAD specialist, design, or ??? etc.
- Do you have ideas how the club could obtain additional funds for this project?
- How much money would you be able to put down for the new field either as a donation or as an interest-free loan to the Club?

Here are is a provisional list of Work Groups that we are going to form:

Same as above: Please ask yourself in which Work Group(s) you would like to work and send me your preferences.

- **Appropriation and Public Relations Work Group:** Acquiring funds, sponsors,
- **Construction Work Group:** Earth movement, runway, taxiways, all concrete work
- **Shades Work Group:** Shades, tables, covered seating
- **Container and Tower Group:** Storage container, tower, container installations, radio system, PA system.
- **Facilities Work Group:** Safety fences (regular & event), sanitary facility, parking area, signs, frequency control,

What's Next?

We are currently working on getting price estimates for the various variants for our main expense –the new concrete runway- At the next Board Meeting (Mid December)

we will decide what the club can afford and what makes most sense in this context. I will compile a list of your feedback over the next few days and present it to the Board. Your comments, suggestions, and commitment for participation will, therefore, directly flow in the Board's assessment and the resulting decisions.

The Board will create work groups as soon as possible so that they can go ahead with their assigned tasks.

Questions?

Please send me your questions and if you have made up your mind what and how you can participate and contribute in our quest for this great new field please let me know this as well. Because we want to start as soon as possible it is important that **everybody responds as promptly as possible.**

The easiest way to contact me is to send an e-mail to: abl@rcmarks.org. Alternatively you can call me at home between 6:30 and 10:00 PM.

I hope you are as excited as I am!

Cheers and I am looking forward to your feedback!

Andreas

PS. We will send regular project updates to all MARKS members via e-mail. If you want to be updated more frequently or if you want to play an active part, please come to the regular club meetings and use the Forum. On the main forum page, click on "Club Matters". The "GreenSpot: The new Field" thread and its sub-threads will be used for our communication.

You can read the threads without registering with the forum, if you want to post items you have to register, however. As indicated earlier, it is best to send me an e-mail if you want to register so I can authorize your account – I get literally hundreds of bogus requests for our forum every month so it can happen quite easily that I miss a legitimate application request.

----- End e-mail from 12-8-07 -----

MARKS Membership Renewal (abl)

Like last year we are making it super easy for everybody to renew his or her membership with the MARKS Club. Attached to this newsletter you should find a printout of your current record as it is stored in our member database. Please review this form and if you find a typo, missing or out of date information then please correct it with a non-black colored pen (red or blue work great).

Once you have completed that form simply send it with a check of \$50 (annual membership fee) to Chuck Comstock (MARKS Club, c/o Chuck Comstock, 834 E. Virginia St., Rialto, CA 92376) and you are good to go for the next year. Upon receiving your check, Chuck will issue you a new membership card and send it to you by snail mail. Please also check the status of your AMA membership, because as you know, this is required to be an active (aka. flying) member of our club; the main reason being insurance coverage.

If you have questions in this context please let me know (abl@rcmarcs.org).

Upcoming Events

DATES TO MARK DOWN AND REMEMBER

MARKS meeting: Wednesday, January 9th 2008, SBDO Airport Security Office
(Election Meeting!)

AMA Show Setup: Thursday January 10th, 2008 Ontario Convention Center

AMA Show: Friday – Sunday January 11th - 13th, 2008 Ontario Convention Center