

N.E. Kansas Blue Sky Squadron, Inc.

Smoke Screen

I.M.A.A Chapter #291

A.M.A. Charter #2826

<http://nekbssi.org/>

Pres: Vernon Nelson

VP: Jim Eastburn

Secretary: Bud Park

Treasurer: Sam Brown

Safety: Robert Longyear

Editor: John Kauk

CD: John Dalton



Presidents Corner

Greeting members, this has been a busy month at the field. We got the new tower up (donated to us by Bill and Diane Glynn and fabricated by Bud Park) with a functional wind sock and a new site camera. We now have the fence with the bad wood replaced and the entire fence painted (twice). The bathroom is mostly painted (the dark brown trim that was peeling off). Kris Johnson has graciously offered to get the roof replaced and a new door frame on the bathroom. Bud has sprayed the parking lot for weeds. So, the flying site is shaping up.

Our spring open fly-in is about a month away. Our next meeting (April 19) we will discuss all our preparations for this fly-in. We will be selling hotdogs and hamburgers this year

again, but we will buy extra so everyone can eat. Anyway, details upcoming at our meeting this Sunday at **2:00** at the field. Bring something to fly if weather permits. Don't forget to bring something for show and tell if you have something.

Last month John Kauk won the drawing, but donated it back in for another future drawing. Thanks John!!!

The new grass is starting to grow, but we could use a little rain. We have had a lot of expenses this year and looks like a great year for our club so please, if you have not yet paid your dues, do so (this is April now!!).

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If you know of anybody who would like to get in our hobby, bring them or tell them about our club. We have several instructor pilots who are waiting to teach/reteach newcomers how to fly. Remember to support your local hobby shop.

Again, thanks to all the members that have been helping on the flying site this last month. See you all at the meeting!!!

Vernon

Jayhawk Model Masters Open Fly In

On May 9, the Jayhawk Model Masters in Lawrence are hosting an open fly in at their Clinton Lake field. Patrick Deuser is the CD, phone number 785.766.9254 and his email is pduser@hotmail..com if you have questions.

The Jayhawks tend to support our fly ins, and it would be great if a large group of our fliers can attend this event, or the Jayhawk electric-only event the next Saturday, May 16.



It's hard to get volunteers to work at the field sometimes, but recently these helpers showed up.

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A New War Bird On Scene

Bill Miller has been wanting a war bird for years and now he has one. After lots of consideration on which one would be right for him he decided on a British Spitfire. Bill went with the Top Flight Gold Series Giant Spitfire Mk VIII ARF. After reading the review in Model Airplane News, he knew this was the right plane for him. It took a month and a half to build it, mostly because he caught some sort of flu bug that had him coughing all the time and work in the shop was not very high on his priority list. Below are several pictures of this big Spitfire.



The Spitfire at home in the hangar. Note the Cessna 310 in the corner; it's waiting for its first coat of primer.

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Note the full figured pilot with a life vest, main and backup parachute. This pilot was purchased from www.warbirdpilots.com. In order to make him fit in the detailed cockpit, Bill had to cut about 1 inch off its length, the foot and half of the lower leg.

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This is the first picture of the Spitfire on its wheels. This plane has an 86.5 inch wing span, and a 19 inch wing chord. It has Robart electric retracts with 5 inch wheels, DLE55cc engine, and will swing a 23x8 prop whenever it ever comes in. The 23x8 is a vintage WWII black with yellow tips prop. For now, it will be flying with a 22x10 prop. The plane weighs 24 pounds.

The first attempt to fly it was not successful. Bill thinks the engine over heated and vapor locked the carburetor while doing all the ground testing. It has been checked out thoroughly and is ready to go again, whenever the weather permits.