



# Plane Talk

August 2016

Weeks 2 & 4 are our flying weeks,  
Weeks 1 & 3 belong to the carters.

AMA Chapter 385, Jackson, Mississippi  
Visit us on the web at: [www.CCRCC.org](http://www.CCRCC.org)

## Club Officers

**President:** Bobby Day

**Vice President:** Lynn Roberts

**Secretary:** Kirk Sansom

**Treasure:** Bobby Folsom

**Member at Large:** D. J. Powell

**Safety Coordinator:** Paul Koiner

**Newsletter Editor:** Wayne Squires

**Webmaster:** Kirk Sansom

## Club Meetings

Providing the weather is good, we meet at 10AM at the field on the fourth Saturday. If the weather is bad we meet on the following Monday night, 7PM in the food court of the Mississippi Outlet Mall

Prior to each meeting an email will be sent out to announce the meeting place. Visitors are ALWAYS welcome.

## Welcome

Spectators and friends are welcome to visit us at Hinkle Field located in Buddy Butts Park on North McRaven Road, Jackson. From I-20 west, take the Springridge Road (Exit 36) south 1½ miles to North McRaven Road, and then go east ¼ mile to park entrance. Follow the park road around to the north east section of the park. A current AMA license is required to fly at Hinkle Field. Also please be aware

that some channels have experienced interference. Do not use channels 16, 17, 21, or 44 at Hinkle Field. No known problems have been reported with spread spectrum (2.4GHz).

## July Meeting Minutes -Kirk Sansom

### Attendance:

Bobby Day: Club President

Lynn Roberts: VP

Paul Koiner: Safety Coordinator

Kirk Sansom: Secretary

Members: James Robinson

Jerry Bowen, Jim Coker

Guest: James Barfield

### Financial

We still have 36 paid members.

### Old Business

- Bobby signed the use agreement. He talked to the city representative about the large culvert and they were going to discuss it their next meeting.
- Wayne mentioned the FAA law that mentions a number of rules ... Part 336 coincides with AMA rules which override most of the other rules that would otherwise "kill" model aircraft flying.

## New Business

- We need to spray the runway
- A storm blew down a large tree behind the Porta John. Bobby called the city representative but not been able to get in touch with him.
- Bobby talked to DJ about changing the lock code
- The city is still cutting the extended area as we requested.

## Jim Coker's work at the field

Jim spent several hours Saturday morning working on the tree that fell behind the storage container and porta-john. Fortunately, most of the tree fell in the woods. He cleaned up the branches that were overhanging the porta-john, a safety issue for anyone near the edge of the field.

Jim left a small pile of firewood-sized pieces at the corner of the storage container.

The branch that is over the park bench and grill area is a serious risk of falling sometime in the next few years. Jim recommends taking it down.

## Bill Sturdivant, a brilliant man who is one of the true pioneers of RC models in Jackson.

We all know that our field is called "Hinkle Field," but with the exception of Max, I doubt if anyone knew the early pioneers and how lively modeling was in the early days.

I recently bought some FM radio equipment from a lady named Lynn Hunt, who

mentioned that her dad is Bill Sturdivant. He was a business partner with Bill Payne and best buds with Bob Hinkle. Her stories kept my wife Joni and I spellbound.



## Full page coverage in the Madison County Herald of Bill Sturdivant and Bill Payne's Company P&S Creations

As you will see later in this article, model airplanes were only a small part of Bill's accomplishments.



**Bill Sturdivant is in the center with the Astrohog and Bob Hinkle is on his left.**

The Astrohog became famous around 1958 as the national champion of multichannel pattern flying. Bill is in the center of this picture holding an original Astrohog. This Astrohog was one of the first--if not the first--multichannel RC aircraft in Jackson.



**Bill's Astrohog**

In the early days of RC, most pilots only had control of the rudder. Multichannel planes depended on very "user antagonistic" controllers like reed sets. These were not proportional like our new radios, far from it. The pilot had five or six dual action toggle switches that controlled the rudder, elevator,

ailerons and throttle. When you moved a switch, the servo started moving toward its maximum limit. Only the best of RC pilots could master smooth flights activating the switch movements required to control their airplane.



**Typical 6-channel reed type transmitter and receiver. This would be equivalent to a 3-channel modern radio. You needed two channels for every control surface, one to move the servo left, and one to move to the right.**

By 1959 – 1960 the Jackson Model Airplane Club had most of the original members as well as some new ones. They formed a solid group of R/C flyers. Bill Sturdivant made available a pasture he owned in Ridgeland, and the club had a home field at last! The club used this pasture for a several years, until they made arrangements with the city of Jackson to fly at a paved strip at Lake Hico, but this arrangement was short-lived due to liability problems.

In the early 60's a suitable place across the dam at Barnett Reservoir became available, a 400 yard grass strip. By this time the Club, had grown to between 50 and 60 members,

and had hosted several successful contests there.



**Bill Sturdivant and Bob Hinkle tuning the radio in a P-51 Mustang. (Bob is holding the Mustang and Bill is wiping the wing.)**

Bill was an engineer by trade however his modeling skills went far beyond small airplanes. NASA contracted with the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg to test the Lunar Rover. Then Vicksburg subcontracted for Bill to build a scale model of the Lunar Rover for test at their site.



**Scale wheel from a test model of the Lunar Rover**

Joni and I held a wheel from one of the Rover models. The tire portion was made of an extremely light-weight hard wire mesh so that

it would sink slightly into the Moon's soil and help make up for the low gravity.

We looked through a scrap book that contained many pictures of the Lunar Rover during its development and testing stages.

In addition, Bill also built professional models of ships. These were accurate down to the brass propellers that he fabricated by hand. He converted modern Futaba radios to boat controllers including building his own levers that replaced the original joy sticks.



**One of Bill's converted radio for scale ships and boats.**

We left Lynn's home with a real desire to learn more about our members. There is always much more depth to a member than simply building and flying model airplanes.

# The Crowd Pleasers



Which of us have not provided entertainment by unselfishly demonstrating one or more of the proper methods to re-kit a model?

**Bobby Day's** radio decided that its aileron servo should oscillate between max left and max right. Bobby did an excellent job of getting an uncontrollable plane down as gently as possible.

## Parting Shots

1. In the December 2015 newsletter's club history article by Bill Payne, I made a typo where I mistakenly called Bill Sturdivant, Pill Sturdivant. I have corrected that in my archives.
2. There have been 3 unexplained crashes on 2.4GHz recently. These may be completely unrelated, but if you experience any anomalies on 2.4GHz please let Paul Koiner know.