



The MCA

# Flightline

Newsletter of the Music City Aviators

AMA Chapter #494 - [www.MusicCityAviators.org](http://www.MusicCityAviators.org)

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Our club is committed to the hobby of R/C model aviation. We are an AMA Chartered club and are based at a Metro Park called Peeler Park.

We fly a wide range of RC aircraft ranging from small park flyers, to giant scale aerobatic and scale planes including turbine jets. We have a new R/C Pilots Training Program starting May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Read more about it in this newsletter. We also provide a monthly newsletter called the Flightline, past copies are available on our Web-Site. Come join us !!

## In our Prayers

Currently known members dealing with illnesses. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Mike Denton  
Kenny Skelton  
J W Plummer  
Bruce Breidenbach

## May Meeting

**Next meeting - May 16th – 6PM**  
Music City Aviators Monthly Meeting  
We eat at 6:00, meeting at 6:30



Check out the new internet home of the Music City Aviators!

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## Dates to Remember

April 22 - Hot Dog Fly-In & Climb/Glide Contest (Cane Ridge)

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - New Pilot Training Program Begins

May 6 - Association Spring Fellowship Fly-in (Cedar Hill)

May 16 - Club Meeting (Peeler Park – 6:00 pm)

May 20 - Float Fly (Poole's Knob – Cane Ridge)

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## April Meeting Recap

### Music City Aviators , April 2017 Meeting Minutes

**Presiding:** Tom Bible, President

**Opening Remarks:** Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm.

Tom welcomed and thanked everyone for coming out on such a cool, rainy evening and thanked the chef for preparing the club provided dinner. Tom asked for everyone to keep Kenny Skelton, Mike Denton and Bruce Breidenbach in their thoughts, hopes and prayers. As of this writing, Kenny is in rehab at Summit Hospital, Mike remains hospitalized at Skyline with expected release to rehab being the 21st of April and Bruce has been released from Summit Hospital but is having to follow up with EKG and other tests. Motion made and carried to accept the club minutes report from March, 2017.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hayes Graf is on vacation and in his absence Tom reported our current club fund balance to be \$6116.45 with approx. \$1,150 having been added to the MCA club coffers from the recent auction of Phillip Durham's estate donations. Tom stated that 42 MCA club members so far have paid their 2017 club membership dues. This leaves about 16 members from last year not having renewed their club membership for 2017. Tom reminded everyone that payment of club dues can be made to any MCA club officer, or via the PayPal option on the club website. Motion made and carried to accept the Treasurers Report.

**New Members:** Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to ratify the membership applications of 2 (two) new members: Mario Novo and Rick Boegel are now the newest MCA additions to our growing number of area RC enthusiasts. Welcome aboard Mario and Rick!

**Old Business:** Tom thanked everyone who helped make our recent club workday and our 1st "Swap Meet Day" successes. Many needed items were accomplished on the work day including improvements to our large plane starting area, jacking up the sagging end of the clubhouse, getting the new frequency board affixed underneath the shelter, getting an E-flight Apprentice set up with a "buddy box" as our club trainer plane as well as a lot of general cleaning and sprucing up getting accomplished. The weather station is still a work in progress with David Powell planning to exchange a camera needed for the "hot spot" Internet access.

Continued...



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## April Meeting Recap Cont.

**New Business and Discussion:** John Forehand reported on his research on establishing a formal Flight Training Program. Four MCA members volunteered to register with the AMA's Introductory Pilot Program as Intro Pilot instructors. Dave Palmer, L.A. Johnston, James Harkreader and John Forehand will be our AMA registered Intro Pilot Instructors. Once registration is accomplished we only need to get the E-flight Apprentice fine tuned and trimmed out as our "club trainer plane". Suggestion was made and approved to designate Wednesday afternoons from 4-6 pm as a time to give interested people an introductory flight, using our E-Flight Apprentice and "buddy box" training aid. Dave Palmer suggested that we put an announcement in the on-line newsletter and on the web-site about our new program and the time, then make signs announcing that we have a Pilot Training Program for new interested flyers and post them on the fence. Much discussion ensued about the times and of use of the trainer plane and equipment and it was agreed that aside from the designated time, any interested new flyer should be able to contact one of the Intro Pilot Instructors and set up a time that's convenient for both. This will be a learning experience for all involved and policy improvements can be implemented as we go. We hope to be "up and running" with our Pilot Training Program by the 3rd of May.

**Announcements:** Our sister Metro flying club at Cane Ridge (MTRCS) plans to host their "Hot Dog Fly-in", complete with a "Climb & Glide" contest beginning at 10am and continuing through 1pm (or until the hot dogs run out) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. The meal is included in the landing fee for this event. The Cumberland Flyers RC Club at Cedar Hill TN is scheduled to host the MTRCCA (Middle Tennessee R/C Clubs Association) Spring fly-in on May the 6th. This event, as well as the Fall fly-in scheduled to be held at the Dickson Airport Sept. 8-10, is open to all AMA members.

**Closing Remarks:** Verbal commendations were given to the club Secretary for comprehensive minutes report documentation and to the club Safety Officer for giving good, timely, as needed reminders of safety rules.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for 17 May, 2017, 6:30 PM at our Peeler Park flying field with club provided meal to be served at approx. 6 PM.

**Adjourn:** 7:35 PM



James Harkreader  
MCA Secretary



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## New Pilot Training Program Begins

The Music City Aviators Club announced a new Pilot Training program which will begin **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This program is designed for anyone wishing to learn to fly Radio Control aircraft. There is no charge for the training course and the club will provide a R/C airplane for the first two (2) training sessions. After that, the student should be able to determine if they would like to continue in this highly enjoyable and fun sport and purchase their own equipment to continue with our training program.

Our experienced trainers will use both verbal instruction and hands-on experience to guide the student through the basic steps of flying R/C in a safe and fun manner. Our trainers will use a “buddy box” to ensure the aircraft is under complete control at all times. More information is available in our April minutes above.

Come experience the fun flying Radio Control !!!



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## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “Bloody April”

*This article was submitted by Jim (Hark) Harkreader. We encourage our members to submit interesting articles and/or photos for inclusion in our monthly newsletter.*

This month of April, 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of what was known as "Bloody April" in the skies above the Western Front of World War 1. It was during which time particularly heavy casualties were suffered by the Royal Flying Corps at the hands of the German aviators, who were better trained and had superior planes and armament, though were numerically deficient. The British suffered a casualty rate nearly four times as great as their opponents during this period of air support operations during the Battle of Arras. The losses were so disastrous that it threatened to undermine the morals of entire squadrons. Nevertheless, the RFC contributed to the success, limited as it finally proved, of the British Army during the 5 week campaign. (\*facts provided by Wikipedia).

The brave pilots (on both sides) who engaged each other in mortal aerial combat back then were a special breed of men. I have the utmost respect for them and their accomplishments although few people today have any idea what they went through.

Planes commonly thought of, or associated with early WW1 "Dogfights" notably the Sopwith Camel, Spad XIII, the Fokkers D-7, DR-1 Triplane and Pfaltz D.III were not even in service in April of 1917. Instead the steeds of those April, 1917 combatants were mostly Halberstadts, Albatrosses, Eindeckers, Nieuports, F.E.2s or some early prototype version of the later mentioned aircraft with a few early SE-5s being used. Indeed, the Fokker DR-1 Triplane (easily the most iconic WWI fighter plane of all) was only in front line service for a matter of months in early to mid 1918 with only 320 of them ever being built.



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## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “Bloody April”

That period in history has been romanticized in story and song to the point that folks today think of chivalry between evenly matched foes if or when they may have thoughts of what a WWI "dogfight" might have been like. Modelers like me, like to pattern our planes after the real thing and have mock dogfights with each other. We attend the airshows, visit the museums and admire the "war-birds" and read and study to know their history and their capabilities. Folks like us retain some appreciation of what the real thing must have been like and...the horror it really was. When you stop and think about it...Those early airplanes, piloted by their brave and daring pilots while exposed to the elements in open cockpits and sub-freezing temperatures including 100 mph wind chill factors at altitude, were indeed the "high-tech" terror weapons of their day.

My friend Don Clark and I recently enjoyed a re-enactment of a "Dog-fight" between aerial adversaries of that period of history by using our Parkzone versions of the British SE5a and German Albatross DV (both planes now discontinued by the manufacturer). There were no winners or losers of that mock encounter except for Bruce Breidenbach, who let his much more modern Uzi XXL stunt bi-plane invade the airspace of those authentic looking combatants and lost a prop shaft, prop and spinner after a minor mid-air entanglement with Don's Albatross.

In another year, maybe Don and I can fly another "Dawn Patrol" engagement to commemorate the 100th year anniversary of the death of Baron Von Richthofen ( aka; The Bloody Red Baron) on April 21, 1918?



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## Member Moments



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