

# THE SLOW ROLL



*Published by the Sun Valley Fliers by and for its membership, and for all others interested in the building and flying of radio-controlled aircraft.*

## May 2026

## PRESIDENTS LETTER - Election Reminder



Welcome to the May 2026 Slow Roll.

I'd like to start out by reminding everyone to please vote in the upcoming election. As I mentioned in last month's email, you will be receiving a link via email which will open to a ballot for online voting. The link will be

active from Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>. The results of the election will take place during our May 2<sup>nd</sup> club meeting. If you do not receive the link by email, I would like to know. Please contact me as soon as possible [president@sunvalleyfliers.com](mailto:president@sunvalleyfliers.com)



With our growing membership, maintaining the field is essential. Thanks to everyone who helps with cleanup, especially those emptying garbage pails. The field looks great, and we've received positive feedback from visiting pilots.

If you would like to voice your opinion regarding anything to do with our club, please come to the monthly meetings. We look forward to hearing from each of you. Please join us for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> election results club meeting. We will have many raffle prizes and the "50/50" could make you very happy \$\$\$\$. You never know what might happen, and you don't want to miss it. We have coffee and donuts for your enjoyment. **The meeting is at the SVF Field and starts at 8am.**

Have fun out there!

President

Frank Moskowitz

**This month's meeting is Saturday May 2nd, at 8:00 a.m.**

# *Spirit of Flight, Spirit of Friendship*



By: Arthur Gambino

I once owned a Ziroli Spirit of St. Louis that I truly enjoyed flying—until I unfortunately lost it when the engine fell off the firewall during a landing approach. (If you're curious, ask me in person---the engine part is another story.)

At an SVF flying event, I spoke with a fellow RC enthusiast, Dave Zarra, who was flying his own Ziroli Spirit of St. Louis that day. I asked Dave if he had heard about my loss, and he had. I then asked if he might consider selling his aircraft to me. He kindly declined, explaining that his Spirit held deep sentimental value.

Dave went on to share a story that happened about seven years earlier, a close friend of his, Steve Rhoades had lost a Ziroli Spirit of St. Louis during a slow landing approach due to a stall. I mentioned to Dave that I had witnessed that crash. I remembered, the approach looked flawless—the alignment and speed were beautiful, the sky was clear, and there was no wind. It looked just like a full-scale aircraft coming in. Then suddenly, about 20 feet above the ground, it dropped suddenly. The descent almost appeared in slow motion—until the impact, then in an instant, the plane was shattered into pieces.

I expressed to Dave that I fully understood and respected his desire to hold onto his aircraft and the memory of his good friend. I also said that if he ever decided to part with it, I would cherish it just as deeply.

After that crash, Dave's friend Steve sadly passed away. In his honor, Dave decided to build a new Ziroli Spirit of St. Louis. He salvaged reusable parts from the wreck—most notably the 7-cylinder UMS 160cc radial engine, along with cockpit components and other scale components. Using a new Ziroli kit, Dave created a stunning tribute aircraft that beautifully reflected both the original build and the full-scale plane. Dave enjoyed his flights with his Spirit of St. Louis.

Tragically, within and relatively short time, Dave himself passed away.

Before his passing, Dave asked his close friend and AMPS Club President, Robert Norton, to manage his RC collection. Remembering our conversation at the SVF event, Dave mentioned to his good friend Robert, When the time comes, please call Arthur Gambino and offer the Spirit of St. Louis to him first.

Robert fulfilled that request, and I was given the opportunity to acquire the aircraft.

I was—and continue to be—deeply honored to own this plane. It represents not just a remarkable model, but the spirit and camaraderie of our fellow RC aviators. More importantly, it serves as a meaningful way to remember and honor the friends we've lost while keeping their memory and passion alive.

I was proud to fly the *Spirit of St. Louis* at the 2026 Arizona Scale Aviation Airshow hosted by Bonnie and Brian O'Meara. The aircraft performed beautifully and had a striking presence in the sky. It was even awarded "Most Unusual Plane"—I suppose the lack of a windshield helped with that!

Thanks to Barry Hinrichs for the beautiful photos taken of the Spirit flying at the event.

I am grateful to carry on the legacy of this aircraft and the people behind it.

Happy flying to all my fellow RC enthusiasts.

Sincerely, AG

PS Here is a great YouTube Video of Steve and Dave with the Spirit of St Louis

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_1Z3SRRWCQI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1Z3SRRWCQI)

Editor's note:

Thank you, Arthur, for the article - we all appreciate your story!

Folks, The Slow Roll is for you - so please send in **your** stories and photos!

See you at the field...  
- Brian Bailie



From the very first edition of Model Airplane News, July 1929...

**Some of you might be shown below - you know who you are!**



Vol. I

No. 1

## MODEL AIRPLANE NEWS

July, 1929

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### IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

**NO EXCUSES ACCEPTED—A Thrilling Short Story**

**COMPLETE, FULL-SIZE WORKING PLANS FOR BUILDING ANOTHER  
WONDERFUL MODEL AIRPLANE**

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## Sun Valley Fliers Club Meeting Minutes April 4, 2026

**Officers Present:** President Frank Moskowitz, Vice-president John Geyer, Treasurer Oliver Heinen, Secretary Michael Peck

**Board Members Present:** Charlie Beverson, Jim Sprecker, Tony Quist, Wayne Layne, John Gerhardt, Fred Wright, and Kenny Rhoads

**Meeting Open:** President Frank opened the meeting at 8:03 AM.

**Guests:** None

**New Members:** One but name not available at time of meeting

**New Solo Pilots:** Rick Small

**Secretary's Report:** Michael Peck

1. Last month's Club and Board minutes have been posted to the website. There were no comments, corrections, or changes requested to the March 2026 Club meeting minutes.
2. The secretary's report was motioned, seconded, and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Oliver Heinen

1. We have sufficient funds in our bank account to operate the club for the next year.
2. Oliver reported that the Arizona Scale Aviation Airshow had a significant profit, but the final amount was not available until determinations were made by the Board on how much of it would be donated to the Morgan Adams Children's Cancer Foundation.
3. The Treasurer's report was approved by acclamation as presented.

**Membership Director's Report:** Tony Quist

1. Tony reported that the Club has a total of 253 members for 2026, including one new member that joined last month.

**Safety Officer's Report:** Kenny Rhoads

1. There were no safety issues to discuss for the previous month. Kenny did note that there was a major crash of a turbine model at the Arizona Scale Aviation Airshow which resulted in a fuel fire that stretched nearly 100 feet in length in the dirt area just North of the runway. Kenny explained how important it was to perform low passes over the dirt as this fire could have significantly damaged the asphalt runway had the model been flown over the runway; and even worse, had the crash occurred in the brush area North of the dirt apron. Had it occurred in the brush area, we likely would not have been able to contain the fire and would have had to call the fire department to do that.

**IT Update:** Irv Singer

1. The March 2026 Club and Board meeting minutes have been posted to the web site.
2. Irv has also posted new pictures to the gallery section of the Club website from the Arizona Scale Aviation Airshow.
3. Members are encouraged to check out the website!

### **Old Business:**

1. Brian O'Meara presented information on the profits and expenses of the Arizona Scale Aviation Airshow noting that the final amounts that would apply to SVF's treasury and the Morgan Adams Children's Cancer Foundation which will be subject to determination by the SVF Board of Directors. Brian asked for the Board members to convene after the meeting for a short discussion on the topic.
2. John Geyer is the Board member for the nominating committee and has appointed Irv Singer and Craig Lahlum to be the two non-board members of the committee. Chaired by President Frank, this committee is seeking members who are interested in running for our Officer positions or the Board of Directors for the election this May.
3. Club members are reminded that the SVF no longer accepts batteries for recycling. The yellow recycling containers have been removed, and members are cautioned not to throw old lipo or lead acid batteries in the trash containers or dumpster as these pose a fire hazard or acid spill hazard and cannot go to the dump. Members should take their old batteries to Batteries Plus, Home Depot, Lowes, or other places themselves. The SVF cannot recycle them any longer as our source for that will no longer accept the quantities we were collecting.
4. Tony Quist confirmed the dates for the Sun Valley Jets event to be held on October 22-24, 2026.

### **New Business:**

1. There was a member request from the floor asking the Club to provide a new sign featuring the SVF logo to be hung on the old metal sign that has the Sun Valley Flyers name cut out of the top of the metal bridge. President Frank said the Board would discuss the request at their next meeting.
2. This month's Club meeting is the official nomination meeting for candidates running for Officer and Board member position. President Frank noted that all four existing Officers had agreed to run for their respective positions again. Vice-President John related that no one else in the Club had volunteered over the last four years to run against any existing Officer, but it would be nice if any other member of the SVF would like to try an Officer position.
3. There are four seats open on the Board of Directors, and the floor was opened for nominations for those Board positions. Two members were nominated from the floor: Andrew Baker and John Gerhardt. Additionally, the nominating committee had previously identified the following individuals who wanted to run for Board of Director positions: Charlie Beverson, Irv Singer, Craig Lathum, Ben Gowell, and Brad Rhoads. There being no other nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. The ballot in May will reflect those seven individuals as candidates for the 4 Board of Director positions.
4. Ron Anderson won the Frsky 20 channel transmitter, receiver, and four servos at the Arizona Scale Aviation Airshow and he cannot use the radio himself and is therefore selling it for the asking price of \$700.

### **Show & Tell:**

1. There was no show & tell for this month.

**50/50 Raffle:** The raffle was won by Fred Wright who donated the \$73 back to the Club. Thank you, Fred!

**Meeting close:** Motioned, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Peck, SVF Secretary

# Because biplanes are awesome!



Left: Ad from Model Aviation 1975

I guess we have to thank Sig Mfg. for still making model airplanes we love to fly.

Middle: Actual Steen Skybolt

Looks like a nice homebuilt.

Bottom: Current Sig website.

Times have changed, pricewise, but you do get more for your money.

**KIT NO. RC-34**      Designed by CLAUDE McCULLOUGH

**\$49.95**      WING SPAN: 51"  
LENGTH: 42-1/2"  
WING AREA: 790 Sq. In.  
ENGINES: .45 - .60

**SIG**

Seldom has a home built design caught on so quickly as LaMar Steen's beautiful aerobatic biplane. Many Skybolts have been completed and flown and hundreds of others are under construction. LaMar was a RC flier for many years before becoming interested in full-size construction and his model building experience shows in the way the airplane looks and flies.

Sig's model version of Steen's Skybolt is specially tailored by Claude McCullough for the new RC Biplane Stunt pattern event. A full symmetrical wing section delivers outside and inverted maneuvers. Control reactions are quick and responsive. Difficult free-style gyrations and the full slate of FAI and AMA pattern stunts are routine for this model. Unlike many full aerobatic designs, the Skybolt is not touchy or tricky to fly. The landing gear position gives top notch ground handling.

**SIG'S BIG NEW CATALOG!**  
"The Modeler's Wishbook"

Every workshop needs our 1975 Spring and Summer Catalog. Over 256 pages devoted to Sig kits and supplies, plus practically all other lines available. For sale at your local hobby shop or send \$1.50 today for your postpaid copy.

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by SEAGULL

SKU SEA237B

\$449.00

Quantity:

More payment options



## **Sun Valley Fliers Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2026**

### **Club Officers Present:**

- President Frank Moskowitz, Vice-President John Geyer, Treasurer Oliver Heinen, and Secretary Michael Peck

### **Board Members Present:**

- Charlie Beverson, Kenny Rhoads, Wayne Layne, John Gerhardt, Tony Quist, and Fred Wright.

**Guests Present:** Irv Singer, IT Manager

### **Open: President Frank Moskowitz**

1. The Zoom internet meeting was opened by President Frank at 6:03 PM. There was a quorum present.

### **Secretary's Report: Mike Peck**

1. The minutes of the March 9, 2026, Board of Directors meeting were approved without change.
2. The draft minutes of the March 4, 2026, club meeting have been sent to the Board members for review.

### **Treasurer's Report: Oliver Heinen**

1. Oliver submitted a report on the end-of-month balance in the treasury and noted the club's operating funds are sufficient to cover the projected expenses for next year.
2. The treasurer's report was motioned, seconded, and approved.

### **Membership Director's Report: Tony Quist**

1. Tony reported that 229 adult members and 28 junior members are current and in good standing for 2026.

### **Safety Officer's Report: Kenny Rhoads**

1. Kenny stated he has had nothing additional to report since the Club meeting on April 4, 2026.

### **Information Technology Report: Irv Singer**

1. Irv has added the requirement for new and renewing members to provide their FAA number on the membership form that is online at our website.

### **Field Maintenance:**

1. Nothing for this month.

### **Old Business:**

1. Brian Bailie has accepted the position of newsletter editor and has published our first edition of the Slow Roll. The Slow Roll will be published quarterly; thank you Brian and the first edition looks great!
2. Tony Quist will get the October 22-24, 2026, Sun Valley Jets event sanctioned with the AMA.
3. Oliver is in contact with Dean Simms regarding Arizona Tech Week, and this event will not be utilizing the Sun Valley Fliers field as originally proposed. This item is closed.
4. The new sign at the entrance to the field has been installed. This item is closed.
5. The Board has approved the SVF feather sign for the side of Jomax Road. President Frank will send us images of what is planned to be on the feather sign.

**New Business:**

1. President Frank will create the ballot for next month's elections. The ballot will include all four current Officers running unopposed for their respective positions and 7 candidates running for four Board of Director positions, as reported in the April 4<sup>th</sup> Club meeting minutes.
2. SVF's net income from the Arizona Scale Aviation Airshow was about \$15,000 less approximately \$2,000 for toilets and trash removal. The Board had an impromptu meeting on April 4, 2026, to discuss how much of the net income would be given to the Morgan Adams Children's Cancer Foundation. It was motioned, seconded and approved to allocate \$5,000 to Morgan Adams. The SVF Secretary will write them the check. There was a question as to whether the daily trash pick-ups by our contractor occurred. A review showed they had been accomplished except for Saturday, as the waste management company is not open on the weekend.
3. About 1/3 of the SVF membership has provided their FAA numbers to the Club. Tony Quist is compiling a unified list of all members' FAA numbers for the Club records and will continue to add numbers to the list as they are obtained. After Tony has finished compiling what we have, another request will be sent to all members asking for additional submissions.
4. It was reported that a former member of the club had been observed at the field, ostensibly as a guest, and he was seen riding his motorcycle on our paved runway. This is a clear, fragrant, and potentially damaging violation of Club rules that no motorized vehicles are allowed on any paved area of the field. The Board determined that the former member be told that he is no longer welcome to be a guest on the Club property, his guest flying privileges are revoked, and further occurrences of his presence at the flying site property may result in a formal trespass notice with law enforcement removal if necessary. President Frank will draft a letter to the former member for the Board of Directors comment and approval and mailing by certified mail; return receipt requested.
5. President Frank has informed the Board that our two Connex containers at the field are now over-filled since the One Eighth Air Force has given the SVF all of their equipment. He proposed that the Board purchase either a used Connex container for \$2,315 or a new Connex for \$3,615. Both prices include delivery to the field. Some members asked if we could first try to remove and dispose of stored items that are no longer used/needed, including some donated items that are of little value such as broken models, partial kits, etc. Two Board members and President Frank will meet on Wednesday to sort through some of the stored items for assessment/disposal. The Connex proposal was tabled pending completion of the storage item assessment for need.
6. The Board approved sponsoring a trophy for the upcoming Warbirds over Chino, CA event.
7. Fred Wright asked for consideration of contracting for some kind of sealer on our dusty gravel entrance road. President Frank noted that we have discussed this previously and investigated the application of a product called 'Gorilla Snot'; however, it is doubtful that this over \$10,000 product application would last even 1 year with our moderately heavy use of the roadway. President Frank has talked to Lorenzo, our paving contractor representative to see what their company would recommend, and seal coat was an option to full pavement, but that will not last with our level of vehicle traffic either.
8. There was a member request from the floor at the April club meeting asking the Board to consider providing a new sign featuring the SVF logo to be hung on the old metal sign that has the Sun Valley Flyers name cut out of the top of the metal bridge. Since then, Arthur Gambino has suggested an improved sun barrier and sign at the East end of the ramada, and the other member liked that idea better, and subsequently withdrew his request. Fred Wright will follow up on this with the specifications for the sign/sun barrier and report back to the Board for cost assessment and approval.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Peck  
SVF Secretary

**From long time member Steve Tillson; here is a blast from the past. Steve says "These must be late 1970's, still flying off dirt, before the first short, paved runway."**



**Charlie Beverson  
(in his 30's!)**



**From the April club meeting - where you there?**





## May SVF Birthdays

Nico Ariano  
Konstantinos Christakos  
Paul Clifton Jr  
Alex Cohen  
Jace Dalmolin  
Jon D'ambrosio  
Samuel Fleishman  
Len Gladstone  
Patrick Greenlee  
Barry Hinrichs  
James Keaton  
Mike Killian  
George Kreyling  
Kelly Levine  
Abel Medina  
Michael Mohn  
Ian Oberholser  
Scott Okerstrom  
Brian O'Meara  
Richard Polkinghorn  
Andronicus Rovarino  
JD Sanchez  
David Searles  
Andrew Watson



**Mon-Fri 9:00 AM — 8:00 PM**

**SAT 10:00 AM — 8:00 PM**

**SUN 11:00 AM — 6:00 PM**

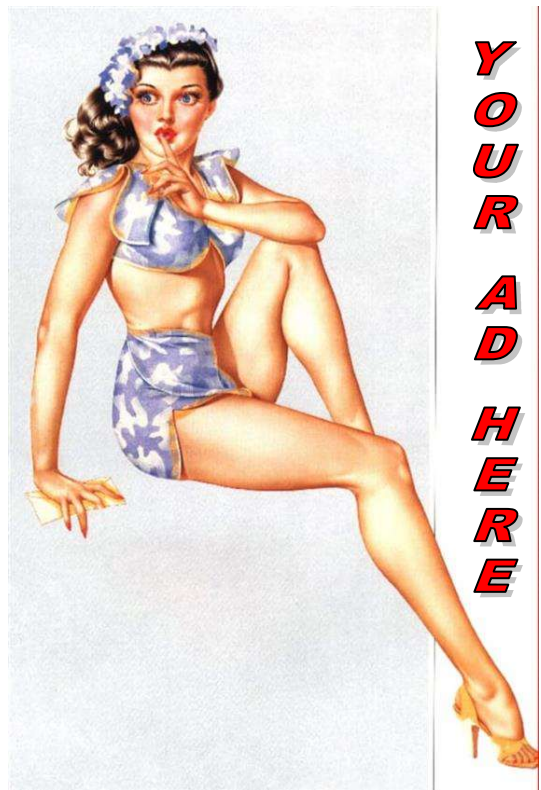
The logo for Hobby Bench is displayed in a white box. It features the words "HOBBY BENCH" in a large, bold, blue font, with "COMPLETE HOBBY &amp; CRAFT CENTER" in a smaller, blue font underneath.

8058 N. 19th Ave. 602-995-1755 Phoenix

M-F 9:30-8PM, SAT 9:30-6PM 11-5PM

4240 West Bell Rd. 602-547-1828 Glendale

M-F 9:30-9PM, SAT 9:30-6PM, SUN 11-5PM





# THE SLOW ROLL



## Club Officers

Frank Moskowitz - President  
 John Geyer - Vice President  
 Oliver Heinen - Treasurer  
 Mike Peck - Secretary  
 Kenny Rhoads - Safety  
 Tony Quist - Membership



## Directors

Brian Rhoads  
 Jim Sprecker  
 Wayne Layne  
 Kenny Rhoads  
 Fred Wright  
 Charlie Beverson  
 Dan Bott  
 John Gerhardt

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Irv Singer - Website Supervisor  
 Brian Bailie - Slow Roll Editor

Visit [sunvalleyfliers.com](http://sunvalleyfliers.com) for contact information



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