

# Sparks Newsletter



## The Virus

We all know about the virus, social distancing and the disruption to all. We can only hope we get out of this biological mess sooner rather than later. Thanks to all the members for adhering to the orders we have been provided by the government for our own safety and for the greater good. Enough said.. Right?

## Your SPARKS website.... Did you know?

The SPARKS website has all kinds of information and is updated on a regular basis. It is probably underutilized by most members so we thought a quick article on it would help members to understand what is on the web site and what they might find useful. So, let's look at some of the key features and information on the website. First off.. the website is [www.sparksrc.org](http://www.sparksrc.org) Go take a look!

### To login or not to login..

Most information is available to anyone. There is no need to login to the website. But if you are a member there are a few areas only available to members and you must login to access them. These areas include the minutes of the general meetings, newsletters prior to March 2019 (because they included the minutes of the general meetings) and a list of the current members.

To get a login you must create an account. This can be done quite easily. On the bottom right of the Home page is a box where you can either login or create an account. Press the "Create an account" to set up a login username and password. After requesting the login, it will be authorized by the webmaster after verification you are a member in good standing. This box on the bottom right is where you login if so desired after you have your SPARKS login.

Note the newsletters starting with March 2019 are available without the need to login. They are under the "NEWS" tab from the Home page.

## Weather information

We have a weather station at SPARKS. It sends information to a variety of websites and applications so you can see what the temperature, winds and wind direction are currently. It is updated every 5 minutes. The link to these websites are found under the "ABOUT US" tab from the menu bar or off to the right on the Home page in the Weather box. The various websites show a lot of information in various formats. We encourage you to find the one that works best for you.

For those with an iPhone there is also an app that can be used (called PWS Monitor). The station ID to use in the app for SPARKS is KFLSTPET69. This app just provides another way to see current weather information from SPARKS.

In the Weather box there is a link to the local St Pete airport aviation forecast which is usually fairly accurate because it is not far from our location. It shows expected conditions for the next three days. That link is in addition to the links to the current conditions at SPARKS.

If you need help, you can send a note to the SPARKS email with your phone number and someone will get back to you. ([sparksrc1@gmail.com](mailto:sparksrc1@gmail.com))

## Gallery (Photos and videos)

The menu bar on the home page has a "GALLERY" tab. You will find in there a variety of collections of photos and videos from the last few year. The contributors are mostly members with their cameras who have shared their shots. You will find photos of most of the events that include members, planes and crowd shots.

## Resources

The "RESOURCES" drop down tab has a wealth of information and continues to grow. The two sub categories that are most important are : "For New Pilots" and "Useful Information".

The "Useful information" has a number of articles and tips for any member, old or new. Take the time to check out the articles along with the event calendar. The event calendar is a known list of events at the various flying clubs in the Tampa Bay Area. (*currently not updated due to the virus disrupting events.. check back later*)

The "For New Pilots" section is a must read for any new or potential member/pilot. If someone stops by the field inquiring about the requirements and the club we suggest you give them a membership form out of the glass box next to the soda machine and refer them to this part of the website. The SPARKS website URL is on the form, so it is a good way for potential members to walk away from SPARKS with information in their hands and a website with further information.

## The Home page..

The main (Home) page has a lot of info on it. It is designed for the first timer and the existing member. It tells current status, events, provides membership information/links, reminders for upcoming meetings, the login box and the weather links mentioned above.

## Summary

We hope by highlighting some of the above you will visit the club website and take advantage of the information and share it with those who are not aware. The website is updated on a regular basis. If you have suggestions or questions please share them with us using the [sparksrc1@gmail.com](mailto:sparksrc1@gmail.com) email address.

## Briefs

- Our dumpster cost about \$200 per month and any extra pickups cost another \$200. So please do not use it for “non SPARKS” trash or items that really should be taken care of elsewhere. It typically is full at the end of the month with just normal trash from SPARKS.
- If you have something you want to sell please send specifics to [sparksrc1@gmail.com](mailto:sparksrc1@gmail.com) and we will share with club members.
- Any member with questions, please send them in an email to [sparksrc1@gmail.com](mailto:sparksrc1@gmail.com) and we will reply in the next SPARKS Newsletter
- If you smoke, please remember to put your butts in the 5 gallon buckets provided. (or be a little better at aiming!) :-)

## Plane pictures

People are always bringing new planes out to the field. Take a picture and we will include in the next newsletter... Always nice to see shiny new planes. We will be actively taking pictures for inclusion. If you want to share yours contact Bill Cessna ([wcessna@gmail.com](mailto:wcessna@gmail.com))

### Captions for pictures on following page...

Top Left: Jimmy Jeswald and his newly bought “steal deal” of the year.... He bought this Sukoi with a 4 stroke OS 91 (motor, plane and servos) for \$50. Yes, \$50 and it runs and flies awesome.

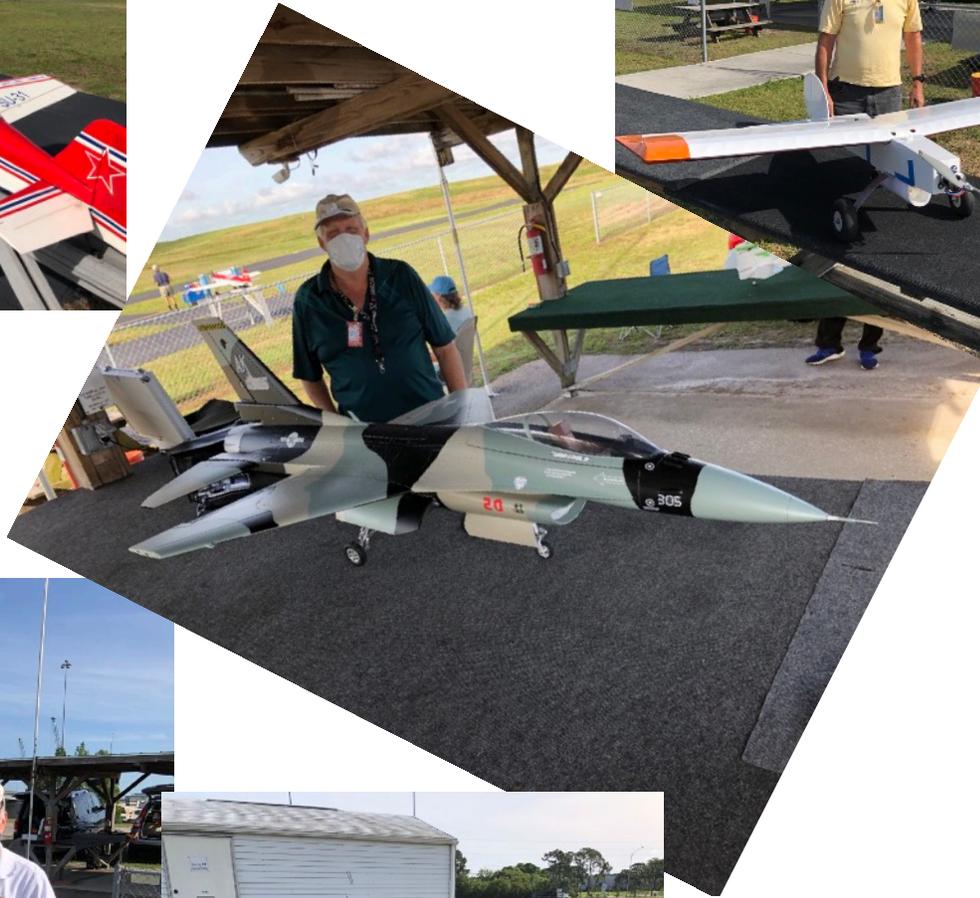
Top Right: Perry Easterwood and his scratch stick with newly installed ping pong ball bomb drop underneath. Works great with a load of up to three balls.

Center: Chris Zak and his new HSD 12s F-16. Pristine and not flown yet. Beautiful EDF jet and should be exciting to watch. Good luck on the maiden! Be strong Chris!

Bottom Left: Richard Leverone and his old stand by plane, showing his Coronavirus mask etiquette and a very nice SPARKS polo shirt!

Bottom center: Jimmy Kline and his new Extreme Power MXS. It was a smooth flyer. Looks awesome.

Bottom Right: Joe Kleifges with his Aero Scout. A smooth slow flyer ready for FPV if you are so inclined.



## Passing...

Obituary for

### [Bob Violett](#)



[October 30, 1941 – March 21, 2020](#)

Robert Shane Violett, born October 30, 1941 in Washington, DC passed away peacefully in his home in Winter Springs, Florida on March 21, 2020 surrounded by his loving family.

Bob Violet founded BVM which has been instrumental in the development of turbine RC jets for the last 39 years. His company, located outside of Orlando, was sold a couple of years ago but continues to produce and support his many scale and sport turbine and EDF jets of very high quality.

Here is the link to his obituary and about him and his company.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/oviedo-fl/bob-violett-9093329>