

# Crosswinds

Newsletter for SPARKS  
Spring Area Radio  
Kontrol Society



July 2020

## Message from the President—Terry Foote July 10, 2020

Hi Sparks Members!

I do really appreciate your confidence in me. Thanks so much for electing me as your new President. I full well intend to spread some fun in the months ahead to counteract all this CV-19 stuff. My guess is that all the staying home and being cooped up has one great feature to it..... There is probably a whole lot of new projects that got completed or acquired during this time of staying home. We'll be looking forward to seeing all of them at the meetings and talking about them!

Before we got side tracked with all the CV-19-stay-at-home agenda, the officers were hard at it getting our constitution and by-laws up to date. We do appreciate their efforts and with that huge chore out of the way we can settle into two major areas to talk about at meetings. 1. Planes. 2. Any other subject in relation to item #1.

Pretty simple huh?

I want to make an effort to grow the membership by at least double as of this time next year. This sounds like a major undertaking but remember one important thing....

we've done it before and with your help WE can do it once again.

We have a great facility and its about to get even better with the new paved runway. Paved runways have a way of making you a better pilot. As soon as your plane hits the surface of the pavement all of us will be doing the "rudder dance" to keep things straight down the strip. Get used to folks. You're about to get to be a whole lot better pilot!

See all of you Saturday morning at the field!

Over & Out!

Terry

### SPARKS WEBSITE

[www.sparksrc.com](http://www.sparksrc.com)

Or mail to:

**SPARKS**

**P.O. Box 691405  
Houston, TX 77269-1405**

### SPARKS 2019 - 2020 Officers\*

President Terry Foote	936-537-4718
<b>Jim Sneed</b> Vice President/ Safety Officer	713-254-5175
<b>Randy Shewmaker</b> Treasurer	281-300-2899
<b>Paul Gallagher</b> Secretary	832-368-0500
<b>Jim Sneed</b> Newsletter Editor	713-254-5175

\* e-mail address' are on page 5



# SPARKS Meeting Minutes 06/13/2020

Meeting was called to order by our President Chris Cavanaugh at 9:02 am. 19 members present; three guests. Chris welcomed everyone. Valley Ranch is still not open for dine in. The meeting room is not available because of capacity restrictions. Meeting next month will probably be at the field.

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes for March 2020 were accepted as published in the newsletter.

## Membership Report

42 members currently including new members voted in today. There are 5 new members that were voted in.

## Field Report

Jim will be meeting with the county next week on Monday or Tuesday to discuss the runway and the removal of the trees. The runway will be only partially paved and the rest will remain grass so members can use the field as they need. The asphalt will be smooth to the grass.

Jim reminded everyone of the cameras at the field for any activity that needs to be reported. Also captured pictures can be submitted to Jim for the newsletter.

## Financial Report

Treasurer's Report -. Not much activity this month. \$800 short of last year, but we are covering our expenses based on current membership.

## Safety Report

No new incidents.

## ROTC REPORT

None

## Old Business

Bylaws review are required every few years. The bylaws were unanimously approved.

Officers election dates were removed for flexibility due to natural disasters or pandemics. Elections of officers will be held in each fiscal year. The board will establish the dates each year.

Treasury and Secretary positions have been split from one to two separating responsibilities.

## New Business

Elections of officers:

Karl Marshall was nominated for president, but he was not present. Terry Foote was also nominated, but he was not present. Both members will need to affirm they would like to run. Once confirm, the election can take place.

Jim Sneed ran for Vice President with two nominations. Jim accepted.

Paul Gallagher was nominated for Secretary and he accepted.

Randy Shewmaker was nominated for Treasurer and he accepted.

Discount cards for the hobby shop – The hobby shop cards need to be signed before distribution. It was suggested to give the hobby shop a membership roster to keep track of the authorized discount cards.

Jim Sneed reminded the new officers that they need to send him monthly information for the newsletter.

A member suggested to put tips on how to access the cameras in the newsletter.

## Upcoming Events

None

## Program of the Month

Annual Bill Murad Award – awarded to Terry Foote. Terry is always willing to help people getting their planes flying and instructing when needed. Plus, he does all he can to help people at the shop every day. Terry was not present so Randy Shewmaker will take the award to him at the shop.

## Model of the Month

None this month.

## Vice President's Lottery

[None available this meeting.](#)

## New Member Elections

Hamsaz Akhtar and son, Mike Williams, Donald Mills, Stephen Devary - all were voted in.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted by

Luisa Era-Shewmaker,  
Recording Secretary

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's been a long time coming but it's finally here, well almost anyway. I've revamped and reconstructed the SPARKS RC Club website from scratch. You may preview it here:

<https://sparksremotecontrol.com>

Try it on your mobile device such as your mobile phone or tablet such as an iPod. It's much better on portable devices than the original site, purpose built for mobile access. The new website uses a modern drag 'n drop/plug 'n play builder. Welcome to 2020. Please keep in mind this is a work in progress. And I will spend more time refining, adjusting, adding and deleting as I go along. My idea is to simplify things, make things easily accessible at a glance. If I keep it simpler and concise; it will be easier to maintain and update.

I've asked myself two similar questions when creating the new site. First, what does a member need from the website? Second, what would a non-member or potential member want from the website? There are answers that pertain to both questions and specific answers for each question. I do not believe we need dozens and dozens of pages of useless information. This could turn maintaining the site into a full-time job. I tell myself that we are a model aircraft flying club, and ask what information should or must we convey to our members, potential members and casual visitors to the site? Keep it simple and intuitive, Sparky.

That being said, I will continue to work on this, refine it and improve it. I appreciate your patience over the past year or so with the problems, trials and tribulations I've encountered with maintaining and updating the current website. The old site is still up, but I will take it down and replace it with the new one shortly. Some of the data on the original site seems to have become corrupted. Backups and archives have not helped to fix it or get it back making it impossible to update unless I redid the pages from scratch, not fun in WordPress. I am going to archive all the data a page at a time along with a master backup file. Pictures and other media are easy, other stuff is not. And believe me, there are a pile of pages and stuff in the master page file and backups for the old site, a decade or more old, you just can't imagine, pretty crazy. I'll figure out how to handle all of it as I go along. It is a monumental undertaking. I do not intend to transfer everything from the old to the new. As I said, I'd like to keep things simple and concise making my job and eventually the next person's job a little easier. Again, thanks for your patience. We're almost there.

Regards,

-Mike Levchak

Sent from my MacBook Air

(Not my Damn iPhone)

## How to access cameras at SPARKS field

From your cell phone, tablet, or PC, go get the ZMODO app and install it. It will ask you if you want to share your data or files, tell it no. Go to login page and login by email address. The email address is:

sparksfield08@gmail.com and the password is 123456

This will open up the camera views for East and West runways, work area, and driveway.

## Contact Information for SPARKS Officers:

(This will be in each issue but you may want to print a copy for reference)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email address</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
President	Terry Foote	<a href="mailto:President@sparksrc.com">President@sparksrc.com</a>	936-537-4718
Vice President/ Safety Officer	Jim Sneed	<a href="mailto:VicePresident@sparksrc.com">VicePresident@sparksrc.com</a>	713-254-5175
Treasurer	Randy Shewmaker	<a href="mailto:treasurer@sparksrc.com">treasurer@sparksrc.com</a>	281-300-2899
Secretary	Paul Gallagher	<a href="mailto:secretary@sparksrc.com">secretary@sparksrc.com</a>	832-368-0500
Newsletter Editor	Jim Sneed	<a href="mailto:newsletter@sparksrc.com">newsletter@sparksrc.com</a>	713-254-5175

Club Meetings the first Wednesday of each Month

Upcoming Meetings:

Sat July 11, 2020—Sat Aug 1, 2020

**SPARKS Field**

**Until further notice**

**Due to Covid-19**

**Come early and enjoy time with us.**

**Please support our local RC Shops...  
they are vital to our hobby.**

**Many special thanks to Randy Ritch of Randy's Hobbies  
for his continued support of SPARKS**

*Randy's Hobbies*

**Remote Control Airplanes, Boats & Cars  
Sales and Service**



**Randy Ritch  
18706 Tomball Pkwy  
Houston, TX 77070  
281-469-7000**