



# ***SPACE CITY CRASH***

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**\*\*\*February 2005 Edition\*\*\***

## **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**The next meeting will be held at the field on Sunday, February 13 at 2pm. If we have enough guys and enough interest we can put together a one event fun fly. Finnis will preside over the monthly affair and we'll be discussing our drive to increase our membership and upcoming events for this year. Come out and support your club!**

### **From the Editor's Desk: February = Downtime**

Would like to bid all you faithful followers of "Crash" a warm welcome. Warm, because it has been a pretty cold month. But one of the great things about living here in South Texas is that our cold is not as severe nor does it last as long as it does for our brethren up north. I have a distributor that I deal with at work that is in Minnesota. A week or so ago he told me that the high temperature that day was 20 degrees below zero, and the wind was whipping about 35 mph.

All of a sudden our 40-degree weather didn't seem so cold. February brought us some Saturdays that looked like great flying days, but for one reason or another yours truly never made it to the field to enjoy it. I would hang on for Sunday, and on the heels of that no wind just right temperature Saturday would come a blustery cool or even rainy day. Murphy's law I suppose. This month is the shortest month of the year – and so appropriately this will be the shortest newsletter of the year. Hope you all got to fly more this month than I did.

### **Jack "Bones" Spear 1930 - 2005**

It is with a very sad heart that I bring you news of the passing of my friend Jack Spear, whom everyone knew as "Bones". Bones name became synonymous with Bomber Field – greeting all who came to visit whether it was a big event fly-in or a quiet weekend at the field way out in the country. He was always quick to offer help and assistance to all who passed through the gates, whether it be replacing a missing screw or gluing a crashed airplane back together. Bones was a very talented builder and built airplanes for modelers in all parts of the country. He built for me some of the best models I

have ever owned. I was always fascinated with his ability to take a set of complicated plans, a bottle of CA, a stack of wood, and an X-Acto knife and turn it into a work of art.

Bones passed away quietly in his home at Bomber Field on January 26. His wife Jackie was with him. I offer my condolences to Jackie and the family. May God place his healing hand on your grieving hearts.

Godspeed Bones. I miss you too.

## **District VIII Safety Report**

I just saw an accident report of something I hadn't seen in a while....but have personally witnessed at least twice before. One fellow was flying a model quite similar to another in the air at the same time. He glanced down at his transmitter for a moment to make a trim adjustment. When he looked back up, he visually fixed on the other model instead of his own. Needless to say, he had a problem controlling the model he was then looking at – and the result? Model crashed into the top of an industrial building, causing some expensive damage.

While flying at the old Mile Square Park in Southern California, I saw this happen to a friend. It was late afternoon....the time of day when models tend to turn into silhouettes. My friend was making a low pass toward the setting sun just as an almost identical model (Ugly Stick with same color scheme) took off from the runway. As the new one began to turn right to make a downwind pass, my friend, thinking it was his model, picked

up on it. Not long after, of course, he began the all-too-familiar cry of "I don't got it!" By the time he realized he was looking at the wrong model, his had crashed on a golf course about a quarter mile away.

On another occasion, on a very busy Saturday afternoon when all 12 flight stations were hot (not unusual at that field), another friend called me over to help him with a beginner. The beginner had just brought his first model....a trainer....to the field and was referred to my friend to help him.

My friend said, "Don, I've checked the model over, and it seems to be fine. However, he's never flown and doesn't know how to trim. You take the buddy box, trim it up for him, then let me have it so I can trim for my transmitter."

That seemed like a good idea, so we cranked up and became airborne. After a couple of circuits of the course, I said, "OK...it's trimmed here....you've got it. About two seconds after he took over, we heard several people screaming "Heads up! Heads up!!!" This immediately followed by the sound of an imminently approaching model at full throttle.

We were trying to look for the crashing model and keep the other model in sight, but when the out-of-control model (a LARGE one) splintered itself into a thousand pieces virtually at our feet, we did the natural thing: jumped the heck out of the way.

Naturally, the first thing we both did when we looked back was to try to

find the model he had been flying. The sky was full of airplanes....looked like a swarm of angry bees had been stirred up. "There it is....No, not that one....THAT one...."

After a couple of minutes, we gave up. An hour or so later, a golfer brought over the sad remnants of the beginners model. Poor fellow. Never did see him again.

Another accident involved someone flying well behind the dead line.  
**KEEP 'EM OUT FRONT, FELLOWS!**

**Submitted by Don Nix/District 8 Safety Coordinator**

### Meeting Schedule

- \*February 13<sup>th</sup> – 2pm at the field
- \*March 6<sup>th</sup> – 2pm at the field
- \*April 1<sup>st</sup> – 7pm Finnis Hopson's House

### Schedule of Events

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Profile Brothers 3D Fly-In  
March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**SCRC Annual Helicopter Meet  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**

**SCRC Annual Cross Country Fly-In  
(Date TBA)**

### From the Editor's Desk: Final Turn

I did say at the beginning that this would be a short one. Ty Prause, John Foster, and the rest of our heli-gang are planning for our helicopter meet in June (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>). They are planning an all star lineup of

some of the best heli pilots in the world. There will be helicopters of all sizes and descriptions, unbelievable stunt flying, and even night flying. If you have never seen helicopter night flying you don't want to miss this! More details on this to come.

Our next event will be the Profile 3/D Fly In hosting the Profile Brothers association. The Profile Brothers are now more than 1500 members strong, and there will be members from all over the country coming to Katy to visit Space City for this meet. If you can volunteer some time that weekend we could sure use your help.

I also have an apology to make – in last month's issue of "Crash" I am in remiss for not thanking Doc and Ann Morrison for graciously (again) hosting our Christmas Party in their home in December. It was a wonderful evening, filled with food and fun for all. A visit to Doc's shop is always a treat – everyone was admiring his latest work, a large scale Newport-28. Many thanks to you both for a great party.

Today is Saturday, February 5, and right now it's cold and gray outside. Maybe mother nature will do a flip flop this time and Sunday will be a pretty day. Maybe we can all get in a little aviating before practicing the American tradition of watching the Superbowl with friends and family on "Super Sunday".

Remember to keep your nose down and your airspeed up!

*Until next time – Mike*