



BLUE MAX ACES

The Monthly Newsletter of the Blue Max R/C Flying Club

Editor — Larry Breit

Volume 10, Issue 1

January, 2003

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Special points of interest:

- * Blue Max Winter Banquet is February 15. Contact Ira Katz if you have not received your invitation or with questions.
- * To be a member in good standing for 2003, you must pay your dues by the January meeting AND have renewed your AMA membership for 2003.
- * Thanks to Ron Williams for donating this month's raffle prize, a TopFlite Contender kit, 60 size.



2003 WINTER BANQUET

I can't believe almost a year has passed since our last banquet. I heard from a lot of you that the event was really fun and most important, that you will be back again at next year's banquet, which is Saturday, February 15, 2003.

Well, with the help of Ray Zinkowski, we don't plan to disappoint anyone. We have planned a great evening. To start with, it's at the Village Grill and Tavern again. They promised to remove the booths so that there will be additional room for the additional crowd that is expected. By the way, we received many compliments on their service and their food, it was great. We will have even more raffles than last year, plus raffles for the ladies. The raffles include air plane kits to receiver batteries.

How about some entertainment? Yes, entertainment. We have hired Dennis DeBondt, comedian/magician extraordinaire (Caution to all, do not eat while he is on stage because you will choke from laughter). Yes, I have seen him three times and laughed harder each time. I asked him to have fun with Don Wolfe, but don't tell him, I want it to be a surprise. I guarantee that you will love his show. This is a near money back guarantee. But most important, you can share a valentine evening with your wife or significant other and the rest of the club. Exciting! I know my wife can't wait, "yeah." Honestly, she did have a great time last year. And the "piece de résistance" is a short video on the

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Vice President

Dennis Brumley

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COMMITTEES

Banquet

Ira Katz

Field Marshal

Chuck Poviliatis

Fun-Fly

Ira Katz

Ground Crew

Dennis Brumley

Noise

tbd

Picnic

Tim Niemiec

Proficiency

Mark Matzuka

Program

Brian Racine

Mike Racine

Safety

Dennis Brumley

Webmaster

Mark Matzuka

2003 WINTER BANQUET (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

past year put together by yours truly and Ray. If that didn't peak your interest, how about this, everyone will get a special goodie to take home. I know, that did it for you.

By the time you read this you would have received your invitation. If you did not, contact me and let me know. I will immediately send an invite to you. I know we will all have a great time and all will go home with a prize or gift. See you there.

Ira Katz



THE WOLFE'S DEN by Don Wolfe

Well, I have almost completed my first full month as the Blue Max Club's new president and I have a whole new appreciation for those people that held this position before me. I'm finding out it's a little tougher to juggle a job, family and hobby all at the same time. Hope you guys can put up with a little bit of on-the-job training. We have a lot to do in 2003 and I am very thankful for all of the help I have gotten from the board of directors, club officers and club members. You have all been great, thanks.



For our January program our guest speaker will be Brian Johnson from Venture Hobbies. Brian has not informed me of what the topic will be yet, but with his flying and building abilities I'm sure we will all learn something of value. Also at the January meeting, we will be presenting some new ideas on ways to raise funds for the flying field renovation project.

Some of you have probably noticed that the newsletter has gotten a "face lift" recently. It will continue to be refined in the upcoming months. Take a good and look and tell us how you like it.

Ira will give us details for the banquet to be held on Saturday, February 15th. It was a blast last year and this year seems to be shaping up even better. Make sure you mark your calendars and come join us. Invitations have already been sent out. If you haven't received yours contact Ira through the Blue Max website.

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THE WOLFE'S DEN (cont'd)

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Food for thought: The other night at Venture Hobbies we were discussing how the hobby has changed in the last 15 years or so (now I feel old). When I got into this hobby you bought an airplane kit, built the structures, sanded the structures, covered the structures, installed a motor and radio then you went to the flying field to try and find someone to teach you how to fly. Today, people getting into this hobby buy an ARF kit, assemble it and go to the flying field and learn how to fly. After several ARF kits these flyers are hooked and want to build an airplane. It seems ironic that the process is reversed from what it was years ago. So all you guys out there that want to build, we will teach you how as well as fly. We will discuss some options at the next meeting to see how we can achieve the goal of teaching people how to build.

See you at the meeting!

Don Wolfe

BlueMaxRC.com

What is it, Why do we need it and What does it do for the club?

Since it's inception in July 1999, the Blue Max R/C web site (www.BlueMaxRC.com) has continued to grow and develop into the largest and most prominent R/C Flying Club web site on the Internet. Our web site is currently averaging about 36,000 visits per year, or about 100 visits per day! The club has just recently had its 110,000 visitor! We have had visitors from over 80 different countries worldwide.

During the time we have had the web site our membership usage of the site has skyrocketed. One of the most beneficial member uses of the web site is to retrieve the monthly newsletter. The printed newsletter averages approximately \$15.60 per member per year to print and mail to each member. We currently have over 90% of our members receiving their newsletters online, thus **saving the club \$2,574.00 per year** in copying and postage costs for the newsletter. This is a HUGE savings to the club and helps direct this money to other club functions without losing any of the features of the club! Do you have internet access? If you do but are receiving your newsletters in the mail you are wasting precious club funds! Help keep club costs down, submit your email address and start receiving your newsletters online, you club members (and your wallet) will thank you!

You may say "But what does the web site cost the club? A site like that must be very expensive!" Well... If we were paying to have a web site company build and maintain the site it would be very expensive indeed, but we are not. In fact ALL of the web site design, creation and continuous maintenance (the web site was updated on 175 individual days last year) is donated to the club (and YES the Webmaster pays his annual dues just like everyone else!). The ONLY thing that the club has to pay for is the web site hosting, which

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BlueMaxRC.com (cont'd)

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costs the club EXACTLY \$167.40 per year (about \$0.91 per member per year). This cost has remained constant for the past 3 ½ years. There are no other additional annual costs associated with the web site whatsoever. Our Domain name registration is the only other cost associated with our site, but our Domain Name has been renewed through March 19, 2010. The Domain Name renewal will not be a factor for another 7+ years. When it does come due, it is less than \$25 per year to renew. When we renewed the domain last time (March 2000), we renewed it for 5 years but the company was running a special that if you renewed for 5 years you got an extra 5 years free, this effectively cut the cost in half!

If you look at the savings in printing costs of \$2,574.00 per year and subtract out the cost of the web site of \$167.40 per year, you would see that **the club saves \$2,406.60 per year by having the web site!** The web site saves the club over \$13.00 per member per year! If we were to shut down the web site today, the club would have to find a way to come up with an extra \$2,406.60 to continue operating with the same budget. This savings ONLY represents the savings achieved by having members retrieve their monthly newsletters online, it doesn't take into account the new members dues and other cost saving benefits of the web site.

In addition to the online newsletter and vast amount of other R/C related information available, the web site has brought in many new dues paying members and has made countless others aware of our club and hobby. Since its inception, the club has received over 100 new member applications through our web site. That averages about 30 new members per year through the web site! Many of the new members stated that they were not aware of the club until finding our web site. This is "found" money in new member dues. Once again greatly offsetting the very small cost of the web site and helping the club expand.

The last three Club Officer elections could not have been completed had it not been for the club web site. Per our Constitution, we require a quorum of membership (30%) present to hold a club election. With as much as our club has expanded recently, this number is hard to achieve at any given monthly meeting. The last three Club Officer elections have been a combination of Online Voting through the web site and paper ballots at the meeting. For the 2002 election over 84% of the ballots cast were online via the web site. In the 2000 & 2001 elections we had nearly 82% of the ballots in each cast online. During none of these three elections did we have enough membership present at the election meeting to suffice the quorum requirement. More importantly this allows people who's schedule won't allow them to attend the election meeting to still have a say in the direction of our club.

The web site gives unrestricted, 24-hour access to information about R/C flying and the Blue Max R/C Club to anyone, anywhere across the globe. Visitors near and far access our site with surprising regularity. This site has grown from an initial experiment to a huge asset for the club and its members. From the vast sections of the web site such as: Beginner Info, Building Tips, Events, For Sale, Instructor Info, Membership, Message Boards, Newsletters, Pictures, Proficiency and Web Links to the secure password protected Members Only area, the web site has something to offer everyone. "Newbie's" can find out what equipment to purchase and experienced members can download the password protected Membership Roster, quickly and easily online.

The web site is an asset the club and its members can be proud of; it is a part of the club and benefits the club in many ways. If you haven't been on our site lately, take a few minutes and log on. You might be surprised at what you are missing!

2003 MEMBERSHIP

At the end of October, 2002, the Blue Max R/C Flying Club mailed out renewal notices for 2003 membership. We know from e-mail communication that a few of you either did not receive the notice or misplaced it. We don't know about those that don't have e-mail addresses.

If you have not notified us that you did not receive your renewal notice, be aware that your membership dues for 2003 **MUST** be paid by the January, 2003 meeting (January 20). After that date, you will be dropped as a member of the Blue Max R/C Flying Club. If you decide to join on or after March 1, 2003, you will be subject to the \$20.00 initiation fee and the new dues structure, per the club constitution.

The best way to make sure that you are a member for 2003 is if you are planning on being at the January meeting, bring a check, if not, mail the check to:

Blue Max R/C Flying Club
P.O. Box 7803
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-7803

Checks should be made out to the Blue Max R/C Flying Club.

If you do have your 2003 Membership Renewal Form, please make sure to include it, along with any corrections, when you make your payment. If you have a Family Membership and have forms for the rest of your family, make sure that you send those forms in too.

If you have questions with the direction that the club is going or future plans for the club, please contact the president, Don Wolfe, or one of the Board of Directors, Larry Breit, Ira Katz, Mark Matzuka or Ray Zinkowski. They will discuss your questions with you and then amongst themselves.

Remember, you need to renew your AMA membership for 2003 also to be a member in good standing in Blue Max. This year, the card looks like a red and white candy canes or an old fashioned barber pole.

THE NOVICE CORNER by Brian & Jim Janiak

This month's Novice Corner is a team effort. Larry Breit and Ray Zinkowski suggested it would be interesting to get a younger point-of-view and that would be from Brian, my ten-year-old son. I am, as many of you know, a bit older. Not all of us have a young man at home, but may have nieces, nephews, or grandchildren in this age group. So please think of them as you read on.

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THE NOVICE CORNER (cont'd)

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In working with Brian on this article, it's interesting to compare how we see the same things in a different way. I like building and flying equally, but my schedule and home location favor building. Brian likes to fly and talking to people about RC planes. He said, "Building is OK, but it takes too long and you have to do things right", his way of saying building accurately. Brian still helps with building and does a great job. I've learned it works best to do the prep work alone and bring him in for the active building steps. So far, we've built a Hobbistar 60 and are 90% done with a GWS Zero Park Flyer. We still have a Super Sportster 40 I won a few months ago waiting on the assembly line.

Youth has no fear, and Brian certainly has no fear of flying. While I am more cautious and slow, Brian is ready to go. Hours of video games do build excellent hand/eye coordination. Combined with faster reflexes and better vision, Brian is better equipped to fly than I am. I compensate by getting in more flying time. If you're an instructor working with a younger person, you'll notice their better eyesight. Younger pilots can fly farther away from the field, yet still can see the plane clearly. This can cause some uneasy moments for the instructor who has difficulty seeing the plane out so far. That's when communication between instructor and pilot becomes important.

One thing that I've noticed about our instructors (and is further proof of how good they are) is they talk to Brian and myself the same way. They don't "talk down" to Brian because he's younger. They may spend more time with him to make sure he knows what to do and to become familiar with his abilities, but they speak to him as an adult and use the same aeronautical terminology as with me. What better way to learn and gain confidence in yourself?

A suggestion to our instructors when helping our younger members is to find out what they have done and are ready to try next. Sometimes it's difficult for them to approach an "older" instructor and ask to try something new that they are unsure of.

An advantage to a father and son team learning at the same time is two sets of hands and eyes in the pits. Brian is great at prepping the plane for flight. This helps to make sure we don't overlook anything. Being a novice and wanting to get in the air quickly it's easy to miss something. Not only do we check each others work, it's a great way for our younger club members to learn proper safety procedures.

INSTRUCTORS

Basic

Ardie Arnold
Larry Breit
Jim Keehan
Joe Keehan

Primary

Ed Der
Jason Derbick
George Gibisch
Marv Green
Ira Katz
Tim Niemiec
Kurt Schmitt
Clay Smith
Frank Stillson
Don Wolfe

Unlimited

Mark Matzuka
Ron Pettelec
Barry Schilling
Bob Tomasulo
Howard Woepse

GROUND CREW

Dennis Brumley
Gene Derbick
Chuck Poviliatis
Herb Rizzo

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THE NOVICE CORNER (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

One drawback to father and son learning to fly together is sharing the air time. You get half the stick time and it does make a difference. There is a great advantage to flying, refueling, and flying again right away. However there is a unique advantage of flying together and that's being on the flight line listening and watching. Standing back listening to the instructor, watching him and Brian fly the plane and seeing the plane respond is very helpful. When I'm flying, I can only listen to the instructor because I want to keep my eye on the plane. Watching Brian fly gives me the luxury to observe the instructor manipulate the controls and see how the plane reacts. It's better than the Virtual Flight Instructor in RealFlight because it is real flight.

We have RealFlight and use it between our visits to the flying field. Here is where Brian can really cut loose. For him it's a combination video game and flight simulator. This is where he can try things he wouldn't try at the field, yet at the same time he's learning basic flight control. In RealFlight, Brian's mastered take offs, landings and loops and is working on rolls. As good as RealFlight might be, it's no substitute for the real thing. It can give you the confidence you need, show you where your limits are and provides valuable practice time during the winter months. It's great for showing you what can happen if you don't pay attention as well as showing you what you can do when you stay focused.

I would encourage those of us with younger children, nieces, nephews, or grandchildren to bring them to the field, maybe for a Fun-Fly. They may become interested and want to learn to fly too.

This Spring, Brian and I should be ready to solo. We'll have the Super Sportster built along with the HobbiStar, so we'll have two planes and two pilots. Our biggest challenge then will be keeping the transmitter battery charged.

MINUTIAE FROM THE MEETING with Tim Niemiec

The December meeting opened up with the vote on the amendment changes. Most of the votes were online and only 7 votes were cast at the meeting. The amendment was passed and goes into effect as of the New Year. The reading of the treasurer's report followed.

The Winter Banquet will be held at the same location as last year, The Village Tavern will host our banquet on Feb 15th, so keep that date open. If you have any donations for the raffle, please contact Ira Katz or Ray Zinkowski.

In the area of proficiency, Ira Katz finally received his Primary Instructor's Certificate. Let's all say

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MINUTIAE FROM THE MEETING (cont'd)

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congrats the next time we see him. That's it for proficiency; it's a bit slow in this column during the winter.

There was no old business to review. There was no new business.

The crash report for this month:

- A. Larry Breit totaled his modified Hobbistar. He was inverted and zipped when he should have zagged.
- B. Don Linder didn't fare much better when he tried a low pass with his Aircore trainer and planted it while attempting a roll.
- C. Samuel Espada didn't even get to fly; he crashed his Avistar upon takeoff.

This was the last meeting that was conducted by Jim Keehan. I would like to say thank you Jim for everything. You have set a great example for the years ahead. With that in mind, Don Wolfe had a few things to say about the new year. He mentioned that the field pit area was high on the priority list. Stay tuned for more from Don.

Show-n-tell brought us a few planes this month. Ken Alter brought a scratch built Fokker V111 powered by an OS-120. Paul Barsamian and Jeff Schulman brought 2 GWS Beavers converted to float planes. They are powered by geared 370 electric motors. Terrance Kelly brought a new Avistar ARF and Don Linder had an Ultra Stick powered by an OS-46FX.

The raffle prize for December was a Fokker Tri-plane. The winner was Samuel Espada.



Samuel Espada and his daughter (she pulled the winning raffle ticket).



Terrance Kelly with his Avistar.



Don Linder showing off his UltraStick.



Ken Alter displaying a Fokker V111.



Paul Barsamian & Jeff Schulman holding their floatplanes.

2002 FUN-FLY IN REVIEW

Well, here we are in January of 2003 already and I hope every one had a great holiday season. Let's take a little time to look back on the highlights of the 2002 flying season.

The Blue Max Club held seven events last year from April through October and on all seven events we had great weather, not one rain out all year. We all need to thank Ron Petterec for the fine job he did as weather chairman last year. Great job Ron!

We ran seven different events ranging from ground maneuvers to bomb drops and mail runs, as well as the traditional aerobatic maneuvers. We also installed a new scoring system for 2002 that I believe we will be using more of in the upcoming 2003 season. The advantage of this system was that we were able to group flyers together by pilot rating so that the new flyer was not competing against a veteran pilot. This was received very well and Mark Matzuka, our pilot proficiency manager, was always at the field to make sure no one was "sand bagging". Not even Ira could escape Marks eye! All in all I think it was a great season. I had a lot fun and I hope all that participated did too.

For the 2003 season there will be a new Fun-Fly Director. Ira Katz has taken on this position as I have been elected to a new job. As some of you may be aware, we keep a running total of how everyone finishes for the season. You may also know that everyone that participates in a Blue Max Fun Fly is a winner. This season the list has grown to 38 different winners. Here is a list of all our winners in order of finish. Congratulations to Ed Der who was our over all season champion.

1. Ed Der	14. Dennis Brumley	27. Mike McGee
2. Ira Katz	15. Jim Keehan	28. Ardie Arnold
3. Tim Niemiec	16. Brian Racine	29. Scott Ray
4. Kyle Der	17. Steve Tomczyk	30. Frank Stillson
5. Mark Matzuka	18. Kurt Schmidt	31. Jack Wooden
6. Marv Green	19. Steve Feldman	32. Dave Gordon
7. Ron Petterec	20. Guillaume Dougados	33. Luke Melang
8. Don Wolfe	21. Mark Mikol	34. Bob Davit
9. Larry Breit	22. Lee Eckert	35. Chuck Poviliatis, Sr.
10. Larry Bochenko	23. Steve Haas	36. Dave Brown
11. Gene Derbick	24. Bob Tomasulo	37. James Blanch
12. Ken Yoneyama	25. Clay Smith	38. Owen Wolfe
13. Joe Keehan	26. Chuck Poviliatis, Jr.	

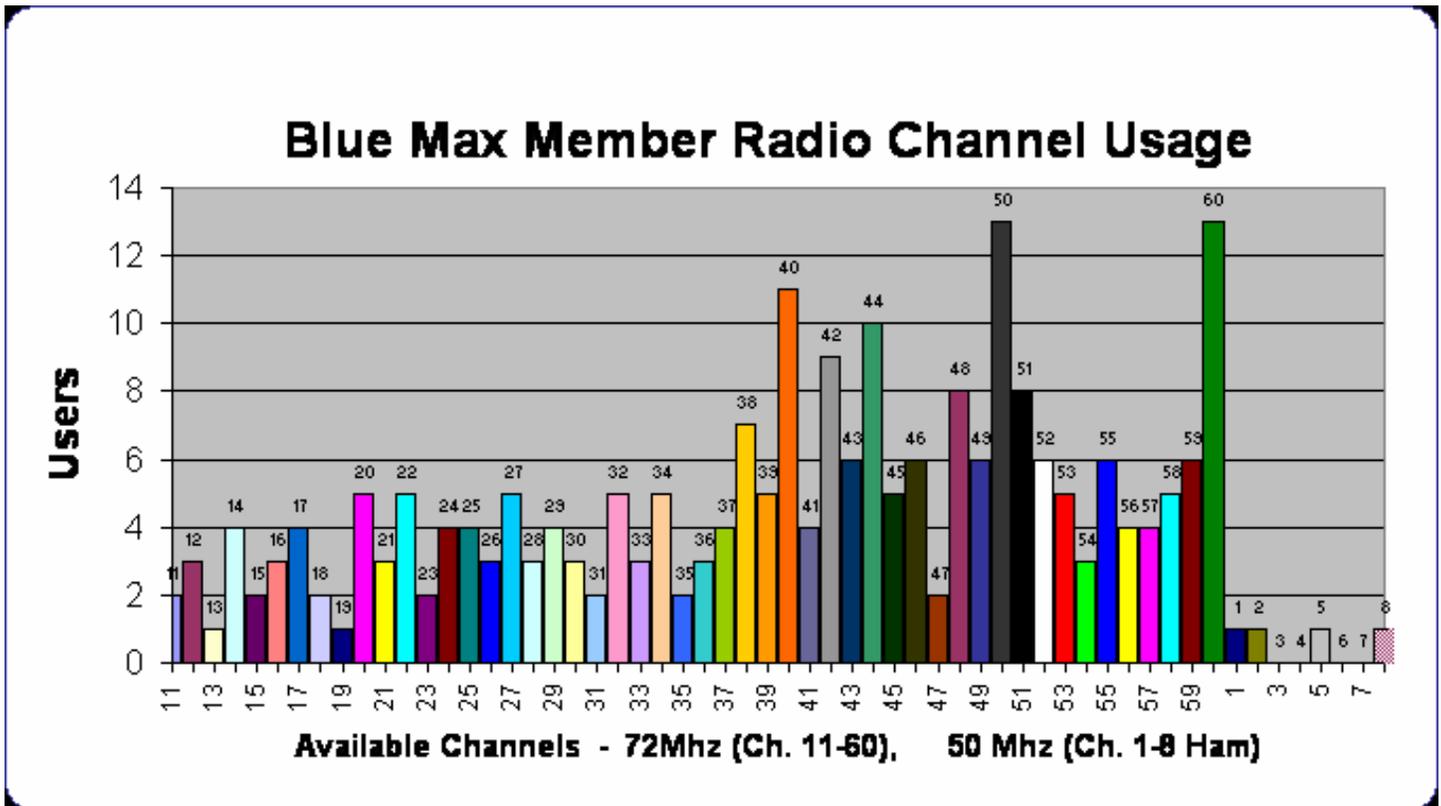
FOR SALE/WANTED

For Sale

1. Futaba 6XA Transmitter & 2 Futaba 127DF Receivers—channel 40. \$125.00. Contact Chuck Poviliatis.
2. Pica T-28B 60 size kit with fiberglass cowl. \$30.00. Contact Ed Der.
3. Great Planes Ryan STA with an OS 120 Surpass engine. \$850.00. Contact Don Wolfe.
4. Blue Sig Somethin' Extra (built kit) with an Irvine 53 engine. \$225.00. Contact Don Wolfe.
5. Airtronics Radiant Programmable Radio System with Ace DigiPace Charger, 11 servos, 5 flight pack batteries and various plugs and adapters and 2 receivers. \$300.00. Contact Don Wolfe.
6. Art Chester "Jeep" 1933-1938 Racer with G90 Supertigre engine and radio. \$250.00. Contact Dick Campbell.
7. Sig Field Boss Flight Box with Sig Power Panel, fuel pump and two 12 volt batteries. \$100.00. Contact Info@BlueMaxRC.com.

Wanted

1. OS 60P carburetor for .91 Surpass II engine. Contact Tim Niemiec.



Please contact Mark Matzuka with the following information to add or change your channel numbers: your name, all transmitter channels (example: 16, 44, 58 and Ham 4) and any comments.

If you have access to the Internet, you can go to the Blue Max web site at www.BlueMaxRC.com, in the Members Only section and fill in the above information.

JANUARY, 2003						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day & Anthony Moliana's B'day	2	3	4
5	6 Dennis Brumley's B'day	7	8 Newsletter Deadline, Marv Green & William Putzbach's B'day	9	10	11
12	13 Larry Bochenko's B'day	14	15 Michael Ray's B'day	16 Bob Melang's B'day	17	18
19	20 BLUE MAX MEETING	21	22	23	24	25 Bruce Reynold's B'day
26	27	28	29 Dan Deitemeyer's B'day	30 Andrew Olszewski's B'day	31 Steve Simek & John Wooden's B'day	

FEBRUARY, 2003						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 Brian Racine's B'day
2 Alexander Ermochkine's B'day	3	4	5 Newsletter Deadline	6	7 Paul Barsamian's B'day	8
9	10	11 Edward Popiolek's B'day	12	13	14 Boris Bern's B'day	15 BLUE MAX WINTER BANQUET
16 Barry Schilling's B'day	17 BLUE MAX MEETING	18	19 Robert Young's B'day	20	21	22 Brittany Bochenko & Matt Hauser's B'day
23	24 Harvey Stair's B'day	25	26 David Paprocki's B'day	27	28	

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR
JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH 2003**

January, 2003

20) Monthly Meeting—7:30 P.M.

Banquet RSVPs must be in.

Program: Brian Johnson

Raffle: TopFlite Contender Kit 60 size, donated by Ron Williams

February, 2003

15) Winter Banquet—Village Grill & Tavern

Drinks: 6:00 P.M., Dinner: 7:00 P.M.

17) Monthly Meeting—7:30 P.M.

22) St. Charles Radio Control Swap Meet—9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

March, 2003

17) Monthly Meeting—7:30 P.M.

