



# Whirlwind



Newsletter of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society

April 2019

## COCKPIT CORNER – by Brian Sherman, did4ways@aol.com

“Spring is sprung the grass is riz I wonder where the flowers is”. I don’t know but maybe the same place as the old telephone pole and lock used to secure the entrance gate to the field.

For those that do not know yet the gate was vandalized the week before of our March meeting. Upon close inspection it was found that the “perp(s)” snapped off the lock tab from the mounting plate by repeatedly applying vertical force to the gate. (In lay terms, they jumped up and down on the gate. Must’ve been some beefy buffoons! ☺) Then to add insult to injury they snapped off the telephone pole at ground level. Neither our members nor the park employees have been able to locate the lock. More on that later.

Thanks to the quick action of your club officers and several club members Eddie M. was able to locate a source for a replacement pole. They were even kind enough to drill a new hole and secure it in the ground. One small hiccup occurred, however, in that the gate was placed on the outside of the pole. Because there was no post to tether the gate to when it was open and, more importantly, because people or vehicles using the shoulder of the road might crash into the gate hidden behind the weeds, a method had to be found to move the gate to the other side without removing or cutting the pole or gate arm.



Flying to the rescue came the “GATE KEEPERS”. The decision was made to remove the gate from the steel pole, move it to the other side and reinstall the gate. The old hardware was rather rusted and worn so Scott V. picked up some new hardware, Randy made a new lock plate (nicely painted black) and a new pivot rod to use to reduce the gate “sag”. The rest of the crew brought the tools, a generator and the necessary muscle power.

Now to the key situation. In order to avoid the substantial expense of purchasing a new lock and all the keys required, the lock from the pin box was moved to the gate. Because most members now use the 2.4Ghz/5.8gHZ bands the pin box sees little to no use. So Scott purchased a new lock for the box with a limited number of keys. If you still use the older bands (27 MHz, 72MHz etc.), you do need to use the pin box system. In that case drop Scott Voth or me an email and we’ll arrange to get you a key. The club officers will also have a key.

**See you at Saturday’s meeting!**

Until next time keep the cockpit up and be safe.

## Weather Alert

The weather forecast for Saturday looks nice enough for the season's first meeting at the flying field. There is a chance of some showers early, so that plan may change. If so, we will have the meeting at Platz's as previously scheduled. Keep an eye on email for an update.

Any questions or comments  
should be directed to  
Scott King at:  
skyking@ptd.net

The next meeting of the BFMS  
will be at the **BFMS Field**  
(tentatively)

Or in case of rain, at:  
**P.J. Whelihan's (Platz's)**  
Saturday, April 13 at Noon