

# Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club



## April 2011 Newsletter

April 6, 2011

The April meeting was called to order at the club's new meeting place, the Ambassador Restaurant on Belmont Avenue by President Les Schier at 6 p.m. The minutes of the March meeting were read by Secretary Ted Noncek and approved by the club. There were 18 members in attendance.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report. The club started March with \$1,534 including \$150 in Pay Pal. During the month, dues were collected of \$197 and a reimbursement of the Holiday Party no-show charges collected. Disbursements totaled \$171 including \$136 to the IRS and \$35 for field maintenance supplies. As a result, the club's ending cash balance as of March 31, 2011 was \$1,593, including \$247 held in the Pay Pal account. The treasurer's report was approved by the club.

### Committee Reports

Field Maintenance: Chairman Mike Reinhart discussed field maintenance. Mike indicated that the club will again be rolling the field at some point over the next few weeks. The timing of the rolling operation depends on rain, trying to catch it when it is not too wet or too dry. Mike said he already has several volunteers, and that he plans on rolling the entire day, from 6:30 a.m. when the machine is delivered, through 5:00 p.m. when it is picked up. Mike continued his presentation by indicating that the club would be fertilizing sometime around Memorial Day. This timing is advised as it prevents the buckhorn plantains, those weeds that shoot up very high seed capsules, from developing.

George Schindler asked to discuss the status of flight stands. As most of you know, George has been building the flight stands for several years for the club. He noted that he delivered enough lumber to the field to make four stands right now

that is stacked along the shed on the west side. George discussed whether the club should start building flight stands with plastic planks instead of wood that would be more resistant to fuel. He noted that new wolmanized wood prices out at about \$24 per flight stand. After some discussion, President Les requested that George survey the existing flight benches, and come to the next meeting with a recommendation on the extent of maintenance on existing stands, and how many new stands should be made.

The discussion of using plastic planks continued, and then developed into a proposal to simply cover the tops of the wooden benches with plastic or Formica to protect them from fuel spills. Or alternatively, sealing the tops with polyurethane. One final discussion of flight stands was an idea that we use wood screws in building the next stands instead of the use of nails. Wood screws, it was suggested, would make it easier to replace parts of the stands that wear out, instead of having to pry the nails that are buried under coats of paint.

President Les wrapped up the field maintenance reports by discussing recent contact with the Forest Preserve supervisor. Les requested that they consider additional garbage cans and more picnic tables. As a result, we now have several new garbage cans along the outer pit wooden fencing, and now have a total of eight picnic tables. Les additionally requested of the Forest Preserve that they consider replacing or repairing the large AMA safety code sign.

Runway Committee: Chairman Les reported that we were informed by the Forest Preserve that the runway project was not included in the budget request by the Forest Preserve District. As a result, the runway project is not going to happen during 2011. Les indicated that the project may be submitted in the future, and that often these sorts of projects are requested every year until they get approval. But for now, the runway project is on hold for 2011.

Flight Training Committee: Chairman Don Zeller discussed the status of the Flight Training Committee. Don passed out to club officers a draft of a flight training handbook that can be used to facilitate training of new pilots. Discussions continued on the AMA Introductory Pilot Program that is designed to allow non-AMA members to be trained on their equipment for up to sixty days by a designated Introductory Pilot Program instructor. The club authorized the payment of \$5 for each of the instructors to be designated under this program. Secretary Ted Noncek filled out the AMA form authorizing himself, Don Zeller, Mike Reinhart, Les Schier and returning new member Rick Silva as the club's Introductory Pilot Program instructors.

Planning Committee: Chairman Tim Gombert discussed several ideas being considered by the Planning Committee. First he discussed that he would like to add/change information on the club website, specifically related to the section entitled "Your First Plane." He additionally wants to post a calendar to the website where members can sign up for "how to" presentations at club meetings.

Tim requested that members fill out the member information "Who Am I" forms that were handed out at the last meeting, and were emailed to all members. Tim also has been taking a quick photo of each member so that he can create a directory to help us all get to know each other better.

President Les discussed the need for RSM members to persuade non-members using the field to join the club. After discussion, Don Zeller volunteered to purchase a plastic real estate brochure holder, that the club can fill with new member forms to facilitate a quick signup by prospective new members while at the field. Tim related that a great selling point in getting non-members to join RSM is that once they join, they can have a voice in how the club runs the Shiller Flying Field.

Tim closed his presentation by updating the club on signs that he has been planning for each of the entrances into the pit areas. As previously discussed at the March meeting, the club is trying to get everyone to return to posting their AMA or RSM membership cards while flying, even while using 2.4 GHz equipment.



**Tim Gombert snaps a quick headshot of VP Mike Reinhart for our club directory while Adam Lukasik waits his turn.**

Tim is planning signs that request that cards be posted as soon as the pilot enters the pit area. Tim would now like to hold off to see what the Forest Preserve says on the main sign, so as to not conflict with the message on that main sign.

Field Safety Committee: Co-Chairman Tim Novak indicated that there were no issues to discuss.

### **Other New Business Discussions**

The following matters were discussed:

- **FAA Rules:** The club discussed the FAA rules proposal that we have all been hearing about from the AMA. The legislative letter writing campaign is over and the AMA is calling it a success. It was discussed that no one knows what will be proposed in the new rules, but that they are expected to be released in the summer or early fall.
- **New Meeting Location:** A discussion took place concerning the new meeting location. Concern was raised by some members that it appeared that RSM had been asked to leave the Strictly RC site for some reason. President Les addressed the change by letting everyone know that the club had not been asked to leave Strictly RC, but instead had been offered the new location where members could stay longer, and have refreshments or even order dinner.

Tim Novak is friends with the owner of the Ambassador Restaurant, 7050 West Belmont Avenue. He discussed the possibility of the club moving its meetings to the Ambassador with Les since the main business of the

**New Meeting Location (continued)**

Ambassador is banquets that occur during weekends, although they are open some nights during the week as a restaurant. Les and Tim visited the location, met with the owner, and decided to try out the new location for the April meeting.

Les noted that he personally discussed the change with Jim at Strictly RC, and Jim indicated that the club could come back if every the new location falls through. Les also noted that club meetings in the basement did result in some extra work for Strictly, moving boxes and projects out of the way and keeping the store staffed and open longer than they needed. Les assured the club members that the club's relationship with Strictly RC continues to be strong.

The club then discussed the new meeting location and constraints on days of the week the location is available. After discussion, a proposal was moved and seconded to permanently move the club's regular meeting day to the first Thursday of every month, and at 6:30 p.m. meeting time, consistent with the summer meeting time. A voice vote was made of all members in attendance to change the club's regular meeting time to 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at the Ambassador. The vote carried and there were no votes against the change.

It was further discussed that the summer meetings (June, July and August) would be held at the field, also on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Ambassador Restaurant, 7050 West Belmont.

- **Swap Meet, Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Dupage County Fairgrounds.** The Suburban Barnstormer's RC club is hosting their annual swap shop at the fairgrounds on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 2015 W. Manchester Road, Wheaton.

**How-To Discussion**

There were no show and tell projects, only a How-To presentation by Les Shier. Les presented techniques he uses to glue CA hinges without

making a big mess from glue running across the hinge line.



**President Les presents his CA hinge secrets to the club--two strips of paper prevent CA mess.**

Les walked the club through his steps:

1. Use a micro-tip CA applicator on your thin CA glue.
2. As shown in the photo above, place a small piece of paper on each side, but not too close to the hinge. This prevents the glue from running out of control across the length of the control surface leading edge.
3. Try not to deflect the surfaces all the way while gluing, or you risk the two surfaces getting stuck together.

Les went on to discuss and demonstrate a great technique for applying Vaseline to pin hinges prior to gluing with epoxy. Les uses a covering iron upside down, to heat a small metal jar cover (like those used for Vaseline glass jars). Place a small amount of Vaseline in the cap and heat to a liquid. Then dip just the pin area of the pin hinge into the flowing Vaseline. The pin area of the hinge is then resistant to getting glued with the epoxy that may seep from the hinge slot.

Great demonstration of some really good techniques gained through experience.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Ambassador Restaurant, 7050 West Belmont Avenue**

By Ted Noncek, Secretary (tnoncek@comcast.net)