

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club



February 2011 Newsletter

February 7, 2011

The February meeting was called to order at the Strictly RC basement location by President Les Schier. The minutes of the January meeting were read by Secretary Ted Noncek and accepted by the club. There were 14 members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report. The club started January with \$1,364 including \$269 in Pay Pal. During the month, dues were collected totaling \$448. Disbursements totaled \$422 were made during January consisting of Holiday Party expenses including the purchase of gift cards and door prizes, and the expense of members who RSVP'd but failed to attend on the night, and office supplies. As a result, the club's ending cash balance as of January 31, 2011 was \$1,392, including \$314 held in the Pay Pal account. The Treasurer's report was approved by the club.

Membership Dues

Terry reminded all members that your 2011 RSM membership dues are payable now. Please make sure that your AMA membership dues are also paid, since membership in AMA is a requirement of full membership in RSM. As you all know, annual AMA memberships expire each year on December 31st. So don't forget to renew since Terry is required to check your status before he can issue you your RSM membership card for 2011.

Report on Holiday Party

President Les offered thanks to Sally Gombert for organizing the Holiday Party. The party was a lot of fun again this year and a great success. Sally provided some special thanks to the non-RC enthusiasts that many of us refer to as our better half in the form of non-RC door prizes for

them. Nice touch Sally in recognizing our support team at the party this year!

Now for the business side of the party: We had 37 RSVPs with seven no-shows at the party. As a result, the club was forced to pay the restaurant \$121 to cover these members. The club discussed the potential for next year of starting the planning for the party earlier, in September, and having members purchase tickets in advance for the dinner. This would prevent the club from having to cover the cost of no-shows.

Committee Reports

Field Maintenance: Chairman Mike Reinhart was absent from the meeting so no report was presented. President Les made some remarks on the field. It was reported that after the big blizzard, the field was not plowed for several days, but now the lot has been plowed. Discussions included whether the tractor had been winterized in any way, and whether anyone is keeping track of keys to the shed and the metal tool chest.

Field Safety Committee: Co-Chairman Tim Novak indicated that there was nothing to report as the field has been snowed in of late.

Runway Committee: Chairman Les reported that he had made a call to one of the Forest Preserve contacts on the runway project to check on how things were progressing. The runway project is to be included in a budget vote by the county in late February. Let's all hope for the best in getting the budget approved!

Flight Training Committee: Chairman Don Zeller reported that he continues in the information gathering phase of pulling together a training plan. Don indicated that he has reviewed the on-line training materials of other clubs and will pull together the best of the

Committee Reports (continued)

materials. Club discussion took place on the need to return to having new members schedule specific time with club instructors, rather than having trainees show up at field hoping to get time with an instructor.

Planning Committee: Chairman Tim Gombert presented some innovations in the Strictly RC basement meeting room to help us communicate as a club. We now have a dry-erase white board for meeting use so that as members give presentations we can make diagrams and notes. Tim additionally pointed out a bulletin board just near the stairs on the wall with a blue and green label on each side. Under the blue label, members can post For Sale notices of RC equipment. Under the green label members are encouraged to post requests for help with projects--RC or otherwise, that fellow members may be in a position to assist with.

Other New Business Discussions

The following matters were discussed:

- Pins/Patches for Hats: President Les reported that he looked into the engraved plastic hat pins that we see many other clubs using. These are fairly expensive and require that a minimum of 50 be ordered. A less expensive approach for instructors is to purchase AMA instructor patches that can be sown to hats. Upon discussion with club members, member John Fisher indicated that he has expertise in this kind of thing and offered to improve the digital logo of the club for use in tags and patches. John indicated that there are several approaches to name tags and that he could report back. Terry Gombert will be sending the current digital logo to John to work on improving.
- Fuel Purchase: A request was made as to whether the club would be holding a fuel purchase this year. So far no one has stepped forward to oversee the fuel purchase. President Les said that he would first talk with Strictly RC as to whether they could help us administer this for 2011.
- Shed Inventory: President Les noted that the club should know what we have in the shed,

so that we can make sure we do not miss any club assets. As a result, he has suggested that we take an inventory of what we have in the shed.

- Strictly RC is Donating a Trainer Plane: President Les noted that Strictly RC has graciously offered to donate a trainer plane to the club for use in taking prospective new fliers on test flights and other training of new members. The Flight Training Committee will oversee the donated plane.
- Meetings are For Members: The club discussed whether it was fair to have non-members show up at meetings multiple times and not join the club. It was determined that meetings were for members and invited guests, or prospective new members attending to either join or decide to join the club. It is not appropriate for non-members that are not either guests of members or prospective new members to participate or attend club meetings.

New Meeting Start Time--6PM Starting with March Meeting!

The meetings have been running over an hour lately, and we are risking wearing out our welcome with our friends at Strictly RC. Strictly RC is reducing winter hours and has been staying open late on Monday nights just to accommodate us while our meetings are being held. In order to help get us out earlier from the meetings, it was decided that meetings will now start at 6PM starting with the March 2011 meeting. The meeting time change was put to vote and agreed to by a majority of members present at the meeting.

Show and Tell/How To Discussion

First up for show and tell was Don Zeller with his new Park Zone Radian Pro, a large foam glider complete with ailerons and flaps. Don talked about how he was able to set up complex programming with this plane including flaps down, ailerons up and crowd mixing. Don noted that the website for Park Zone had specific instructions for DX 6 and DX8, but that he was able to adapt them to help program his JR

Show and Tell/How To Discussion (cont'd)

transmitter. Don even flew this new craft in the snow the day of the meeting!

Next up was Mark Kwasinski showing off his new kit built trainer. As most of you know, Mark is one of our past presidents and was quite active several years ago in the hobby. He has now returned to building and getting ready for some re-training this spring with his Great Planes PT-40. Mark did a great job on this build and his covering job looked sharp with nice clean lines. Mark discussed using Windex in the placement of Monokote-cut numbers on the wing, fist positioning the numbers on the wing after spaying on some Windex, then a little heat to seal them down. He also commented on a great covering trick to use a little trim tape to cover up any mistakes where two colors of Monokote join. Mark has already purchased his next kit--a Goldberg Chipmonk. Can't wait to see those out at the field once this snow melts and thanks for the good tips!

Tim Gombert showed off a winter flying transmitter "boot" available at Strictly RC. The boot is used to keep your hands warm at the field and is about \$75.

Next Meeting—Monday, March 7th at Strictly RC basement at 6 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at our new club meeting time, 6:00 p.m. at the Strictly RC basement on Monday, March 7th.

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



Just a reminder of what our field looks like without all the snow! Only about a month and a week until Spring starts...can't wait to maiden those Winter projects!