

# Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club



## May 2011 Newsletter

May 5, 2011

The May meeting was called to order at the club's new meeting place, the Ambassador Restaurant on Belmont Avenue by President Les Schier at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the April meeting were read by Secretary Ted Noncek and approved by the club. There were 23 members in attendance.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report. The club started April with \$1,593. During the month, dues were collected of \$150 and a donation of \$40 received. Disbursements totaled \$102 for a new lock for the shed, and payments to the AMA for instructors in the Introductory Pilot Program. As a result, the club's ending cash balance as of April 30, 2011 was \$1,682. The treasurer's report was approved by the club.

### President's Messages

President Les opened the meeting by making sure everyone knew about the Time Out Chicago article. This Chicago weekly newspaper featured an article on RSM and how we put on little air shows for the public. Both Les and VP Mike Reinhart were interviewed for the article and it turned out very positive for RSM. Les assured the club that he did not intend for them to take all the photos on the afternoon that the Time Out Chicago photographer came out, only to have his photo in the article. Les thanked all members who showed up for the photo day, and indicated that the photographer would be sending the photos to the club so that we could post them on the web site.

Next Les informed us that Sally Gombert was not attending the meeting because she had just underwent some surgery on her knees. Husband Terry indicated that Sally was progressing well after her procedure and Les wished her a fast recovery on behalf of the entire RSM family.

Les finished by welcoming a new member who many of us have met at the field, Zach Person. Les asked all members to please not be bashful about approaching non-members at the field and asking them to consider joining RSM.



Great to have the weather back for some flying at the field. Jamie Solis finishes a good morning of flying with his RC Guys Super Decathlon gasser.

### Committee Reports

Field Maintenance: Chairman Mike Reinhart was not able to make the May meeting, but sent in a report that was read by President Les. Mike reported that the previous Saturday, with the help of Tom Jacobs, they checked over the mower, repositioning the deck wheel bolts, and added oil and gas. The engine started right up, with no problems with the battery. They walked the field and picked up about 2 dozen broken props from the winter flying season. Mike requests that all fliers pick up broken props and dispose of them. Props are very strong and can really chew up the mower blades. With additional help from Don Zeller, they mowed the field and pit area and finished up by applying spring weed & feed fertilizer to the runway, then re-seeded all the bare spots in the pit area and helicopter pad area. Mike finished by reporting that the car battery located in the metal tool box was removed for charging and should be returned in a few days.

After the reading of Mike's report additional discussions on field maintenance continued. The club discussed the building of additional pit benches. Jon Fisher volunteered to help in the construction of the benches. After discussion, Les asked that Jon work with George Shindler to organize the construction of the benches with help from other club members.

Les suggested that the club create signs to attach to all the benches to indicate that they were built by RSM. This will let non-members using the field understand that they are benefiting from the club's efforts.

The maintenance portion of the meeting continued with a discussion on the topic of posting one's AMA/club card on the frequency board. A suggestion was made that the club should consider placing card holders on the pit benches. But that idea was dropped as an option since users of 72 MHz still need a central point of frequency control. This discussion progressed into a discussion that the club needs to update the frequency board to provide more room for 2.4 GHz users. An improved board would promote compliance with the field rule of posting cards as proof of insurance, even when frequency control is unnecessary.

Tibor Galfi ("T") indicated that he and another club member constructed the current frequency board several years ago. He offered to redesign the board in order to accommodate the new frequencies. Les and Don Zeller offered to assist T in this effort.

As discussions of frequency control took place, the topic of transmitter impound was brought up for discussion. A straw poll was taken of members on 72 MHz as to whether it should be enforced. Of those members present, 5 were for, 3 were against. Discussions continued on the need for any two pilots on the same channel to work together to keep the channel free of interference. If more than one are on a channel, then the option of impounding can be used. In the end, Les concluded the discussion with help from the membership who pointed out that we are only now trying to re-enforce the AMA card policy, and are having a tough time of it. Les suggested we work first on the card posting requirement, then consider whether we need to enforce impound requirements

in the new 2.4 GHz world. Additionally, users of 72 MHz are encouraged to display their channel number flag on their transmitter to help other users determine their channel.



**T's new Spacewalker sits ready to take flight for its maiden.**

Flight Training Committee: Chairman Don Zeller indicated that the instructors received their Introductory Pilot Program information from the AMA. Flight Training Committee member Ted Noncek presented the flight training manual draft to the club. The manual contains several training objectives for the new pilot, and will be bound into a booklet half the size of a normal letter size paper for ease of use at the field.

The club additionally discussed the trainer plane that Jim from Strictly RC offered to the club for use in training. The club considered that it is not normal to provide equipment to new pilots, but the club does not want to turn Jim down in his generous offer. It was discussed that one of the instructors could put it together and maintain the craft, and the club could use it to offer flights to the general public on nice weekend days to help promote the hobby. It was decided that the club would accept the trainer plane and figure out how to use it effectively to promote the club.

Planning Committee: Chairman Tim Gombert presented the Planning Committee report. Tim noted that next meeting at the field, and we would like to keep our business discussions to a minimum so that we can have more time to fly as a club.

Tim discussed the signed invitation to the helicopter pilots to join the club. It is almost ready

to email to them in an effort to reach out to them and encourage their involvement in the club.



**A full set of benches at the field in time for some after work flying.**

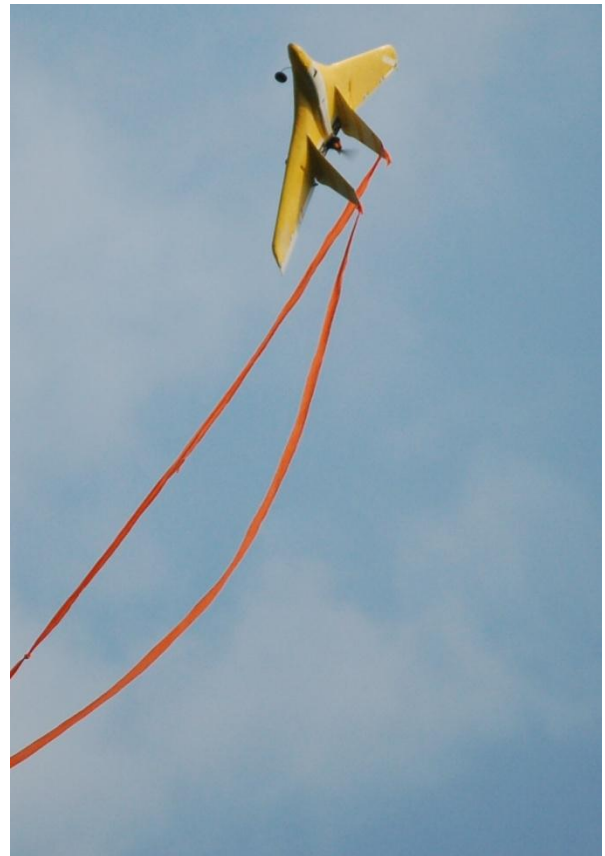
Tim again discussed the member directory he is completing. One facet of the project is taking photos of each member, so that it is easier to place a face and a name. The other is the "Who Am I" forms that Tim passed out to everyone. Tim asked that everyone fill one out, so that he can include them in the directory as a way of our club members being able to help one another with things inside and out of the hobby. Tim indicated that the completed directory will be posted to the web site in a password protected section. Tim then passed out a preliminary summary of the information on the returned forms.

Les discussed the club web site, and how it is appropriate that it should be run by a committee so that decisions could be made by consensus and one member was not burdened with all the work. Several members offered their expertise in web site design to be members of the committee including Jon Fisher, Rick Silva and new member Zach Person. Les indicated that we would talk further at the next meeting on the subject since Mike Reinhart, our current webmaster, was not able to attend the meeting.

Field Safety Committee: Co-Chairman Tim Novak presented the Safety Committee report. Tim indicated that he had tried to enforce the card posting requirement with non-member helicopter pilots and was getting resistance. After discussion, Les noted that once we revise the signage at the field to indicate the need to post cards, we will

simply call the Forest Preserve Police to enforce the requirement. It is not worth starting conflict with users of the field who resist the requirement since we have no real enforcement authority, other than through the police.

Tim Gombert reinforced this point based on his discussions with the Forest Preserve District Supervisor, who advised us to simply call the police when fliers blatantly disregard field rules or fly in an unsafe manner. Tim reminded us that the AMA safety code requires all AMA members to abide by field rules, in addition to the specific AMA safety guidelines. Tim highlighted that the safety code explicitly prohibits flying closer to 25 feet from the flight line, and prohibits flying over people. Repeated infractions should be turned over to the police.



**Rick Silva has some fun with streamers on this Striker. Rick modified his Striker to include wheels too!**

### **Show and Tell**

Well the May meeting was full of show and tell with several members presenting projects and new

planes. It was nice to see so many members offering to participate in the RSM meeting.

First up was T. Most of us know that T is a master builder who seems to enjoys building as much as flying. T presented a "new" plane that he built from a kit, but which has been sitting unused in T's hangar for the last 10 years! Yes that's right, he built a Top Flight AT6 Texan with a 76 inch wing span ten years ago and, according to T, never got around to flying it (see, he may enjoy the building a little more than flying!). Anyway, it is expertly covered in Monokote including great trim, weighs 9.5 lbs. and sports a Super Tiger 90 for power. I hope we can all see this maiden soon. Nice job, as usual, on this great war bird.



**Rick Silva's streamer Striker streaks the sky.**

Next up was another master builder, Mark Kwasinski. Mark has been turning out new models this year at an increasing rate, having presented a new model at just about every meeting this year. This time Mark presented two stick and tissue free flight models. Unique to these crafts were computer printed tissue covering. Mark noted that he has a program that provides for printing of all design and insignia on tissue paper run through a dot matrix color printer. The two models looked great with incredible detail on the tissue. Mark asked any club members that come in contact with a Park Zone Vapor that has crashed, but still has good motor, servos and radio, to let him know. He would like to try to convert these two to RC from free flight with the electronics of a Vapor.

Mark also showed the club a great wood filler, Elmer's Carpenter's Wood Filler, that he likes because it sands nicely, is light, and does not fall apart or show under covering since it is wood colored.

Les presented a new plane, the E-flight Midget Racer. The plane has a very thin wing, and runs on

a 4 cell 2600 mah battery, with a 900 watt motor. Les thinks the new craft will reach speeds of up to 115 mph. Nice new plane Les, now you can give those Fun Jet guys a run for their money!

Ted Noncek was next up to present part of his winter building project. Ted presented a completed wing from his Top Flight Stinson SR9 kit build. The tail feathers and both wings are completed, and he is starting on the fuse next week. The completed kit will have a 100.5 inch wingspan and will weigh close to 25 lbs with its 21st Century Coverite fabric covering.

Bill Reaume presented a couple of his micro helicopters. Bill likes the micro size crafts and presented a duel rotor micro, and a Blade 120 SR. The craft has a carbon fiber blade, weighs 3.75 oz and has a 500 mah lipo battery.

Finally George Shindler closed the show and tell marathon by presenting a couple of neat ideas he has come up with in the workshop. One device he put together with a couple of pieces of wood allows you to sand a nice edge on a piece of balsa. The other tools he presented were saws he made by taking a band saw blade and gluing them into a small wooden handle. He showed how these can be used to cut into wood in tight places where a normal saw could not fit. And he showed how he reverses the teeth pattern on each so that one can cut by pushing, the other by pulling. Great workshop ideas George.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, June 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Shiller Woods Flying Field.**

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



**T's Spacewalker on its taxi to its maiden.**