

**Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club**  
**December 2008 Newsletter**  
**December 1, 2008**



The December 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Strictly RC meeting place at 7 pm. Secretary Ted Noncek read the minutes of the November 2008 meeting which were approved by the club. Approximately 18 members were in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Terry Gombert and approved by the club. The opening balance of cash on hand was \$664 consisting of a \$101 balance in the Pay Pal account and \$563 in the club bank account. During the month of November the club received \$256 in dues and mower replacement fund donations, and paid out a net total of \$205 net of receipts from the fun fly. The expenditures consisted of mower and lawn supplies, and end-of-summer fun fly supplies. Terry reported that the end-of-summer fun fly had expenditures of \$235 but took in \$335 in pilot fees and raffle tickets for a net profit of \$100. The ending cash balance at November 30, 2008 was a total of \$715 consisting of the \$101 Pay Pal balance, and \$614 in the club bank account.

**Field Maintenance Issues**

Field maintenance issues discussed during the section of the meeting in which the club annual dues were discussed included the need to replace the flight line orange fences, and the need to make further repairs to the flight stands. A discussion also took place regarding the need to use better quality wood if additional flight stands are made. It was noted that George Shindler has been singlehandedly making these stands for the club using available wood supplies, but that the club should contact George and offer to purchase treated wood that will last longer in the elements at the field.

**Field Safety Issues**

The club again discussed the issue of marking a 25 foot no fly zone in front of the flight line in order to conform to the AMA safety code standard. A discussion ensued as to the difficulty enforcing this rule at the field, especially to helicopter pilots who often enjoy hovering their aircrafts closer than this distance. Upon advice from the safety officer, it was determined that the club would add this line, and a separate taxi line (where the existing line is) next season.

**Mower Replacement Initiative – Mower Donations Now Accepted**

As discussed and approved in prior meetings, the club has created a mower replacement fund with the intention of purchasing a new mower in the 2009 season. The collected balance of the fund as of the meeting stands at \$600 (Note, this fund is contained in the regular cash balance of the club, but is being tracked separately. As of the end of November, the cash balance of the fund included in the overall club cash balance stood at \$200. An additional \$400 was collected for the fund at the December meeting which will be reflected in the December club cash balance.). In addition the club also has a pledge balance of \$200, bringing the total anticipated fund balance to \$800.

Secretary Ted Noncek reported that an application for an AMA Flying Site Improvement Grant has been filled out and signed by our President, Mike. The AMA grant program allows for up to 10% of the total cost of the project. We have estimated our budget for the mower replacement of \$2,000, so the maximum grant amount is limited to \$200. The grant application will be sent this

week to our AMA District Vice-President, Charlie Baur, who must sign off on our application for it to be considered by the AMA.

The club has added a link on its website to allow for donations through Pay Pal to the mower replacement fund. Please donate what ever amount you can to help support this important club initiative. If you would like to pledge monies to be paid in 2009, please feel free to drop Ted Noncek an email, so that we can remind you of your pledge later. Special thanks to all those who have donated already!

### **Club Dues Raised to \$50 Effective in 2009**

The subject of raising club dues was brought up at the prior meeting as a result of the mower replacement and other rising costs of the club. At last month's meeting a good discussion took place on whether the \$35 annual membership fee could be raised for 2009. It was discussed that other clubs charge more than our fee, and that the fee has not been raised in a number of years. Members were asked to consider this after last month's meeting and come prepared to vote on a increase at the December meeting.

At the December meeting a motion was raised and seconded to increase the dues by \$15 to \$50 for the standard membership. The motion was voted on by members present at the meeting. Those for the increase were 10 versus 4 members against the increase. As a result, the motion was enacted to increase our club dues to \$50 effective with dues payments for the 2009 flying season. No changes were made to the family membership fee of \$5 to add family members.

### **Officer Election for 2009**

In accordance with the club's constitution, at the November meeting officers were nominated to stand for election in December. All of the current 2008 officers agreed to stand for election and were nominated at the November meeting.

Before the December election, the Secretary asked for any further nominations from the club membership. No further nominations were proposed by the club members present. A vote was taken for all officers as a group. The club unanimously by voice vote elected the current group of officers for another term. The officers consist of President Mike Meitus, Vice-President Mike Reinhart, Treasurer Terry Gombert, Secretary Ted Noncek, and Safety Officer Steve Schultz.

Special thanks to all the officers for continuing to serve the club for another year.

### **Club Approached by Advertising Agency to Fly in Budweiser Commercial**

Ted Noncek recounted to the club that a production company working for an advertising agency approached the club looking for someone who could fly an RC plane in downtown Chicago, towing a banner for a Budweiser commercial. President Mike first got the message and contacted them, but referred the job to Ted given that he has the perfect Senior Kadet for the job. The idea was to film the plane flying along side an elevated CTA train moving across the Chicago River on the Wells Street overpass.

Ted researched banner towing on the internet, and the production company produced for us two 1 by 10 foot banners made out of a light material similar to that used on sleeping bags or winter parkas. They wanted us to test it to see if we could do it on the day of the shoot. On a very windy (and cold) November Sunday, we tested the banner at various lengths of tow string from the plane and found it worked pretty good in spite of the high winds on the day of the test. But we found that towing a banner severely compromised the ability to fly slow and with precision to complete the commercial shoot that was anticipated. We reported back to the production company contact that we considered it a "suicide mission" and that perhaps a foam electric could be used with the banner superimposed through movie magic later. We later heard back that the

ad agency had finally understood how difficult their original idea was, and decided to mount a foamy on a stick outside the elevated train for the shoot.

Because of the effort we had put in proving that their idea was not safe downtown, we asked that the production company make a donation for the mower fund. They agreed to make a donation of \$200 but we will not count that in our fund until we receive it. And we got to keep the two white plain test banners—ideal for making an RSM club banner. Watch out for that Bud commercial with a foamy on a stick flying over the Chicago River!

### **Club Meeting Presenters Wanted**

We have all enjoyed our 2008 meeting in which some sort of educational program was presented to the membership. Please volunteer your special knowledge to make a presentation to the club in upcoming meetings. The atmosphere is informal and we really just need five to ten minutes of demonstration to make our meeting more interesting for all. Please contact Mike Reinhart and volunteer for this important club service.

### **Chili Fun Fly Date Set for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

The club has set the date for the annual winter fun fly known as the Chili Fun Fly for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> to begin at approximately 10am. This event has given the club the opportunity to get in some winter flying, and share your chili with everyone else. The last several years have been quite a lot of fun for those members willing to fight the elements to enjoy RC flying.

Food for the Chili Fly works like this: Members make a supply of chili at home and bring it to the field. We set up Coleman stoves and kettles that we pour it all together and heat at the field. The result is a fantastic day of eating chili and flying in the snow. So get that favorite chili recipe, mount those snow skis, and be sure to pack some antacid pills for the ride home! Don't be afraid to show if you have not made any chili, there is usually plenty of it to go around as the few guys that come through usually make a big pot of it. We usually set up the shed as a warming hut with a propane heater to defrost. A great family event for winter fun!

### **Holiday Party Date Revised – Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**

The club has revised the date for its annual holiday party to now be Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The club plans on having the same family style dinner at the Great Escape Restaurant in Schiller Park. Please mark your calendars to reserve this date.

### **Golf Dome All Nighter – Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Just a reminder that the Suburban RC Barnstormers club is hosting their all night indoor flying event at the White Pines golf dome Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. They have plenty of prizes on the night and have contests with flying from 11pm to 5am. See their website for information.

### **December Program**

VP Mike demonstrated the attachment of Dubro snow skis on his trainer plane. A controversy started with a discussion on whether the retaining bolt should be facing forward or backward on the skis. Unfortunately for the customer, the drawing on the package of the skis is hard to understand as to whether the bolt is facing front or back. After the meeting a review of the Dubro website found a clearer photo of the proper placement of the retaining screw. The screw faces forward, and is set at such an angle to act as a stopper that keeps the skis slightly up while flying, and then hits the snow in this position to flex with the spring with the weight of the plane once on the ground. Be sure to use blue locktight on the retaining screw and once you find the right spot, file a flat spot that will prevent them from moving from a hard landing.

### **Show and Tell/Program**

Member Les Schier presented the first show and tell plane, a ParkZone Vapor indoor model weighing only 15 grams. The plane sells as a set for around \$100 if you use your own Spectrum radio as controller, or \$130 with the dedicated controller from ParkZone. Les demonstrated the plane by flying it around the Strictly RC basement to the amazement of most RSM club members. This may be a first for an RSM indoor meeting. Nice flying job Les but you were within 25 feet of the flight line!

Next up was Ted Noncek showing off his latest crash resurrection. Through member Vic Szajna, Ted acquired a crashed Senior Kadet that had half a wing and some moderate fuselage damage. Vic acquired it from a beginner at the field who had an unfortunate mishap. Ted was able to combine wing parts from another Senior Kadet that crashed in the summer, to completely re-do this plane. The prior owner had cut flaps into the wings, which were retained in the rehab project. The plane is covered in blue and white Monokote and has an OS 120AX motor on the nose. Ted showed the banner towing release that he designed from an idea found on the internet. Ted also showed off his newest dome plane, an MS Composit Citabria high wing trainer. Ted has modified the Citabria by adding ailerons and gluing the wing together without dihedral. With the added lights on the front, this plane is a real sweet flyer in the dome or in a park.

Then Don Raasch showed off his new Chipmonk kit that he acquired at last winter's RSM mini swap meet from Les. Don said the kit's wood was in good condition and was a good building project. The Chipmonk has red checker board Ultracote covering and should fly this spring with either a 60 or 90 size motor. Another incredible kit building success by Don!

### **Next Meeting – Annual Club Attendance Raffle to be Held**

All members are encouraged to attend the January meeting where the drawing will be made to receive a free 2009 club membership. The drawing will take place from the tickets that have been handed out to members all year as part of our club attendance reward program. **Winner must be present with the ticket to win. Be sure to bring your tickets to the January meeting!**

### **Next Meeting at Strictly RC Location – Monday January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

The first meeting of 2009 will be held at the Strictly RC basement location on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The meeting room is in the basement of the pet store next to Strictly RC and is accessible by going to the back of the store to the stairs.

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