

**Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club**  
**January 2011 Newsletter**  
**January 3, 2011**



The January 2011 meeting was called to order by President Les Schier at the Strictly RC basement location at 7pm. Approximately 26 members were in attendance. Secretary Ted Noncek read the minutes of the December 2010 meeting which were approved by the club.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report. The club started December 2010 with a beginning cash balance of \$1,264 which included \$219 in the PayPal account. During the month, the club collected membership dues of \$100. As a result the club ended the month with a cash balance of \$1,364 which includes \$269 in the PayPal account. The Treasurer's report was approved by the club.

**President's Message and 2011 Committees**

President Les opened the meeting by thanking everyone for the vote of confidence in voting him in as the club's new president. He noted that while he was not opposed in the election, it was gratifying to have found out that just about every member voting last month cast a ballot for him.

President Les went on to say that he believes the club needs to improve the content of its meetings to improve membership. Les presented the following to achieve this goal in 2011:

- Make meetings more interesting
- Get members involved in the meetings through increased "show and tell" and "this is how I do it" presentations.
- Invite experts to give presentations, including sales representatives from RC companies.
- Present new product demonstrations through our association with Strictly RC.

Les then discussed existing and new committees for 2011. Les noted that he believes the club works best when things are organized by the leaders, and the membership performs the tasks needed to meet the specific objectives of the club. The following is a list of committees and the initial members of the committees for 2011:

- **Field Maintenance: Mike Reinhart, chairman.** Les noted in his selection of Mike as the chairman that Mike's contribution to field maintenance has been outstanding in the last few years, and that the field has never looked better than under Mike's watch. Les wants this committee to have other members that will assist in maintenance efforts, and fill in when others are unavailable.
- **Field Safety Committee: Tim Novak and Rick Rivera, co-chairmen.** Les indicated that this important committee should have two chairmen to help foster improved communication between the fixed wing and helicopter pilots. As Rick is an avid helicopter pilot, his addition to the committee will be invaluable in opening this dialog.
- **Flight Training Committee: Don Zeller, chairman.** Don had presented his ideas for improving the organization around training, including the concept of having a log book that new fliers can carry with them to present to different instructors. Members of the Flight Training Committee include Ted Noncek and Mike Reinhart.

- **Runway Committee: Les Schier, chairman.** This committee was formed last year as the club responded to the Forest Preserve District concerning the potential to add a paved runway. The committee members include Tony Loquercio, Mike Reinhart, Don Zeller and Mike Meitus. Les reminded the club that the committee determined three members that speak to the Forest Preserve on behalf of the club. After discussion, Tim Novak was added as a consultant to the committee as he has indicated that he has contacts in the Forest Preserve District that may be beneficial.
- **Planning Committee: Tim Gombert, chairman.** This new committee is to consider future planning for the club and flying field and come up with suggestions. The initial members of the committee are Don Zeller and Tim Novak. Les asked that Tim submit a list of additional helpers to the committee.

As is the policy in many other organizations, Les noted that he would like to have a report from each committee at every monthly club meeting—even if some months the report is “nothing to report.”

### **Planning Committee**

Chairman Tim Gombert addressed the meeting to expand on ideas discussed by President Les on making the monthly club meeting more interesting. Tim noted that he wanted to work on getting experts in to present to the club, for instance, having a demonstration on programming a new transmitter. Tim noted that it would be helpful if the club had a large dry erase whiteboard and easel to facilitate presentations. The club was asked whether anyone had one to donate. After a brief discussion, the club decided to purchase whiteboard for this purpose.

Tim indicated that he is looking for people willing to help out on the new Planning Committee. This is your chance to give input into the future of your club. Tim would like to start a list of the resources our club membership has to offer. He noted that next meeting he would be passing around a sheet to collect information on our membership, including your occupation and any special skills you may have that can help the club.

### **RSM Holiday Party—Saturday, January 22nd**

Sally Gombert presented alternatives to the club for the Holiday Party to be held on Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sally looked at three restaurants for the party and summarized them on a handout for the club members to review—Dino’s (where we held it last year), Great Escape (where we held it for the previous several years), and the White Pines Golf Course Restaurant (the restaurant and banquet facility adjacent to the dome). The club discussed the alternatives, for which Dino’s was the only that could accommodate us on our selected night of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the others could have us the week earlier (White Pines), or the week later (Great Escape).

The club discussed the pricing on the three alternatives, for which Dino’s and Great Escape were comparable at around \$22 per person. The White Pines facility was approximately \$10 more, but could also provide an open bar for an additional \$12 per person, but required a strict 50 person minimum. Given the choices, the club voted by show of hands. Dino’s was selected based on the vote.

**The RSM Holiday party will be held at Dino’s Restaurant, 7004 West Higgins, Chicago, on Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> with cocktails at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. You must RSVP to Sally Gombert by Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> if you plan on attending. You can contact Sally by email at [tersal816@hotmail.com](mailto:tersal816@hotmail.com).**

A discussion took place as to whether the club should continue to provide the prizes that have become the tradition for the past several years. It was noted that some of the prizes result from the yearly program by Al’s Hobby Shop to provide a percentage back to clubs for member

purchases in the year, but that the club has added money in the last couple of years. After discussion, it was determined that gift cards rather than individual prizes would be better suited to allow members to purchase RC items relevant to their needs. So it was decided to purchase gift cards in various amounts, spending \$100 in each of the Strictly RC and Al's Hobby Shop. It was also decided that only club members would be eligible for winning the gift cards, rather than allowing guests to participate as in prior years.

### **2011 Free Membership Giveaway**

The drawing for a lucky member to receive free membership dues for 2011 was held. After three drawings of tickets, the free membership was awarded to Tim Novak. Congratulations to Tim. Remember to keep your monthly tickets from the 2011 meetings so that you have a chance to win the 2012 free membership next January. This prize was created a few years back as a mechanism to encourage member attendance at meetings, and to reward those that do attend. Each meeting a members is given one ticket for attending, and an additional ticket for bringing a show and tell item, or for making a presentation. Please keep this in mind as you are asked this year to make a presentation to the club as it increases your chance of winning!

### **Other Business Discussions**

The following other topics were discussed during the meeting:

- **RSM Decals/Hats and apparel.** A member inquired about whether we could have decals made again to help identify our club at the field and at other fields. The discussion progressed into a discussion about logo hats, jackets and whether the club should get identification pins that many other clubs have. A member indicated that he works with digitizing logos and could help.
- **RSM Website.** Member Rick Rivera has offered to help out on updating the club website. It was noted that Mike Reinhart (who was not at the meeting) should be contacted so that he could give Rick the codes to access and update the site.

### **Show and Tell**

Tim Gombert presented a new product from Strictly RC—a tiny E-Flight Extra 300 that runs on the small single cell lipo used for the Vapor. Tim pointed out that Jim has even flown this in his house. The plane comes put together and ready to fly for \$159. Tim reminded everyone that the club gets a discount on many items at Strictly RC, so please make sure you tell them you are in the club when you purchase things.

Next our master builder, Don Raasch, presented his latest building project. Don noted that the kit he is building started out as an old Hobby Lobby Funster kit that he had plans that would allow him to convert the kit to a P-40. But after he started, he found out that Top Flight recently introduced a P-40 kit that he would rather build. So Don has decided to finish this project as a regular fun flier, which he said would basically end up as a low wing Telemaster. Don showed us the completed fuselage prior to covering. The club is always marveling at the quality of Don's workmanship—the uncovered fuse resembled the craftsmanship one sees in a fine guitar! Keep up the great building Don, you are an inspiration to all of us to get into the workshop and build.

Please bring your latest project or purchase to next month's meeting to share with the club. The show and tell portion of the meeting is a great forum to start discussions about all RC topics—and you earn an extra attendance ticket for the annual membership drawing.

### **Next Meeting—Monday, February 7th at Strictly RC at 7pm**

The next meeting will take place at 7pm at the Strictly RC basement on Monday, February 7th.

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