

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
May 2010 Newsletter
May 3, 2010



The May 2010 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Strictly RC basement location at 7pm. Secretary Ted Noncek read the minutes of the April 2010 meeting which were approved by the club. There were 24 members and in attendance and several guests.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report. The club started April 2010 with a beginning cash balance of \$1,422. During the month the club collected dues of \$149, and had expenditures of \$292 including \$229 to the IRS and \$63 for field maintenance supplies. At the end of the month the club cash balance was \$1,278. The Treasurer's report was approved by the club.

President's Message

President Mike indicated to the club that a new area supervisor has taken over our Forest Preserve area. Mike met with Mr. Gallagher who indicated that the FPD would be making some improvements to the field including cutting down the tree/shrub at the northeast corner of the field and would be sending a set of roving FPD repairman to the field to make repairs to fencing and other items. He also indicated that two handicapped parking spots would be marked in the parking area and something will be done to make the field accessible with respect to the ditch in front of the parking lot leading to the field. Mike was told the request for the handicapped accessible portable toilet may not happen as these are in short supply in the FPD. The handicapped parking spots would be completed when a resurfacing of the parking area is completed this year. Mike indicated that Mr. Gallagher seemed very nice and interested in helping us.

The final big news from the new supervisor came in the form of an offer to have a paved runway on the field. Mike indicated that we would need to come up with a proposal and make a formal request. See further discussion below.

Field Maintenance

The field was rolled during April. VP Mike thanked the helpers who responded to his request for help in running the roller over the field. Mike indicated that the roller had a vibrating mechanism that was quite effective in flattening out the bumps in the field.

Paved Runway Discussion

President Mike held a discussion regarding interest in taking up the offer for a paved runway. Mike went around the room and gave individual members a chance to make a statement regarding their thoughts about whether a paved runway was a good or bad idea for Shiller Field. A show of hands was requested to gauge interest in the paved runway. Of the 24 members in attendance, 10 members were in favor, and 8 were against. The following is a summary of the main points raised for and against:

Pro--

- Save on lawn care costs
- Easy takeoffs
- Smaller electrics will have easier roll to takeoff and landing
- Sets up Shiller Field as a true RC park that would be harder to convert to other purposes (i.e. convert to soccer sports area)
- It is being offered for "free" to the club--hard to pass up such an offer since we have not ever been offered this before.
- Will be fun to practice and become proficient at a new skill--landing on a defined target strip.

Con--

- Small field atmosphere will be lost and we risk attracting turbines.
- The runway will take away from the nice natural look of the field.
- Don't really need a paved runway since the field is being cared for so well that the grass strip is ideal for most of our uses.
- Hard landings on pavement can wreck a plane faster than grass.
- Planes keep running on pavement and tend to fall off the pavement into the grass.
- Once installed, will maintenance become the club's responsibility once it develops cracks.
- Will a paved field negatively impact drainage of standing water on the field.

The discussion went on for some time discussing this major issue facing the club. It was clear that the club is divided on the issue and it was decided that a task force would be formed to consider the proposal and come up with ideas for what type of runway would make sense at Shiller if we decided to go through with it. Volunteers to the task force included Les Schier, Tony Loquercio, Mike Reinhart, Don Zeller and Steve Schultz. Although Ed Bywalec was not at the meeting, it was decided that Ed should be a special advisor to the committee based on his status as former president of the Chicagoland club that has a paved field at Busse Woods. All members were encouraged to visit other area fields with paved strips to help decide. Two in the area are Deer Grove in Buffalo Grove and Busse Woods in Schaumburg.

The task force is to meet and decide on alternatives to present to the club. Once a proposal is completed, the club membership will then have a chance to vote on the proposal.

Helicopter/Airplane Discussion

The meeting was attended by several of our helicopter pilot colleagues. President Mike indicated that several helicopter pilots approached him wishing to discuss field etiquette at the meeting due to recent close calls with airplane pilots coming close to helicopters.

A discussion took place on the need for better coordination between airplane and helicopter pilots in announcing take offs and landings, and in using different parts of the field. It was noted that helicopters need to fly within a smaller area often nearer the ground than airplanes and we should all announce to each other our intentions. Airplane pilots were asked to please respect the smaller area that helicopters tend to fly in and not make low passes near their helicopters. It was discussed that the best solution would be to allow time for helicopters and then for airplanes, alternating between the two when it is busy. At a minimum it was advised that each of us talk and try to respect the space of the other.

Father's Day Fun Fly Date Set

The club will be hosting a Father's Day Fun Fly on June 19th. Please save the date for another great day of flying, food and prizes.

Show and Tell

Tim Gombert showed the club some handy clips from HDI Products.com to help protect deans connectors. Mike Reinhart discussed battery health and showed a switch that shows a green light to indicate your battery is good. Adam showed off a float plane that can land on land, water, snow or just about anything. Adam indicated it was the perfect plane to keep in the car for those times when you can get some flying in at a park.

Fuel Purchase

It was asked whether an organized fuel purchase would take place. President Mike indicated that Jim from Strictly RC was going to organize a way to purchase fuel at a discount.

Next Meeting—Monday, June 7th at Flying Field at 6:30pm The next meeting will take place at 6:30 pm at the flying field. All of our summer meetings will be at the field unless it rains, in which case they will be held at Strictly RC. Please note the special summer time to allow for more flying. Please bring a plane to fly with the club.

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