

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
November 2009 Newsletter
November 2, 2009



The November 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Strictly RC basement location at 7pm. Approximately 20 members and 1 guest were in attendance. Secretary Ted Noncek read the minutes of the October 2009 meeting which were approved by the club.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report. The club started October 2009 with a beginning cash balance of \$1,512 including \$10 in PayPal. During the month, the club paid out \$72 for field maintenance supplies, and received \$50 from membership dues. The club ended the month with a cash balance of \$1,490 which includes \$10 in the PayPal account. The Treasurer's report was approved by the club.

Field Maintenance Issues

VP Mike Reinhart reported on the fertilizer application. As discussed at the previous meeting, the club had authorized the purchase of a spreader that fits on the club tractor. Mike was able to find the spreader on Craig's List for only \$75 which usually sells for close to \$300. Way to go Mike in going that extra mile for the club and finding such a great deal! It was reported that the spreading of the fertilizer was very fast since the spreader lays the fertilizer in 12 foot swaths and takes up to 15 bags of fertilizer at a time. Mike reported that the spreader fits in the shed upside down above the tractor.

It was reported that friend-of-the-club Gilbert donated to the club a 2-burner propane heater for use with 20lb propane cylinders. President Mike indicated that this would be kept in the shed and that the club needs anyone with a spare propane cylinder to donate to the club for winter warmth. Mike discussed that we could have this right at the flight line to heat up the flyers this late fall and winter.

Dome Flying Stats in November

President Mike reported that the dome would be opening for flying starting on November 6th with free flying that weekend. The dome is open from 11pm to 1am flying as in other years. Get your foamies glued together to take part in this great flying on Friday and Saturday nights. We understand that this year if one wants to charge LiPo packs, the dome requires them to be placed in charge safe bags.

Field Safety Issues

The club discussed that the Forest Preserve Police were enforcing boundary restrictions recently. Several members discussed how an officer had approached and indicated that they were flying over Irving Park Road. Right now the officer has only given warnings (as far as we know), but we should all be warned to pay special attention to our flight approach, especially from the northeast approach where it is easy to get over Irving Park Road. Also watch out for getting too far to the northwest corner where the water pump is located. And please pay careful attention to the sundown limit to flying at the field as these were being strictly enforced. Please warn other flyers at the field of this recently stepped-up enforcement.

The next safety issue discussed was brought up by President Mike regarding a recent crash. Mike noted that the force of the crash was strong enough to wedge a propeller blade in the wood fence. Mike noted that it actually broke a 4x4 piece of wood and said that this is a reminder of the potential danger this hobby brings. We should all be careful at the field, even when not flying, and be alert in case an aircraft goes out of control. Mike noted that October seemed to be full of crashes at the field, and noted that an electric jet had just caught fire the last weekend of the month.

Chili Fun Fly Date Set--Saturday, December 12th

The 5th Annual Chili Fun Fly will take place on Saturday, December 12th at the field. Please dress warm and bring some chili to share, or come by even if you did not make chili as every year we seem to have enough from the crazy few that make this an annual ritual. The event will be held with or without snow, only Mother Nature can tell whether we will need skies or not. But get the skies ready just in case. I know that some of us cringe at the thought of flying below freezing, but the "warmth" of your fellow club members help make this event is a must! We plan on warming the chili at 10:30am.

I-Hobby Expo

Member Steve Schultz noted to the club that he had volunteered to help out at the craft tables at the recent I-Hobby Expo held at the Stephens Convention Center after receiving an email from the organizers. Steve said it was very rewarding to help out with the youngsters making small gliders which were then flown in a section of the expo. Consider volunteering next year for a fun time.

Let's Organize our Instruction to New Members

Don Zellner raised the issue with the club that we could be doing more formal instruction and review of new members learning to fly. Don noted that other clubs in the area have formal programs for student pilots. Don offered to create a plan this winter based on the programs of other clubs. Thanks Don for taking this task on. Watch for information to come at subsequent meetings.

October Program

Don Zellner presented a project to convert a computer power supply for use in the hobby. Don explained that many computers are disposed of and have a nice 12v power supply that is just right for hooking up to our chargers. Don found a computer, pulled the power supply and was able to put about \$20 into banana plugs and switches from Radio Shack. Don noted that these supplies require a load to work, so it was necessary to solder a resistor into the supply in order for it to turn on. He found a web site that helped explain the process. Member Adam Luckasik offered some good advice regarding the need to be careful with converted power supplies, as they do not offer the load protection that store-bought power supplies typically have built in. Great project Don.

Show and Tell

President Mike showed the club his Hobby King HK450 helicopter. Mike noted that the body was only \$30 shipped direct from the far east. But he told the club that he had to replace many parts to make the copter airworthy including the blades that he said could have caused serious damage if used. Mike estimated that it took about \$150 to get it ready for flight, and that it was perfect for the dome. But he cautioned that cheap helicopters are not for beginners as it is important to understand which parts are "garbage" requiring replacement.

Next Meeting—Monday, December 7th at Strictly RC at 7pm

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

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