

**Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club**  
**October and November 2008**  
**Newsletter**  
**November 3, 2008**



The November 2008 meeting was called to order by Vice-President Mike Reinhart at the Strictly RC meeting place at 7 pm. The club had no October meeting due to the unavailability of our meeting room due to remodeling of the Strictly RC basement area. Secretary Ted Noncek read the minutes of the September 2008 meeting which were approved by the club. Approximately 25 members were in attendance. President Mike Meitus was unable to attend the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Terry Gompert and approved by the club. During the months of September and October the club had expenditures which totaled \$559 including the payment for the large tool box, stationary supplies and mower repair expenses. The ending cash balance at October 31, 2008 was \$664. Terry pointed out that the club took in a total of \$335 from the fun fly held in September, but that the total tally on the fun fly was not yet completed as many of the expense were submitted at the November meeting.

**Field Maintenance Issues – Fertilizer Application Party Changed to November 15<sup>th</sup>**

VP Mike Reinhart discussed the need to apply fertilizer to the field in autumn and noted how the club was able to eliminate the very quickly growing weeds which sprout seed pods that we all have contended with in previous years. This was attributed to the 2008 regimen of fertilizer and lawn care undertaken by the club. At the meeting, it was decided that this Saturday (November 8<sup>th</sup>) would be the date of the fertilizer application. Upon further consideration after the meeting, Mike decided that too many members were planning on attending the Chicagoland Modelers swap meet held on November 8<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Prospect. As a result, the **fertilizer spreading is being changed to the following Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> to begin at 8am.** Mike needs all members that have been able to supply a fertilizer spreader to attend and help make next year's field even better than 2008.

It was also reported that Member George Shindler made repairs on several of the club starting benches, including scrapping a bench that was too far gone for repair. George announced to the club that he is in the process of planning four new benches for the field for next year. As always, the club thanks George for his continuing efforts. And the club was treated at its November meeting to coffee and donuts in celebration of George's birthday.

**Field Safety Issues**

A discussion ensued as to the application of a 25 foot red stripe along the flying line that would restrict flying within 25 feet of the flying stands. It was pointed out by VP Mike that the AMA safety code requires a 25 feet no-fly zone from the flight line. It was agreed that a new red line will be applied to the field to indicate that flyers may only fly beyond the line, including helicopter hovering. Hovering at closer range is restricted to the hovering area in the west end of the pit area.

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

As introduced and decided at the last meeting, the club has embarked on a mower replacement initiative given the numerous break-downs of the existing mower. It was decided at the prior

meeting that President Mike and VP Mike would investigate mowers that would meet our needs. VP Mike reported findings at the November meeting.

Mike indicated that to replace our existing mower would run to approximately \$1,300. But the club discussed that such a mower with a 46 inch cutting span might not be the best for our usage pattern. It was discussed that a better alternative would be a 72 inch cutting span mower which has folding wings providing the extra cutting span. Such a mower has not yet been priced and it has not yet been determined to fit in the existing shed. The club discussed that the mower would not be purchased until next year, and that financing of the purchase was our main concern right now. It was discussed that the club should plan to pay as much as \$2,000 for a more robust mower that will not break down as much as the current model.

A motion was proposed and approved to begin a fund within our general bank account to receive donations from members for the replacement of the mower. The fund was started with the donation by two members of \$200 each at the meeting bringing the mower replacement fund to a \$400 balance upon its inception. VP Mike is working on creating a mower fund donation button on our Pay Pal account on our website. The club will take donations for the mower (or pledges for donations at a future date next year) from all members. All members are encouraged to solicit donations from our fellow pilots at the flying field who are not a member of the club. As part of the motion approving the mower fund, it was discussed that monies collected beyond that needed for the mower would be available for general club purposes.

### **Club Dues Discussion**

Continuing the discussion from the last meeting, the club again discussed the annual dues in terms of considering an increase for 2009. No decision was made at the meeting, but many member expressed a belief that the current \$35 annual dues fee was too low in comparison to other costs of this hobby. One member, who is also a member of another area RC club, indicated that his other club charges a \$50 annual dues fee, and an additional one-time \$15 initiation fee to all new members.

Currently, we have approximately 45 members that pay the full \$35 per year amount, and seven added family members paying the \$5 per year amount. This count is based on our July 2008 member list contained on the club's website. Under the current dues structure, the total dues revenue for the club is \$1,610 per year, with \$1,575 coming from the full paying members, and \$35 from the family members. If the club were to raise its dues by \$15 for full members to \$50 annually, and raise the family rate to only \$10, dues revenue for 2009 would increase to \$2,320 representing a \$710 increase in overall dues collected. Assuming approximately five new members annually, the imposition of an initiation fee would raise the dues collected an additional \$75.

Members are encouraged to consider whether the club should increase its annual dues, including consideration of the current practice of allowing additional family members for only \$5 per year. A further discussion and decision will be made at the December meeting.

### **End of Summer Fun Fly Report**

The club offered special thanks to our contest director Steve Schultz who ran the end of summer fun fly. Steve performed the thankless job of herding us all together and sticking with a definite program of competition which resulted in a fine time for all who attended. The event was very well attended by both participating pilots and those who watched the fun from the sidelines. Steve thanked the many members who assisted him throughout the event, and the prize contributors including Strictly RC, Member Tibor Galfi, and Al's Hobbies.

### **Officer Nominations for 2009**

In accordance with the club's constitution, the November meeting serves as the meeting in which officers are nominated for election to office in December.

The club solicited members for any nominations to run for the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Safety Director. All officers present expressed a willingness to continue office next year. President Mike Meitus was not at the meeting but was contacted afterwards as to whether he is willing to serve another year as President. Mike indicated that he would be willing and is therefore considered nominated based on the club's overall nomination of the continuing officers. The club moved and agreed to the slate of the existing officers. The election will be formally held during the December meeting, although any members willing to serve are asked to contact any of the officers so that your name can be submitted for vote in December.

### **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. Steve Schultz has volunteered to present a foam airplane construction project he is currently working on for the December meeting.

### **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. Please mark your calendar and start planning for your ski plane.

### **Holiday Party Date Set – Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

The club set a date for the annual holiday party. This year the date has been set for January 17<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday night, and the club decided to again have it at the Great Escape Restaurant in Schiller Park. Please mark your calendars to reserve this date.

### **White Pines Golf Dome Flying Starts Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

Many of our club members have enjoyed the pleasures of indoor electric flight at the White Pines Golf Dome located in Bensenville. The dome opens for flying this Friday night, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 11pm to 1am. Regular flying hours are each Friday and Saturday night during these hours through March. The first weekend of flying is free. Regular prices this year are as follows: \$175 season pass for unlimited flying. \$10 per night if you purchase a "dome club membership" at a one-time fee of \$10, or \$15 per night if you do not purchase a dome club membership. Obviously it does not take a math wizard to figure out that one breaks even on the dome club membership after just two visits. Flying is limited to AMA members with electric models only. Helicopters are limited to 450 size max, and no carbon fiber copter blades are allowed.

Several of the club members have been attending dome flying for several years and can attest to its ability to keep your flying skill level up during the off season. Dome flying without wind also allows you to experiment with control of your plane in ways that are impossible with our bigger models at the field in wind conditions. The best planes for dome flying are those made of foam. Models that have a balsa/light hardwood frame do not last long in the dome as they hit the walls fast with the slightly higher airspeeds needed to maintain lift. Slow sticks act as great dome trainer planes as they fly nice and slow and survive the inevitable wall/other plane impacts.

Strictly RC sells some great dome planes in the MS Composite line. The MS Composite single wing, biplane and flying wings are ideal in the dome for more intermediate pilots, although the Bulldog biplane and small flying wings tend to be gentle flyers that even a beginner could handle in the dome by keeping them slow.

Be sure to bring your AMA card to prove you are covered by insurance when you go to the dome for your first time. Also be sure to bring your new AMA card in January when your 2008 card expires.

### **November Program**

VP Mike demonstrated on Member Mike Zawadzki's electric Katana the use of a covering iron in straightening out a warped control surface. Mike's Katana had a warped rudder that was straightened by applying the iron while gently forcing the balsa wood in the right direction. The covering, when shrunk in the right direction, keeps the balsa forced into better shape. Nice demo Mike.

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

After the rudder was straightened in the demonstration program, Mike Zawadzki then presented his electric Katana to the club. Nice plane Mike.

Next up was Member Les Schier who presented his new Precision Aerobatics Extra 260. Les noted that with 500 square inches of wing space, the 2 pound model boasts a wing loading of only 10 ounces per square foot. Les pointed out that the plane is light and strong due to its liberal use of carbon fiber rods and sheeting in the structure of the plane, and especially liked that for a small electric, the Extra 260 includes a proper airfoil for its horizontal stabilizer. Often this class of electrics have only a flat stab made of light balsa. Les has outfitted the Extra with a Hacker A30-16M motor generating 350 watts resulting in a 175 watts to pound ratio. Les indicated that the plane handles well in the wind and is a great new addition to his fleet.

Finally, Don Raasch displayed for the club his latest kit building project. This time Don has created a Ringmaster that was originally designed for control line. Don has converted the plans to RC and has outfitted the plane with a .52 glow motor. Don changed the landing gear from the stock wire gear to a aluminum gear set which he painted using white Ultracote paint. Don plans on maidenning this craft next spring when the winds are low. Nice job Don (as usual).

### **Swap Meet this Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

This Saturday from 9am to 1pm the Chicagoland RC club will hold it annual swap meet in Mt. Prospect. Please see their website or the AMA magazine for directions and contact information.

### **Next Meeting at Strictly RC Location – Monday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM**

The December meeting will be held at the Strictly RC basement location on Monday, December 1<sup>st</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)