

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
December Newsletter
December 3, 2007



The December 2007 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus in the basement of Strictly RC. Approximately 17 members were in attendance. The minutes of the November 2007 meeting were read by Secretary Ted Noncek and approved by the club.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Terry Gombert. The club's beginning cash balance at October 31, 2007 was \$1,367.84. During the month of November one new member paid dues, and expenses of \$190.60 were paid for field maintenance related items. As a result, the club's ending cash balance as of November 30, 2007 was \$1,247.24. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

2008 Club Officer Election Held

As required by our club's bylaws, the annual election of officers was held at the December meeting. After soliciting for any members that would be willing to serve as an officer for 2008 at the last two monthly meetings, no offers were received. At the November meeting the current group of officers agreed to stand for election at the December meeting. Because the slate of members was unopposed in the election, the club held a combined voice vote to affirm the election of the officers for 2008. The voice vote was unanimously for the current officers with none opposed. As a result, Mike Meitus will continue to serve as our President, Mike Reinhart as Vice-President, Terry Gombert as Treasurer and Ted Noncek as Secretary. Thanks to all who serve as officers and devote their personal time to the business of keeping RSM in operation.

Field Maintenance Report

Correction: Last month we inadvertently thanked the wrong member for the donation of a fertilizer spreader. The spreader was donated to the club by Ed Bywalec for which the club is grateful for his generosity.

President Mike reported that the mower was not yet moved to winter storage at Joe Kasky's work garage. Mike indicated that when Joe's schedule frees up the move will be made to give extra room so that the shed can double as a winter warming shelter.

The club was happy to see Member George Schindler at our December meeting. George, in keeping with his continuing assistance to improving our field, presented the club with some metal stakes he had made for use in securing the shed door. Thanks George for your continued good works.

Meeting Held at Strictly RC

The club was notified by the Elmwood Park Fieldhouse management that due to scheduling constraints, the club would not be able to hold its meeting for December at their facility. The club approached Jim of Strictly RC for assistance and he allowed us to meet in the basement where his new indoor racetrack operates. Thanks to Jim and his crew for letting us use his facility. And as a special thanks to the club for their generous "donations" to Strictly RC, Jim treated the club to a pizza party. Thanks Jim for your support and the delicious pizza!

Club Attendance Raffle to Start for 2008—Win a Free Membership

As discussed at the last two meetings, the club has taken up the initiative to improve its club meeting programs to improve meeting attendance and decided to hold a raffle program that rewards frequent club attendance.

Starting at our January meeting, all members in attendance will be given a two-part ticket that they will detach, retaining one ticket for themselves and dropping the other into a coffee can. For each meeting that a member attends, they will be given a ticket for a drawing to be held in December. The winner will need be present at the December meeting to win the first prize of a club membership for the following year. It is anticipated that additional prizes will be awarded as well. The more meetings a member attends, the more chances of winning. The club also is giving additional tickets to club members that offer to present or bring a show and tell item.

At the December meeting, to get us back in the raffle mood, the club had a raffle for a set of snow skis. Member Mike Zawadzki was the lucky winner.

Chili Fun Fly Held Saturday, December 8th

Well our Chili Fun Fly was discussed at our December meeting when it looked like we might get some snow but that the weekend of the planned December 9th event would be rainy. At the meeting the club decided to postpone the event pending better snow at a latter date. Well, Mother Nature handed us a bundle of powder snow just after the meeting was held and thanks to the organizing force of VP Mike Reinhart the club mobilized to hold the event on Saturday, December 8th since rain was expected on Sunday.

The third annual Chili Fly was a success as the winds were light and the snow was perfect for ski takeoff and landings. Several members attended and the Chili was hot and good. Several photos have already been posted to the club website. Take a look and thanks to all who came out to make this event a success.

Christmas Party Scheduled for Saturday, January 26th

The annual club Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, January 26th at Great Escape Restaurant in Shiller Park. Like last year, a set family style menu will be provided at a cost to each member attending. In the past it was around \$15 per person (not sure yet for this year), with a cash bar. Please RSVP to Sally Gombert at 773-561-8249 or by email at tersal816@hotmail.com if you plan on attending so that Sally can get a total for the restaurant. The event has been fun every year and we provide door prizes from Al's Hobby, Strictly RC and any other donations from hobby stores we can get our hands on.

At the meeting the club approved the advance of club funds to provide the \$150 deposit necessary to hold the private room for this event. Thanks again Sally for functioning as our party planning committee!

Winter Flying Tips Presented

In keeping with our pledge at the last month's meeting to have more organized programs at our monthly meeting, the first such program was presented by Mike Meitus and Mike Reinhart. President Mike discussed the pros and cons of skis using tricycle gear versus conventional tail dragger gear. Mike showed the club his electric powered Banshee equipped with skis to illustrate several concepts including the importance of fitting the skis retaining screw in the right direction (the Dubro instructions are not entirely clear on this). The retaining screw is to point forward since it acts as a stop for the skis to point upward with the spring allowing them to pop up when the plane leaves the ground, and to approach the landing in a up position similar to the position of a skier exiting a chair lift with skis pointing upward slightly. Mike expressed the importance of

proper alignment of the skis and the need to file a flat spot on the landing gear axel so that the retaining screw stays in the proper place. Mike indicated that in the past he has fitted his tail dragger Banchee with a small paddle where the rear wheel is to skid along the ground. Mike also pointed out that the skis, when attached to the landing gear, act as a new set of air foils and that one should expect a bit of down trim immediately to compensate for the upward attitude of the spring-loaded skies.

Mike Reinhart then provided a demonstration of actually installing a Dubro ski on a front landing gear. Keeping with the theme of the difficulty of translating the Dubro instructions to get the retaining screw on the right direction, Mike demonstrated how easy it is to install the screw on backwards, then quickly corrected his demo to show it the right way. Mike also presented several tips on winter flying he found on the internet including:

1. Wrap your motor in aluminum foil to keep it warm.
2. Ringed engines work better in extreme cold because the ABC type engines depend on the heat of the engine to expand the top of the cylinder so that the piston fits. In the cold this can be sticky.
3. Keep fuel in the house before going out so that it is warmer.
4. Place a hot water bottle on the engine to warm it.

It was also pointed out that with cold whether the needle valve should be richened since the oxygen content is higher on cold days. This includes the low end needle as the transition from idling is sluggish if this valve is not adjusted as well. Thanks Mike and Mike for your presentation. Any member with something to offer is asked to contact Mike Reinhart who is in charge of arranging our presentations.

Show and Tell

This month we had two expert builders show off their new planes. First Les Schier presented his new Gemini biplane from Multiplex. This Elapor foam ARF is unique in electric planes according to Les as it fit together with true engineering workmanship. Les indicated that this Elapor foam is very durable and the builder uses regular CA glue to join together the parts that fit easily. Les has outfitted his with a Hacker A30 16 amp motor using 2100 mahr lipos. Great new plane Les, we can't wait to see it at the field when the weather clears. Next, Don Raasch presented his Taurus pattern plane. Don explained that this craft was very popular in the 1960's, and as I learned by punching this name into the internet, it was the "multi-RC champion" for Top Flight in 1962. Don has a OS 60 engine strapped to the front end and has done his usual job of impeccably covering his kit built project. Thanks again Don for sharing your insights into building with your fellow club members.

All members are encouraged to bring any project or new RC product to the next meeting to present to the club. This section of our meeting is always the most fun and informative as it allows fellow members to ask questions about your equipment.

Next Meeting at Elmwood Park Field House –January 7th

The January meeting will be held at the Elmwood Park Field House location on Monday, 7th at 7pm.

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