

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
January 2006 Newsletter
January 9, 2006



The January 2006 meeting was called to order by President Mike Mietus at the Elmwood Park Fieldhouse. Approximately 12 members were in attendance. After President Mike wished all the club members a Happy New Year, Secretary Ted Noncek presented the minutes of the December 2005 meeting which were approved by the club as read.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2005. At the end of December, the club had a cash balance of \$359.17. Terry reported that the club had no inflows of cash during the month of December, or any expenditures and that the cash balance was unchanged from the prior month. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

2006 Club Membership Dues Being Accepted

All members are reminded that the annual club membership dues of \$35 per person, \$5 per additional family member, are now being accepted by Treasurer Terry. Many members paid in person at this month's meeting, but if you can't make it to this or the next meeting, feel free to drop your check in the mail to Terry Gombert, 4825 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, IL 60625. Members are reminded that it is necessary that your AMA membership dues be current in order to use the field.

Field Maintenance

President Mike commented on field maintenance. It is still anticipated, now that the snow has melted momentarily, to move the lawn mower to its winter hideaway at Joe Kaskey's truck garage so that annual maintenance can be performed. Member George Shindler commented that he was out at the field recently and noticed that the ash trays needed replacing. George indicated that he was in the process of creating some replacements complete with the coffee filter bottom Shirley Shindler has suggested.

Gavel Presented to Club President

The club thanks George for his fine woodworking skills in "scratch building" a gavel that he presented to President Mike at the meeting. Now as our meetings start to veer out of control, our president can quickly take back the floor with several whacks of his new gavel! Great job George.

Chili Fun Fly and New Years Day Fun Fly

Well the two fun fly events were great successes for those who attended. The club heard a report from Mike and Ted on the Chili Fun Fly held on December 11th. The week before we were "treated" to several inches of fresh snow that made the event quite fun for those willing to shovel their way to the pits. And the combination of several chili recipes all mixed into a pot on a camp stove made for some great eating. Photos were taken at the event and have been submitted to Charlie Bauer, our AMA District VP for inclusion in his monthly District column in the AMA magazine. Keep your eyes out for RSM hopefully mentioned in an upcoming issue of Model Aviation!

The New Years Fun Fly was a similar success especially since we were all able to lose the skis along with the snow. Several flyers made their first flights of 2006 on New Years. Thanks to all the members that attended. Secretary Ted was possibly the first to have a serious crash in 2006 when his 90 size Extra dead-sticked below tree height and tip stalled its way to a “landing” at the east end of the field. We had several spectators at the time and they seemed more upset about the crash than the pilot! One commented that she never gets to see plane crashes and that it was really something to see it break in half. Just a little more epoxy and plywood and the Extra will be back in service in no time.

Volunteer Needed for Club Safety Officer

As reported previously, President Mike has assumed for now the role of club safety officer. Mike asked the members to consider serving in this important club post for 2006. Any member interested should either contact Mike or return an email to Ted indicating your willingness to serve. While a thankless job, the several past members who have served in this capacity have made an important contribution to the safety of the field. Please consider volunteering for this important position (and you even get to use the megaphone once and awhile!).

Transmitter Frequency Testing Clinic at January Meeting

Several members brought their radio transmitters to the meeting to be tested by Mike on his spectrometer. In testing member Don Raasch's transmitter Mike noted that a legal use by a pager broadcaster located near the field and was even picked up at the Elmwood Park Fieldhouse during our testing. The pager broadcasts between the two RC frequencies of channels 53 and 54. Mike told the club that the FCC allows such uses in between RC channels and, if strong enough, such a signal could disrupt RC channels under certain conditions. Members are cautioned that these two channels should be used with care given the possibility of interference from this signal. Thanks Mike for bringing your spectrometer and testing our transmitters.

February Meeting to Include Electric Airplane Tech Workshop

We are pleased to announce that Glen from our new neighborhood RC store—Strictly RC—has approached the club and offered to present an Electric Airplane Tech Workshop at our February meeting. We will be sending a reminder near to the date of the February meeting to remind everyone of this event to be held on February 6, 2006. Electrics are becoming very popular with most of our members and we welcome this helpful workshop to understanding the ever changing new technology available.

Christmas Party – February 24th at Great Escape Restaurant in Shiller Park

The club will be hosting a Christmas party again this year at the Great Escape Restaurant. Sally Gombert has secured February 24th with the Great Escape Restaurant, 9540 West Irving Park Road, Shiller Park. We will remind everyone at the February meeting of the event that we plan on getting door prizes. The club discussed using the club rebate money from Al's for door prizes, perhaps getting Al's gift certificates to award at the event. Save the date and really try to come as we need to get at least 30 people to avoid a \$50 room charge. Last year we all paid for our dinners at the restaurant, and were able to purchase drinks at the restaurant bar. It was discussed and decided that the club would invite our local hobby shop owners as a thank you on behalf of the club.

Show and Tell

Continuing to show progress from the December meeting, Secretary Ted showed off his scratch building project of creating a flying wing based on an electric model known as the Viper Twin. The landing gear retracts are installed and were demonstrated to the amazement of club members. Stay tuned for a nice spring day when the Viper glow version gets its maiden flight.

Next up was member Jim Borre who brought the fuselage, cowl and wheel pants for his kit building Great Plane RV 4 project. Jim explained the process of joining together the halves of the cowl and wheel pants and gluing technique. Nice work so far Jim and we look forward to seeing your new craft zooming by come spring!

Ed Bywalec made an excellent presentation to make us newcomers to the hobby glad that we were not trying to fly RC back in the 1960's. Ed showed the club the progression of servo technology over the years and how the ball bearing servo evolved from the earlier servos. It was interesting to see the size of the connectors that fit into radio receivers that were the size of small books. And Ed said they did it all often with only .19 motors for power! We should all be thankful that the pioneers in this hobby figured out how to keep getting this stuff smaller and smaller and the engines bigger and bigger.

Ed showed the club how custom lengths of servo leads can be soldered directly to the inside of most servos to prevent accidental separation in flight caused by using servo extensions that can fail. Ed also showed a very interesting servo testing device that he built several years ago to test the span of a servo, and its ability to return to the neutral point each time. The device was a thin flat square of wood with the face of a protractor enlarged and glued onto it. A spot at the center of the half circle of the protractor was cut out for the placement of the servo to be tested, and a piece of music wire was attached to the servo using a Dubro connector. The music wire then moved over the protractor values and showed the span of each movement, and whether the servo centered at the same spot after repeated movements. Ed pointed out that often, a throttle problem where the engine idles irregularly may be caused by the servo returning to a different spot. Thanks for the presentation Ed. The sharing of knowledge and experiences about the hobby really helps us all in understanding how our equipment works and how it has evolved.

Next Meeting To Be Held at the Elmwood Park Field House – February 6th

The February meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 6th at 7pm at the Elmwood Park Fieldhouse.

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