

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
September Newsletter
September 8, 2008



The September 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Strictly RC meeting place at 6:30pm due to rain. Secretary Ted Noncek read the minutes of the August 2008 meeting which were approved by the club. Approximately 18 members were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Terry Gompert and approved by the club. During the month of August the club received dues payments of \$35 and paid out expenses of \$321 related to mower repair and raffle prizes. The ending cash balance at August 31, 2008 was \$803.

Field Maintenance Issues

VP Mike Reinhart indicated that the mower had again broken recently, this time a ball joint, but has been fixed. Mike also indicated that the club needs to replace several of the orange flying stand fences that have been deteriorating this year, and reported that the Forest Preserve District had finally replaced the broken wooden fences bordering the pit area.

Field Safety Issues

Safety Officer Steve Schultz reported to the club on a recent incident involving a helicopter flyer that would not display his AMA card. Steve indicated that politeness in such situations is important to stay on the right side of a potentially difficult confrontation. In this case, Steve asked the flyer to please post his AMA card and the flyer refused. Ultimately the situation escalated to the level in which the flyer began to make threats and engaged in name-calling which led to Steve immediately calling the Forest Preserve Police. Steve related how the policeman that arrived first took some time to read all the rules of the field on the board, then handled the situation which ended with the flyer being instructed to leave. Steve noted that the policeman then said that now that he understands the rules of the field, he would be back periodically to make sure flyers were abiding by them. All club members are warned to be vigilant on posting an AMA or RSM club card when flying. It was noted that spread spectrum users still need to post a card as evidence of insurance coverage in one of the slots that have now been labeled "2.4 GHz" in the lower right section of the frequency board. The club safety officer job is no picnic, and the club thanks Steve for taking this important responsibility so seriously.

Mower Replacement Initiative

With the mower break-downs this year it was proposed that the club consider a replacement for the mower. The club is lucky to have VP Mike this year who has been willing to devote his personal time to running after parts and installing them. The parts were estimated to only cost a couple of hundred dollars this season, but had we needed professional help with the repairs it would have been quite higher. The club mower has been in service for 8 years and it is likely that repair bills will increase in future seasons.

A discussion took place of alternatives and it was reported that a rider mower replacement meeting our requirements could cost over \$2,000. Further discussions led to a motion to empower the President and Vice-President to search for a mower that meets the needs of the field and fits into the shed. Mike and Mike will report back at the next meeting with their findings.

The club discussed how it might fund the mower purchase. Several ideas were proposed including asking for a special fee from all members, following an approach used by the Fox Valley club where a lottery is used to refund the special charge to some lucky members, or have a donation drive asking members to donate what they can. Funding decisions will be discussed once a potential mower is found by the search team. Club Secretary Ted Noncek agreed to investigate as to whether the AMA has any grants available that might be applied for by the club to offset the club's financial needs for the new tractor.

New Revenue Initiatives for RSM

It was noted that the club has not raised its dues in a number of years. In fact, per the club's constitution, the \$35 annual dues was in the constitution which has not been amended since 1991. It was discussed and decided that dues increases would be considered at the next meeting.

A discussion started regarding the new tool box that the club paid \$200 for this year. It was noted that pilots that wanted to store fuel in the box could do so by getting a key from Mike. A discussion as to the original intent of the outside tool box ensued. It was pointed out that the tool box was originally approved by the club so that the excess club equipment in the shed could be moved to the box making it easier for the tractor to move in and out of the shed when being used. This would include the safer storage of the gasoline can for the club equipment.

It was noted that the open invitation for club members to store personal fuel supplies was a use of the tool box that was not part of the club's approval for its purchase. As a result, the club discussed the need to raise more revenue given the increasing costs of maintaining the field and the need to purchase a new tractor. After discussion, a resolution was proposed and seconded, to charge members wishing to store personal supplies of fuel a \$20 annual fee, limited to the first 10 members paying the fee. The fee would become effective on an annual basis starting with the payment of dues for the 2009 season. The motion was passed by a vote of club members present. It was discussed that members making the payment would receive a key to the box, and their name would be added to a list of members storing fuel to be placed in the box.

Gas Powered Airplane Clinic Planned

President Mike and Member Manny discussed that many club members have started to migrate their interest toward gasoline powered large scale aircraft. Manny noted that such aircraft pose much greater safety risks to both the pilot and everyone at the field. Having had much experience with these high powered machines, Manny and Mike have offered to host a gas airplane clinic at a future meeting. Manny discussed that moving to gas from smaller scale glow powered involves many changes to the internal components in the aircraft, including the use of higher powered batteries and servos, kill switches and additional field equipment. Anyone interested in moving to gas is asked to contact Mike or Manny for advice as they outfit and prepare their gas plane for its first flight. They are also available to inspect the finished plane and assist in the nerve-racking maiden flight. Take it from someone who has just made the move to gas after many years in glow—it is a very scary first few flights given the size and power of the gas powered planes. Thanks Mike and Manny for stepping forward with this important safety initiative for the club.

End of Summer Fun Fly Slated for Saturday, September 20th

Co-Contest Directors Rick Silva and Steve Schultz have announced an End of Summer Fun Fly to take place on Saturday, September 20th at 10am with lunch at noon. The rain date was set as Sunday, September 21st.

The Contest Directors asked for volunteers to help with the food and contests. They plan on having contests open to any types of aircraft to allow for the most members participating. They will post the contest maneuvers on the field bulletin board prior to the event. Members should plan on practicing their spot landings, rolls, loops and possibly limbo and balloon popping for the

event. The club determined that it is necessary to charge a landing fee to defray the costs of the food and supplies for the event. As a result it was agreed that there would be a \$5 landing fee for the fun fly. Prizes hopefully will be provided for the winners from donations from area hobby stores.

Electronic Locator Update

VP Mike reported that there are currently 8 electronic plane locators in use at the field, and that the current device has room for up to 24 planes. Any members wishing to add this safety to their fleet is asked to contact Mike. The plane device costs \$25. So far the locator has not had to be used other than we hear to actually find the locator in a member's house who had misplaced it.

Show and Tell/Program

For the impromptu move to the indoor venue for the September meeting, VP Mike presented his progress and advice on decorating and placing stripes on the bottom of aircraft. Mike showed off his work on a Striker that he is painting in a Blue Angels color scheme. Mike pointed out that the stripes he has added to the bottom of the craft appear easier to see at the field when the spacing between stripes is slightly different than the width of the stripe. Mike used two different width tape rolls to mask and paint the stripes using Krylon Fusion paint on the foam airframe. Nice job Mike and thanks for the quick September program.

Next Meeting at Strictly RC Location – Monday October 6th at 7:00 PM

The October meeting will return to our indoor meeting location at Strictly RC and will begin at the regular time of 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)