

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club



September 2011 Newsletter

The September 2011 meeting was called to order at the Shiller Woods Flying Field by President Les Schier at 6:30 p.m. on September 1st. The minutes of the August meeting were read by Secretary Ted Noncek and approved by the club. There were approximately 23 members and several guests in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report. The club began August 2011 with a cash balance of \$1,625. During August the club had no dues or other collections, and had \$870 in expenditures. Expenditures included \$328 for new the flight stand materials, and \$542 for rental of the roller. As a result, the club's ending cash balance, including \$193 in PayPal, was \$765. The Treasurer's report was approved by the club.



Don Zeller mows the pit area on a recent Thursday.

Committee Reports

Field Maintenance: Chairman Mike Reinhart presented the Field Maintenance Committee report. Mike reported that weekly grass cutting has proceeded during the month and recognized the help of several individuals on Thursday afternoons this summer, including Don Zeller, Tom Phelps and Tom Jacobs. During Mike's report, President Les asked the club how they felt about the

condition of the field this year, and the club let out a resounding "great" and proceeded to applaud the work of Mike and his team. Mike concluded his report by noting that fertilizing and weed killer application was scheduled to take place in late September or early October.



Scott Bianchi performs an inverted pass on a recent afternoon with his Pitts Python.

Field Safety Committee: Vice President Mike Reinhart presented the Field Safety Committee report. Mike noted that no field safety issues had arisen since the last meeting and asked that members please contact him or Tim Novak of any concerns.

Planning Committee: Chairman Tim Gombert presented the Planning Committee report. Tim noted that during last month's meeting, the club had approved the purchase of name tags that were expected to cost over \$700 including the purchase of additional blank tags for future use. After the meeting, officers met to discuss the purchase and the condition of the club treasury after the rolling and new flight stands. It was decided to table the name tag purchase until another time and perhaps

consider offering them only to members that wish to purchase them.



Mike Reinhart with some help of Tom Phelps works to repair his "Vistar" after it was flipped over during taxi on a recent afternoon when a dust devil suddenly whipped up the wind in the pit and taxi area.

During the Planning Committee discussions at the July meeting, a vote was taken and a new rule passed to allow expenditures of up to \$500 on behalf of the club upon the vote of a majority of the officers. This rule was considered and put into place to allow the officers to make emergency repairs and purchase field maintenance items during the month without going to the club membership for each expenditure. During the August meeting, a member brought up concern that the limit of \$500 was too much, considering the current standing of the club treasury. After discussion among members, it was decided to table further discussion and consider changes or clarifications of this new rule at the October meeting.



Ed Bywaylec is helped out by Jon Fisher, Jamie Solis and Scott Bianchi after his plane crashed during the balloon pop contest. Ed was tied in 1st place when he crashed.

Flight Training Committee: Chairman Don Zeller presented the Flight Training Committee report. Don noted that the club continues to train a few new members and that he continues to be approached by non-members looking for instruction, especially ones sent by Strictly RC.



Bill shows off his new miniature flyer purchased during the Labor Day Fun Fly which featured some swap items.

Other Business

Helicopter area: A member proposed moving the helicopter hover area further down the field and changing the direction of the flight line for this area to face south. The club discussed this idea for several minutes, and discussed limitations on moving too far, including the need to hear safety call-outs. The topic was tabled until next month, with members asked to think about it, and come prepared to discuss during the October meeting.

Labor Day Fun Fly: The club hosted a Labor Day Fun Fly on Monday, September 5th. Special thanks to Rick Silva for doing all the leg work to get several great prizes from local hobby stores and RC vendors, and for acting as Contest Director. Thanks also to Mike Reinhart for getting the food and organizing the cookout and music, and to Don Zeller and Tibor Galfi who helped plan and coordinate the event, and to all the other members who assisted on the day of the event. The Fun Fly was really enjoyable in spite of the heavy winds that persisted throughout the day. **See the full report and photos in the special section at the end of the newsletter.**



T runs up his combat wing used to compete in the spot landing contest at the Labor Day Fun Fly.

October Meeting Location: While it was discussed that the September meeting that our club meetings would resume indoors for October at the restaurant, since the meeting it was learned that the restaurant has been sold and we would have to seek a new meeting place. Officers have discussed this briefly since the meeting and are considering options, including returning to Strictly RC. **An update will be sent to club members prior to the October meeting date. This may include the need to change the meeting day if it allows us to be better accommodated for our meetings. Please stay tuned.**

Club Celebrates 40th Year: VP Mike noted to the club that the Radio Signal Modelers was started back in 1971 in approximately September or October. The club celebrated by having cup cakes.

One current member in attendance at the September meeting was originally in the club at the start in 1971. Ron Tripp was 21 years old at the time, and just was getting into modeling. Unfortunately, in those days there were no ARFs to help feed the early turnover in models once a beginner crashed. As a result, Ron was only in the club for the better part of a year, before the need to rebuild after a crash, and the demands of a young family, forced him out of the hobby. Interesting fun fact from Ron was that “RSM” originally stood for the initials of the husband and wife that started the club in 1971. It was then reverse-engineered into “Radio Signal Modelers”. Ron also pointed out that the Shiller Woods Field was nothing like it is today, with rougher grass and the pit area further to the south. Ron noted that the club would fly all

over the place back then, in other available flying sites.

We are glad that Ron found his way back into our club over the last few years, and is now able to enjoy the simplicity of modern ARFs in keeping a returning beginner quickly flying even after the first few mishaps. **Happy Anniversary RSM!**

Show and Tell

We had no show and tell during the meeting, but many members enjoyed some great flying before sunset.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 6th at 6:30 p.m. Watch your emails for location.

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



Flight benches stand on their ends during grass cutting.

Labor Day Fun Fly Report

We had great weather in Chicago. However, winds were gusting at up to 40 mph all day. But it didn't discourage a large audience in attendance, and some of the most courageous pilots we've ever seen. Every contestant displayed great sportsmanship and incredible flying skills!

At half-time we were treated to an amazing helicopter demonstration sponsored by Strictly RC Hobby Shop's sponsored pilot—Phill Woyner. The club gave out small toys to the kids and provided music, food and beverages to everyone.

Thanks to Don Zeller, Mike Reinhart and Rick Silva for getting the event together. A sincere thank you to Strictly RC Hobby Shop, Al's Hobby Shop, RC-Lights, Micro-Fasteners, Bob Smith Industries, Horizon Hobby and Great Planes for helping make this a successful event! Most of all thanks to everyone that attended, and a special thanks to every single contestant for putting on an excellent demonstration and braving some turbulent winds conditions.



Event	Winner	Prize
Balloon Pop	1st place: Ted N.	\$25 gift card
Closest landing	1st place: Patrick H.	\$25 gift card
	2nd place: Mike Z.	\$20 gift card
	3rd place: Ted N.	Navigation lights
Egg drop	1st place: Patrick H. & Rick S.	\$25 gift card & 5 bottles CA glue
	2nd place: Don Z. & Mike Z.	\$20 gift card & micro fasteners
	3rd place: Ted N. & Tibor G.	Futaba T-shirt and glow plug caddy
Demolition Derby	1st place: Scott B.	Horizon Hobby RTF Micro T-28 Texan
	2nd place: Mike R.	9 bottles BSI glues
	3rd place: Jaime S.	\$25 gift card
	Bonus winner: Mike R.	\$25 gift card

Top: Rick Silva, Jamie Solis and Mike Reinhart put up an banner. **Bottom:** Sally Gombert helps Rick get the balloons ready for the balloon pop contest.



Left Top: Scott, Mike and Tony tend to the coffee. Left Middle: Rick goes over contest rules with closest landing and egg drop 1st place winner Patrick. Left Bottom: Tim Novak works on his trainer with some help from Carlos. Right Top: The Gomberts enjoy the Fun Fly. Right Middle: Don gets the balloons ready for the balloon pop contest. Right Bottom: Flight line during the second balloon pop group.



Left and Right Top: Scott works his way toward a balloon with his Funtana. **Left Bottom and Right Middle:** Don tries to get closer to the balloons with his Mustang. **Right Bottom:** Ted's Funtana tilts in for a spot landing.



Helicopter demonstration by Strictly RC-sponsored pilot Phil Woyner, with the crowd looking on in awe of his 3-D flying skills.



Left Top: Les, Tony and Jamie watch the demolition derby action. Left Middle: Mike Z. tries to catch an egg using a borrowed lawn chair. Left Bottom: Final two demolition derby competitors, Scott Bianchi and Mike Reinhart, get very close to colliding during the final seconds of the demolition derby. Right Top: A hawk (seen in the middle) enters the demolition derby aerodrome in the final minutes. Right Bottom: Ted's giant foam wing was the only real casualty from Mike Reinhart's direct hit. Mike finished second with his nose completely broken off and his battery sticking out (see next page).



Left Top: Final competitors in demolition derby. Left Middle: Mike Reinhart poses with his 2nd place winning damaged aircraft. Left Bottom: Rick retrieves his Striker. Right Top: Final three competitors get close during demolition derby. Right Middle: 1st prize demolition derby champion Scott poses with his unscathed Fun Jet. Right Bottom: Merek Kiklas gets some help pulling his Striker out of the tree. Merek said afterwards that he did not know what happened, but perhaps had mistakenly started watching someone else's Striker.