

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
June 2009 Newsletter
June 1, 2009



The June 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Shiller Park Flying Field at 6:30pm. Secretary Ted Noncek read the minutes of the May 2009 meeting which were approved by the club.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert was unable to attend but phoned in the Treasurer's Report which was read by Secretary Ted Noncek. The club began the month with \$3,647 which included the mower fund balance of \$1,025 and amounts from members paid for the fuel purchase. From the beginning balance, \$768 was paid out for the fuel purchase, \$19 for internet fees, and \$63 for field maintenance expenses. The ending balance including the mower fund was \$2,864, including the \$1,025 ending mower fund balance. The Treasurer's report was approved by the members present.

Field Maintenance Issues

Two Saturday work parties occurred in May and all members who were able to help are thanked for their efforts in improving the field. Special thanks to Member Les Shier who graciously donated a roll of the improved orange fencing that now has been installed on the flight line. It is really great to see the engineering genius at work at the field with the design of the removable fence system that VP Mike Reinhart designed and discussed at our last meeting. With Mike's design, the new fencing can be lifted for easier grass cutting. The new fence is strong and will certainly protect us from those occasional landing mishaps where a plane tries to enter the pit area. We all are reminded to use the flight stations so that this extra protection is in place. It was reported by VP Mike that the field improvements expenses totaled \$453 including fertilizer and other items which have not yet been submitted to the Treasurer.

President Mike updated the club on rolling. The rolling is likely to happen in the next week or so based on the availability of the roller. When it is decided, Mike will contact those individuals he knows will be available during the week to help.

Field Safety Issues

No reports on field safety.

Mower Replacement

At last meeting it was discussed that the ideal mower, a 54inch Craftsman, was slightly too long to fit in the shed due to the engine cowl extending about 4 inches too far. It was decided that Terry Gombert would inspect the shed to see if an extension of a few inches could be devised to allow the club to purchase the mower. At the June meeting it was reported that Terry had determined that a metal box could be fashioned to extend the north wall of the shed enough to allow the club to buy this mower. It was discussed that Joe Kasky would be willing to weld the metal box together for the club and that the cost of the metal would need to be determined.

After it was discussed that the shed could be extended, President Mike told the club that he had some special news that had come to him in the mail. Back in December the club applied for an AMA Flying Site Assistance Grant in the amount of \$200, 10% of the mower replacement project estimated cost. Mike then read out loud a letter signed by the AMA Executive Director in which

the club was granted the \$200 it requested. This grant brought our mower fund to \$1,225. RSM was one of only 22 clubs in the nation to receive a grant this year. VP Mike thanked Ted Noncek for his work in filling out the grant application and getting it signed by our AMA District VP and submitted last winter.

Given the grant money, and the overall balance in the club's treasury, a motion was made to approve the alteration of the shed, and to purchase the mower. It should be noted that as has been reported previously, VP Mike and Les worked last winter to research and look at mowers. They reported to the club that professional grade mowers cost in excess of \$4,000, above the price range the club had considered. They consulted Consumer Reports for the best consumer grade mowers and found that the Craftsman model is highly rated. The mower cost is \$2,000 while on sale, and the club believes it can get an employee discount thanks to Member Ed Bywalec's friend. This machine has a hydrostatic transmission rather than the belt dependent current mower. Based on the availability of funds, and the anticipated sale of the existing mower, the club approved the purchase of the new mower. VP Mike is in charge of the purchase and may seek to place the mower on layaway initially to get the sale price while the shed alteration is completed.

Special thanks to all those who have donated to the mower fund, and to VP Mike and Les for their work in shopping for the new machine. It is incredible that the club has been able to band together and come up with the resources to provide a new mower since the idea first surfaced in the fall.

Mower Donations

Its not too late to make a last minute donation to the mower fund to help out with the mower and shed improvements. All you have to do is go to the club website and make a pay pal donation or send a check to Terry, or hand a check to one of the officers at the field. We all understand that the purchase is going to bring our cash balance very low for the remainder of the year until membership dues are made for next year. Every donation is appreciated.

New Regular Weekly Mowing Day Set - Every Thursday 11am to 2pm

VP Mike announced that based on his work schedule, he will this summer be working to cut the grass on a set schedule, every Thursday from 11am to 2pm. All members that have availability in the weekday and would be willing to help out are asked to contact Mike or just show up willing to help.

Father's Day Fun Fly Set—June 20th

The club has set as its first fun fly date of Saturday, June 20th, the day before Father's Day. Contest/Events Director Steve Schultz announced plans for the event. Events will include a balloon slalom, loop and roll, spot landing, limbo, and pylon race. Any type of plane may be used in the contest, and multiple planes may be used for different events. Steve indicated that Jim from Strictly RC is sponsoring us by donating a grand prize airplane as well as gift certificates to use as prizes to the events. Steve needs volunteers to help. Please contact Steve and offer your help. We expect to begin promptly at 10am with the pilot meeting, sign in will begin at 9am. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8am to help with setup.

Next Meeting—Monday, July 6th 6:30pm at Flying Field

The next meeting will take place at the Shiller Woods Flying Field and will begin at 6:30pm (instead of the usual time). We start early to give more time to flying. Please bring a plane to the meeting to get in some flights.

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