

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
August 2006 Newsletter
August 7, 2006



The August 2006 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Schiller Park Flying Field. Approximately 17 members were in attendance. Secretary Ted Noncek presented the minutes of the July 2006 meeting which were approved by the club as read.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report for July 2006. The club's treasury received six membership dues payments and two donations that totaled \$225.00. Expenditures totaled \$328.24 during the month, primarily related to lawn mower repair and gasoline purchases for field maintenance. As a result, the club cash balance stands at \$735.79 at July 31, 2006. The Treasurer's report was approved by the club as presented.

Field Maintenance Report

President Mike reported on field maintenance for the month. Mike reported that the club Saturday morning field maintenance get-togethers are working well and will be continued each week. Mike reported that many members are showing up at 7 a.m. to assist in the various field maintenance activities surrounding the cutting of the flying field, including moving benches and marking the taxi area with striping paint. Special thanks to Mike and all our members who have been able to help. It was announced that the Saturday morning maintenance time will continue through the cutting season, so that all members are notified that the field will be officially closed for maintenance until approximately 10 a.m. each Saturday. Of course, with many hands available to assist, the field can open sooner. Please try to make it to do your fair share toward field maintenance (if you can't make it at 7 a.m. try to show up anytime to lend a hand during that period).

It was also discussed that the club would be purchasing a smaller hand mower to assist in cutting the pit area. The club agreed to investigate the purchase of either a new or used push mower, self propelled and with mulching ability (so no bag is needed) for this purpose, with a budget of \$200 maximum. After the meeting and prior to the issuance of this newsletter we learned that member Mike Reinhart has already found a very inexpensive used mower that hopefully will meet this need for the club. Thanks Mike for looking for this on behalf of the club.

Club Picnic and Electric Themed Fun Fly August 27th

As discussed at last month's meeting, Strictly RC our neighborhood RC hobby shop, will be sponsoring our August 27th club picnic and fun fly. Because of Strictly's promotion of electric flight in their shop, we have themed this event as an electric plane event, although contest director Joe Kasky is working on creating flying events open to both electric and glow/gas powered aircraft. We hope to see you all there on Sunday, August 27th starting at 10 a.m. Bring out your favorite electric or glow planes out for the event and plan on making a day of it with your fellow RSM members and guests!

Club Hats and Shirts Available

Ron Rothstein has located a company that can make club hats and shirts for members to purchase. The club decided on the use of the long-standing club logo that has the state of Illinois

surrounded by wings and the club name at the bottom as the logo that will be stitched onto the hats. This stitching is nicer than the hats of several years ago that had this same logo printed on. In order to justify the set up of the logo into the vendor's stitching machine, it is necessary for the club to purchase at least 24 hats and ten shirts. The price to member's of the hat is \$25, and for each shirt, \$20.

The hats are available in the following colors: Black, Navy Blue, Red, Navy Blue visor with Khaki cap, and Dark Green visor with Khaki cap. The hats will also have printed your name and frequency board channel, so please specify your favorite channel and color preference. Please indicate the name you wish and frequency channel. If you wish do not wish to have your frequency number added to the hat, please specify "no number", or "no name" if you prefer to keep your name off your hat.

The shirts are a all cotton pre-shrunk pocket t-shirt available in all sizes in the following colors: Blue, White, Light Gray, Red, Navy Blue or Black. Please specify size (S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL) and color. Ron explained that this too can have your frequency board number added, please specify your number or "no number" if you wish to not have the number added.

To Order: We intend to make the order just after next month's meeting, but we would like for you to place your orders to Ted Noncek via e-mail as early as possible. Remember, the club needs to get 24 hat orders and 10 shirt orders to make this work. Please specify your hat and shirt colors from the available colors above, and shirt size (hats are adjustable one-size-fits-all) in an email back to Ted. We will collect the money for your hats at the next meeting, or arrange to collect by mail.

Club Web Site to be Moved to New Site

The club is trying to proceed with moving the web site but is needing to get a password from the official "owner" of the web address, a former member. We hope to make progress on getting the "RSMRC" address tied down to a new site to be hosted by Evan Spies.

Flying in Pattern and Field Etiquette Discussion

A member raised the question of flying in a set pattern once in the air with several aircraft up at once. It was suggested that a set take-off and pattern of counter clockwise when taking off into the west, and clockwise when taking off into the east, should be considered. Discussions surrounding this suggestion were spirited and included consideration of the use of spotter partners for each flyer to warn individual flyers of the location of other aircraft in the air. A long-time member pointed out several rules that he indicated have been followed for years at the club including special areas for aerobatics and helicopter hovering. However, these rules are not posted and do not seem to be understood fully by current membership or nonmember users of the Shiller Flying Field.

The club reached no conclusions on issued posed during the discussion. Additional discussions centered on the need to ensure all members (and other users of the field) call out take offs ("taking off!") and landings ("landing!") in a loud voice so other can hear it, and the need for other flyers in the air to give an acknowledgement of these announcements as well. One suggestion by President Mike was to announce "up and out!" to acknowledge these announcements when flying. In this way the flyer attempting to take off or land is aware that the other flyer understands his announcement.

Of course, much of this boils down to being courteous to our fellow flyers at the field. We all come to the field to enjoy ourselves and relax in our hobby/sport and would like to do so without

the tensions that can come about by having issues with other flyers not following basic safety rules. As we all may have learned in drivers education “right of way can’t be taken, it can only be granted.” This is exactly the situation at the flying field. We all grant right of way to our fellow flyers by agreeing to move out of the way during landings and take offs. Those who land and take off without calling out their request for right of way have attempted to “take” right of way resulting in an unsafe flying experience for all flyers and the possibility of a mishap.

Helicopters and smaller electric craft by their nature tend to use the infield flying space more than larger airplanes, as do higher powered 3D maneuvers with larger airplanes. It is important to realize this and work around these special uses of the infield so everyone can enjoy their specific area of interest. A good practice when others are using the infield area and another flyer is wishing to do a low fly by is to yell out “coming in low!” to the others to get acknowledgement they understand your maneuver. Or simply wait until the infield user is finished and go up when the field clears.

Club members who witness other users of the field not following the basic safety rules are requested to politely notify such flyers of the expectations and common courtesies followed at the field, especially calling out take off and landing intentions.

Next Meeting To Be Held at Flying Field – Monday September 11th

The September meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11th at 7pm at the Shiller Flying Field. In case of rain, the meeting will be held at Elmwood Park Fieldhouse location. **This meeting will be held on the second Monday of September to avoid the Labor Day holiday on the first Monday.** Please be sure to bring some airplanes to fly before and after the meeting. And some to show off for show and tell!

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