

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
August Newsletter
August 4, 2008



The August 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the flying field at 6:30pm, our summer club meeting time. Secretary Ted Noncek read the minutes of the July 2008 meeting which were approved by the club. Approximately 22 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 July the club received dues payments of \$35 and paid out expenses of \$10. The ending cash balance at July 31, 2008 was \$1,021.

President's Message

President Mike discussed several issues to begin the business portion of the meeting. It was first discussed that, as approved by the club last month, we have purchased a large construction-type outside toolbox. Currently the toolbox is in George Shindler's workshop being painted green so that it matches the shed. Special thanks to Terry Gompert for finding the used toolbox and to George Shindler for his efforts preparing it for the flying field. The box is intended to store some of the items currently taking up a lot of room in the shed so that the mower can be moved more easily.

Mike then discussed the need for the club to have a permanent contest/events director. Mike had asked in the early meetings of the year for someone to step up and take on this leadership position so that the club can host more events with a goal someday of maybe having a large event which invites outsiders to attend. Two members, Rick Silva and Steve Schultz, offered to serve as co-directors in order to share the tasks. Thanks to Rick and Steve for volunteering their time to this important post.

President Mike offered special thanks to all the hard work VP Mike Reinhart has put in to the fixing of the club's lawnmower. The mower again broke a fan belt and Mike devoted much time to finally finding a shop with the replacement belt. Mike then installed the belt and got the mower running again. Mike has been instrumental in our 2008 season in leading the grass cutting schedule and has personally kept our flying field in great condition. VP Mike indicated that he now has several spares to keep the mower running should it throw another belt.

Possible End-of-Summer Fun Fly for Labor Day Weekend

President Mike discussed the fun several members had recently with an impromptu pylon event using electric Stryker aircrafts. Two poles were set up and several club members raced their planes across the field. Mike discussed how these are great events to show off your piloting skills and suggested the club develop a late summer event with a pylon, limbo and perhaps a radar-locked speed event. **Please watch your e-mails and the website for news as to whether we can get together an end-of-summer event. As of the writing of this newsletter, Rick Silva (new co-event director—see above) has created a draft of a possible Labor Day weekend event with several fun contests.**

Electronic Locator Update

As discussed at the July meeting, VP Mike indicated that he now has a electronic locator device to help find lost planes. Mike passed around the very small plane receiver/transmitter device that weighs only 5 grams and uses a small hearing aid battery for power. The locator device is capable of detecting the aircraft device as far as 600 feet away, beeping faster as the locator is pointed in the direction of the crash site. Lately the club has had several lost aircraft out in the Shiller Woods “jungle” (a flyer helping a friend locate their plane recently was heard saying “it’s a different world back there” as they emerged from the woods full of bites and burrs!). The locator is capable of remembering up to 24 of the transponders limiting each locator to this many planes. The first locator has been purchased by Mike’s friend Rim and members will be able to pay \$25 to purchase the aircraft transponders to participate. Anyone interested should contact VP Mike to arrange the purchase. If a lot of members purchase the transponders, the club will consider purchasing another locator that costs \$169. Special thanks to Rim for his generous donation to the club of the first locator.

Other Discussions

VP Mike asked that all members using the field please remember to roll down the umbrellas at the end of the day, or when you see that you are the last flyer leaving. Heavy winds could damage the umbrellas if we leave them out during a storm.

August Meeting Program

We had no August program but did get in some quick flying in the still air as an approaching storm darkened the western sky at the August meeting. Very impressive were a couple of models that had electric navigation lights that normally are hard to see in the pre-sundown sky. But with the storm closing in, the lights were very noticeable. Unfortunately, the rains came with a vengeance catching several members off guard causing their equipment to get wet. Special thanks to several courageous members that ran and got umbrellas from the shed and the large sun tent to put over our President Mike as he hurried to disassemble his big Super Cub. Close call for all of us as the storm proved to be one of the fastest moving storms of the season!

Next Meeting at Flying Field – Monday September 8th at 6:30pm

The September meeting will be the last of the year to be held at the Shiller Woods Flying Field, weather permitting, Monday September 8th at 6:30pm. Note that the first Monday in September is the Labor Day holiday, so as is our practice, the meeting will be held the following week. In the event of rain, the meeting will be held at the Strictly RC location also to begin at 6:30pm. Again, we anticipate a shorter program to allow for the club to get in more flying time before and after the meeting. Be sure to bring a model to show off your skills to the rest of the club.

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