

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
July 2006 Newsletter
July 10, 2006



The July 2006 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Shiller Park Flying Field. Approximately 12 members were in attendance. Secretary Ted Noncek presented the minutes of the June 2006 meeting which were approved by the club as read.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report for June 2006. The club's treasury received no inflows of cash and had no payments. As a result, the club cash balance stands at \$839.03 at June 30, 2006 unchanged from the prior month balance. During the meeting however, we learned of mower-related expenditures that were paid for by President Mike of approximately \$160 that are pending reimbursement. 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 belts on the mower failed during June and required replacement. The belts were purchased for \$90 with the intention that they could be easily replaced at the field. The job was bigger than expected and as a result, Russo Power Equipment of Shiller Park was called. Russo picked up the mower, replaced the belts and changed the oil for an additional \$70. Mike decided not to have a full tune-up on the mower as it seemed excessive in price. Instead it was discussed that sharpening of the blade and balancing could be accomplished by a club member at the field. After a discussion, new member Mike Reinhart offered to assist in balancing the blade as he had experience with doing such work and had the balancing tool, and it was discussed that a battery operated drill with a sharpening wheel could easily be used at the field to sharpen the blade.

Next the club discussed the club mowing schedule. With Mike on vacation over the holiday weekend, the field was not cut which started to affect flight operations. As discussed at prior meetings at the end of last year's mowing season, we considered that this job needs to be spread among the members, with members taking turns each week to be in charge of the cutting. While it is important to have help when cutting to move benches and share some of the riding, most of the field cutting task is a single man job. It was generally agreed among the members present that the field needs to be cut toward weekend (Thursday, Friday or Saturday) and that members willing to assist in the mowing should make Mike aware of their interest and additional keys to the shed would be made. Several members volunteered at the meeting to join the weekly cutting schedule. Mike will be overseeing the weekend cutting schedule and offering lessons on working the mower. All interested members should come to the field on this Saturday morning to assist Mike and get instruction on mower use. Please contact Mike for more details.

Flying Events Planned

The club had previously discussed a flying event for next Saturday, July 16th. We have decided to cancel this planned event since we have not made any plans for it as of the meeting. The next event planned is the August 27th Club Picnic. Jim from Strictly RC made an appearance at the field during our meeting and has offered to sponsor this event and provide prizes and promotion of the event. As a result, we are planning on this event being an electric fly-in. Mark your

calendars for this fun fly event not to be missed! Of course we will still welcome glow and gas planes at the field on the day, but will plan on electric events.

Discussion of Unattended Minors at the Flying Field and Liability

We have not made any progress on this matter that was discussed extensively at last month's meeting. No new discussions were held on this topic as Evan Spies was not in attendance and had offered to take the lead in this by consulting his brother who is an attorney.

Propeller Safety Discussion

The club discussed an accidental propeller-finger incident that occurred recently to a long-time RC pilot at the field when running up an engine on a test stand. Obviously, our propellers are the most dangerous part of our aircraft especially when running on the ground. As a result, all members are reminded of prop safety tips:

- Spend the minimum of time in front of your propeller. After starting, always move behind the propeller to remove glow starter and make engine adjustments.
- Remind fellow RC pilots or helpers to move behind your propeller as well.
- Never stand on the side of a spinning propeller or allow others to stand on the sides. Loose objects or broken prop blades can be propelled at high.
- Never handle the propeller when the glow plug is attached.
- Don't get distracted by engine starting problems. When making repeated starting attempts follow all safety procedures each time.
- Always use a hold-down device when starting your airplane. Make sure the plane is fully pushed forward to the stopping point before starting so it does not jump forward upon starting.
- Take special care when breaking-in an engine. Don't let your mind wander and forget that the propeller has disappeared when spinning. Consider bracing your body so that your arm extends only as far as the needle valve making it impossible to make accidental contact with the propeller.
- Take extra care when working with gasoline-powered engines since the motor could start at any time if the ignition switch is left on.
- Always follow your safety protocol when working with your engine. Try to follow the same safe pattern of steps when starting your engine every time.

So far this season we have had three serious propeller accidents requiring emergency room medical assistance. And we have all witnessed some less serious close calls. Diplomatically mention these safety tips to any of your fellow pilots who appear to require a safety refresher. This recent accident happened to seasoned RC pilot known for his safety consciousness. Remember, this can happen to anyone...Let's be careful out there!

Club Web Site to be Moved to New Site

No progress to report on this matter at the meeting. New member Mike Reinhart indicated that he owned server space and could donate space to the club. It was decided that Mike should contact Evan to determine whether this could help or whether Evan was already committed to other server space.

Club Welcomes New Members

The club welcomed two new members at the June meeting. The first was Mike Reinhart who has been flying at the field this summer with electric aircraft. Recently he purchased a Hobbico Super Star and moved over to the glow side to further his training. Mike soloed his new Super Star easily having successfully learned to fly with his electric aircrafts. Mike has already

volunteered to help out with mower maintenance, mowing and with the web site. Welcome Mike and thanks for helping out so soon!

The club also welcomed new member George Balaban at the meeting. George is in the process of building a Sig LT-40 kit. Since he is an electrical engineer, George decided to outfit his trainer plane kit with electric power. We all look forward to seeing the finished product and helping George with his first few flights.

While not at the meeting, the club also welcomes new member Vince Montana who joined recently.

Show and Tell

No show and tell to report for this meeting. All members are encouraged to display their new craft or other RC-related products at the August meeting. President Mike did treat the club members present to another impromptu air show display with his new Sig Sundancer Biplane. Mike outfitted the new craft with a DA-50 gas engine and smoke system. The smoke system definitely makes this plane and is a real traffic stopper on Irving Park road. Great display. And we hear that two more are being assembled right now by Evan and Vito. Can't wait to see all those Sundancers in the air at once—what a show that will make!

Next Meeting To Be Held at Flying Field – Monday August 7th

The August meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 7th at 7pm at the Shiller Flying Field. In case of rain, the meeting will be held at Elmwood Park Fieldhouse location. **All summer meetings up to and including September are planned at the field.** 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)