

**Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club**  
**July Newsletter**  
**July 7, 2008**



The July 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 June 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 June the club received dues payments of \$260 and paid out expenses of \$351. The ending cash balance at June 30, 2008 was \$1,080.

**President's Message**

Mike started the business portion of the meeting by thanking everyone who came out to the recent Father's Day Fun Fly event. The trainer olympics were enjoyed by all that participated and the club was impressed by Don Zeller who walked away with first place using a borrowed trainer plane. Don won the orange trainer plane that was discussed several meetings ago as a donated plane to the club. Later in the day Mike set up a radar gun that was capable of clocking the speed of our aircraft. Mike has suggested that the club host a "speed event" in the near future.

Mike discussed safety at the field given the high usage the field is getting with many new flyers coming out to try their new planes for the first time. As always, club members are encouraged to offer assistance to new flyers at the field and to help watch out for safety problems before they result in injury.

Finally, Mike indicated that technology was available to help us find planes lost in the woods surrounding the field. Recently several planes have been lost, some found, in the very dense woods. Mike and VP Mike have found a device that costs about \$80 that can locate lost planes that carry a transmitter on board that costs about \$15 per plane. Mike has proposed having the club buy this device and offer members the added security of adding the \$15 on-board device. After discussion it was decided that President Mike and VP Mike would purchase the device personally, test it, and report back to the club for possible club purchase.

**Field Maintenance Report**

The mower is broken due to a fan belt that needs replacement. The belt has been on order at the lawn and garden store but has not yet arrived. Mike reports that the grass is starting to get long enough to hinder smaller planes from taking off. We expect the belt to be in shortly and to get the grass cut.

Some of our starting benches appear to have been broken in one of the recent heavy wind storms. The vertical arms on some need replacing. George Shindler volunteered his carpentry services to make the needed repairs.

Discussions were held regarding the need for a gas plane starting stand to be made in the starting area of the pits. President Mike indicated that several members of the club have larger gas planes that would benefit from some sort of setup of two poles to hold the plane back during starting. No definite plan was made at the meeting.

Special thanks to VP Mike who has installed the umbrellas on the new picnic tables at the field. Mike has set up two umbrellas at each end of the first bunch of tables in the pit area. Great job Mike and thanks for providing some needed shade at the field.

### **Other Discussions**

VP Mike reported that the club website has been paid up through August 2009. Payment for the website charge has also been set up with Pay Pal for future periods. Mike indicated that he would find out when the "RSMRC" web address becomes available from the prior club member who set up the old website.

It was reported that a Hobbico charger was stolen from the shed recently. The charger had been placed in the shed while club members and others were flying at the field and the doors left open. Someone came in and took the charger. Members are cautioned to keep an eye on their equipment at the field given this incident.

Terry Gombert has a lead on a outdoor tool chest for the field. As discussed last year, it was decided that the club would look for a used outdoor jobsite tool box to keep some of the sundry items the club is now storing in the shed. Terry has found one available for \$200. It was decided by vote of the members at the meeting to authorize Terry to purchase the chest. President Mike indicated that he would sand the current paint off the box to get it ready for painting. George Shindler volunteered to paint the box green when Mike has completed his sanding.

The club discussed take off and landing etiquette at the July meeting. A member indicated that flyers announce their takeoffs and landings too early causing other pilots to move their flying to safe areas too soon. The member suggested that the appropriate manner of takeoff was to move your plane down the taxiway in front of the flying stands, until reaching the starting point. At that point the take off should be announced. Similarly, it was suggested that landings should be announced when one is on the down-wind leg, just before turning into final. The club discussed these suggestions with several members having differing opinions. Some indicated that earlier indications of landings and take-offs were preferred as it gives all flyers more time to plan for it. President Mike summarized the discussion by asking all members to communicate while flying. Specifically, to review the major required communications, all flyers are required to announce the following events:

"Taking Off": Flyer readying for take off, other flyers should move to safe flying areas.

"Landing": Flyer is getting ready to land, other flyers should move to safe flying areas.

"Dead Stick": Power has been lost and flyer is needing to immediately land. All other flyers need move to safe flying area. Dead Stick has priority over all other flyer's that may have just called Taking Off or Landing.

"On the Field": Pilot needs to either retrieve a plane on the field or hand launch a aircraft while others are flying.

"Field Clear": Indication that pilot that announced "On the Field" is now off the field.

Optimally, all pilots on the flight line should acknowledge the pilot calling out the event to ensure that all parties know what the other is attempting. Good communication is our best safety policy at the field.

This discussion led the club to discuss incidents where members of the public venture out onto the flying field while pilots are flying. Other members should alert the pilots in the air that there

are people on the field. All members are encouraged to courteously indicate to such people that they need to clear the field as they are in danger.

**July Meeting Program**

Our summer meetings are being held at the field at 6:30pm in order to maximize the amount of time members may fly on the night of the meeting. As a result we have no official meeting program other than trying not to bump into each other when the club all starts flying together after the meeting. However, we did have some show and tell from master builder Don Raasch. Don presented the uncovered wings he has kit-built for his latest project. Nice job, let's see the full bird fly at the August meeting!

**Next Meeting at Flying Field – Monday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

The August meeting will be held at the Shiller Woods Flying Field weather permitting. 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)