

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
June 2006 Newsletter
June 5, 2006



The June 2006 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Shiller Park Flying Field. Approximately 16 members were in attendance. Secretary Ted Noncek presented the minutes of the May 2006 meeting which were approved by the club as read.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's report for April and May 2006. At the start of April, the club's cash balance was \$879.17. April activity included the club fuel purchase receipts from members of \$1,109.00, and expenditures of \$1,181.64 to Al's Hobbies for the fuel, and \$6.00 to the Internal Revenue Service, resulting in an ending April 2006 cash balance of \$800.53. May activity included the receipt of membership dues of \$380.00, and expenditures related to the rolling of the flying field of \$341.50. As a result, the ending club cash balance stands at \$839.03 at May 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 indicated that the field had been cut to extend the overrun areas on both the east and west sides of the field, and that small stakes had been added to try to show the Forest Preserve grass cutters the limits of their cutting. Mike asked for anyone in the club that might be able to donate small flags, such as those used by utility workers to mark underground hazards. Member Evan Spies responded that he had several white flags that he would be willing to donate.

The club discussed the grass cutting schedule at the field, with President Mike pointing out that the club needed a regular schedule of cutting and field maintenance. The club agreed that Saturday mornings would be reserved for cutting, and that all volunteers are asked to show up early on Saturday so that we can get flying as soon as possible. Mike agreed to take control of the effort and would plan on leading the crew every Saturday morning. All flyers are warned that early morning Saturday flying may be restricted by the cutting schedule.

Member Les Schier commented that he was very pleased with the condition of the pit area this year, in that garbage and smoking waste was not being left around and under the table area. All members are reminded to remove any garbage that may result from your use of the field.

Father's Day Club Fly Planned – June 18th

Mike reminded the club that June 18th, Father's Day, has been designated a club flying event and picnic. We do not plan on having any scheduled contests for the day, just some nice flying and barbecue. Please plan on bringing some planes for that Sunday, bring the kids and let's fly! This is the perfect excuse to do something that you want to do on your special day!!!

The Trainer Olympics held two weeks ago was a success with six flyers competing. Special thanks to Joe Kaskey for setting up the event and to Marge Kaskey for assisting him in getting supplies. Also thanks to friend-of-the-club Vito, who supplied some delicious pizzas from his Villa Napoli restaurant for all the flyers.

Discussion of Unattended Minors at the Flying Field and Liability

The club discussed an issue that has come up this year, that of underage members and nonmembers using the field and the club's assistance without parent or guardian present. Discussion surrounded the potential liability that this situation may bring to individual members, club officers and the club. After a discussion lead by Evan Spies based on discussions with his brother, an attorney, it was pointed out that a waiver and release is a good practice in these cases, and that the club should establish rules requiring the parent or guardian of a young flyer be present when the club is instructing the individual. It was discussed that the club really has no ability to limit the use of the field by nonmember minors that have a current AMA card. But the club decided that it needs to receive a waiver and release from minors in the club, and require that a parent or guardian stay at the field to oversee the minor during instruction.

Member Ed Bywalec, who is also a member of another area RC club, pointed out that his other club has a waiver that all members must annually update with their membership renewal. Ed pointed out that a member of that club was an attorney that had written articles for RC magazines on the subject of liability and had developed the form. Evan asked Ed to get a copy of the form that would be useful in creating the RSM version. It was decided that the club would create a waiver and release form, that covers all members and requires a parent or guardian signature in the case of individuals under 18 years of age. The club also decided that 16 years of age would be the limit for the club to instruct individuals without parent or guardian present. Evan agreed to work on this project.

First Aid at the Flying Field

Special thanks to Evan who completed his mission to restock the field medical first aid kit. All members should know that the kit is in an unmarked box on the east side of the shed, at the top of the impound shelves.

Club Web Site to be Moved to New Site

Evan reported that he has made progress and the first steps in getting the RSM web site moved to his server. Keep an eye out for the new and improved site, and if anyone has content or suggestions please feel free to pass them along to Evan.

George Solos

Well it finally happened on May 10th—George Schindler soloed with his Avistar. President Mike reported that after a successful training mission with George on the buddy box, it was time to take the final step and solo. George powered up and successfully completed his solo with a safe landing. Sadly, that mission turned out to be the last for that version of the Avistar, as the next flight on the date of the Trainer Olympics ended in disaster. It is believed that the trees in the southwest corner of the field have a special force that works to attract trainer planes such as the ill-fated Avistar. Luckily, due to George's quick thinking and powerful OS engine, he was able to force his craft between the branches and out the other side. George showed off his newly refurbished Superstar as he got back up in the air at the end of the June meeting. Way to stick to it George. I'm sure with a little of George's great workshop skills that Avistar will be back at the field soon!

Show and Tell

Member Mike Zawadzki showed off two of his aircraft at the meeting. The first was his electric Easy Trainer with a speed 400 motor. The next was his ARF that he picked up in Poland and put together, a small scale Spitfire. Nice job Mike. Thanks for showing the club your good work on the models.

Next Meeting To Be Held at Flying Field – Second Monday of July due to Holiday

The July meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 10th at 7pm. This year the Fourth of July lands on the first Tuesday of the month, leaving a long weekend for most. As a result, the club meeting is moved to the second Monday in the hopes that more members will be able to attend. We will hold the meeting at the field if the weather permits, otherwise meet at the Elmwood Park Fieldhouse. **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)