

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
February 2006 Newsletter
March 6, 2006



The March 2006 meeting was called to order by President Mike Mietus at the Elmwood Park Fieldhouse. Thirteen members were in attendance. Secretary Ted Noncek presented the minutes of the February 2006 meeting which were approved by the club as read.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Terry Gombert presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2006. At the end of January, the club had a cash balance of \$879.17. Terry reported that membership dues in the amount of \$170 and a donation of \$25 were received during the month of February. The club's cash balance at February 28, 2006 was \$994.17. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

2006 Club Membership Dues Being Accepted

All members are reminded that the annual club membership dues of \$35 per person, \$5 per additional family member, are now being accepted by Treasurer Terry. Feel free to pay at next month's meeting, or if you will be unable to attend, mail your dues to Terry Gombert, 4825 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, IL 60625. Members are reminded that it is necessary that your AMA membership dues be current in order to use the field.

Christmas Party

The club was very pleased with the turnout this year for our annual Christmas party dinner event held again this year at the Great Escape Restaurant in Shiller Park. The club thanks Sally Gombert, our permanent social secretary, for her assistance again in arranging the event for us. Through the Al's Hobby Shop Club Rebate program, where our club member purchases earned the club 3% rebate in merchandise last year, we were able to have \$161 in door prizes for the event. The club thanked Cindy at Al's for this program that provided some great prizes. In addition, our new hobby shop in the neighborhood, Strictly RC provided an electric-powered Katana as a door prize. We were happy to thank Glen of Strictly RC and his wife in person at the event for their generosity. Of course, one of our newest members, Shirley Shindler, was lucky enough to win the Katana, so we have offered her flight instruction when ever she is ready to show George that electric is the way to go! Everyone had a great time at this year's event. Thanks to all who came and contributed to the success of our annual dinner event.

Field Maintenance

In continuation of our ongoing discussion on the care of the lawn at the Shiller Park Flying Field, President Mike informed the club that he had attempted to contact Jose Villa of the Cook County Forest Preserve District to ask him if he would be willing to come to a club meeting and discuss with us our concerns about the field. A suggestion was made that if Mr. Villa would not be able to attend, perhaps the club could come up with some questions, and have a less formal meeting with Mike or other club representative. In particular, to ask about bringing back a sign to identify the field, preferably on both the east and far west end of the field so as to inform the public not to walk across the field. In addition, the club is interested in understanding the Forest Preserve District's policy on the club's lawn care ideas.

Mike also reported that he was in contact with a rental company in Westmont that rented out specialized lawn care machinery that could be used on the field.

George Shindler discussed with the club his plans on painting the flight stands and he and Mike requested that all flyers consider using overflow bottles to keep the flight stands dry. For any members who don't have one, an unused fuel tank makes an ideal overflow bottle, allowing for the muffler vent line to be attached. You can then use your fuel pump to pump it out when it becomes full especially if you set it up in the conventional manner, with a clunk and line on one of the tubes. George also said that he would like to take the tattered wind sock down and replace it with a better wind sock and pole, and find a better pole for the American flag at the field. The club welcomed George's suggestions and we all look forward to more of George's fine work in keeping the field in shape.

Club Event Planning Discussion

Joe Kaskey, our Club Event and Contest Director, lead a discussion regarding events for 2006. Joe was considering that the club should host a fun fly later in the summer that would be advertised in the back of the AMA magazine. Joe proposed that such an event would raise awareness of the club and our field and attract other flyers from around the area. A discussion ensued as to the club's objective in holding such an event, and concerns whether additional permits would be required from the Forest Preserve District to host a potentially bigger event than the small club events we have worked with. It was discussed that a single big event could involve a \$150 permit at a minimum, and the rental of additional outhouse facilities. It was decided that more information on the rules as to such an event would be gathered before the April meeting, and then the club would vote on whether a larger event should be planned. Joe pointed out that the lead time to get it in the AMA magazine is likely fairly long, and that a decision would need to be made if the club were to schedule such an event. It was additionally discussed that the club would continue to hold some lesser events, in conjunction with the ongoing event permit plan with the Forest Preserve.

Discussion on Instructor Notice at Field

Ted Noncek discussed ideas on training new flyers at the field. In particular, a concern that we often end up training individuals who do not join the club. A suggestion was made that we should be more proactive in requiring new pilots we help to become members in order to continue instruction. Several ideas were discussed, including whether we should give a break in first year membership fee, or whether we should charge a training surcharge in the first year. It was decided charging more would potentially set us up for complaints if an individual could not get enough training time with volunteer instructors. The club concluded that we would add a notice on the club field bulletin board that explains that in order to be instructed, new flyers should join the club. We discussed that most of the instructors are willing to help a new flyer the first time we see them at the field, but that for continued instruction we should all require any students to become members. The new member form has been updated to tell new members that Terry will send an instructor list when they join. Anyone who is willing to be an official instructor should let us know and we will add you name to the club list as such.

Annual Club Fuel Purchase to be Finalized at April Meeting

With spring around the corner and the temperatures rising our annual club fuel purchase is also here. Al's Hobby shop has issued their case purchase price list for 2006. Members and friends of the club can purchase their annual fuel supply at a decent discount by stocking up with the club purchase. We plan on finalizing the order at the April club meeting. President Mike has graciously offered to act as the pick up point for the order. We again have created a form for your order, that is being sent by separate e-mail to all members. Please fill out the order form,

and bring your check or cash to the April meeting. We will place the order with Al's and notify everyone of when they can pick up their order at Mike's house in Shiller Park. If you can't make the April meeting, you can mail your order form and check to Treasurer Terry to get in on this once-a-year opportunity. Please see the separate e-mail for the form. Or we will have a supply of the forms at the April meeting for you to fill out and complete your order at that time.

A suggestion was made to see if our electric flyers might benefit by the analog to the fuel purchase—a combined battery purchase from our favorite new local hobby store specializing in electric flight. Mike offered to make the suggestion and will report back on whether we can use the club's buying power to get a discount on batteries.

Show and Tell

Mike brought two items for show and tell. The first was a .40 size Eagle trainer plane that Mike purchased from a retiring RC pilot that was getting out to go fishing. Mike has donated the plane to the club to be used as a demonstration trainer and be kept in the shed. Mike is getting a new radio in it and will supply a simple transmitter so club members can promote the club by offering test flights to onlookers. Thanks for your donation Mike. This sounds like a good way for the club to spread the fun to our audience and perhaps get some new members.

Next Mike showed off his newest e-plane, the E-Flight Extra 300. Mike bought it at Strictly RC where Glen predicted this design would be a big seller by ordering ten—and as of our meeting he had sold seven. Mike has added HS-56 servos and the suggested motor. With a three cell 2100 li-po pack, Mike demonstrated that his 12x6 prop was achieving 300 watts of power when tested. Mike tried the plane out for the first time on Saturday before the meeting and had great results. Mike noted that his tail wheel and wire was a Les Shier original. Les gave the club a great lesson a few months back on how to bend music wire to create tail wheels for your smaller electric planes.

Upcoming Swap Meets

As noted in last month's newsletter, on April 15th from 8am until noon a swap meet is to be held by the Suburban RC Barnstormers at the DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 W. Manchester Lane, Wheaton. For information call Debbie or John Howe at 630-541-3054. Joe Kaskey and Joe Kowalkowski have decided to purchase a table at the DuPage event and have indicated they would be willing to sell any equipment for club members. Contact Joe or Joey for details.

Next Meeting To Be Held at the Elmwood Park Field House – April 3rd

The March meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3rd at 7pm at the Elmwood Park Fieldhouse.

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