

Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club
April Newsletter
April 7, 2008



The April 2008 meeting was called to order by President Mike Meitus at the Strictly RC meeting room. The discussion topics of the March 2008 meeting were recalled by Mike and approved by the club.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Terry Gompert and approved by the club. The club's beginning cash balance at February 29, 2008 was \$1,454.18. During the month of March \$150 was expended on the annual AMA charter club dues, and membership dues were collected of \$105. As a result, the ending cash balance at March 31, 2008 was \$1,442.81. Note that dues for 2008 are due and payable either by paying Terry at the next club meeting, or through Pay Pal on the club's web site. As a reminder, members must renew their membership in the AMA in order to receive their club membership card.

Field Maintenance Report

With the flying season finally upon us, President Mike reported on several field maintenance topics. The first item was planning for rolling the field. Mike pointed out that currently several wet patches still exist from the winter thaw on the field and that rolling in April would likely be ill advised. Instead Mike has tentatively indicated that the rolling would be scheduled for early May. With regard to the cost of rolling, Mike indicated that the rental center has increased its charge for roller rentals to \$425 from \$340 last year. As a result Mike has asked that club members that may have contacts at any paving companies in the area speak up and ask around as to whether the club can find a less expensive alternative. It was discussed that the club would likely again rent this roller in spite of the increased cost as it was very effective last year. It was decided that the best roller day is during the week as the rental center is open longer allowing for more time to roll. Members will be notified as to when the date is selected and asked to volunteer driving the roller.

The next maintenance topic discussed was the new picnic benches that have been brought to our area by the Forest Preserve District. We ended up getting the new benches as a result of our reporting of the late winter vandalism to the field and our flight stations. The illegal off-road ATV riders managed to rip up several sections of the field when it was still soft with wet snow. They also knocked down flight station poles and generally worked against our maintenance objectives that the field. Mike indicated that the FP police have a lead on who the individuals are and are investigating. With the attention brought by Mike's reporting of the vandalism, the FP supervisor was called out to see the damage and at that point offered to give us new benches. Mike has been in contact with the supervisor who is willing to bring back the old picnic tables to be converted into either additional flight stands or spectator benches. George Shindler has offered to take on the conversion job when the tables are returned. Thanks in advance George for your great carpentry work in support of the club.

Lawn maintenance was the next topic covered by the club. The club is looking for members that have drop spreaders to seed and fertilize the field. A date was set for the Saturday on the weekend before the Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 17th) with a 7:30am starting time. Please contact either President Mike or VP Mike to let them know you can participate in this event and if you can provide a spreader for the day.

Many of you who have been to the field lately will have noticed an orange stake near the portable toilet. The Forest Preserve indicated that this stake is for the location of a new portable toilet to be installed this week.

VP Mike has had a nice wooden sign made that indicates that the field is maintained by RSM and displays the club's website. Thanks Mike for your continued support of the club's efforts.

Finally, with the new picnic tables it was discussed that smokers are dropping their butts on the ground around the new tables. It was noted that the ash trays had not been brought out of the shed yet and that they would be soon. All members are encouraged to remind smokers to properly dispose of their cigarette butts in the ash trays.

Safety Officer

President Mike reminded the club members of the importance of keeping the flying field safe for all of us and spectators. As previously announced, member Steve Schultz has graciously agreed to act as the safety officer for 2008. All members are encouraged to support Steve's efforts and help spread good sense to members and non-members at the field violating the basic safety rules.

AMA Introductory Pilot-Instructor Program

Again the club is asking that any instructors sign up for the AMA Introductory Pilot program which allows instructors to extend AMA insurance coverage to introductory flights of a new pilot using the new pilots flight equipment. The cost of the added designation is \$5 per year and the club is picking up the cost. Any instructor willing to participate in this program should contact Terry Gombert who will be sending in the forms.

AMA Park Pilot Program

Members should be aware of a new \$29.95 per year park flyer pilot membership to AMA. The designation allows for insurance on models of 2 lbs or less and limited AMA benefits. This membership does not include the magazine benefit.

New Members and New Membership Efforts

The club welcomed two new members in our April meeting—Mario and Ray. Mario has already maiden his Hanger 9 F-22 Raptor trainer plane last week. Ray just purchased the Hobbico ElectriStar trainer kit and will soon be ready to get trained.

VP Mike suggested that we professionally print the membership application form. After discussion, it was decided that the form works well as a photocopy and Steve volunteered to provide copies of the form to place in the field information box.

Regarding the information box, the club needs someone to make repairs/replace the information box that located on the Forest Preserve RC sign in the front of the field. Anyone willing to do this is asked to notify either President Mike or VP Mike.

April Program

VP Mike presented the April information program to the club. This month Mike presented a session on the use of various glues in our hobby. The program was very informative and included a discussion on mixing micro balloon powder with epoxy to fill spaces in a lightweight manner, the use of different grades of CA glues (thin, medium, and thick) and foam safe and flexible CA. Mike indicated that the flexible CA is very effective in areas where the part may need to bend and is available from Mercury glues. Gorilla glue and a new faster drying white Gorilla glue was discussed regarding its ability to fill spaces. It was noted that this type of glue must be restricted

in terms of places it can seep out of when drying (either through clamps or taping). The club thanks Mike for putting on another informative program.

Remember, all members are encouraged to make a presentation of something of interest to the club. Please contact VP Mike to offer your topic for future club agendas.

Show and Tell

Don Raasch has finished another new plane for the new season and presented it to the club. The latest addition is a Sig ARF P-51B warbird that Don has powered with a Saito 100. Don told a great story of the British RAF pilot who flew the plane that this model is based. Nice job Don and we look forward to you patrolling the skies over Shiller Park Field with your new warbird.

Next Mike Zawadzki presented his repair job on the crash-damaged Star Fire aircraft that President Mike gave him at the last meeting. Mike showed how he put the fuselage back together using glue and how he repaired the stabilizer. Nice job Mike on your repairs Mike.

Next Meeting at Strictly RC Location –May 5th

The May meeting will be held at the Strictly RC location on Monday, May 5th at 7pm. For those of you that have not yet visited our new permanent location, enter the pet store next to Strictly RC and find your way to the back of the store where a stair case leads to the Strictly RC track. The June, July and August meetings will be held at the field starting at 6:30 pm instead of the usual time to allow more flying time after the meeting is completed.

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