



Radio Signal Modelers Flying Club

AMA Charter 1289 - Schiller Woods Flying Field

Monthly Newsletter

October 2023

The October 9th, 2023 meeting started at 6:53 PM at the Community Center and on Zoom. There were 15 members present. Ray asked about October birthdays. Al is on the 11th, Mark is on the 17th, and Steven is on the 31st. Happy birthday guys!

Dumb Thumb:

Jim broke a cardinal rule by flying over his head. He lost sight of his new F-16 in the sun on the 7th flight and crashed it on the runway. Keep your aircraft in front of you. Alan wrote a story about his T-28 crash and recovery that is at the end of this newsletter.

September Minutes:

Joe Stanko read the September meeting minutes, which were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report

Frank Roberson reported that we started out

with \$3357. We have 1 new member for income of almost \$60. Expenses were about \$83 for pizza and pop for the last meeting. We finished the month at \$3333. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Field Maintenance and Planning

Steven and Jim had some excitement. The tractor caught on fire after they started it with a loose muffler. Steven grabbed the fire extinguisher and used most of it to put the fire out. They discovered that both muffler bolts came out and the gasket was missing. Jim took the extinguisher to a place in Franklin Park, that said they could service it. They called him the next day and said it was from 1971 and they couldn't service it. They bought a new fire extinguisher. Steve replaced the bad or missing hardware. The grass on the West side of the field is still



15 members came to the October meeting.



Matt's Force R/C P-51. Brian's e-flite PT-17 Stearman. Jaime wins Foam-Tac. Jim goes fishing for an airplane.

growing really well. Ray has an oil filter and a set of blades. He'll put a new set of blades on when he changes the deck.

The Holiday Party/December meeting will be on the 9th. We will have it at Russell's BBQ and the club will provide the appetizers and pop, like last year. There will be raffles for a prop-driven and an EDF plane, and a helicopter. Officers can't enter. There might be a door prize. There will be at least one flight sim. A Chili Funfly could still be possible.

Field Safety and Flight Instruction Committees:

Big John lost another heli and crashed a gas airplane that Al has now. He has the wings mostly repaired. Ray, Jose, and Nick were at the field when a 50mm EDF flew over the pits. The culprit was way over by the Eastern tree line. Another person went over to invite them

over. The guy said he didn't like the people at the field. As he left, he flicked the bird at the club members.

New Business:

Brian had the 50/50 Raffle. Roger won \$30. Ray mentioned the need for members to step forward to be our new president and secretary. Those are requirements for our club. Ray said he will still handle the website. Nominations are in November.

Show and Tell:

Matt showed us the Force R/C P-51 that he got for \$80 at a swap meet. It flies with a 3S, 2200 mAHr battery. He hasn't flown it yet. It's his first warbird. He added his own receiver. Brian showed the foam e-flite Stearman he picked up at Chain of Lakes Eagles for



Now that we found it, how do we get it down?

\$60.

Give Away:

Jaime won Foam-Tac with #6. The meeting ended at 8:26PM .

Next Meeting:

The November 2023 meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Monday, November 13th at the Schiller Park Community Center and on Zoom.

Joe Stanko, RSM Secretary

What is it about Trees and T-28 Trojans?

Submission by Allan Price

Back in the '50s, when I was about fourteen, I made a wonderful plastic model of the T-28 from a Monogram kit and was inspired to go one better and build a rather large control-line model of the plane. It turned out beautifully with silver doped silk skin and a fully cowled engine. I was really proud of what I made and couldn't wait to try it out behind my grammar school. It turns out: I either wandered a bit from the center of the circle or had a tad too much wire rolled out from my self-contained "Jim Walker" control line handle. I'm embarrassed to admit that the plane flew about one and a half laps into a tree. Oh well!

It was with that romantic memory of my thing for T-28s that compelled me to buy an RC model of the Trojan from Horizon Hobbies. After all, with Jim Parker as my CFI (Chief Flight Instructor), I've been flying my Apprentice for two summers now, am pretty good at landings and needed a bit of a change. Plus there is nothing more beautiful than a low winged monoplane flying overhead or coming in for a landing. Thanks to Jim and the club discount he arranged, I got the plane in mid-September and immediately went to work binding it to the DSX transmitter from my Apprentice and adding bold red stripes to the bottom of the wings to make the plane really stand out under the clouds.

Sunday, October 1 was a perfect day at the field – no wind! I couldn't wait to get to the field and it give it a try. Jim had trimmed the plane the week before and it was beautiful to fly. After about ten minutes in the air it was time to bring it home, but wait, I've got enough battery to fly around just a little bit more and make the last landing! As I flew west to start my approach, I could feel the

trees to the west of the landing strip literally urging my plane to come closer – my brand new, perfect plane. Oh s**t!! How could this happen? Was this a perception problem on my part? Or was it the ghost of my T-28 from the past? At any rate, there my new, virgin airplane stuck in a tree. I couldn't just pack up and go home! I had to find it!

I soon found myself climbing through thick, thorny under brush. With my transmitter in hand, maybe I could locate the airplane if the motor were still alive. I cautiously advanced the throttle and could hear the motor whirring, but just then my hearing aid battery went out and I could no longer home in on the direction. After a half-hour looking for the plane, I gave up and went home.

The next day, I mentioned this sad story to Jim Parker and he said he had an idea for getting it back - if we could locate it. We met at the Field and began exploring the brush and the trees in the area where I heard the plane moaning the prior day. Sure enough, Jim spotted the fuselage and wing about 20 feet above in two different areas of a tree.

Jim had this crazy idea which he had visualized but never used: Use a fishing rod to cast a weighted pilot line and attach a heavier rope to go over the branch holding the airplane, to rock the limb and – maybe - free the plane to fall back into our hands. This sounds simple in principle, but it took a number of attempts from different places beneath the trees. Looking up while standing amongst treacherous vines, thorny bushes, on uneven footing from buried tree limbs and roots is no easy thing and I thank and congratulate Jim on his cleverness and persistence. After about an hour the idea worked: the plane came down and back in our hands ready to be refurbished for future flights – presumably never again near a tree, with the T-28 spell now broken.



