

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes 2 May 2021

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by the club vice-president, Paul Oullette, Jr. There were 28 members present.

Paul provided the members with a status report. Paul mentioned that Phil was still in need of conserving his energy after recovering from Covid-19, so Paul was acting on Phil's behalf. Paul thanked the members and said that he would defer his remarks until the New Business portion of the meeting.

Paul then asked for the Treasurer's report. Michael reported that the club has a balance of \$2409.64 in the checking account and \$1148.91 in the reserve account. Since the last meeting, the club spent \$120 for AMA club renewal and \$33.09 for website hosting renewal. The club received \$630 in dues and donations of \$160 were made to the reserve/emergency fund. Uncleared deposits of \$120 (for PayPal dues) are still pending, but were included in the total.

Michael mentioned that email receipts were being sent in lieu of membership cards as folks did not feel that they needed a card. *ADDENDUM: Club member Bob Jacobson stated that Ray and Robin's Hobby Shop will grant a small discount to a club member who presents their card. If anyone would like one, please let Michael know.*

Paul then asked for the Field Marshal's report. Steve reported that he spent about three and one-half hours rolling the field with a street roller provided through the courtesy of D&R Paving. Those of us who flew in March and then after the rolling all agree that this was a huge improvement; thanks, Steve.

Steve installed a new, easily removable, fence at the access road end of the runway. We had previously relied on the tall grass to delineate the end of the runway thereby cutting down on vehicle traffic on the runway, but the tall grass had been removed by one of co-owners of the field.

Paul then asked for the Safety Officer's report. Mark commented that the start of the flying season seemed to suffer from a loss of brain power as we already have had two planes crash into the tall trees at the far end of the runway.

Mark reminded us to securely strap in our batteries, verify correct control surface operation, and generally to be aware of surroundings.

Mark commented that the tall grass is loaded with ticks. Steve will be applying a tick spray being careful to avoid harming the fish in Albert's pond (AKA Patch Water Ops), but be forewarned if you have to pass through the tall grass.

Paul then asked if there was any new business. Michael is seeking a volunteer to take over the website.

Phil passed around a sketch (courtesy of Steve Prentice) of a removable fence to run the length of the runway with openings so planes can pass through. In addition, the plan is to straighten the runway (end widths to be made consistent and the bend in the runway to be removed.) It has been observed that cars departing the pit area come close to the pilot stations; especially if backing/turning. Consequently, the proposed runway improvements will have a narrowing of the runway width by about seven feet. There still will be plenty of room for safe flight operations, but will provide a much safer margin in the pit area.

Steve reminded folks that the field will have grass seed and temporary irrigation (provided by our host, Albert) applied around Labor Day. This may cut the 2021 season a bit short, but it will be worth it for the 2022 season.

Paul than invited members to help with a cleanup of the field as trash has built up over the years. A member suggested that Sunday, May 23rd, be designated a volunteer day; cleanup and flying.

The final bit of new business was the issue of the deterioration of the dock that provides boat and float plane access to the pond. The consensus appears to be that (1) the dock is quite unstable and (2) should be considered for repair or replacement. Phil suggested members consider options and be ready to discuss at the next meeting (July 11th, meeting and picnic.)

There was nothing else to report, so the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Michael Pilla, Secretary

Attachment: proposed fence sketch

