

## Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes 27 August 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:58 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 18 members present.

Phil provided the members with a status report.

Dock: There is a little work remaining to complete the dock. The dock ramp will be two ladders placed side by side covered with planking. Strength was confirmed by suspending one of the ladders at each end and repeatedly jumping on the middle. There was absolutely no flex. There is also a plan for adding railings to the ramp. This will definitely be completed for next season, and maybe for this year.

Suggestion box: This is working out better than expected. Suggestions submitted are being addressed. The last open one is concerning talking to pilots while they are flying: If someone is flying, please do not go up to them and start talking. Doing so can be especially tough for new flyers who are trying to concentrate. It's fine to talk to a flyer who wants your help or when you are acting as a spotter to call out full scale aircraft or hazards. But please don't heckle others. While this may be OK with a buddy you are flying with, it may not be OK with others. If they screw up or have a close call, they'll know it and might not appreciate it being called out. Just be sure others want your help before giving it.

Flight stations: A reminder once again to be sure when you are flying you are in or adjacent to one of the flight stations so that you can be seen and can hear what is going on. If you are flying off the water and can't be at a flight station, be sure to put one of the orange cones in a station so others are aware of you. Recently we had one person flying off the water. (They did have a cone in the station.) Two others were flying from stations and a fourth person started flying at the end of the field. This is not safe. Be sure you can see and hear and others can see and hear you. And, three people flying at a time is the maximum.

Porta-potty: There has been a suggestion to put one at the field. Ron reports that they are around \$80/month. We had some issues a few years back with vandalism, but hopefully the kids responsibly may have grown up and moved off. A motion was made/seconded/approved to look into this for next season.

Phil then asked for the Treasurer/Secretary report. John reported that the club has a balance of \$3810.64 in the checking account and \$1,724.99 in the reserve account. Since the last meeting, the club spent \$200.00 for a Thank you gift to Albert and \$263.51 for the July club cookout. The club received \$150.00 in dues. Two new members, (Bruce Wilson and Jim Philippe) have joined the club since our last meeting. We just wrote a check for \$370.00 to Woody for mowing and gas for the season. This will be reflected in our club's balance at the next meeting.

Field Marshal's report: Steve was unable to attend today's meeting. Topics were covered by Phil's comments during the meeting.

Phil then asked for the Safety Officer's report: Tyler noted that Phil has already covered his issues. He emphasized again our rules for standing in or beside a flight station and no more than three people flying at a time.

- Mark Higgins reminded us of the AMA rule against taxiing from the pits or cars to the field.

Phil then asked if there was any new business.

- Bob brought up the idea of getting a canvas awning to provide shade. People thought this was a good idea. There is one concern that putting one up might cut-off parking for cars. We asked Bob to investigate the idea and we can discuss at the next meeting.

- We also discussed the idea of putting up a wind flag at the end of the field close to or attached to the sign. The idea for flyers, especially new flyers, to be able to see the wind direction without having to turn around. We wouldn't need a full wind sock, just some sort of streamer or flag. If needed, it could something that we put up and take down along with the rope at the end of the field. People seemed to think this was a good idea.

Field reconstruction: The time has come to re-do the field. Things we've tried in the past such as rolling it haven't worked. Overall, it's now more weeds than grass. Albert will help us with equipment and we will need some volunteers depending on what we find as we go along. Phil has done some research and

thinks that we probably want to reseed it with Kentucky Midnight Bluegrass. It is slow growing, drought tolerant, and often used on athletic fields. He provided an info sheet, which is being included with these minutes. Phil emphasized that he is not an expert on this and asks any member with ideas or expertise to offer them. He estimates we will need about 150 lbs, which will cost around \$700.00. Chris Walker offered to check where he works to see if we can get any sort of discount or if his boss has any suggestions on how we could save money.

Once we put down the seed, it will be critical to keep it wet as it starts to come up. It's been suggested that since we are digging the field up, now would be the perfect time to put in irrigation. Phil has looked into this. We can get a pump from Harbor freight with a capacity of 270 gpm for about \$260. We would also need to by hose and about 20 hose heads. Phil's thought is that the total cost for irrigation will be less than \$1K.

We motioned/seconded/approved without dissent giving Phil the authority to spend the money needed for this project according to his best judgement.

The plan is to straighten the field (sketch included with the minutes), making it 80 feet wide and eliminating the area where it bows out at each end.

The field WILL CLOSE FOLLOWING LABOR DAY SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>. We can continue to fly using the secondary field on Albert's farm. This is to the left as you come in. Either of the two left roads will lead to it. Phil will ask Albert if we can put up signs to help guide people to it.

We will send out emails for work parties as needed.

There was nothing else to report, so the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

John Choroszy, Secretary