

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 25 members present.

Phil provided the members with a status report.

- Field conditions: The results of the reseeding are looking better each week. The grass should fully pop-in and there is left over seed from last year to treat any spots that don't. We have a pump and hose and will use those to keep it watered for now. There are members living close by who can stop over to water. We don't want to mess with the field trying to lay underground irrigation right now.
- Porta-potty: Phil investigated last season and wasn't able to find any under \$100 month. Phil did ask Albert, who said the cheapest rates were around \$100. He will investigate again. With inflation, Potys'R'US at \$125 month may be the best rate we can get this season. The idea of just purchasing one was raised, but there wasn't an easy solution to the problem of getting it pumped out. Phil asked if the club wanted to go ahead and rent one for 5-6 months beginning in May if the rate ends up around \$125/month. The general consensus was yes, so Phil will look into this further.
- Upgrades to the shelter: Al will look into pricing to extending the shed, extending the current shed to about twice the current size.
- Adding wind sock and flag: Phil has a flag pole which he will donate to the club. It's about 20 feet tall. He'll place it about a foot away from the sign. It will have a flag (Phil purchased a solar light so we can leave the flag raised 24hrs/day) and a wind sock making it easier to see the wind direction without turning around.
- Organizing a fly-in or other event to celebrate the new field: Members still like the idea of having a fly-in. It was suggested that we do this in August. Phil will need to clear this with Albert first, but thinks Albert will probably be OK with this.
- Authorizing funds for mowing this season: Woody took care of mowing the field last season and is willing to do it again this season. Members voiced satisfaction with the work he did last season. A motion was made and

unanimously approved to ask Woody to take care of mowing again this season. Note: we paid Woody \$370 last season.

- Membership and field utilization spreadsheet: We currently have 54 club members. We've had at least three requests to join so far this season. Al made a motion to increase our membership cap and there was general consensus to do so. But we need to be careful. We are already over the number originally agreed upon with Albert. Still, even though we are over, the field seldom seems very busy. So, we have started a spreadsheet to try to get an idea of when people generally fly. John is maintaining it. Several members provided their usage info to John following the meeting. He will send out email to the other members to get their inputs.
- Phil mentioned that John and Paul submitted an application to AMA for a site improvement grant to pay some of the new runway expenses. AMA plans to announce grant winners in May, but have not done so yet.
- Phil also mentioned that John from K&K hobbies donated a spare pump that we can use. This gives us two. If you are at K&K hobbies, give John a Thanks.
- Life Flight has changed their flight lines and now fly directly overhead. They come in fast in low. BE AWARE and get down if they come over while you are flying.

Phil then asked for the Treasurer/Secretary report: John reported that the club has a balance of \$2340.45 in the checking account and \$1,925.67 in the reserve account. Since the last meeting, the club spent \$1386.39 for equipment and materials for the field reconstruction, and \$77.35 for field maintenance supplies. We paid \$48.00 for website hosting, \$120.00 to the AMA for site membership and insurance renewal. We paid \$500.00 to Albert for fuel and equipment used in the reseeding. Additionally, we will have a \$200 charge for thank you gifts to Albert and Mike for their help with reseeding. (Following the meeting, John wrote a check for the \$200 charge for Albert and Mike's thank you gift. He also wrote a check for \$524.88 for fertilizer and fence material). Several members paid their membership dues at this meeting. John will contact those who still have not paid.

Phil then made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and it was accepted.

Phil then asked for the Field Marshal's report: Steve reports that he has put down 450 lb. of lime and 150 lb. of fertilizer and rolled the field again to ready it for opening this week. There are some bare spots, but as Phil said we do have more seed if we need it. Steve will be replacing the netting around the flight stations and put the fence at the end of the field back up. At that point we should be in good shape. Members applauded Steve for his great work!

Phil then asked for the Safety Officer's report. Tyler reminded us that the 400' rope fence along the runway is the flight line and we need to stay inside of that. Stand inside of a flight stand when flying. Stay safe! Check your models for loose parts, nuts and bolts. Perform range checks. Loudly call out to announce your take-offs and landings. No taxiing or running of engines in the PIT area is allowed. Nitro engines can be started at the workstations, but then carry---do not taxi your plane to the runway. If you are flying off the pond, put an orange cone inside one of the flight stations so that people know you are flying and we can keep to the limit of three planes in the air at any one time.

Phil then asked if there was any new business: There was one question on what will happen to the field when Albert is no longer around. Phil will broach the topic with Albert when he finds an appropriate opportunity. There were no other topics raised. Phil reminded us that there is a suggestion box that is checked at least weekly. Members are encouraged to use it and feel free to make their comment or question anonymously if they wish.

There was nothing else to report, so the business portion of the meeting was adjourned around 11:30 AM.

John Choroszy, Secretary

Addendum: Additional meeting dates for 2023 are July 8th (includes club picnic), August 26th, and October 7th (includes election of officers). Meetings are on Saturday at 11:00am