

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes for July 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 20 members present.

Phil provided the members with a status report.

- We invited the Bush Pilots RC Club members to join us for our cookout when they finished their work session on their field off Rte. 35. Several members were able to join us, which was a great opportunity to meet and chat with other local club members.
- Phil reported that we have four new members joining the club this year. One, Jack Owens, was able to make today's meeting. Jack is actually one of the original founding members of the club, so it was great to be able to welcome him back.
- Our host, Albert, attended today's meeting and cookout. Phil presented Albert a large framed aerial shot of the farm taken from Phil's drone. The photo is quite well done and Albert seemed to enjoy being able to pick out some of the details of his farm. As we have done in past years, Phil also purchased a gift certificate for Albert at a local restaurant Albert goes to nearly every day.
- Field irrigation: Albert has offered to extend his strawberry irrigation system to cover the field, but due to the frequent rain so far this season, that has not been necessary. We have a pump and hoses that we can also use as needed.
- The Porta-potty has been installed: Member comments about it were favorable, so we plan to continue with it's rental.
- Extension of the shed: Al has been able to find and price almost all of the components we need for the project. The one item he is still looking for is roofing material matching the existing shelter. If he can't find an exact match, he will find something similar. We motioned, seconded, and voted with no objections approval up to \$1000 for the purchase of the needed materials.
- New flag: Phil asked members how they felt the new flag was working out; if was in the way, too high or low, etc. Feedback is that it is working well.

Members don't find it distracting while flying and it is easy to glance at to get a quick indication of wind while flying.

- New dock: The dock is working well. The ramp still needs to be finished. Attempts to finish it have been upset/delayed by all the rain.
- Organizing a fly-in or other event: This suggestion was made at a meeting a few meetings back, but members have seemed neutral when it has been brought up again at later meetings. Phil asked for an indication of overall level of interest from members. Again, there was not a great deal of enthusiasm. So, we will not pursue this further. Phil reminded us that we are free to invite our guests to come and fly as long as they have their AMA and FAA drone ids up to date.
- Members applauded Rich Hennessy for his work again this year in hosting the cookout portion of today's meeting. THANK YOU Rich!

Phil then asked for the Treasurer/Secretary report. John reported that the club has a balance of \$2290.57 in the checking account and \$1,925.83 in the reserve account. Since the last meeting, the club spent \$125 for Porta-Potty rental and \$524.88 for field maintenance supplies. We paid \$200 for gift certificates at Cabela's that Phil had given to Albert and Mike last year for their help in the reseeding project. Additionally, we wrote checks today for \$129.40 and \$167.61 for fencing at the far east end of the ramp, fertilizer, lawnmower repair and picture frame. These will post against the checking balance.

John also provided an update on FRIA status: There is a new FAA requirement that our models transmit identification signals. The requirement is scheduled to come into effect in September. The AMA is coordinating applications with its member clubs for FRIA status, which will allow clubs to fly models without transponders so long as they are being flown within the club boundaries. Our application was accepted by AMA last winter and forwarded along to the FAA. The FAA is expected to begin ruling on applications beginning around July 4th. We have not heard any news about our club (or any other clubs for that matter). We'll continue to monitor for updates.

Phil then asked for the Field Marshal's report. Steve reports that the new grass continues to fill out. The recent few sunny and warm days seem to have really helped. Watch out for the nesting bird! Steve plans to fertilize tomorrow, Sunday

in the afternoon. After fertilizing, we need to stay off it until it rains. Since Monday and Tuesday are forecasted to rain, this should work out well.

Phil then asked for the Safety Officer's report. Tyler reported that there are no major issues to discuss, everything seems to be going smoothly. Remember to use a flight station when flying and if you are flying off the pond remember to put a cone in one of the flight stations so people will know you are flying. Remember, no gas flying before 9 am. And, as Steve mentioned, watch out for the bird!

Tyler was also asked to mention the upcoming IMAC event he is hosting next weekend at the Sky Streakers club in New Gloucester. It's a beautiful club and we are all welcome to come. Here is an excerpt of the posted description: *"Join us at the Skytreakers R/C Club for the 2022 Maine IMAC Challenge! This event is the Northeast region's longest running contest in its 28th year. The field is located at 262 Bald Hill Road in New Gloucester, Maine. The field will be available for open practice Friday, July 14th. Pilot's meeting 8:30am, wheels up at 9:00am both Saturday and Sunday (7/15-7/16)."*

Here is a link: [Events \(mini-iac.org\)](https://www.mini-iac.org)

Phil then asked if there was any new business. There was one suggestion for us to add additional picnic table(s). This makes sense, especially if we are going to enlarge the shelter. We asked Al to include building two picnic tables within the scope of the \$1000 we approved earlier in the meeting.

There was nothing else to report/discuss, so the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM.

John Choroszy, Secretary

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