

## Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes for August 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 17 members present.

### Phil provided the members with a status report.

- Extension of the shed: Al has not been able to find any of the material that was used for the roof of the original shed. Instead, he will just purchase corrugated sheeting. His latest material estimate is \$1179, which is greater than the \$1000 that we approved for this at the July meeting. But, this is just an estimate and doesn't include discounts that Steve will be able to get at Lowes. Al is asking for someone to take on digging the post holes. If any member has a post hole auger that we can use, please let Al or any of the club officers know. Phil will check with Albert. If needed, we can always rent one. Steve agreed to bring his tractor to the field and dig out the base. Phil suggested that we do this and then fill the base with crushed cement block (a by-product from Genest). It is a great base material and will keep out weeds. Al plans to put up the extension at the end of September. We will send a message out to members for help if needed. Once the extension is done, we can focus on new picnic tables. This might be a good candidate for a fall work party project.
- New members since the last meeting:
  - Howard Germon: Howard was able to attend and we got a chance to meet and chat with him
  - Rich Whicker: Rich wasn't able to attend due to prior family commitments. He's looking forward to being able to meet other members in the future.

Phil then asked for the Treasurer/Secretary report. John reported that the club has a balance of \$1784.53 in the checking account and \$1,925.91 in the reserve account. Since the last meeting, the club spent \$129.40 for fencing and fertilizer, \$100.00 for a gift certificate for Albert, \$283.35 for cookout supplies, \$125 for July Porta-potty rental, and \$18.29 for website domain renewal. We have one check for \$125.00 for August Porta-potty rental that has not posted yet.

Phil made a motion to accept this report. It was seconded and approved.

John also provided an update on FRIA status: We have not yet received a response from the FAA on our FRIA application. There is no public list of approved sites available or assurance that the FAA will complete reviews before the September 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. In a blog from this past Tuesday, August 22, AMA made these points:

- Approximately 200 (of more than 1200 sites submitted by AMA) have been approved.
- Current approval rate suggests many hundreds of applications will still be in the FAA's queue when the requirement goes into effect on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Unclear whether the FAA expects modelers flying at sites with a pending application to use Remote ID modules after this date. AMA expects the FAA to address this concern before the deadline

Note: Spektrum is now accepting pre-orders for their "SkyID" module at an introductory price of \$69.99. Tyler noted that the SkyID module is designed to be easily swapped between planes once it is available. But, while Spektrum may be accepting pre-orders, there is no schedule available for when they will begin shipping them.

Tyler also noted that in all of New England only Prop-Snappers in Portland and Flying Tigers in New Hampshire have been approved. The reported total of 200 sites approved sites hasn't changed since mid-July.

Rich Hennessy volunteered to contact Chellie Pingree's office (and perhaps our Senators) to see if they can apply any pressure on FAA to resolve this issue.

#### Field Marshall report:

The field is looking great. Steve is planning to put down additional fertilizer late in the fall. It will probably need to be rolled in the spring. Some members seem to be having problems with the grass being too thick so that some planes are having difficulty gaining speed on take-off or tending to flip on landing. Bigger wheels may be needed.

Porta-potty: We voted and agreed to keep the Porta-potty rental through the end of September.

Safety Officer report:

Tyler reports that there have been no major safety issues. He reminds everyone to stay below 400 feet. We are only a little more than a mile from the Sanford airport, and this altitude restriction is a critical safety requirement.

Taxiing in the Pits has not been an issue.

We did discuss use of the flight stations. Phil reminded us that staying inside the flight stations when flying is a club requirement. Some members seem to stand between them. He asked how people felt about them and if there was a reason for not using them. One member said that it is more difficult to see what you are doing from inside a flight station if you are flying helicopters. Another member said he just found them uncomfortable to use. Phil reminded us that they help protect us from other people's planes that we might not see when we are flying. We don't want to see anyone hurt.

Phil then asked if there was any new business:

There was a request to add a railing to the dock ramp. Phil said that this should be easy to do.

There was nothing else to report/discuss, so the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM.

John Choroszy, Secretary

Addendum: Our final meeting of the year, which will include election of officers for the coming year, will be on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am