

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes for 4 May 2024

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 20 members present.

Phil provided the members with a status report.

- Construction Projects:
 - Shelter: Thanks to the several volunteers who helped with the new shelter and dock construction last weekend. What remains is to put down crushed stone. Phil estimates we will need two loads at about \$30 a load. We will probably put some weed block material down first. Phil has a compactor we can use to compact the stone. There will be a little hand digging necessary to finish cleaning out the hole. We will send out a request for volunteer to help with the digging when ready for this. Lowes has picnic table kits available for about \$130 each. We approved a motion to spend up to \$300 to purchase two picnic tables. Rich Hennessy will donate a wooden propeller for us to decorate the top front face of the shelter. Thanks Rich!
 - Dock: Hinges have been added to the dock ramp brackets. We still need to add railings.
- Woody mowed on Friday and will begin mowing every Friday afternoon. Rich Whicker mentioned that he lives close by and has a large mower and trailer that we can use as backup if we ever need it.
- Porta Potty: Phil called for this and one should show up this week.
- Sky Streakers Fly-In: The Sky Streakers are planning a State of Maine Fly In August 1-4 to celebrate their 50th anniversary. This is going to be a large event: food vendors, camping available, etc. It will be free for spectators and probably \$30 or so to fly. They are trying to bring all of the clubs in the state together, as things were years ago when everyone knew each other. They are asking each club to donate \$100 to help with the event. Phil offered to donate \$100.00 from an expense check we wrote him last season that he never cashed. We voted and unanimously approved donating \$100 on behalf of the club using the money from the uncashed check. Thank you to Phil! The Sky Streakers should be getting more information out after Mothers Day. We'll send the information around once we get it.
- Thursday evening help clinics: Phil is starting up a help clinic training/info night once a week on Thursday evenings. He will be at the field around 5-5:30 pm weekly. Tyler will also help frequently. It's a chance to come and get extra help on flight instruction, radio set up, maidenng a new plane, or just flying with others until dark.
- Club Logo: We solicited feedback on our club logo over the winter. We only got two votes, both for the original logo (left most below). After discussion during this meeting, we voted unanimously on the right-most logo (the one with the plane), colored strawberry-red. Doug Wilson will have \$500 worth of baseball caps made up with this logo which he will donate to the club. (by show of hands all

members said that they would like one). The caps will be denim or a lighter color to contrast well with the logo. **Thank you very much Doug for this generous contribution.**

Rich Whicker also mentioned that he has the ability to laser-cut a metal sign with our logo if we want.



Phil then asked for the Field Marshal's report: Steve is planning to fertilize the runway later in the afternoon. He's planning to roll the runway again later. Albert's advice on preventing weeds is to just urea and let the fertilized grass choke out the weeds. As mentioned above, we'll solicit for help digging out the hole for the new shelter once we have a date.

Phil then asked for the Safety Officer's report: Tyler reminded us of key safety practices:

- Stay below 400 feet
- Be mindful of traffic
- Call out your intentions
- Stand in the flight stand. If you are using the pond, put a cone in one of the flight stands so we don't exceed the 3 person flying limit
- No taxiing in the PITs
- If you crash, check your batteries carefully. Damaged Lipo batteries are a safety hazard. Note that Dawn dishwashing soap is one of the best ways to help contain a lipo fire. Members shared a couple anecdotes of rechargeable batteries causing house fires. Watch your batteries when you recharge them. Don't underestimate the potential danger.

Tyler also cautioned us to be sure we have our FAA and AMA numbers and names marked on our planes. There was a report of the FAA showing up at a field somewhere here in New England and inspecting to be sure that planes were marked and that Pilots had their TRUST certificates on them. This is important for the club: We want to be sure that when our FRIA renewal comes up there are no negative reports in the FAA records for our club.

Phil mentioned that he has a 3D print design that will print a bracket that can be used to hold one of the Horizon SkyID modules for members flying at a non-FRIA location. It attaches to the battery strap. He can share the design or print a bracket for any interested member.

Phil then asked for Treasurer/Secretary report. John reported that the club has a balance of \$1750.99 in the checking account and \$1926.63 in the reserve account. Since the last meeting, the club spent:

\$48.00 Website domain renewal

\$630.00 for 2023 season grass mowing

\$130.00 for AMA renewal

Today John wrote checks totaling \$1237.36 for the shelter and \$21.47 for the dock. With approximately 50 members our annual budget is approximately break-even. Members voted to accept Treasurer's report.

Website Management: John solicited for someone who would be interested in helping to maintain our club website. Much of the information on it has become stale and dated. Tyler offered to help. Thanks Tyler!

Phil then asked if there was any new business.

- Bob Sgroi has a couple large wire spools that he will bring to the club. Other clubs are using these as flight stations. We can try them out, and if we decide we don't want them, he can take them back.
- We decided to cut down one more flight stand, giving us two short and one tall.
- We need to get one or two fire extinguishers. The one we have is very old and questionable.

There was nothing else to report, so the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

John Choroszy, Secretary

Addendum: Our meeting dates for 2024 are July 6th (includes club picnic), August 24th, and October 5th (includes election of officers). Meetings are on Saturday at 11:00am