

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes 6 July 2024

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 15 members present.

Phil provided the members with a status report.

- Phil welcomed our newest members present at today's meeting: Joe Ribecca, and Alex Durocher
- Construction project status: Thanks to Scott, Tyler's father, our new shelter came out really well. Phil thanked numerous members who helped in the effort. Special thanks to Dave Egan who, with his 4-wheeler, was a huge help in filling in and leveling the ground in and around the shelter.
- Annual gift for Albert. Members signed a card which Phil will present to Albert along with a \$100.00 VISA card, cap, and decal in appreciation for continuing to host us at the farm.
- Caps and logos: Thanks again to the generous gifts of caps and decals from Doug Wilson and Phil. These were available at the meeting for a \$25 (cap) and \$5 (decal) donation. 100% of the proceeds go to the club.
- Phil described a few wish list items for future improvements:
 - Extending the covered storage area: The idea here is to pull the front wall of the existing enclosed storage area forward to the edge of the roof line. The existing enclosed space is very crowded between the mower, grill, pump and irrigation hoses, etc. Moving the wall forward should be an inexpensive way to provide more space.
 - Installing a solar charging station. Some members visiting other clubs have noticed that their charging stations and suggested a station would be a nice addition for our club. Phil provided a rough cost estimate of \$500 to 600. The big expense is the battery. His trailer has 200 Amp/hours. Depending on how much it is used, we might get away with 100 AH. Phil asked for a show of hands. I didn't get an exact count, but roughly half of the members present indicated they would be in favor of one.
 - Putting in a dry hydrant to connect the water pumps for watering the field. Our new field does need to be watered during dry periods. Currently there are a few yellow spots already. Setting up and moving the pump is labor and time consuming. A big improvement would be to add two dry hydrants, one at each end of the field. The idea is to run a couple 4 inch lines down and then out to the pond. This way, the intake to the pump can be shorter and clear of debris and weeds. Steve Prentice made a motion to approve this project. **The motion was seconded and approved for \$250.00.**
 - Phil then asked if anyone had other wish list items to suggest. There were no additional suggestions.

Phil then asked for the Field Marshal's report. Steve will fertilize again. He plans to do this just before the next big rain. Then get ready to mow! Phil mentioned that we are having some trouble with grass clippings packing up under the deck. He pulled the deck and cleaned it. It's in need of more work, but Phil's hoping that it will hold up until the end of the season. Currently the field is being mowed at least twice weekly on Fridays (Woody) and Mondays (John)

Phil then asked for the Safety Officer's report. Tyler again welcomed our new members and then recapped some of our key safety guidelines:

- Fly from within one of the 3 flight stations. The limit is 3 people flying at any one time. In practice, we tend to only have one person in the air at any time

- Call out your intentions: communicate!
- No taxiing in the PIT area. If you are flying glow, its OK to start your motor in the PITs, and then bring your plane to the runway
- Be on the lookout for full-scale traffic. Feel free to call out full scale traffic that people flying might not be see
- If you are float-flying from the pond, put one of the traffic cones in one of the flight stations so people on the field know that you are flying
- Try to stay away from the area beyond the tree line to the right (east) end of the field. There is a development just beyond the tree line and we want don't want to disturb the people there.

Phil then asked for Treasurer/Secretary report. John reported that the club has a balance of \$1555.63 in the checking account and \$1926.79 in the reserve account. Since the last meeting, the club spent:

\$1200.43 new shelter expenses
 \$148.00 to Tyler's Dad for shelter material
 \$42.98 new lawnmower blades
 \$26.95 website domain renewal
 \$250.00 Portapotty May&June rental
 \$23.28 lawnmower gas

We have \$594.21 in checks written but not cashed for shelter expenses, picnic benches, Albert's gift card, and fertilizer.

Total expenses for the new shelter and picnic benches are approximately \$1694.00

Donations for caps and decals today total \$245.00

Phil presented Rich Hennessy a framed photo of the field in appreciation of Rich's serving as our Grill Master since 2021. Thank you Rich!

Phil then asked if there was any new business. There was nothing else to report, so the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

John Choroszy, Secretary

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