

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes for 23 August 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 16 members present.

Phil's Status Report:

- Phil opened the meeting with a welcome to our newest club members Dave Krongel and Scott McCormack
- Projects status:
 - Entrance sign: The new vinyl sign at the entrance to the club is in place looks great. It should be much more resistant to fading than the former sign and hopefully will last for a number of years.
 - Storage shed expansion: We are about where we were at the last meeting. Summer has been busy, so there has not been much time to work on it. Things should slow down as fall comes and we expect to be able to make progress with it
 - We want to do something with irrigation. The intake pipes that we put in at each end of the pond are now 6-12 inches out of the water due to lowered pond level this summer. We will need to figure something out for next season. The problem with just re-digging and putting them down further is that it makes it harder for the pumps to draw. They have plenty of power to push, but have a hard time pulling. We are also thinking about laying pipes along the edge of the pond that we can just hook onto and run garden hoses up when we water. Right now, we leave hoses along the edge of the field by the ropes since it is too time-consuming and cumbersome to un-roll when we water. So, we will be working on these irrigation issues.
- Thursday night training sessions: These seem to be working well. It seems at least one or two members will show up each week. Both Tyler and Phil are usually able to come, but at least one will always be at each meeting. The sessions are not just for flying. Tyler is also expert at helping with radio setup questions. Both Phil and Tyler really love the sport and welcome the chance to be helpful
- We talked about Tru-green at the last meeting to help with fertilizing and maintaining the field. If we can get someone who knows what they are doing to come in and take some of the load off Steve at about the same price, we may as well do it. So, Phil did contact Hartford Lawncare earlier this week and will be asking them for a quote.

Steve's Field Marshal's report:

- There is little need for mowing or other field maintenance at this point due to the lack of water. Steve will be mowing any high spots as needed. There is not much we can do about water at this point as we are in a drought condition state-wide. The pond level here is so low because Albert is conserving water for his farm's needs. We don't want to be trying to pull water from it to water our grass when Albert needs the water for his crops.
- Steve replaced the windsock. The former sock had been completely shredded by the wind. Thanks to his wife for once-again fabricating a new one!

Safety Officer's report

- Tyler was unable to make the meeting.
- Mark related an incident where a member at Propsnapper was recently injured from a plane being taxied in the PITs. Phil reminded us that our club rules do not allow taxiing in the Pits. Be sure to bring you plane out to the field before you start it.
- Phil also warned us to watch out for low-flying planes. There have been a few instances of low-flying aircraft in the area over the past few weeks, including one instance where the full-scale was flying at around 200-300 feet. Phil believes that Lifeflight has also changed their patterns. They tend to come in from over trees so you might not see them until they are over the field. If you hear something, then descend. Remember that full-scale always has priority. In any interaction they are presumed in the right and we are in the wrong. Beware!
- Lipo safety: Phil reminded us that we have a fire pit container for us to use in case of a lipo fire. He recently had a 300mah battery catch fire in his trailer. He was able to toss it out of the trailer, but then it started to catch the dry grass on fire. So, a reminder to not be complacent. Whether you are here at the field or home, always pay attention and be careful with your lipos.

John's Treasurer/Secretary report:

- The club has a balance of **\$936.48** in the checking account and **\$1727.24** in the reserve account.
- Since the last meeting, the club spent:
 \$131.88 Porta-potty rental for August (planning to stop rental for season at end September)
 \$266.45 for fertilizer, gas, mower blade
 \$100.00 annual gift for Albert
 Additionally, today we wrote checks for \$49.81 for windsock material and for \$104.85 for a water hose and the new vinyl sign.

There was a motion to accept the treasurer report and it was then approved by the members.

- Final Meeting of the year: October 4

Other business/comments

- Phil asked the members if we have any interest in having a fun-fly or fly-in event. Other clubs host these events. Typically, there is small \$5-\$10 dollar fee charged to fly. The clubs sell food, have raffles, contests, etc. The events are open to the public. It can be a way to have some fun, raise some money for the club, increase community awareness, encourage new membership, etc. Phil asked if we would be interested in hosting an event like this. Multiple members said they would be, so this is something we'll work on for next season.
- Phil mentioned that the Sky Streakers in New Gloucester have a Fun-fly event coming up. Phil will send John details so that he can distribute to members.
- Phil also suggested that we might want to have a swap meet at our next meeting. It would be a chance for members to bring planes or equipment they no longer want or need that other members could use. Members agreed, so we will work on setting that up for next meeting.
- Phil is donating a ModelTech kit that he recently won at the Derry club. We will auction this, proceeds to the club, at our next meeting. John will send details in a separate email. Thanks Phil!

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:34