

Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 18 members present.

Phil: Status report:

- Opening comments: It's been a really great season. Thanks to everyone for coming and helping out when needed.
- Election of officers for the coming year: Phil turned the meeting over to John to conduct the election. John has not received any requests from a member to run for any position and he asked again if anyone present was interested. There were no responses so he requested motions. Al motioned that we re-elect all of the current officers to another term. The motion was seconded and voted in favor with no votes against. The current officers were re-elected for another term:
 - President: Phil Thain
 - Vice President: Paul Ouellette
 - Safety Officer: Tyler McCormack
 - Secretary/Treasurer: John Choroszy
- Welcome to new members Ajeet Singh and Roland Trottier (returning after several years)
 - We are ending season with 50 members, a decrease of 1 since last year
 - If you know anyone who is interested, bring them along. We can get them up in the air on a buddy-box and love doing it, even if it's just for one time.
- Projects status:
 - Entrance sign is up. Thanks again to Frank Casper for donating the cost of the sign
 - Storage shed expansion on-going. We are planning to work on it next Sunday. We probably have enough help, but feel free to come by and see how it's going and to lend a hand if needed.
- Thursday night training sessions re-cap: Attendance has been up and down. Some nights we have a lot of people, some nights none. We hope it's been helpful and are planning to do it again next season. Tyler reminded us that the sessions are not just for flying. Come if you need help with your radio, have other questions, or just want to fly. However, with it becoming dark earlier now, we are stopping the regular Thursday night seasons for the rest of the year.
- Looking ahead to next season:
 - Fly-In: We voted "yes" at August meeting. Phil asked for some discussion and confirmation that we do want to do this. Hosting a fly-in requires some effort and participation; it could take a dozen or so members to show up and help out. He asked for a show of hands for who would show up. A majority of those present raised their hand, and so we will keep this in our plans for next August. Tyler agreed to head up this effort and promised there will be fun activities for all!
 - Phil asked if there were other events we want for the club. We have our annual cookout. Is that enough, or would folks like to see other things, e.g., a "bring your warbird Sunday", a fall event, e.g, mid October-Halloween-themed, etc. Phil encouraged members to be think about this and give us your suggestions. If it's more convenient for you, feel free to just drop a note in the suggestion box.

Steve: Field Marshal's report:

- The field is in poor shape right now. Steve spoke with Albert, who said that it needs to be roto-tilled and re-seeded. Phil spoke with Trugreen and they've offered a package that includes seven treatments total. They would come in this year and treat for weeds, grubs, and fertilize, put the field "to bed" for the winter. They would then come again in the spring and fertilize. The cost is \$598, or \$623 if we pay for each service in increments. We discussed options, and in the end voted to approve spending the \$598 to have Tru-green come in. We'll then see what the condition of the field is in the spring and work from there. Steve noted that we do need a larger pump, something that can be set up and irrigate the entire field in one shot a couple of hours at a time a couple days a week to try to keep it green. Steve agreed to research this and give the information to John so we can organize a vote if we need to before our next meeting in the spring.
- Steve will be moving the flight stations to block the entrance to the field in the coming weeks. At that point, we can no longer drive past the entrance rope. The field remains open for flying, we just can't drive our cars in.

Tyler: Safety Officer's report : It's been a good year for safety, no issues that we're aware of. Tyler just reminded us of some of the key points:

- Fly from within the flight stations
- 400 foot altitude max
- Make sure your FAA drone ID is marked on your plane. The FAA does visit fields to check
- Put a cone in one of the flight stations if you are flying on the pond
- No flying over the Pit area

Phil mentioned that he's been asked again why we don't lower all of the flight stations to a uniform height. He asked for a show of hands and most members, but not all, prefer low height. Phil left it to Steve's discretion to lower all the stands to the same height or to leave one stand high.

John:

- Treasurer/Secretary report.
 - The club has a balance of **\$592.74** in the checking account and **\$1727.38** in the reserve account.
 - Since the last meeting, the club spent:
 - \$131.88 Porta-potty rental for September
 - \$104.85 for the vinyl entrance sign and a watering hose
 - \$157.20 Wordfence renewal (security software for our website)
 - \$ 49.81 for windsock replacement

- Rich Hennessey has donated his expenses for food and supplies for the club cookout. This means that Rich was our complete host for the cookout: purchasing all the supplies, food, preparation, and running the grill. **Thank you!**

Phil: Other business/comments

- Jack Owens is the winner of ModelTech kit with a bid of a \$65 donation to the club
- Phil mentioned that we are planning to renew the PortaPotty rental again next season and asked if anyone had an opinion or concern. None was expressed, so we will renew again.
- Anyone who would like to pay their dues for next year (\$50) today see John or any officer. Phil was asked today if dues would remain the same. They will. We seem to be doing OK, and if we need money for a special purpose, as we did for the lawnmower, the members stepped up. As long as we are in the black, let's keep things the same. There is no sense having a pot of money in the account that's not doing anything. Deadline for dues is May 1, 2026. You can pay any officer in cash or by check (made out to Strawberry Patch RC Pilots). Or, you can send your check to John at:

John Choroszy

7 Brigham Ln

Wells, Me 04090

You can also pay via Venmo or PayPal to John using his email address (jchorosz@gmail.com) or phone number (207-450-8497). Remember if prompted to specify that the payment is for a friend, not a business. Otherwise, we are charged a fee.

- First meeting of our 2026 season will be **May 2, 2026**
 - Other meeting dates for 2026 are: July 11 (club cookout), August 22, and October 3 (election of officers). Don't forget to mark your calendars!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35