

## Strawberry Patch RC Pilots Club: Meeting Minutes for May 3, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 11 AM by the club president, Phil Thain. There were 21 members present.

### Phil: Opening Comments:

- Thanks to everyone for coming. Hope everyone had a good winter. There were no problems at the field over the winter; things are pretty much where we left them in the fall.

### Steve: Field Marshal's report

- Trugreen treated the field once so far this season.
- Steve's idea for watering the field this year was to run a main line along the pond from roughly one end of the runway to the other with a 3 inch pump behind the enclosure. But, when he priced it out it came to about \$2000. So, he thinks we should continue as we did last season except to get better sprinklers. We can get sprinklers for about \$50 a piece which will spray a 100 foot swath. If we get 3 or 4 of those, we can cover a lot of distance. We took a vote and approved without objection a motion to spend up to \$200 for sprinklers
  - Phil mentioned that he has a 3 inch pump that K&K hobbies was going to throw away. He fixed the carburetor and it is working. This will be another improvement over the 2 inch pump we used last season.
- Steve has additional work that he will be doing around the field, e.g., fixing the sign, and putting a railing around the ramp to the dock

### Tyler: Safety Officer's report

- Looking forward to an excellent year. Last year went well. No one reported any safety issues. Tyler reminded us to feel free to let him know if we see an issue. While he may be the official Safety Officer we should all keep track and hold each other accountable for safe conduct. Mark brought up the field's altitude restriction. We are restricted to 400 feet altitude above ground level, and this is particularly important since we are within 2 nm of the Sanford airport.
- Tyler highlighted a few procedures we need to follow
  - If you are the first at the field, you can pull out the entrance rope stake closest to the water and leave it out for the day. If you're last to leave, be sure to put the stake back in to close off the entrance.
  - Stand in one of the flight stations when flying. There are 3 stations and a limit of 3 pilots max in the air at any one time. If you are flying off the water, put one of the cones in a flight station to signal that you are flying.
  - No flying past the flight line (unless you flying from the pond). We don't want any planes flying over the pits or cars.
  - No taxiing in the pits. Make sure your plane is at the starting line at the edge of the field before starting the motor. We don't want any motors running in the pits driving around potentially hitting anything. If you have to start up your plane on a bench, carry it over to the edge.
  - Call out your intentions, e.g.: take off to the left or right, landing, low pass left or right, etc.
  - Make sure your throttle cut is on when plugging in your battery and booting up the plane.

- We discussed altitude a bit more: Be vigilant to full scale aircraft crossing the field at low altitudes, even below 400 feet. Several of us have seen Life Flight helicopters, training flights, etc., at well below 400 feet. Often we can hear the LifeFlight helicopter but have no idea where they are coming from until they suddenly appear over the trees. When you hear or see full scale traffic it doesn't hurt to call it out, even if you think the pilots flying know it's there. We MUST GIVE WAY to full scale traffic, even if it means crashing our plane. It doesn't matter if they are in the right or wrong; no one's life gets endangered.
- There was a question about field boundaries. Tyler explained that 2-300 feet beyond the tree line at the right edge of the field there is a mobile home community. So, we need to be cautious. It's OK to go out over the trees if you are setting up approaches, landing, etc., but you don't want to spend a lot of time or use a lot of throttle there. Also, just beyond the beginning of the treeline is a very steep ravine with a stream going through. It's an unhospitable location if you need to recover a downed plane.
- Another reminder: no gas planes before 9am or after dusk.
- We are going to rehang the blue box on the enclosure wall. It will be kept unlocked. There is a first aid kit in there and a large bottle and a spray bottle of Dawn dish soap. The Dawn is for putting out lipo fires. It's well known in the flying community that Dawn does a good job of extinguishing burning lipo batteries. There is also an old metal fire-pit saucer that you can use to put your lipo in if needed.
- As a reminder, be sure that you have your FAA drone ID marked on your plane. We know that the FAA has visited other fields around us to check compliance. We assume that at some point they will visit and check us as well.

#### John: Treasurer/Secretary report.

- The club has a balance of **\$785.64** in the checking account and **\$1842.92** in the reserve account.
- Since the last meeting, the club spent:
  - \$48.00 Website domain renewal
  - \$872.60 Trugreen, brackets, hinges, and stone dust for the enclosure
  - \$135.00 AMA renewal
- Reminder to see John, Phil, Paul, or Tyler if you are paying your 2026 dues (\$50) today

#### Phil: Comments

- Welcome to new members Tammy Egan, Tom Hebert and Bob Carignan
- Porta-potty will be in place through the final meeting of the season at the beginning of October
- Plans for the Season:
  - Thursday night training sessions begin May 28th. This is not just for new members. Anyone with questions of wanting help with flying or with their radio should feel free to come. And, if you know anyone who is wants to try flying, invite them to stop over. We love to get new folks up in the air to try it out.
  - Activities
    - We voted at our last meeting to hold a Fly-In in August. Tyler has agreed to head this up, but the date may need to change based on Tyler's flying events schedule. Stay tuned.

- Any other suggestions, e.g., bring your warbird Sunday, Halloween themed event in October, a night flying event, anything you can think of? We have a lot of members, but we don't always see each other. Some members come in the morning, others at the end of the day, weekdays, weekends, etc. It would be nice to be able to get everyone together for some additional events beyond our annual cookout. We'll talk more about this at the July meeting, but in the meantime, please just think about it.
- July Cookout:
  - Need someone to step-up and run the cookout this season. Rich has hosted the event and cooked for the past several years. He's just had a knee replacement, so he'll not be able run the event this year. Rich has tables, coolers, etc., that we can use and he can help out a little bit. If this is something that you think you would like to do, just let any of the officers know.

We ended the meeting at 11:30. Our next meeting will be our annual cookout on July 11<sup>th</sup>.