



The R/C Flyer

Volume 29, Issue 2

February 2005

Next Meeting – February 10, 2005, Clear Lake Park Building – 7:00 PM

January 2005 Meeting Minutes

By: Mike Goza, Secretary

The Meeting started at 7:00pm 1/13/2005

Old Business:

Phil Elting was elected as the club safety officer.

At subsequent meetings throughout the year we will be giving away Tru-Turn coffee cups. It will be a random drawing every month.

New Business:

The club sends a get well soon to James Lemon. We missed him at this month's meeting.

Herman proposed that the first fun fly be held in March. He would also like to investigate how to get outsiders into an event. The Rocket club has events with visitors so we should contact them about how they do it. We also have potential club members with proper contacts at JSC that will investigate the issue.

There was discussion about the editorial in the last newsletter. The main part of the article was upgrades to the main and possible crosswind runway. There were comments about grass vs. hard runway. The previous attempt at just cutting the grass on the crosswind runway was unfruitful due to the type of grass/weed growing in that area. Other suggestions were installation of a Port O Potty, adding electrical outlets for the E-fliers and such, resurfacing the runway, and others. It was suggested that a committee be formed to prioritize a list of improvements. Some names were suggested and the people will be

contacted about joining the committee.

We also need to do a review of the club bylaws.

We need to register our web site with the AMA and District 8 web sites so potential members can contact us.

Model of the Month (MOM)

Don White won MOM with his electric profile foam model of the F-86. It's painted with some automotive paint and very inexpensive to build. He made the decals using sticky clear ink jet paper. Just print them on the paper, cut it out, and stick it on. It weighs 263 grams. Don got the graphics from <http://www.military-graphics.com>.



Entertainment:

No entertainment this month.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm

NEW DIRECTIONS

By: Herman Burton, JSCRCC President

At the January club meeting, the suggestion was made to explore the possibility of having a Fun Fly, where other clubs would be invited to come out to the flying site for a day, or perhaps, a weekend of fun. Some of our members mentioned that other clubs' have voiced an interest in flying at our field. Accordingly, a volunteer committee was formed to explore the possibility.

A Fun Fly would generate a lot of interest from RC flyers. Also, I can visualize a lot of interest from families, who could use the opportunity to explore the Clear Lake area. We have one of the most dynamic regions in the greater Houston area for visitors. Space Center Houston is next door. Clear Lake, with its recreational opportunities of boating, Jet Ski rental, and sailing is just down the road. The Kemah Boardwalk, with many restaurants and entertainment venues, beckons across the bridge over the Clear Creek channel. Seabrook, with many miles of trails, is a bird watchers paradise. The San Jacinto Monument is close by, where Texans [sic] defeated General Santa Anna in 1836 to win independence from Mexico. The great Battleship Texas is moored close by at San Jacinto State Park. And the list could be extended. But the point is, in addition to the RC flying opportunities, vacation opportunities abound nearby, which would draw many other people.

Another suggestion that has been made to me was to open the field to another club, and invite that club to a Fun Fly. Logistically, this would be an easier task, but it, too, has the same problems present as an "open" fun fly. The primary problem that exists, in any scenario that involves outside guests, is security. Since 911, the Center has changed the access rules, and those issues of security would have to be addressed and satisfactorily solved before any planning could be initiated.

Meetings will be taking place shortly with the committee members and appropriate Johnson Space Center administration officials to begin a dialogue. Hopefully, these meetings will outline our clubs interest in having a Fun Fly, the public relations benefit to NASA by allowing it, and a suggested timetable for when it might take place.

As these discussions progress, reports will be forthcoming to the membership to keep them informed of developments. Stay tuned...

FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

By: Herman Burton, President

Our membership is very lucky to have access to a flying site on federal property that is not in danger of being shut down or taken away anytime in the foreseeable future. There are many other flying sites across the nation that, although built "out in the country" when constructed, are now being threatened by the never ceasing population explosion. I have recently heard that the Bayport Aero Club has problems along these lines, and the Gulf Coast Club has had interruptions of flying because of the City of Pasadena's construction activities. However, we need to always remember we are guests on this site. We also need to be appreciative and thankful that our club continues to use this site purely on the good graces of the NASA community.

I do not work for NASA, the federal government, or any contractor or subcontractor to NASA, nor any affiliate of any entity associated with the space program. Any position I postulate or statement I might make in this article, or any subsequent article, is based upon my understanding of the philosophy of the Johnson Space Center administration toward volunteer organizations such as our RC club that are allowed access.

Now that my "disclaimer" is out of the way, I can move on to the topic that was discussed at the last club meeting in January. The club's newsletter editor, Charlie Teixeira, initially got the ball rolling with an editorial he published last month discussing field improvements. This article is just a follow up to that effort by him, and what the club decided to do at its meeting. There are several things that could be added that would measurably improve the flying experience for our members and guests. On site toilet facilities would be a nice feature. I have been told there are toilet facilities at Rocket Park we can use, but logistically, they are several blocks away. Removing the radar screens would be a nice touch, also. Having a few electrical outlets at the canopy would be very nice, for several reasons. One that would allow all the e-fliers a ready source of power for their batteries. It would also be nice to power fans for use in the hotter months of the year. And charging for accessories is always desirable. The field could benefit from a re-surfacing, this time with perhaps several inches of asphalt, to level the many low spots and pot holes. And last, a cross wind runway would make flying more enjoyable.

There are other field improvements that could be made, but this list is a sampling of what the membership discussed. A volunteer committee of three members agreed to act as a steering committee, study the various suggestions, prioritize the numerous suggestions, review possible modes of action for implementation, and report back to the club. Their report will be helpful in guiding the club in its future efforts in making the Johnson Space Center Radio Control Club an even better place to fly.

Help Some Youngsters Get Started in RC

Lynn Wright (whom you may know from Odyssey Hobbies) & Pat Grymes are working with the North Shore high school AFJROTC teaching the kids about R/C by letting them build a trainer & flying it at least once. This is their second year to do this. They can use donations of building supplies with the near term need being scrap pieces of monokote or ultracote or any other iron on shrink covering that the kids can use to get some experience covering with. Pull up their news letter on line at (<http://home.earthlink.net/~bpac>) to see pictures of the classroom and one of our guest speakers that gave a recent talk to the kids. You can contact Lynn at Odyssey Hobbies Wed through Friday or at mastersgte7@ev1.net

FOR SALE

Mrs. Cynthia Collins' husband passed away and left her with a partially completed plane that she would like to sell. Here are some of the particulars:

One B&B Specialties Laser 200 acrobatic plane, with a wingspan of approximately 80 - 90". It is not finished and needs a fair amount of work to complete.

The body is basically constructed, but needs a lot of refinishing prior to any painting or detailing. There may be two heavy-duty servos in the body (not sure) and the control rods for the tail section. It has a Zenoh G23 gas engine already mounted. The canopy from the kit is included.

No wheels or decals.

The wings are Styrofoam on a wood core. They are not done at all. There are two heavy-duty servos to mount in the wings.

Included is the instruction booklet, but not the plans (they were all cut up).

It comes with a Futaba 8-channel radio, the receiver (in the plane), the booklet for the radio, the charger assembly, and the connection for the radio/receiver is also in the plane. The radio will need one switch repaired.

Everything together had an initial cost of roughly \$1500.00. Would like to receive somewhere around \$700 (for everything), or the best offer.

Contact Cynthia Collins, at work 281-483-7413, or by email at cynthia.collins1@jsc.nasa.gov

Upcoming Events

3/26/05 : Alvin RC Big Bird and Flea Market at Alvin field. Contact CD Keith Kimbrough at 281-559-1279 for more information.

4/16-17/05 : Prop Nuts Annual Flea Market and Fly-In, Crosby, TX. Contact Taswell Crowson CD at 281-474-9581 for more information

5/7-8/05 : Float Fly sponsored by Bomber Field Inc., Monaville, TX. Contact Nick Stratos at 281-471-6762 for more information.

6/4-5/05 : Bomber Field War Bird Event, Monaville TX. Contact Nick Stratos at 281-471-6762 for further information.

9/16-18/05 : 17th Annual B-17 Gathering and Scale Big Bird Fly-IN, Bomber Field, Monaville TX. Contact Nick CD Stratos at 281-471-6762 for more information.

COMMENTS ON LIFE ☺

A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory.

Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.

Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

Always try to be modest, and be proud of it!

If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.

How many of you believe in telekinesis? Raise my hand ...

What's the speed of dark?

How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?

If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.

Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

Eagles may soar but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

I used to have an open mind but my brain kept falling out.

I couldn't repair your brakes so I made your horn louder.

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.

From the newsletter of the
Mississinewa Skyhawks Inc.
Dave Hecker, editor
Somerset IN

Club Officers

President	Herman Burton	281-474-7133
Vice-President	James Lemon	832-385-4779 (cell#)
Treasurer	Dave Hoffman	281-476-5206
Secretary	Mike Goza	281-554-4016(H) 281-483-4695(W)

Instructors

Fixed:	(H)	(W)
Mike Laible	281-474-1255	281-226-4192
James Lemon	832-385-4779 (cell#)	
David Hoffman	281-476-5206	281-479-1945
Clay Bare	281-488-2992	

Heli & Fixed:

Mike Goza	281-554-4016	281-483-4695
Steve Rhodes	409-948-2881	

The R/C Flyer

Editor/Electronic Distribution

Charlie Teixeira

Articles and Want Ads may be submitted to Charlie Teixeira at 1711 Bowline Rd, Houston TX 77062 in hard copy or via e-mail (preferred) to ctei@sbcglobal.net

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