



FLIGHT LINES

The Monthly Newsmagazine of the Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club

Spirits of St. Louis RC Flying Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes for November 13th, 2018

by Paul Geders, Secretary

President Ralph Grant: called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Attendance:

11 members were in attendance.

New Member(s):

No new members.

Secretary's Report:

Greg Bowles, Secretary

A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the October meeting minutes as published on the Spirits website under Newsletter link.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Lindewirth, Treasurer

For October, income was \$0.00 (third month in a row that we have had no income) and expenses were \$1752.52. A motion was made, seconded and vote taken to accept the November Treasurer's Report.

Field Committee Chairman's Report:

Dave Brown, Field Committee Chairman

- 1) Runway is cracking as usual. Looking into some additional methods to fill/seal cracks

Safety Committee Chairman's

Sid Kinzel, Safety Chairman (Not Present)

- 1) No incidents or accidents at the field.
- 2) From previous month "We discussed again how to identify members when they are flying. It has been suggested a clip-on badge

or a lanyard. No solution to this problem has been reached".

- 3) The solution is already covered in the first rule of our club Safety Rules which states..." A current club membership card is required to fly at the Spirits club field and the card must be posted on the club frequency board at all times the pilot is flying". This is how we identify members when they are flying!
- 4) **Again, as a reminder. Always post your Membership Card on the Frequency Board when flying per Rule 1 of our Safety Rules.**

Membership Chairman's Report:

Ralph Doyle, Membership Chairman

- 1) Current membership is still at 128 members. He is now accepting dues for 2019.
- 2) If you have renewed your membership, 2019 cards will be handed out at the December meeting. If you are not in attendance, the cards will be mailed the next day.

Upcoming Spirits Events:

- 1) **2019 Frozen Thumbs Fly-In; Tuesday, January 1st; 9:00 a.m. "Till we're frozen";** Hot Coffee, soda and Chili will be served.

Upcoming Local Events:

- 1) **SLRCFA Friday Night Indoor Flying; November 3rd thru March 29th; 6-9:00pm;** Central Baptist Church, 601 N. Central Ave., Eureka, 6:00-9:00 p.m.; \$5.
- 2) **Lafayette Esquadrielle C/L Club Turkey Shoot;** November 18th at Buder Park, Valley Park, MO.
- 3) **Rend Lake RC Club Auction & Swap Meet; Sunday, December 2nd, 8:30 a.m.;** Roland Lewis Community Building, Mt. Vernon, IL; rendlakerclub@yahoo.com

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Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

- 1) See attached at end of these minutes for the minutes of the board meeting. Each challenge was discussed at length during the meeting.
- 2) Bob Gizzie suggested method to increase our membership by looking into having an area set aside in the southwest side of the pavilion for RC cars. The idea, if approved by the land owners, would be to have them become members of our club, thus bringing in more revenue in the form of dues. Lots of details have to be worked out if this comes to fruition.

Technical Presentation(s):

No formal technical presentations, however Ralph Grant showed, flew and described his latest DJI phone driven app quadcopter used for professional photography/videography!

Meeting adjourned at 9:21pm. One of the most productive, and longer meetings we've had!

Member of the Year Award:

President Ralph Grant presented the Member of the Year Award to Greg Bowles. This is the second time in three years he has received this award. Greg has worked tirelessly in many areas of the club, and it is greatly appreciated. Congratulate Greg next time you see him at the field.



Photo by Bill Lindewirth

Next Spirits' Meeting:

Tuesday, December 11th, 7-9pm

Dorsett Village Church

2240 Bennington Place

Maryland Heights, Missouri 63034

See website <http://spiritsofstl.com> for directions

Spirits of St. Louis R/C Flying Club

November 11, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

held at Serra's Pizzeria at 4:00 p.m.

Board Positions:

Ralph Grant – President
Greg Bowles – Vice President
Paul Geders – Secretary
Bill Lindewirth – Treasurer (Pro Tem means for the time being)
Ralph Doyle – Membership Chairman
Dave Brown – Field Committee Chairman
Sid Kinzel – Safety Committee Chairman
Curt McIntyre – Additional Full Member

In Attendance

Y
Y
Y
N
Y
N
N
N
N

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| | |
|---|---|
| Bill Lindewirth - Web-Site Web-Master | N |
| Open - Contest and Event Committee Chairman | X |
| Open - Newsletter Editor | X |

Purpose: Discuss the current club challenges and select ONE to THREE to be the focal point for the 2018/2019 flying season.

Discussion Topics (Points of Order):

| | Discussion Topic: | Next Step: |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | <p>Challenge #1: Finances. A concern has been raised that the financials for the club are in peril and the dues should be raised for the 2019 flying season and the application has been made “unavailable” to the club until a decision has been made.</p> <p>The board reviewed the financial data from the last 8 years (2010-2018) and in that time the club was only in the red 3 times (2010-\$2633, 2014-\$2,308, and 2017-\$2,700). We also reviewed the budget from the 2018 flying season and the final financial status. The fact of the matter is that we did not end 2018 in the red. 2017 was a tough year due to spending in excess of \$3000 on field and runway repairs and almost \$1000 on D&O insurance. It was decided by the board to see how things turn out during the 2019 flying season and the assess what to do with the dues. We will also establish a rolling 3 year budget going forward to insure that the field maintenance items like runway sealing/repair are adequately budgeted and accrued for.</p> | <p>Share the decision as a topic at the 11/13 meeting. Ralph G.</p> <p>Send an email to the membership that there will be no increase in dues. Bill L.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Challenge #2: Aging and Declining Membership. The average age of the club is increasing with the average being 61. There are a very small number of young people joining the club.</p> <p>The Board reviewed the membership data from the last 20 years and the average membership has been about 149 so we are slightly down with 128 in 2018. The lowest was in 2000 with 109 members and the best was in 2005 with 179 members. There are roughly 50 members who have stayed with us since 2010. We average about 118 members that renew and new member’s average 31 for a 22% turnover.</p> <p>The Board decided that we are going to propose two things to the club on Nov. 13. First is to make the family and individual dues equal. The second is to provide free memberships to Youth Members under the age of 19.</p> <p>Please note, If a change to the dues is requested by the Board of Directors the recommended amount and reason for the change in dues will be documented in the club newsletter, e-mailed, or mailed to all members. Approval of dues change is required by the general membership.</p> | <p>Make a motion to make the dues for individuals and family the same (\$150) to promote younger members. Ralph D.</p> <p>Make a motion to provide free memberships to Youth Members under the age of 19. Ralph D.</p> <p>Update the membership form per the results of the above motions. G. Bowles</p> <p>Re-institute the application on the website with the above changes if the motions are approved. Bill L.</p> <p>A ballot on dues reduction for</p> |

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| | Discussion Topic: | Next Step: |
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| | | Family Members equal to Full Member (\$150) and Youth Members being FREE will be e-mailed to all members. |
| 3. | <p>Challenge #3: The aging Ostmann's. There is a growing concern that the declining health and age of the Ostmann's could put the clubs field at risk.</p> <p>The Team discussed the challenges and in general we didn't seem concerned. Ralph Grant will meet with David Ostmann to get to know the family better and make sure there are no outstanding issues with us and to talk about the upcoming dues payment in June. The current lease expires in 6/2020. Several members of the Ostmann family have been heard to say, "If you guys leave we will be looking for another flying club immediately." They like having us there.</p> | Schedule a lunch meeting with Dave Ostmann prior to the December meeting. R. Grant |
| 4. | <p>Challenge #4: Pro Tem Treasurer. Bill Lindewirth has served this club in one capacity or another for decades, including currently being treasurer. Bill has made his wishes known that he doesn't want to have this role in the club any longer.</p> <p>The Board discussed that the Treasurer is an important role to the club and must be a full time position. It's also not fair to have Bill continue doing the roll if he doesn't want to. We will make a call for a volunteer at the Nov. 13th meeting and if there are no volunteers then Ralph Grant will make a motion that he personally take over the duties of Treasurer.</p> | <p>Make a call for volunteers and if there is no interest then make a motion to the club that Ralph Grant takes on the duties of Treasurer. R. Grant.</p> <p>Transfer all files to the new Treasurer. Bill L.</p> <p>Update signature cards for accounts, safety deposit boxes etc. Bill L. and the current Officers.</p> <p>Work with the new Treasurer to complete the taxes for 2018 as required. Bill L.</p> <p>All activities to be complete by 12/31/2018.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Challenge #5: Events Club or Sport Flyers? No volunteers / attendees of events. There is a common concern that the club is trying to do too much and some of the events are NOT for the club members but for others.</p> <p>The board decided that our mission is really to just be a Break Even Club. Why are we killing ourselves to "make money" on events and concessions and the like if the membership isn't interested? In 2019 we are going to limit our events to THREE and promote those. We will not sanction any events. 1. The swap meet / Fly-In. 2. One racing event. 3. National Model Aviation Day / Membership Appreciation Day. All other events will be informal gatherings on the calendar such as warbirds nights, indoor fly's, New Year's Day frozen fingers, etc.</p> | Make a motion for Three Events in 2019 that the board will plan coordinate with the membership. G. Bowles. |

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| | Discussion Topic: | Next Step: |
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| 6. | <p>Challenge #6: Lack of a Training Program. There is a concern that one of the reasons we don't have new members is due to a lack of a training program and other clubs do.</p> <p>The Board discussed this and decided that we should re-institute a training program of some sort. Ralph Grant and Paul Geders will work to outline the details of the program. However, it will require members to help teach people to fly.</p> | <p>Outline a training program before the spring flying season. Ralph G. and Paul G.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Challenge #7: Monthly Meeting interest. There is a concern that the same 10-12 people are coming to the monthly meetings and that's it.</p> <p>The board talked about this and thought that if we simply outlined the topics of discussion in advance and had some fun events/raffles/etc. we may bring in more people. We are going to outline the activities for the remaining 2019 monthly meetings and advertise them on Facebook, club web-site, hobby shops, and to the members of the club, etc.</p> | <p>The Board will put together topics of discussion for the 2019 meetings. Ralph G. Greg B. to lead.</p> |