



I would like to apologize to you, my fellow members, for the delay in getting this information to you this month. I have encountered some roadblocks that I am in the process of resolving. I am committed to keeping you all informed on a timely basis so look for immediate improvement in the way we communicate.

President's Corner

As our year closes I'd like to thank the membership for it's support during the last election .I know I can count on the continued positive input that I have been seeing from our veteran members as well as the new ones. I would like to say thank you to Steve Ludwig and Joe Malic for their fine job and continued support .To Steve again on his appointment as safety officer, I know you will bring a mix of conscientiousness and politeness to that position. To Paul Des Biens our new secretary who has already been taking that position to a new level .As well, welcome to Ed Belin , Rob Dietz and Dick Martin our new board members , we look forward to working with you all.

The officers ,the board and myself are always conscientious that our recommendations are for the club as a whole ,never for any personal agenda . Fun at the field has to walk had in hand with safety and organization . We all have a deep love and passion for the hobby . In some way, shape, or form we receive tremendous gratification from the efforts we put forth ,either from building, flying or just the camaraderie at the field. All of this makes our club a great organization . I hope to see you at the Christmas pizza party ,If not have a wonderful holidays and I'll see you at the field - Mark

Vice President's Corner

A Thank you to all the members for allowing me to be your Vice President for another term. Also a thanks for the vote of confidence. Becoming the new Safety officer. Enclosed is a Job description I received from AMA. Also posted on our web site are the Club bylaws and Field rules. Please take a few minutes to look them over. We have downloaded a format for flight instruction and sign off we will be looking at putting in place. Also on the AMA web site.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season, and Get them skis ready for winter flying. - Steve

Steve also contacted the AMA regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Safety Officer. Following is the response he received;

Section 4. Safety Officer/Field Marshall

The Safety Office/Field Marshall shall be responsible for the overall safety environment at the Flying field. He has the responsibility and the authority to bar individuals, whether club members or not, from using or continuing to use the club flying field if they do not adhere to the AMA and club Safety rules and procedures.

Any person so barred from the use of the flying field may not fly from the club field until arrangements have been made with one or more of the club officers to correct the unsafe situation that caused him to be barred. The Safety Officer/Field Marshall must approve these arrangements before he may again use the field.

If the Secretary Treasurer is, for any reason, unable to fulfill his duties, the Safety Officer/Field Marshall shall assist or take over the Secretary Treasurer's duties as needed.

Lois Pierce

Club Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Well Joe is in Florida repairing the damage to his house from the hurricane but I did have a chance to chat with him. He said that dues are coming in at a better than expected rate which is good news and if you haven't paid yet this is your reminder. After December 31st the late fee will apply so don't delay! The board will be finalizing the '05 budget for presentation at our January meeting. Our Porta Potti has taken a beating at the field in the last few months including slicing, dicing and a shotgun blast! It was recently repaired by the owner and returned to the field. However Joe was informed by the owner that this would be the last time so if you see anyone abusing the potties or have any info let Joe or one of the officers know so we can follow up. Oh by the way, Joe did find time to fly his Funtana while down there in the sunshine and warm weather, but he assures me he didn't enjoy a minute of it!

ECSF Secretary

Secretary's Soapbox

As I was writing down some of the issues at our recent meeting and the concerns that some of you had on different issues it reminded me of my membership in many other clubs and organizations. From what I can tell so far, and I have yet to really get to know most of you, our club has a diverse group of individuals with a load of talent in many different areas and a common love of aviation. We all take a slightly different approach to any one issue but it seems that we all want pretty much the same things. We want to fly our planes, have fun, stay safe, and share all this with our fellow modelers. The problem is that it is never that easy in this day and age of litigation, liability, individual rights, power vs enforcement, and on and on. In my humble opinion finding the middle ground so that all of us can continue to enjoy the club, our hobby and each other is the key and the way to do that is to come to meetings and express your opinions and concerns. Put your thoughts and opinions on the table and respect the fact that your fellow club member may not agree. Often times in my experience in past clubs I have heard that this guy wants to "run the show" or that guy "just does what he wants" and on and on. The truth is that the officers of any club, ours included, are mandated to execute the will of the membership(ah, that would be you). However, the only way the officers can know and understand what the membership truly wants to do is by the membership (ah, that would be you again) attending meetings, expressing opinions and concerns and voting on issues that effect them. Then the path for the officers is clear and if the officers do not follow through then the membership (ah, that would be you once more) has grounds to make changes in leadership. It sure seems to me that we have a real great bunch of folks in this club and although diverse in opinion and approach ultimately our goals in the club are the same. So come to the field and fly, come to the meetings and express your opinions, and enjoy the privilege we have of being able to play with these amazing little (or not so little) machines we call model aircraft.

Meeting Minutes:

East Coast Swamp Flyers

Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2004 – Foxon Recreation Center

Meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM.

Mark opened the meeting with a recap of the items discussed at the board meeting on November 9th. Following are those items;

1. Field Winterization – Mark started to discuss getting the tents taken down etc. when it was noted that they were already put away and the field was all set.
2. Joe Malic brought up the idea of new tables for our field and described a design he had seen at another field. Joe also said he could get several wooden spools which was agreed was the best idea. Joe will head up a committee to implement the tables, hooks, pads, and anything related to flight line.
3. Emergency Fund – Ed will head up a committee that will determine the criteria for the use of money in the emergency fund. This committee will determine what situations will be considered an immediate need where a vote would not be required and what situations would require membership votes to release funds. Anyone interested in helping Ed out is encouraged to contact him directly.
4. Instructors Program – There has been a lot of discussion about revamping the instructor/training program and field safety/protocols. As you can imagine these are

topics that everyone has a strong opinion about and so these issues will be addressed in the future. These kinds of issues need the input from all members.

Brian Ruscoe , our T-shirt contest winner posted a pick of his final design for our viewing. Mark mentioned that we are planning on making tank tops, long sleeve shirts, short sleeve shirts, maybe golf shirts (which would only have embroidery on the front) and perhaps an embroidered hat. Suggested selling price for the t-shirts will be \$14.95. Mark will have more info in the near future.

New member Mike Carrano was voted in and welcomed in.

Club Officers: Going into the meeting none of the positions were contested. When we started the club officer elections Jim Feather nominated Andre Norman for President. Mark Castiglione seconded. A closed ballot was conducted and Mark Castiglione was re-elected as President. All other officers ran unopposed and were elected by a single vote cast by the secretary. There was also an opening on the board of directors. Dick Martin was nominated, seconded and voted in unanimously along with Ed Berlin and Robbie Dietz. So your officers for the following year are:

President – Mark Castiglione
Vice President – Steve Ludwig
Treasurer – Joe Malic
Secretary – Paul Des Biens
Newsletter Editor: Andre Norman
Web Master Delux: Jim Cyr

Board of Directors
Ed Berlin
Robbie Dietz
Dick Martin

December Pizza Party: December is the month for our annual pizza party which is also our December meeting. Tentatively scheduled for December 15th at Bobbie's on Route 80 in Northford. Details to follow. Check our Web site.

Serious Stuff: One of our members described a scary occurrence out in Ohio where a 40% giant scale plane lost radio control, flew into the pits and tore a guy up real good. Consequently, no one can fly a giant scale plane at any sanctioned event without a engine-to-idle failsafe. I'm told it is programmable if you own a PCM radio and if you have a regular radio an airborne device is available as well. This is good advice for a plane of any size.

Safety Officer: Joanie Liska made a motion to appoint a safety officer who would then do some thorough research into what policies and procedures are required and/or needed for the club to operate in a safe manner both mandated by AMA and in a common sense way as well. The safety officer would then bring those findings back to the membership at a meeting and the membership would determine what paths to follow from there as well as what exactly the safety officer's roll would be going forward. Steve Ludwig was asked to step up to the plate and he graciously accepted.

Odds and Ends: There was some discussion about pilot stations with no resolution and a suggestion that a builders seminar would be helpful especially to the newbies.

That's it for now, have a wonderful holiday.

Respectfully submitted

Paul Des Biens
Secretary