



KNOX COUNTY RADIO CONTROL

AMA #594 • 3204 Williams Bend Road • Knoxville, TN 37932 • 35.94829 • -84.23314
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May 2023 Newsletter

President – Warren Oliver (Warren.Oliver@kla.com)
Vice-President – Matt Conser (FloridaCracker@yahoo.com)
Secretary – Richard Love (rltnlove@1791.com)
Treasurer – Joel Hebert (HebertJJ@gmail.com)

Safety Officer – Phil Cope (PhilipCope@BellSouth.net)
Exec Committee – Brandon Drummer (bdrummer03@yahoo.com)
Exec Committee – Jimmy Russell (JamesLelandRussell@gmail.com)
Exec Committee – Rick Thompson (JRT1953@gmail.com)

President's Corner

By Warren Oliver

The last month has passed in a hurry. It seems like just yesterday I was writing something for the president's corner. I have been doing a bit of flying and have seen a couple of days upon which we were making good use of the facilities. The picture below shows the flight line on Saturday May 6th. Quite a crowd with a wide variety of aircraft. Everyone was having a great time with lots of flying and tall tales.



We had an interesting visit from the Civil Air Patrol (see the minutes from the meeting) at our last meeting. Steven Mellard (steven.mellard@gmail.com) came and told us a little about the Civil Air Patrol. He was particularly

interested in drones when he arrived but by the end of the meeting, I think we had him excited about bringing some of their cadets by one morning to check out some flying. The attendees at the meeting did some brainstorming about how we might collaborate on various types of projects. Todd Thompson continues to stay on top of the FRIA process for us. With the slow progress the FAA is making on this I think there is not much chance things will get finished up by their deadline this fall.

We tabled the idea of installing some gravel from the parking area up to the aircraft unloading area to mitigate the mud holes that are forming until we can investigate how deep the electrical cables are buried in the path that would be covered. I have discussed this addition with a number of folks at the field. We discussed some of the pros and cons at the meeting. The cost is estimated to be about \$1600 to dress our current driveway as well as cut in (about three inches deep) and install the gravel in the unloading area. If you have an opinion about this, please send me an email (waroliver@comcast.net). We will discuss it again at the next meeting and then probably take a vote on it.

I have decided I currently have more aircraft than I need. Not only that, but I also keep having fun building them. If you need a good plane, please let me know and I will see if I can match you up with

one of my birds. Perhaps we should have a club swap meet. Anyone interested in organizing something? Maybe throw in a cookout?

May Meeting

By Richard Love

President Oliver opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

The meeting was held at the flying field with 13 members in attendance and two guests from the Oak Ridge Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol. Minutes for the prior monthly meeting held 11 April were approved.

Joel Hebert presented the treasurer's report for April. Currently we have 84 paid members. Some are family memberships that include a total of 11 children. Joel also reported that we are still working with Knox County Parks on renewing our lease agreement.

Phil Cope had no safety incidents to report for the past month. He did tell us a plane caught on fire but since it happened on the runway, no one was near any danger. The plane was totally consumed by the flames.

Old Business:

FRIA status_– Todd (Thomas) has sent our application as a FRIA site to AMA. AMA processes all club applications with the FAA. Todd plans to contact AMA after June 1 to see if we can get the status of our application.

Shed Roof Status - President Oliver called a contractor to get a quote for repair but the contractor has yet to respond. Warren asked members to provide a contractor name if they know of one that may be interested.

Flight line gravel – It was reported that 1 truckload of gravel installed will be about \$1400 to \$1600. How many truckloads would be needed to cover the flight line and the driveway near the gate is not known.

A motion was made for approval to proceed with the gravel installation. However, a question was raised pertaining to the depth of the underground power line from the shed to the flight line power outlets. As this was unknown, the motion to install gravel was tabled for a later meeting. Craig Dieter knows and will contact the person who installed the line to determine its depth.

KCRC 2023 events - Jimmy Russell (CD for the Funfly currently scheduled for June 3) previously reported that a sanction had been requested and the date cleared with surrounding clubs. The question of a conflict with another club activity on that date was raised. Secretary Love will check this with Jimmy to see if a conflict exists.

New Business:

Visit from Civil Air Patrol – Captain Steven Mellard of the Oak Ridge Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, joined us tonight to discuss opportunities for training and resources. He wants to use UAVs for their Emergency Services and for Aerospace Education missions.

Warren gave him an overview of our club and its resources for training and several members told him about other resources that might be of possible interest: FPV, flight simulator products, YouTube sites, and events such as Joe Nall. We look forward to any involvement with their adult members and cadets.

Kudos to Bob Morris for providing the two new windsocks.

Our next meeting will be held on June 13 at 7:00 PM at the field.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Meet the New Windsocks

At long last the well-worn aviation style windsock at the North end of the field and the streamer style one at South end of the field were replaced. We

now have stereo wind speed indication and they both seem to work at the lower wind levels we need. No more excuses for landing downwind!



How are the Winter Airplanes Shaping Up?

By Bob Morris

Jimmy Russell is hoping to see all our Winter build project up in the air soon. Have you finished yours yet? If not, now is the time for that final sanding and covering job. Install and adjust all your radio equipment and double check it for problems before the test flight. I finally got my mini-HOTS into the air. The plane flew well after some trim adjustments and switching to low rate. However, several glitches were noted and after some ground testing I decided to take it home rather than risk another flight. I fiddled with it at home quite a bit; I changed the antenna position, added a choke in the connection to the speed controller, and moved some servo wires around. Nothing worked. I finally replaced the brand-new receiver with an older one from another plane and the glitching went away. My radio stuff is Hitec and it seems they are getting out of the radio part of the business, so I may be forced to switch to another brand sooner or later as my supply of parts dwindles.

So, finish up those Winter projects and double check the electronics; we want to see you in the air more than once!

Articles Please

If any of you would like to see your writings, ideas, drawings, or thoughts in the newsletter, please fire up your word processor put it all together and Email the results to me:

Rmorris126@comcast.net

It doesn't have to be great; I can fix up the grammar and punctuation as well as the formatting. The important thing is to get some thoughts and ideas from the rest of you.

Carpenter Bees

By Bob Morris

You may have noticed that we have carpenter bees coming around again this year to the shed. We may want to see about limiting the damage they do to the wood structure; a few ideas are listed in this site: [How to Stop Carpenter Bees: 6 Simple Tricks That Work \(Without Poison\) – Garden Betty](#)

Idea #1

Paint the wood. The bees like clean wood and any stain or paint discourages them. It would be quite an effort for us to paint the entire shelter.

Idea #2

Uses citrus oils. The bees don't like the citrus smells, so spraying the oil on the wooden parts will discourage them. Easier than painting, but this would have to be done regularly.

Idea #3

Put up chimes or speakers. The bees don't care about the noise, but the vibration bothers them. Maybe one of you guys could come up with a windmill thumping on the roof.

Idea #4

Seal the holes in the Fall. They will reuse the old holes, so you can make it difficult for them by sealing the old holes. This would also be a major effort.

Idea #5

Low-cost housing. Build a bee house near the shed and let them take the path of least resistance and use the house to raise their young. It would take some effort to make these things, but at least they are near the ground.

Idea #6

Put up fake wasp's nests. Wasps eat the bee larvae, so the bees stay clear of any sign of wasps. Shouldn't be too hard to do but takes away the friendly character of the shelter.

Idea #7

Trap them in traps. Some DIY traps can be made to lure the bees into a closed space and kill them. You have seen bottle-like traps before. Not sure how well this would work for us since we are wide open.

Idea #8

Spray insecticide on the wood parts in the shed. Like the citrus spray, it would have to be sprayed in every nook and crevasse. The downside is that we might not want all that insecticide where we meet and eat.