



KNOX COUNTY RADIO CONTROL

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June 2023 Newsletter

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President's Corner

By Warren Oliver

Yet another month has slipped by. Fortunately, I was able to get a bit more flying in than last month. There were several days that we had almost all the flight tables filled. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. I am constantly impressed with the beautiful site we have. If we were not using it for flying, I would come there just to enjoy the great out of doors!

We will get a few things done in the coming month to look after what we have been entrusted with. At the last meeting it was decided to have some gravel installed on the area used to drop off the airplanes prior to parking your car. Steve Patterson has been looking after that project for us. The fellow that is doing the work is going to dress the driveway as well. We also decided to have a bit of work done on the roof of the larger shelter. Craig Dieter came up with a bit of wood and some roofing paint that will be used on that project. Ricard Love found the fellow that will do the work.

One subject that I brought up during the meeting is the safety issues associated with LiPo batteries. A good friend of mine that flies SPA pattern with us burned down his garage, two cars and his entire house charging batteries unattended and in an obviously vulnerable location. He is a well-educated professor and knew the dangers but got

careless. That is a VERY easy thing to do. These batteries perform extremely well MOST of the time. I have personally seen the power that is released when one of these things goes off. Do NOT think that if it goes off you are going to be able to deal with it after it starts. I have a fireproof cabinet in my garage in which I charge and store batteries. I had gotten careless with it by often leaving it open. I also had been storing several batteries that I was no longer using. I have since gotten rid of anything I was not using, and I keep the cabinet closed religiously. I also used to charge the batteries at home prior to going to the field. Now I just wait until I get to the field and charge them there. Most batteries are capable of being charged at least 2C or even more. If you plug them in and start them charging when you first arrive at the field and then put the airplanes together to get ready to fly, they are just about ready. Please be careful with these power sources. They are amazing products but treat them with the respect they deserve.

June Meeting

By Richard Love

President Oliver opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was held at the flying field with 20 members in attendance.

Minutes for the prior monthly meeting held 9 May were approved.

In Treasurer Hebert's absence, President Oliver presented the treasurer's report for May. The only change from last month was the payment of bills for mowing and the Portapotty.

No contact has yet been made with Knox County Parks on renewing our lease agreement.

Phil Cope had no safety incidents to report for the past month but did remind us to:

- If you are the last to leave the field, lock the gate and change the tumblers.
- If you unlock the gate, change the tumblers to prevent discovery of the lock code.

After use, lay chairs on their side to protect against bird droppings.

Phil also mentioned that the lock on the storage bin is broken and will need repair or replacing.

Old Business:

FRIA status – Todd (Thomas) reported we have not received any word on the status of the application.

Shed Roof Status - An estimate of \$450 to repair the roof was approved. The contractor is Tony Price. He will try to do the job later next week (22nd-23rd).

Flight line gravel – The vote to install flight line gravel was approved. The estimated cost is \$1,600.

KCRC 2023 events - To avoid conflict with other nearby club activities, the Funfly/cookout originally set for June 3rd is now scheduled for July 1st and was approved.

SPA is still scheduled for August 12 and 13.

The Cubfest is still unplanned and needs a leader. The names Rick Thompson and Randy Phillips were suggested as possibilities. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Brandon Drummer is considering August 19 for the Warbirds and September 9 for the Jetfly.

New Business:

The Mud Run event scheduled for September 17 was unanimously approved.

Miscellaneous:

Air traffic – Due to the occasional helicopter traffic near the field, Warren reminded us that they have the right-of-way. We are to stay away from them and land if necessary.

Lipo fire safety: Warren told us about a friend of his who experienced a fire in his home while charging a battery. The friend lost his house, two cars, and two pets.

Several members offered safety tips for charging, storing, and disposal of LIPO batteries.

Model of the month:

Alan Valeo showed us his winter built 1/2 size vintage pattern airplane named Taurus that was built from a BMJR kit. It completed its inaugural flight successfully.

Our next meeting will be held on July 11 at 7:00 PM at the field.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Meet who?

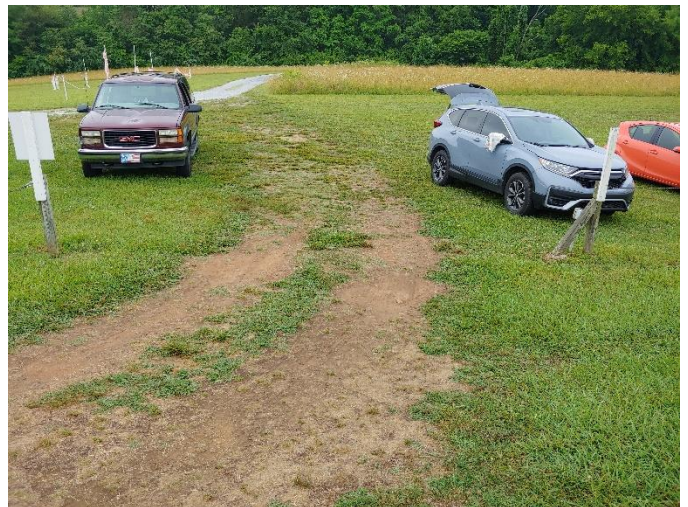
Well, I haven't crossed trails with any newcomers in the past few weeks due to vacations and mostly coming out on the weekdays. Let me know of any newcomers or old members with interesting planes or stories and I will try and get them into the newsletter along with some nice pictures. In the meantime, have fun flying your planes and see if you can meet some new folks or get to better know some old ones.

Upcoming Field Work

As many of you know, two important projects are underway at the field. The first is the repair of the roof. Since the majority of us are no longer Spring chickens, we have decided to hire a roofing person to fix the shelter roof, put in a set of new screws to better hold down the existing metal sheets, add a new sheet or two, and lay down a coat of roofing paint to protect and seal the roof. Hopefully, this will get us through another decade or so. In case you haven't been at the field in a while, this is the damage the high winds did:



And the path from the parking lot up to the flightline which is showing wear and tear:



Finally, the path at the flightline which is showing more than a little wear:



As you can see, another season or two and it will be ruts and perhaps generate erosion problems, not to mention mud during the rainy season. With a little luck, these two projects can be finished up



A couple of guys did a quick patch, but it was clear that some major work needed to be done.

The second project is to smooth the gravel road a bit and to gravel the path we use for unloading our gear at the flightline. The road is starting to get a rut or two in it and grass is being torn up by the traffic to the flightline. By gravelling the path to the flightline we hope to control any erosion, prevent a mud hole, and keep our field looking good. The underground cable to the flightline slowed us down a bit since we didn't know how deep it was buried, but we finally figured out we had enough depth. Here are a few pictures of the situation; the road, which isn't too bad:

by mid-July without too much impact on our flying time. Expect a couple of days here and there of no flying due to construction work. The club will try and keep everyone informed about the work, but remember we are at the mercy of the weather.

Mini Pattern Plane

The June meeting brought out Allan Valeo with his just finished mini-Taurus classic pattern plane built from a BMJR kit. It is a ½ sized electric powered replica of one of the early Goldberg pattern designs and flies well on electric power. Some of you may remember it in its heyday, so drop by the field, relive a few memories, and catch up on your rag chewing.

