

Flightlines

Newsletter of the Aurora Model Aircraft Club August, 2006



(What am I?)

2006 Executive

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Important Notices

- Dog Days Fun Day and Club Meeting – August 12 @ 12 noon
- SE AZM Meeting and Indoor Flying Session
- Election of Board to take place at October club meeting
- Regular Indoor Flying Sessions
- Club Meeting Schedule
- Update on fire and insurance

Website: <http://www.auroramodelaircraft.com>. Visit for all the information on the club!

Special Event: Raffle for brand-new BBQ!

Dog Days of Summer Fun Fly

August 12th is the schedule date for the event. Please give your President a phone call or e-mail saying if you will be out at the field that day. Refreshments will be provided but some planning needs to be done so that there is ample food but not too much. Sausages, pop, water, chips, sun, flying! Check out the BBQ raffle!

MAAC SE ZONE Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars for October 15th, which is when the club will be playing host to the SE Zone meeting. In a change from previous events, the club will also be hosting an indoor electric fun-fly in the gymnasiums. Free of charge with a proxy for the Zone Meeting.

Brand-new BBQ to be raffled off to AMAC members

One of the items destroyed in the fire was an old BBQ, for which a claim was put in. Our insurers have come back with a brand-new Broil-King as a replacement. Rather than letting it sit around and gather dust until we get a new shed, it'll be raffled off to the membership. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. If enough tickets are sold at the Dog Days event, we'll hold the draw there; otherwise, the raffle will be held at the club's AGM. The value of the BBQ is over \$250 dollars.

Election of Board of Directors at October meeting

One of the on-going problems with the club's AGM and the election of the Board of Directors is that the same meeting is used to set the membership fees for the coming club year. This gives the incoming Board very little time to receive the club's records, develop a budget and to put together a fee schedule.

The club's By-laws do not specifically tie the AGM to the election of Board members, so the club's Board is proposing that the election take place at the October meeting, so that the new Board can hold the AGM at the November meeting, permitting the setting of dues in advance of the start of the membership year and letting the snowbirds pay their dues without problems.

If you wish to stand for any of the Board opening (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership), please step forward at any of the upcoming meetings in August, September and October.

Latest on the Fire

The concrete pad and debris have been removed and the site leveled. Yes, the pad could possibly have been saved but the consensus of the Board and other members was that the pad was definitely pitted (spalling is the correct term), possibly cracked and contaminated by chemicals from the burning vinyl. If it is decided that a replacement shed be erected, a new pad can easily be constructed from concrete pavers. Please remember that when we lose the field, we will have to remove the pad.

State Farm has been processing the paperwork that we supplied and has contacted their suppliers for replacement items. Of course, we do have the option of taking a cash settlement rather than replacement. As of the time of writing (July 28th), the only item mentioned was the BBQ and the insurance company is

waiting for the last of the receipts that will be in shortly. It was originally intended that we use the BBQ at the Dog Days event but the question came up of where it would be stored and how often it would be needed. It was decided that it would be a good item for a club raffle to get attendance at the Dog Days event as well as raising some needed money to help next year's budget get off of the ground.

For those wondering if the club is going to take the money and bank it, the Board's answer is: "*We haven't decided.*" We have arranged for a local landscaper to mow the runway and pits/parking areas for the rest of the year, so there is no rush to go out and replace everything. The big factor is the real cost of doing the grass cutting ourselves (tractor, fuel, repairs, maintenance, insurance, shed, time) versus a reputable landscaper on a summer-long contract. Since this is a major item for the club from an asset viewpoint, the Board will definitely appreciate the input of the club members on this.

Search for a new field

So far, there is no panic. The new police station is not being built at this moment. However, it will be and our current runway points right at its location. We have several alternatives that can be considered:

- Keep what we have were we have and hope that the police station doesn't get built for several years.
- Revise our current field layout so that the runway doesn't point at the police station but keep everything else the same..
- Revise the complete field layout so that the north-south runway is at the eastern end of the field.
- Search for a new field location.

I think that the first option is short-sighted and is "burying-your-head-in-the-sand" that it can go beyond next year. The middle two are pretty much the same but should be considered separately. The third option is probably the best for the short-term but still depends on if and when the Town will develop its property. We could spend a lot of money for something that lasts another two or three years. The fourth solution? Yes, same problem as with the current field: we may not be there forever; but it does give us a second flying field that we can develop and use in advance of losing the Leslie Street facility.

A few club members have been talking about the board having to consult the members on changing the current field or getting a new one. Some have squawked louder and less civilly than others. Right now, the process being followed is to determine what our options are and to identify good candidates. Since this is a major change for the club, the membership will be consulted for their opinions when we get down to the short strokes and actually have hard details that can be discussed.

Latest on the Gate Situation

Speaking of the Leslie Street facility, we have been having problems with members leaving the gates unlocked and wide open early in the summer. We've also had people repeatedly changing the combination on the lock unto the field proper or losing the one at the main gates. If it's accidentally being done, it's been one heck of a coincidence. There has been an increase of illegal dumping on the property.

Since Jim Tree has requested that we lock the gate at all times, I've only had a couple calls for the combination, the Town's staff have encountered one person trying to get unto the field but not providing any real proof (name does not match that of any member), and we have found the Town's lock undone several times. Jim Tree has also instructed that his staff lock the gates, once accidentally locked several club mebers and the fire department battalion chief in on one occassion.

Dumping is way down and Jim's a lot happier. I realize that we do not have much of a flying season left, but I think that Jim is definitely going to be more open next year if we set up a schedule for when our gates will be open to the public (events, Wednesday nights and Saturdays).

Monthly Meeting Schedule – THIRD WEDNESDAY @ 7PM

One of the items that came up over the last year was that the meeting night conflicted with other clubs, notably the Keswick club members. We checked around to see when the other GTA club held their meetings and found that the third Wednesday is "free". Well, we applied for the Teachers' Lounge at G. W. Williams High School for this day and we got it.

Meetings will be held September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20, January 18, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16 -- that's NINE meetings!

Indoor Flying Sessions

We've set up the schedule for the indoor flying sessions. Sill on Monday nights at Sacred Heart High School, Crusader Way in Newmarket, the sessions will run from October 2 through April 30.

The dates when the gym will NOT be available are: October 10, December 25, January 1, March 12 and April 9. That gives us 25 flying sessions!

Since this is a club activity, that means that AMAC and MAAC memberships are required. Please make sure that you have them with you as they will be asked for. If you know someone who will be flying there who doesn't have AMAC or MAAC, let them know and we'll be more than happy to supply them with memberships forms.

