

VSMA Monthly Meeting Minutes

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January 5, 2005

Mike Stokes called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Non-Profit Organization/Corporation

Mike Stokes announced the Club's formal intentions to seek non-profit status for the Club. The goal is to gain recognition under the IRS guidelines such that donations to the Club are tax deductible. Everyone agreed this would benefit the Club. The Club will consult with an attorney.

Club Construction/Maintenance Priorities

The Club's leadership is dedicated to transforming this flying field into one of the best in the region. The Club wants to create attractive, comfortable, park-like facilities where members can bring their families for a day of fun. The Club agreed on its top three priorities for 2005:

1. Grounds (runway, pits, parking) improvement and maintenance. This primarily includes seeding and rolling the runway, pits, and parking areas to establish a thick lawn.
 - a. The Club is also seeking estimates to level the slope/hill at the end of the runway. The excess dirt from the hill will be pushed backward to lengthen the runway, resulting in as much as 250 more feet of runway with no obstacles at the end. Murph Winters, the landowner, has agreed to this proposal.
2. Constructing a covered pits area, possibly running the length of where the spools are currently setup. Dudley Morton printed a picture of another flying field's pits area, and everyone agreed this should be our goal. Mike Stokes, Josh Bond, Rick Benton, and a few others will take measurements for the new pits area at the field on either Saturday January 8 or Sunday January 9 (likely Sunday).
3. Constructing a club house/concession stand, but only if the Club can generate the money. This is now a low priority due to money constraints, and this may be a more practical goal for 2006 instead of 2005. Running water to the field will be relatively inexpensive. However, the Springfield electric company would charge \$7,000-\$10,000 to run an underground electric service to the field, and that price assumes the Club digs the trench and supplies the conduit. This is prohibitively expensive at this time.

Club Donations Welcome

Dudley Morton announced his fundraising intentions for the Club. Accomplishing the goals listed above will cost money. Dudley might write a bulk email to club members explaining the need for donations and how their donations will be spent. The Club may also create a flyer.

VSMA Credit Cards

Dudley Morton negotiated a credit card deal with Bank of America in Springfield. If any Club member obtains a credit card through Bank of America in Springfield and tells the bank that he or she is a VSMA club member, the Club will receive \$25 per account.

Quickie 500 Pylon Racing

Dudley Morton printed a large picture of the Quickie 500 participants from last year. Participants in last year's racing discussed some of the highlights of 2004. Glenn Sheppard and Kurt Weems have located software to automatically generate the heat matrix for how many flyers we want to simultaneously race. The software ensures each contestant races against every other contestant on a given day (when possible) and also manages channel conflicts. The software also allows each contestant can track their progress over the course of the year, including who they won against most, who they lost to most, their overall win-loss ratio/percentage, etc.

Club Land Lease

The Club is working out the details of a long-term lease with the property owner. Presently, the Club pays \$600 a year for exclusive rights to the runway, pits area, and parking area. The Club also has fly-over rights for the area between the runway and the barn. The landowner has expressed interest in using this fly-over land for cows. To avoid fences in this area, the Club, as a part of its annual lease, may pay the landowner what he would have profited on the cows. This issue will be negotiated into the land lease.

Have You Renewed Your Club Membership?

It's time to renew your club membership for 2005. After each member renews this year, that member will receive a new, **yellow club membership card**. All members are encouraged to watch the frequency board for the 2004 membership cards and remind other flyers to renew their membership. As agreed upon in the November meeting, membership dues are as follows:

- Families will pay \$50, where Family Membership is defined as a spouse and/or children under the age of 18 living in the same household.
- Senior Citizens, or those over the age of 65, will pay \$35.
- General membership costs \$50 per person.

Any club officer can accept your membership renewal. Please renew as soon as possible so that we will have the funds to improve the field this winter and spring.

Mike Stokes adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.