

THE FLIGHT LINE

By David Raff – President!

Well gang, we made it halfway through the summer but it looks like the “rainy season” has finally arrived! Along with the daily rain showers and the stifling humidity that often follows, comes the all too well known - acceleration of the growing grass. Dale is doing his best to keep the field mowed but those efforts are often interrupted by Mother Nature when she decides to let loose with another downpour.

Although you may notice that the entire field has not be mowed (either the ground is too wet or it starts to rain again before he can get it done), Dale is going to be concentrating on the “infield”, parking areas, the helicopter flying area and as much of the field north of the runway as he can. This will still give a sizeable area for those that prefer to take off and land on the grass and in the event of an “emergency” landing, (looking on the positive side) the taller grass will provide a slight buffer and may aid in minimizing the damage that needs to be repaired☺!

On the subject of “looking at the positive”, many of you, forty-three to be exact, were in attendance at last month’s meeting when the views and concerns of a few of the members were presented. The remaining membership received these in an email attachment to a correspondence that went out shortly after. I first of all want to thank everyone that took the time to attend. This had to be one of our largest attendance records in recent history! I also want to thank everyone that offered their views and comments afterwards either in person, by phone or by email. This confirms that there is a very deep sense of pride of the membership within this club!

As the president of this organization, my position does not afford me the opportunity to take sides. I need to be able to separate myself, to whatever degree possible, and try to look at both sides equally. Yes, even in the face of what might appear to be as some put it, “direct attacks” on not only my honesty and integrity but that of several of the officers, directors and other members. So, if you allow me to play the role of the “devils advocate” for the moment I would like to use the remaining portion of this article

to offer some “alternate” views.

While the biggest disagreement that I have heard other members express, was the way or method in which these concerns were presented, not one has disagreed with the fact that each and every member has the right to have their opinions heard – right or wrong. I am a big believer in the saying “Perception is Reality”. Simply put – if one truly believes that something is real then it is real - at least to them.

Now, before anyone takes this in the wrong context, I say this for no other reason than I believe that the reality of the intent behind at least some of these opinions was, for what was thought to be, in the best interest of the club. And while yes, as one member put it, this was a “Bull in the China Store” approach, that shouldn’t be allowed to overshadow the intention.

In conversations held directly after the meeting and privately afterwards, this is what I was able to take away from some of these.

While there is strong disagreement with several of the comments made with reference to the events the IRCC participates in with FTE (Frank Tiano Ent.), something that has to be considered pertains to the question: What If These Events End Tomorrow? As identified by the financial reports from our Treasurer Gary Snyder, a large portion of the club expenses are able to be paid as a direct result of the generous donations (from FTE) and monies generated from the raffles that Frank allows us to do there. Without this, it is no secret that the dues structure would need to change and that we might put ourselves in a position to loose members rather than increase the number.

As for the field - our current monthly rent is \$1000.00 per month. While steep in comparison to what some of the other clubs in the area pay, our field is located on private property and this is the price set by the property owner. Just as if you are renting a business space or a home to live in, the property owner has the right to determine the value of that space and our choice is to either pay it or find somewhere else to go. To attempt to dictate otherwise may well find us with a new lock on the front gate one day that none of us have the combination to. Trust me, nobody wants to

see that happen!

On the subjects of how the clubs financial and other reporting is being handled and the adherence to the clubs By-Laws and Policies is somewhat open to personal opinion and subject to interpretation. Is there anything being done to purposely hide facts or information from the clubs memberships – absolutely not!

During the Treasurers Report at every meeting as part of the “standard” meeting agenda, the clubs financial status is presented. This includes not only the deposits and expenses paid for the typical monthly operating cost but a re-cap of the same from any event that is held or the IRCC takes part in. This can be easily verified & confirmed by any member who regularly attends these meetings.

Now, are the actual \$\$. \$\$ amounts from the minutes purposely omitted from the published newsletter sent out to the membership – well yes and no. The minutes as shown in the newsletter are taken directly from the report submitted by the club secretary. Monetary amounts are shown if they are listed as such. Nothing in respect to this is purposely altered or changed for any reason. This is consistent with the way it has been done (with the exception of a handful of instances) in the newsletter since the earliest record posted on the website which is from 1999.

Is this different than the way it used to be when the newsletter was mailed directly to the members – of course it is – thanks to the World–Wide Web. The internet has changed a lot of the way things are done today compared to in the past. Club information, transmitted the way it is currently, is no longer restricted to just club members but is accessible to anyone that wishes to view it. All they have to do is go to the website and click on it.

The last thing that I want to touch on and then I promise to move forward is the topic of the “alternative” flying site that has been a subject of discussion. This County owned piece of property, located approximately 20 minutes or so from the field, was in fact looked at several years ago by other members of the club.

At the time, we had just received the notice from the land owner of the increase in the property rent and had to put a vote to the membership (November 2011) to increase the annual dues from the previous \$150.00 amount to the current \$200.00 amount to help offset it. As it had been done several times before, a search for a new flying site to “replace” this one was undertaken and this was one of the sites looked at. As was found out by those investigating it today, this location, being county owned and operated, restricted us (IRCC) from laying claim, doing any improvements, mandating any policies and /or procedures which includes how and who is able to use this field. It is there to be used by anyone, at anytime

whether they are an AMA member or not. For these reasons, it was quickly dismissed as not being a viable location for us to move to so no further discussion was done. Now, on the other hand, is it a good location for those that want to fly there as an “alternative” location if an event was being held at the IRCC field as it is being presented today – very possible. That decision though has to be made by each of you individually so if the opportunity presents itself - go check it out.

So, to use the phrase that was being forwarded in a volley of mass emails:

“Where Do We Go From Here!”

The answer to this question is going to have to be left up to each one of you to decide. Being a salesman in one of my past careers, you are taught to always look for “the positives” and to do your best to stay away from the negatives - regardless of the situation presented. That is the direction that I would like to see us move towards.

For a start:

- 1) Continue the IRCC’s affiliation & support of FTE events for the remainder of this year and for many years to come while at the same time, look for additional ways to subsidize the club monetary income. Although more events held at the field may not be the answer, better planned and coordinated events – similar to those done in the past can be accomplished.
- 2) Rental Agreement with the land owner – While I do not see any positive benefit that can come from sending a notice of the clubs intent not to pay the current rental amount - this is not to say that an alternative can’t be presented. Keep in mind though that there was an increase in 2006 and another in 2011–five years apart. Five more years will have gone by in 2016.....
- 3) The current IRCC Club Policies & Bylaws have not been thoroughly reviewed or updated since 2011 and 2004 respectively. This will be a primary focus to be done and completed before the end of this year.
- 4) The IRCC website can be enhanced to provide a possible “Members Only” area whereby information that is only for the membership to see can be posted. This is already in the works.

Again, these are just a start. If you have any comments or ideas - don’t keep them to yourself. Let’s hear them and see if they can be used to help make us stronger and better going into the future.

Until next month that is all from “The Flight Line”!

Propwash is published monthly by the **Imperial Radio Control Club Inc.**

PRESIDENT

David Raff
863-899-6972
raff7113@msn.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Crosby
863-602-5593
tcrosby@mac.com

SECRETARY

Ian Clark
iclark3@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Gary Snyder
863-514-0127
gmsnyder@tampabay.rr.com

DIRECTORS

David DeWitt
Dan Hudson
Wally Sunday

FIELD MAINTENANCE OFFICER

Ian Clark

SAFETY COORDINATOR

Tim Griffin

Events Committee Chairman

David DeWitt

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David Raff
raff7113@msn.com

WEBMASTER

Sean McCafferty
sean@mccafferty.com

WEBSITE

www.ImperialRCClub.com



IRCC MEETING MINUTES

July 2015

Recorded by Ian Clark (Secretary)

The July monthly meeting of the Imperial R/C Club was brought to order at 11:00 on July 11, 2015 by President Dave Raff. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the June meeting as posted in the newsletter.

Visitors and New Members: We had former member Gary Hernandez visiting.

Treasurers Report: The club keeps it's financial reports confidential, only allowing our members access to them. Because our newsletter is on the web, we will not publish most amounts shown in the report. They are read at the monthly meetings for club members. Our treasurer keeps track of the financial records. Gary Snyder passed out a spread sheet showing our financial health to all members in attendance. He then took the time to explain it. This covered all expenses and income.

Membership Report: We had 4 new members join in the month of July so far. This brings our total members count to 106 with 93 being full members.

Field Maintenance Report: The West charging station quit working. We installed one new solar panel and it brought it back to life. The East charging station also quit working. The remedy was to replace the 30 amp fuse.

Dale Anderson, who is in charge of mowing, announced that the field will be closed the every Thursday morning. This will allow him to safely mow it. When the growing season lessens in the fall, this may change. VP Terry Crosby has contacted the company that put down the new topping on our runway and taxiways.

They in turn are contacting the manufacture of the coating material for a solution. The coating does not seem to be holding up as well as it should.

Safety Report: Several times when going past the field in the afternoons, Dave Raff has found the gate not locked. It is important that the last person out **MUST** remember to lock the gate.

Instructors Report: Larry Loucks reported that he has three students that are ready to solo. In addition he has started working with two new students.

Newsletter: Sean McCafferty reported that the site was almost ready to give access to contributors.

Old Business: There was none to discuss.

New Business: Larry Loucks got up and presented an overview of our bylaws. Mike Vascellaro then presented his views on club policy and bylaws. After a lively debate, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the July meeting.

Newsletter Articles Needed!

Have something of interest that you would like to share. Please forward to the editor at raff7113@msn.com!

THE NEXT IRCC CLUB MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY

August 1st

AT THE FIELD STARTING AT 11:00 AM!



COMING EVENTS!

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 IRCC CLUB MEETING
2	3	4	5	6 Field Closed AM For Mowing	7	8 CAN AM SUMMER SWAP MEET
9	10	11	12 Field Closed AM For Mowing	13	14	15 NATIONAL MODEL AVIATION DAY
16	17	18	19 Field Closed AM For Mowing	20	21	22 HAM SUMMER HOT DEALS SWAP
23	24	25	26 Field Closed AM For Mowing	27	28	29 WPMPA OPEN SPORT "FLY-IN"
30	31	CAN AM FLYERS - ZEPHYRHILLS HAM - HERNANDO AERO MODELERS WPMPA - WEST PASCO MODEL PILOTS ASSOCIATION				

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Field Closed AM For Mowing	4	5 IRCC CLUB MEETING
6	7	8	9	10 Field Closed AM For Mowing	11	12 BCF 1ST LATE SUMMER IMAC
BCF 1ST LATE SUMMER IMAC	13	14	15	16 Field Closed AM For Mowing	17	18 BCF GOLDEN ERA FLY-IN
20	21	22	23 Field Closed AM For Mowing	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	BCF - BAY CITY FLYERS		