



Indianapolis RC South / Charter Club 903 / www.indyrcsouth.org

Meeting Minutes

January 13th, 2020

Regular monthly meeting held at Resurrection Lutheran Church with President Chuck Baker presiding.

The meeting was called to order by Chuck Baker at 7:35 pm.

Chuck welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. Chuck introduced himself as the new President and briefly discussed his offices held in the past with the club (over 20 years ago) for those more recent new members. He indicated that is looking forward to working with Adam and Doug.

Chuck highlighted the raffle airplanes being the Horizon UMX Timber and the UMX Waco.

Members present were not counted but a fair number were present including 2 Officers present (Adam Hunt was detained at work).

Visitors – Tony Stillman (AMA)

Special Guest Speaker Presentation – Chuck introduced Tony Stillman of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Tony holds the positions of Flying Site Assistance Coordinator and Safety Coordinator for the AMA and is based at the AMA headquarters in Muncie. More recently Tony has become actively involved in the AMA's efforts to campaign for favorable decisions and rulings regarding our federal government's efforts to control Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Tony graciously volunteered to speak to our club and answer questions regarding the most recent FAA publication of proposed rulings currently in the preliminary comment phase.

The recent FAA communication included a 319 page Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) issued to solicit input from impacted parties that would then be reviewed prior to the final law making processes. Tony opened that there are numerous parts of the ruling that, in their present state, could significantly wound the model aviation community.

The key points (very briefly covered here) discussed during Tony's presentation were....

- There are numerous points in the proposed rulings that could seriously hurt our hobby.
- The big players involved are the FAA, the Defense Department, Dept. of Homeland Security and commercial interests such as The Commercial Drone Alliance as well as well-known entities such as Amazon, Google and others with considerable financial backing.





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- The government involvement with the typical lack of practical subject knowledge as well as the number of big players adds greatly to the overall confusion and the difficulty in influencing and predicting outcomes.
- The AMA will play a key role in attempting to educate those in positions of authority as well as to best understand which areas are most advantageous for receipt of concentrated efforts. An area that can help us be a big help is in providing assistance to those in our hobby that wish to voice opinions. The AMA will assist in providing cut and paste methods to make providing comments an easier task.



Tony believes the regulations could take 3 to 5 years to fully mature and to eventually become law. The comment phase (the next two or three months) is critical. The AMA will provide guidance to make it easy to provide comments including cut and past methods that make authoring and sending commentary much easier. He commented that hobbyists generated about 60,000 comments that legally had to be read and reviewed before the last round of rulemaking. In this round the FAA is expecting from 15,000 to 20,000 comments on the new proposed rulings. A high-volume response from hobbyists is considered crucial.

Overall Tony presented a feeling of concern and guarded optimism. He believes that as the system works through its process that the result could be a level and style of controls that could well serve the safety, commercial and hobbyist needs equally well. The fear is that the combination of a government, often steeped in ignorance of practical knowledge and technical details on crucial matters, paired with public and high dollar commercial pressure could result in government controls that have a significant negative impact on our hobby while not achieving the safety levels desired. Excessive legal controls typically only control the lawful.

Tony summarized the AMA aim here will be to work over the next few years and target the areas of the proposed rule that negatively effect the RC hobby and AMA and try to resolve them with a positive outcome for the hobby.

Tony stayed for the rest of the meeting and invested his entire evening for our benefit in hearing his insight on the matters and entertaining our questions. We are very thankful for his being so generous with his time.



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May Meeting Minutes – Chuck read the December meeting minutes as E-Mailed in from Adam. The minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurers Report – Treasurer Doug Gifford read the December treasurer's report. The dinner on January 11th (December business) and the attendant raffle netted an additional \$296 profit to the 2019 fiscal year. The 2019 year finished in the black a total of \$1,156. Doug announced the positive number was audited against our back statements to an accuracy of \$1.42. As of this writing the \$1.42 has been located to be a small bank interest payment that was missed during the January 2019 CD rollover.

This financial performance was accomplished by many without raising dues and while maintaining our key ADA benefit charitable focus for the year. Doug thanked the members for the financial support and expressed his feeling that all of us should be proud of the accomplishment. A short round of congratulatory applause followed. Motion made and seconded and membership voted unanimously to accept the report.

Old Business

Chuck Baker and Doug Gifford had a meeting with Jon Taylor earlier in the afternoon. The annual rent payment was made of \$1,800 (same as last 2 years). Jon advised us that discussions were ongoing regarding the possible sale of some acreage north of our field. It is possible that will be far enough north not to impact our current flight patterns. Jon said nothing is decided at this point and he will contact us as, and if, things develop. The use will be commercial and probably be a warehouse expansion.

Appointments - Doug Gifford has agreed to continue as Field Safety Officer. Bob Badger has agreed to continue as our Training Coordinator and Duane Wright has agreed to be our Field Marshall. This is in line with Duane's considerable involvement at the field as our mowing contractor.

New Business

Budget for 2020 – Chuck Baker presented a proposed club budget for the fiscal year 2020. The budget is largely in line with 2019 expenditures with some more conservative assumptions such as mowing possibly being higher due to more normal weather and donations being a bit lower. The resultant budget is proposed as balanced for the year. A brief discussion lead to a vote to accept as presented.

Geotex Runway – Chuck indicated that the Geotex committee will be making a report on the subject in the upcoming months. At that time there will be opportunity for discussion and a vote regarding whether or not to proceed and if so as presented or as modified. Chuck also indicated that he does not expect the Geotex runway to cost the club anything, as there are several members who have indicated that they would be willing to donate towards it. Tony Stillman also suggested that we apply for flying site assistance from the AMA, which could cover up to 25% of the cost of the Geotex runway.

The meeting was adjourned.



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Show and Tell –

Bill Lincoln brought in a colorful electric aircraft with brushless power. This is a scratch built “Wild Thing” that he enlarged 40 percent and it looks great. The “Wild Thing” has been around for years in kit and plans form in .15 and .40 size. It’s design has been used for combat and general fun flying. It has a large speed range and has a reputation of being loads of fun.



Raffle – The UMX Timber raffle airplane was won by George Owens. The UMX Waco BL was won by Bill Lincoln.

Next Club Meeting

February 10th, 2020 at 7:00 pm – at the church

Meeting Minutes taken and prepped by Doug Gifford

