

Fluvanna County Radio Control Flying Club

Member Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2024

Click here for a link to the [PowerPoint presentation](#) used for this meeting.

I. Call to order

Due to the precautionary absence of President Bill Sykes due to suspected Covid exposure, Vice President Irv Fehlberg called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM on Saturday, 27th January 2024 in the Maple Room at the Lake Monticello Fire house. He then handed over the proceedings to Mac Derry and the other Board members to run the meeting.

Those present

Board members: Dave Beazley, Bradley Braut, Mac Derry, Dave Eames and Irv Fehlberg.

Club members: The sign-in sheet for the 24 members attending the meeting is shown on the last page of these minutes.

II. Agenda

1. Welcome & introduction of the board members – Irv Fehlberg and Mac Derry
2. Welcome and introduction of members – Mac Derry
3. Financial and Membership Report – Dave Beazley
4. Review of the most recent board meeting plans for 2024 and beyond – Dave Eames (fund raising) and Dave Beazley (electrification)
5. A guide on how to use our new website – Dave Eames
6. Open discussion on topics related to club operations, field upgrades, potential events, and other relevant topics.
7. Special presentation by Dave Eames entitled “The development of a NASA-inspired Blended Wing Body RC plane”.
8. Members show and tell
9. Collect 2024 dues – Dave Beazley
10. Adjourn

III. Introductory Comments

Following Irv Fehlberg’s brief introduction Mac Derry welcomed everyone to our first member meeting of 2024 and highlighted these points that Bill Sykes had provided by email prior to the meeting:

- **MOU with the county.** We are fortunate to have a great field at no cost to us (except maintenance) on county property under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fluvanna County. The MOU explicitly allows us to do two things at our field: operate the flying field/runway and operate a car racetrack. The racetrack was never built because the members who wanted to do this left the club, but it is in the MOU in case we ever wanted to do it in the future. In any case, our activities are limited to those. It is a flying field where we come to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of model aviation in all its forms. We

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have this field at the pleasure of the county, and it can be taken away at any time. We need to be mindful of this in planning all we do at the field.

- **FRIA.** Our field is a FAA Recognized Identification Area, which simply means we can fly here without any Remote Identification gear installed on our aircraft. In mid-March, the FAA will start enforcing the rule that any unmanned aerial systems be equipped with Remote ID gear UNLESS they are flying in a FRIA. If we annoy our neighbors, like for example by flying too close to Binky's house, a complaint could cause us to lose FRIA status. Unlikely, but if that were to happen, every flying machine we fly over 250 grams weight would require installation of a remote identification module. Nobody wants that to happen.

Mac Derry then read the following brief statement from Bill Sykes:

Good morning club members. As some of you know, my wife Joyce is recovering from a stroke suffered a year ago. She recently had a major setback in her recovery and has been admitted to a first rate rehabilitation facility that will help speed her recovery to where she was before the setback. While I very much wanted to open this meeting, my overarching priority at this early stage of her time in the rehab facility must be to be by her side. I have every confidence that my fellow board members will conduct a fine, productive meeting that will set the stage for a great year for the Fluvanna County Radio Control Flying Club. I expect to be fully back in the cockpit before too long and look forward to seeing many of you at the field as winter departs and fine flying days become more frequent.

IV. Financial/Membership Report

Dave Beazley provided the following financial report:

1/1/23 beginning balance	\$1,972.29
Income 2023	\$1,796.53
(dues plus petty cash deposits)	
Expenditures 2023	
mowing	\$1,490.00
field maintenance	\$365.00
web hosting	\$290.05
Total expensess 2023	\$2,145.05
12/31/23 ending balance	\$2,371.88
difference income/expences	-\$348.52
Checking Account balance	\$2,863.36
Debit card acct	\$179.80
Cash on hand	\$75.35
Total funds (1/24/24)	\$3,118.51

Dave Beazley reported that we had 36 paid members at the end of 2023 with 4 or 5 possible renewals.

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V. Review of the most recent board meeting plans for 2024 and beyond – Dave Eames (fund raising) and Dave Beazley (electrification)

Dave Eames opened this topic by describing the initial discussions he had with Jeff Spinello of the Lake Monticello Volunteer Rescue Squad about conducting a possible joint fund raising event that includes both a car show and a model airplane display. Jeff is very keen to do this and suggested that we could split the proceeds 50/50. We estimated, based on our past Wings and Wheels for PAWS events, we could possibly net approximately \$2,000 for each organization. Jeff offered to organize the car show and following the meeting Joe Treccariche and Mac Derry offered to help Jeff. We just need to decide who from the club is willing to submit an AMA Sanction and run the flying activities.

Dave Beazley then reviewed progress that he was making regarding the opportunity to provide a 120 Volt AC supply to the Binger Pavilion. He highlighted the progress he has made with the Fluvanna County and the representative he spoke to said he did not have a particular problem if we wanted to bring 120V electrical power to our flying site. Dave then arranged a meeting with CVEC to visit the field and provide an estimate to install the power. The nearest transformer is 600 feet from the pavilion and the cost to install an overhead power line would be \$8.15/ft. and to set a pole near the pavilion. The CVEC surveyor was concerned that the County might require us to bury the cable which could cost an additional \$8-\$10/ft. and we would have to use an approved CVEC contractor for that work. So the cost to supply power to the pavilion could be anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Then we would have to mount a separate panel from which we could run power outlets. Dave also noted that CVEC's minimum monthly fee of \$50/month would be required to access the service. Shawn Wilcox asked for clarification about the costs which Dave provided and Mac Derry pointed out that if we brought power to the field, it would be considered a "leasehold improvement" which means it is built into the property and becomes part of the owner's holding. Therefore, if the County decided to end our use of the field, we would get nothing back.

Having covered the financial aspects of this opportunity, Dave pointed out that the next steps would be to get Fluvanna County Board of Supervisor approval and the necessary permits. At this point, Shawn Wilcox said he would donate \$10,000 to which Dave Beazley responded by saying he appreciated that offer, but we (the BoD) would hesitate to accept a large sum from a small number of people as it may give those members a greater sense of entitlement. There was then a discussion about how many people would use that power and about half a dozen members raised their hands. Shawn stated that he and his fellow like minded members could organize 10-15 events per year if we had electrical power. Dave then suggested that we should survey all of the club members to find out how many members would support this electrification opportunity. A member then asked, "what about if we have ten members each donating \$1,000?" Dave then asked for a show of hands who would be willing to donate \$1,000

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and about eight members raised their hands. Scott Lounsbury pointed out that having electricity at the field would attract more participants in our future events. There was then a discussion about overnight parking of RVs. This would be OK during AMA Sanctioned events but would not be approved by the BoD and likely prohibited by the County if it were used as an opportunity to park members' RVs at the field whenever they liked.

Shawn Wilcox pointed out that he had recruited five new members who would like power at our field and if that was not possible, they would choose to fly at the Thornburg club instead.

Dave Eames suggested that we table the discussion and that the topic be discussed at our next BoD meeting; Dave Beazley agreed it was a useful discussion and appreciated the feedback. Dave Eames thanked Shawn and his new members for offering to help grow the club, contribute financially, and to offer help organizing events. But he reminded everyone that the BoD priority was improving the safety fences, the pilot stations, and improving the appearance of our flying site.

VI. A guide on how to use our new website – Dave Eames (for Randy Smith)

After relocating the projector screen to enlarge the image on the screen, Dave Eames proceeded to describe the various elements of the website that Randy Smith had created. This is still very new to the club and its content is still being developed. Dave also highlighted the FRIA boundaries as that information is now also posted on the website. If any member wants to submit content to the website, they should contact Randy at smithsva@comcast.net.

VII. Open discussion on topics related to club operations, field upgrades, potential events, and other relevant topics.

Dave Eames then opened up a discussion about improvements we all would like to enhance our club. He pointed out that the bylaws need updating as they state that we should hold membership meetings every month. The consensus from members was that quarterly was probably OK and that some of those meetings could be held at the field. Also, making meetings accessible by Zoom might be helpful. It was also suggested that if we had a more interactive website, we may only need to meet if a particularly important topic required a formal meeting. Louis Alessi asked if we had work parties available when field maintenance was required. Dave Beazley pointed out that we traditionally have a workday in March that was called the "calibration of the windsock". Louis said that he lives locally and has tools and would be willing to help when needed. There were several requests to move the windsock. Dave Beazley described the plan to have two windsocks at both ends of the field in line with the safety fence so it would not be a collision hazard. There was a discussion about what type of safety fence was required. The set up at Milton Field was highlighted as both effective and aesthetically

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pleasing. Later in the meeting, the control line guys asked if we could increase the diameter of the CL circle to accommodate 62 foot flying lines.

Dave Beazley suggested that we take a break at this point to collect dues before we start the next item on the agenda. There was a pause in the meeting while dues were collected.

VIII. Special presentation by Dave Eames entitled “The development of a NASA-inspired Blended Wing Body RC plane”.

Dave Eames then discussed his work over the past five years in developing his BWB models. A copy of his presentation is included with [PowerPoint presentation](#) of the meeting.

IX. Members show and tell

Following the presentation, Bill Ballinger showed off his beautiful SuperTiger 60 powered Legacy Control Line Stunt plane.



X. Collect 2024 dues – Dave Beazley

Dave Beazley had already collected the dues from members present during the earlier break.

XI. Adjournment

Dave Eames suggested that we end the meeting and it was informally adjourned at 1:07 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dave Eames

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Attendee List

SIGN IN SHEET 1-27-24

DAVE BEAZLEY

CHARLIE BISHOP

Jon Nye

IRV FEHLBERG

Rob Davis

Wayne Nye

Mike Montgomery

JACK EARNSHAW

Patrick Flathers

BILL FLATHERS

LOUIS ALESSI

JOE TRECCARICHE

Scott Lounsbury

Shawn Wilcox

Cliff Lewis

Dan Baillargeon

Michael Dann

Ryan Taylor

CLIFFARD SELTZER

- MATTHEW GRAY - GRAYSON ABSENT

DON STONEMAN

BILL BALLINGER

MAC DERRY

DAVE EMMS

Bradley Braut