

Volume 41 Issue 7

Jul 2014

Who's Who?

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Prez Sez

Hi from the Saints club.

We still have not heard any news on the tractor repair, so we are still using the rental mower. The field still looks great, so thanks to Pierre for that.

Recently I observed a situation at our field involving a quad-copter that had GPS aided guidance. The pilot flew to altitude, and then put it in position hold. Here's the problem. He then put down the transmitter and walked to his car to get something. This seemed wrong, but I was not aware at the time that we had any rules that applied to this situation. I think he was a guest.

After this, I did some research and found out that the AMA has already issued safety rules for this situation which are posted at the field. The AMA document #560 says the pilot must be in direct line of site control of any aircraft regardless of stabilization or GPS control augmentation. This means they must be able to override any directions from gyros or GPS units at all times. Also, pilots must keep aircraft in direct line of site, or else they will have to comply with FAA rules on UAV's, rather than sport model aviation rules. That means you can't program an aircraft to fly out of site and return. If you have a quad with GPS augmented controls, please take time to download the AMA document and study it. When you sign up for AMA, you agree to follow these safety rules. Our safety rules just supplement the AMA rules. I will ask John Bouchillon to put these documents on our web site for easy reference.

If the situation with the quad copter at our field happened now, I would have challenged him about it now that I am aware of the AMA rules. We all need to keep up with technology.

I don't think we need to add anything to our rules for this situation since the AMA rules are already in effect. If you have any suggestions for additions to our safety rules, especially for electric aircraft, bring them to the next meeting. The current rules were written when we only had gas or nitro aircraft. I want to solicit input from the electric pilots. I don't want to put any more additional restrictions on electric aircraft than necessary, or in any way discourage anyone from flying them at the field.

Hope to see you at the next meeting. We will meet at the field on Thursday July 10th, barring storms. In case of bad weather, we will meet at the Mark Twain hobby shop. Remember to bring your lawn chairs.

Richard

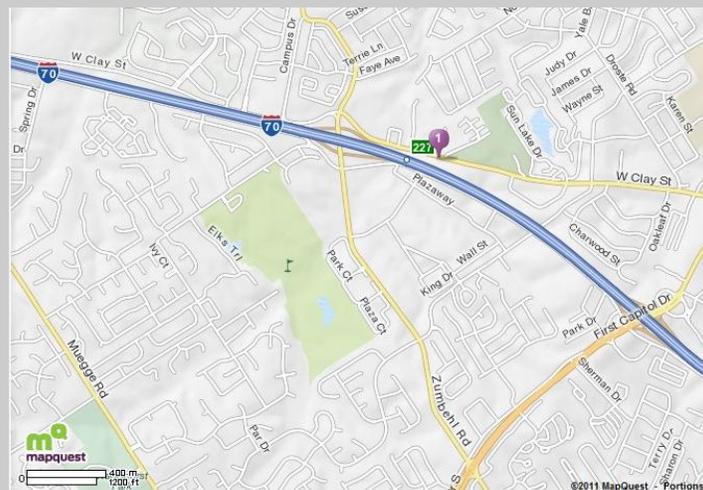
Meeting Schedule

Meeting Dates: 2014: Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11. (Meetings for May, Jun, Jul & Aug tentatively scheduled at the Saints field.)

Meeting Time: 7 to 9 pm

Meeting Location: Saints Field (Jun – Aug) or Mark Twain Hobby Shop

From eastbound I-70 take the Zumbuhl exit north and turn right on West Clay. Go 1/4 mile. Mark Twain Hobbies will be on your right. The meeting room is entered via the leftmost outside door for Mark Twain Hobbies.



Meeting Minutes

June Meeting Minutes (6/12/2014)

Meeting called to order 6/12/2014 by President, Richard Jenkins.

Roll call by Dick Magee. There were 14 in attendance. There are currently 53 members on board so far this year and 19 openings at this time. George Williams and his grandson David Williams (new members) came in after the meeting started. Barton Canis & George Hendrix are new members who sent in their applications but were not present at the meeting.

There were no minutes for May.

Our Treasurer, Mike Dierker was present and he gave the treasures report.

There was a motion to accept the Treasures report as given. Approved.

There was a motion to accept the Secretary's report as printed. Approved.

Field committee report: Very eventful month. We have a rental tractor from the company that's doing the repair on the club's tractor. They dropped off the rental and picked up ours for repair. The drive shaft came loose. At this point we don't know the cost to repair the tractor. We don't know the rental rate but it is priced per day. New commercial riding mowers cost anywhere from \$9,000 to \$15,000 today.

At the time of the meeting, water is creeping up the field.

No safety incidents to report. Ron Kilb reinforced the need to stay on the blocks when we fly. Don't walk out on the middle field to take off. President spoke about everybody reviewing the Safety Rules which are located on the Saints Web page. He will mail them to you if you want. The President also stated to place your planes & helicopters on the pit blocks and run your motors up in the pits and not by the cars.

No old business.

New business: Reading of the Spirits of St. Louis RC Club Open House Flyer was done.

Show and tell: John Bruno brought in a cool scratch built Quad Copter. The beauty of this beast is that it was built for around \$250. Commercial units of this caliber would cost at least \$1000. The compass and GPS units were mounted high on the top to eliminate magnetic inference. There was a noise maker that beeped when armed, lights were place all around. John talked about several flying modes that included all aspects of hovering, orientation and the capability of coming back to a pre-programmed location. In the autonomous mode, you can even use the laptop to program 'waypoints' and the copter will fly. The first time you fly, you must acquire strong GPS satellite signal, much like a portable GPS navigation units used in cars, etc. It was mentioned that you have to have special licensing/training to fly beyond line of sight. John will get information to any interested member.

50/50 Doug Sanders

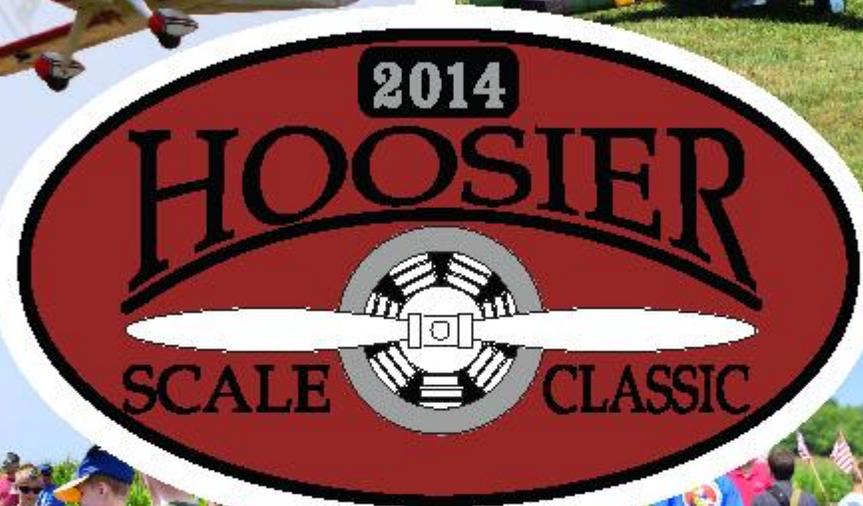
Attendance prize: 10 dollar gift cards go to Don Shelton, John Bruno.

Motion to adjourn.

The Southern Indiana Flying Eagles are pleased to present a Scale Master Qualifier, the

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