



The Airscoop

The Official Newsletter of the Indian River Kontrol Society



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IRKS Meeting Minutes August 16, 2023

The August 2023 meeting of the Indian River Kontrol Society was called to order at 7:28 PM. There were no visitors present but two new members, John Gerczynski and Vincent Pasdero, joined us this evening. We welcome them and wish them happy flying and safe landings!

Steve Formanek graciously provided snacks for tonight's meeting. (**Secretary's Note:** If anyone is interested in bringing snacks please contact Roger Hardin at 321-431-6779. We already have a volunteer for the September meeting.)

President Armstrong then requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the August 2023 issue of The Airscoop. The motion was made, seconded, and passed without any discussion.

Officer Reports:



Gerry Armstrong, President: July concessions were \$7.00 and that was the only income. Flying Site Fund: we have \$1,746.01 in our checking account and \$81,504.03 in savings for a total of \$83,250.04 We still have \$500.00 in allocated funds so the available funds are \$82,750.04.



Vice President Ernie LeClair: Ernie gave us a brief report on the UFO event from last month. John Van Workum won the award for the most "unusual" flying object. Ernie then went on to talk about The RID (Remote Identification) module that was tested by Flite Test personnel. This particular module is priced at about \$100. He also noted that the most recent AMA magazine (Aug. 2023 edition) has a RID status report on page 95.



Roger Hardin, Recording Secretary: Roger talked a bit more about the RID requirements established by the FAA. He said that the FAA has no "enforcement" manpower and that they will probably only seek out those who are flying in areas where they should not be flying especially near critical infrastructure installations, airports, etc. (**Secretary's note:** As of 9/13/2023 the AMA announced in an email that **the FAA has postponed enforcement of the RID requirement until March 16, 2024.** This will allow for more club flying sites to be certified as FRIAS and also allow RID manufacturers to make and ship RID modules.)



Steve Formanek, Membership Secretary: He said we currently have 151 members. (Thanks again for tonight's goodies Steve!)

John Van Workum, Treasurer: John read his General Fund Summary for July 2023: We had zero income this month.



Expenses for the month were **\$20.00** for the General Meeting Raffle, **\$214.00** for the Porta-Potty at 524 (a double billing cycle), and **\$125.00** for the new Porta Potty at Valkaria. The total expenses for the month were **\$359.00**.

The balance in our General Fund is now **\$9,728.74** This includes **\$2,923.86** in the Equipment Fund and **\$1,534.67** in future year's dues. The available funds for the year are **\$8,194.07**.

Ernie LeClair Safety Officer: Ernie said he was working on revising the safety rules for Valkaria. He mentioned that we will propose adding a requirement that "spotters" be used by all pilots and that their main job will be to watch for full-scale planes in the vicinity. Ernie also suggested that we add "(Stop) Bleeding Kits" to our first-aid kits. Some other ideas would be to hang wooden cut-outs of models onto the fence (for pilots to estimate their planes' distance), move the marked runway more towards the east to give us more flying room, move the model start-up stations and add pilot stations, and to build a new sun shade.



Roger Hardin added a note about heat exhaustion explaining that Gerry had experienced just that when he was mowing at 524 recently. We need to be careful!

Old Business: There were no motions brought up at our last meeting and there have been no items of concern with the 524 site. Gerry said that per history the field is flooded and unusable an average of 38 days per year.

Regarding our search for a new flying site there seems to be nothing available in Brevard County; Osceola County told us they have a 5-acre site but it is unsuitable for our purposes. We are still looking though.

With the above in mind we are planning to move out of the 524 site at the end of 2024 and because of that we may lose 50% of our membership. Gerry and Roger recently attended a meeting with county solid waste officials and they would make no promises about a site at the new 192 landfill.

New Business: There was no new business to be brought up by the board but Dave McPherson stood and told us his thoughts regarding the future of our club. He noted that so far we have received no help from the county towards improvement(s) in our sites and suggested that we have a meeting with the county and offer to spend a substantial amount of money towards improvements at the Valkaria site. By doing so we would be indicating that we are serious and willing to put our money where our mouths are. Such a meeting would include Chris Delaere and board members.

President Armstrong thanked Dave for his thoughtful presentation and indicated that we already have many improvements in the works for that site (see Ernie's report above). In addition the airport is planning to repave the runway which will definitely be an improvement!

Ernie added that some members may need to "adjust" to flying at Valkaria due to the nature of the area, the proximity of the active runway, etc.

Model of the Month and Show and Tell: There were none this month. Roger Hardin noted that August 3 was the anniversary of the first supersonic flight by a true seaplane. The test pilot was his father Charles Eugene Richbourg and the flight was on August 3, 1954 in San Diego CA. Roger's dad was killed when the plane blew apart during a subsequent test demonstration in November 1954, and he was later posthumously inducted into the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame. A "shell" of one of the test planes, called the Sea Dart, is on display outside of the Florida Air Museum in Lakeland which is located near the site of the Florida Jets event.

Event Reports: There were no reports of upcoming or recently-attended events.

Raffle: Member Jim MacLean won tonight's \$20 prize just for showing up.

There was no other business to discuss so the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:17 PM.