



The Airscoop

The Official Newsletter of the Indian River Kontrol Society



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IRKS Meeting Minutes January 17, 2024

The January meeting of the Indian River Kontrol Society was called to order at 7:32 PM. There were only 10 members present this evening plus one guest, George Hixon, who was a member in the past.

President Armstrong requested a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the January 2024 issue of The Airscoop. The motion was made, seconded and passed without any discussion.

Officer Reports:



Gerry Armstrong, President: There were no concessions last month because we had our Holiday Dinner at Rooney’s Restaurant. We did get the contribution from the 2024 dues towards our Flying Site Fund in the amount of **\$3,491.33**.

The Flying Site Fund: We still have **\$1,746.01** in our checking account and now have **\$86,051.14** in savings for a total of **\$87,797.15**. We still have **\$500.00** in allocated funds so the available funds are **\$87,297.15**.



Vice President Ernie LeClair: Ernie talked about his ideas for visual reference silhouettes that might be attached to the fence at Valkaria. These would give pilots an idea of just how close to the fence they are flying. He said they could be constructed from wood, metal, or whatever material that would be suitable...and of course the Airport Manager would need to approve their use.



Roger Hardin, Recording Secretary: Roger noted that our Valkaria Airport site still does not appear on the AMA’s FRIA site list. (**Secretary’s note:** Later in the meeting President Armstrong read a letter from the AMA indicating that our site is still under review by the FAA and that sites at uncontrolled airports take longer to review.)



Steve Formanek, Membership Secretary: Steve was unable to attend this evening but Roger Hardin read some of Steve's notes to the E-Board which included noting that our current membership is at 121. Steve wrote that we have been in the 145-155 range in recent years so this may be taken as a significant trend and obviously a loss in dues receipts.

Per Steve 44 members did not renew in 2023 but 18 new members joined. All of these live in Brevard Co. and 7 of them are Valkaria pilots.

John Van Workum, Treasurer: John was also unable to attend this evening but Roger read John's General Fund Summary for December 2023. Income was **\$26.66** for 2023 dues, **\$3,704.34** for 2024 dues, **\$160.00** in 2025 dues, and dues overpayment(s) of **\$118.00** for a total of **\$4,009.00**.



Expenses for the month were **\$118.00** in refunds, **\$107.00** for the Porta Potty at 524, and **\$88.83** for herbicide, also for 524. Valkaria expenses were **\$100.00** for the Porta Potty and **\$30.00** for rent of the flying site. The total of all of our expenses for the month was **\$443.83**.

The balance in our General Fund as of December is **\$12,215.44**. This includes **\$2,923.86** in the Equipment Fund and **\$260.00** in future year's dues. The available funds for the year are **\$11,955.44**

Ernie LeClair, Safety Officer: (Ernie began by asking Roger Hardin to reiterate some of his comments from the Airscoop.) Roger then talked again about his disappointment with the lack of member participation at our meetings and events, noting that we averaged only 11 members per meeting in the last 12 months (4 or 5 of which are board members.) (**Secretary's note:** at our "UFO" event there was only **one** pilot that participated even though there was a \$100 prize offered for the best "UFO", and at our annual toy drive we had **very** few toys donated...most of those by board members.)



Ernie noted that our members have shown much more interest in the past. There was discussion that we have held past events at schools and Gary Armstrong said that he would research the possibility of doing an outreach to youth.

On another topic Ernie talked about just how much more memory or capacity we are now able to store (than ever before) in thumb drives, SD cards, computers, and phones. He noted that "drones" use "tons of technology" in their operations. Ernie said that he would be discussing where we are and where we are heading in technology at the next few meetings. He also suggested that perhaps we should notify members via a one-time mail/email/short video regarding upcoming discussion topics at meetings.

Old Business: President Armstrong said that the new storage shed will be delivered to Valkaria this month.

New Business: President Armstrong entertained a motion to accept the proposed bylaw changes (regarding E-Board meetings) as published in the January 2024 Airscoop. The motion was made, seconded, and passed without any discussion.

President Armstrong read a letter from the AMA regarding the FRIA status of our Valkaria site (see Roger Hardin's Officer Report above.)

It was brought up that there are frequently many paragliders in the Valkaria airspace. Ron Mock talked at length about paragliders and that they are supposed to be flying above 500'. He also suggested that we talk to the airport Manager about them.

This discussion was followed by Ron's suggestion that perhaps we should form a committee to try to improve the Valkaria site. The committee could include Dave Peterson, Gary Armstrong, Ron Mock, and E-Board members. There was more discussion regarding suggested improvements including perhaps cutting some trees.

It was noted that, per the airport manager, it may take about 13 months to find out whether or not **any** trees can be cut since the area is currently a designated Scrub Jay habitat. Also, President Armstrong has already talked to the Manager about possibly moving the runway area, adding more parking space, positioning of the new storage shed, and perhaps building a new sunshade...so improvements are already being discussed.

Much discussion followed.

Show and Tell: Jim MacLean showed us the beginnings of the fuselage for a "Curare" 1977 pattern plane.

Roger Hardin passed around a Spektrum Remote ID unit (that he ordered from Horizon Hobby) for members to look at.

Events: It was noted that the Blue Max event in Sanford was scheduled for January 27th.

Raffle: Jim MacLean won tonight's raffle...\$20.00 just for showing up! Congratulations Jim (now you can buy more stuff for your Curare!)

There was no more business to discuss so the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM

For The Good of the Club

After last month's meeting we appointed a Flying Site Committee to oversee future improvements to the Valkaria Flying Site. The members are our Safety Officer - Ernie LeClair, Field Manager - Gerry Armstrong, plus Lou Montante and Chris Delaere who have been maintaining the Valkaria field for many years. All are very knowledgeable about the needs of the site. They will be responsible for all research, planning, interfacing with airport management and getting club approval before improvements start. Lou will be taking a short snowbird break in a few weeks so Ernie, Chris and Gerry will take up all duties until he returns.

The current suggested projects are:

1. West end aircraft boundary recognition system.
2. Runway surface improvement.
3. Tree and other foliage removal on aircraft approaches, for new sunshade, and increased parking.
4. New larger Sunshade.

Items 3 and 4 are being held up until the airport can relocate a Scrub Jay habitat which should be completed later this year.