



# The Airscoop

The Official Newsletter of the Indian River Kontrol Society



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## IRKS Meeting Minutes February 21, 2024

President Armstrong called the February meeting of the Indian River Kontrol Society to order at 7:33 PM. There were no visitors or guests present but 18 members attended this evening. Roger Hardin provided us with some cookies to snack on.

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

## Officer Reports:



**Gerry Armstrong, President:** Concessions in January were \$4.00. Flying Site Fund: We still have **\$1,746.01** in our checking account and now have **\$17,397.94** in savings; Our **\$60K CD** has already made **\$3,661.80** in interest so our total is **\$79,143.95**. We still have **\$500.00** in allocated funds so the available funds are **\$78,643.95**.



**Vice President Ernie LeClair:** Ernie said he would be talking about The Spektrum “Smart Battery” technology at our next meeting, and also about the Apple “Air Tag” for locating “missing things.”



**Roger Hardin, Recording Secretary:** Roger reminded everyone that the FAA’s Remote ID enforcement date is March 16<sup>th</sup>. He also noted that we have a 50% increase in attendance at tonight’s meeting...yea! (we’ve averaged only 12 per meeting during the last year or so.)



**Steve Formanek, Membership Secretary:** Steve said we are down to 118 members. Ernie added that the Airmaster's club has recently lost 50 members, perhaps because they raised their dues to \$100 per year.

**John Van Workum, Treasurer:** John read his (revised) General Fund Summary for January 2024. Income was **\$786.67** for 2024 dues, **\$13.33** in 2025 dues, and a late penalty of **\$40.00** for a total of **\$840.00**.



Expenses for the month were **\$290.76** for the Front Street Hall, **\$3,498.33** in membership dues to the Flying Site Fund, **\$81.80** for new wind socks, **\$84.74** for Gas and Oil, and **\$107.00** for the Porta Potty at 524. Valkaria expenses were **\$200.00** for the Porta Potty, **\$30.00** for rent of the flying site, and **\$29.95** for Mower Parts and Supplies. The total of all of our expenses for the month was **\$4,322.58**.

The balance in our General Fund as of January is **\$8,732.86**. This includes **\$3,273.69** in the Equipment Fund and **\$273.33** in future year's dues. The available funds for the year are **\$8,459.53**.



**Ernie LeClair, Safety Officer:** Ernie talked briefly about safety concerns at the Valkaria site. We will be discussing new safety rules in the near future.

**Old Business:** President Armstrong said that we still have not received any info on our request for the FRIA status for Valkaria. He noted that all the proper documentation has been sent to the FAA. (**Secretary's note:** that info was sent "many moons" ago!)

**New Business:** President Armstrong and Roger Hardin recently met with Solid Waste personnel. They again said that December 31<sup>st</sup> would be our last day of flying but that we could have 30 days to get our shed moved, pig fence removed etc.

Gerry also talked briefly about their concern regarding an employee who broke his ankle "hurrying" to talk to his supervisor about a request to have county employees pick up trash from the pig fence. John Van Workum said that he was the one who made the "request" and that it was not "an order" and there was no sense of urgency conveyed to the employee.

Dave MacPherson gave Gerry some info regarding a REALTOR who might be able to help us find a new flying site; Gerry will contact him to see what he can come up with.

Valkaria's mower deck needs to be replaced. Lou Montante has agreed to check out a used deck advertised for \$500. Gerry made a motion to allow Lou to purchase the deck if he felt it was worth the price; the motion was seconded and passed.

A new Flying Site Committee has been formed for our Valkaria site. The members of the committee are Lou Montante, Chris Delaere, Gerry Armstrong, and Ernie LeClaire. Lou and Chris are long-time Valkaria flyers, Gerry is the Field Manager, and Ernie is the Safety Officer.

The scope of the committee will be to research/suggest improvements and changes to the site. The committee had their first meeting last Sunday. Among things discussed were that no trees can be cut until the Scrub Jay area designation is removed (if at all). Tree cutting would allow for more on-site parking.

Ernie LeClair talked a bit about safety at Valkaria noting the fact that venturing onto an active runway is a very serious FAA offense. If a plane goes down outside of our allowed flying/entry zones we need to contact the Airport Manager or Ernie to be escorted for retrieval (similar to what we had to do for the 524 construction area.) If, however, a member's RC plane goes down on an active runway and it is an **immediate safety concern** we should climb the fence and retrieve it ASAP...and then face any consequences later.

Ernie said that revised safety rules for Valkaria are coming out. He also noted that he needs help with the aircraft silhouettes that will be attached to the fence. Please call him if you can volunteer to help!

The EAA has a youth aviation program, the "young Eagles". They might be interested in becoming RC pilots and club members.

**Show and Tell:** Roger Hardin showed us a "Flite Test" foam board powered electric glider that his neighbor built. Roger is helping him get it set up and amazingly it flies...but he said that it is not something that one of us should consider purchasing.



**Roger Hardin's neighbor's Flite Test foam E-glider**



**Ron Mock's Sig Wonder "Bat Plane"**

Ron Mock showed us a "Sig Wonder" he is building. It is being fashioned as a "Bat Plane", will be covered in orange and black, and will sport an ASP 12 motor and DS 510 Align servos.

**Model of the Month:** John Van Workum brought in a beautiful Grumman Goose built from a Manzano Laser Works short kit designed by Pat Tritle. It is covered in Hobby King material which John said was inexpensive and powered by two 370 electric motors. The Goose was voted best MOM tonight.



**John Van Workum's Grumman Goose**



**Jim MacLean's Curare**

Jim MacLean brought in his now almost-finished 1977 Curare pattern plane that he built from three sets of plans. The Monokote covering was courtesy of Ernie. (See previous page.)

**Events:** It was said that the Airmaster's club would be having an aerobatic contest sometime in September. Also, the Perry Swap Event is a week and a half away.

**Raffle:** John Van Workum (now aka "Goose") won tonight's raffle...\$20.00 just for showing up!  
Congratulations John!

**There was no more business to discuss so the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM**