



The Airscoop

The Official Newsletter of the Indian River Kontrol Society



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AMA Club #208

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IRKS Meeting Minutes March 20, 2024

President Armstrong called the March meeting of the Indian River Kontrol Society to order at 7:32 PM. There were no visitors or guests present but “old” members George Babick and Mike Conrad were with us this evening.

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

Officer Reports:



Gerry Armstrong, President: Concessions in February were \$7.00, and Gerry sold \$430.00 in donated aircraft at Perry for a total income of \$437.00. Flying Site Fund: We still have \$1,746.01 in our checking account and now have \$17,895.21 in savings, and a CD in the amount of \$60,144.66 for a total of \$79,785.88. There are still \$500.00 in allocated funds, so the available funds are \$79,285.88. (Secretary’s note: the dollar amount in our CD indicated in last month’s Airscoop was in error.)



Vice President Ernie LeClair: Ernie was absent this evening due to illness. (Get well dude!)



Roger Hardin, Recording Secretary: Roger deferred his report to President Armstrong (who would address the Valkaria site situation later in the meeting.)



Steve Formanek, Membership Secretary: Steve said we are currently at 118 members.

John Van Workum, Treasurer: John read his General Fund Summary Report for February 2024. Income was **\$26.67** for 2023 dues, **\$613.67** in 2024 dues, **\$141.33** for 2025 dues, **\$13.33** for 2026 dues, and a late penalty of **\$20.00** for a total of **\$815.00**.



Expenses for the month were **\$20.00** for the General Meeting Raffle, **\$215.00** for our AMA Recharter, **\$61.25** for the Florida Annual Report, and **\$107.00** for the Porta Potty at 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 **\$533.25**.

The balance in our General Fund as of January is **\$9,014.61**. This includes **\$3,273.69** in the Equipment Fund and **\$427.99** in future year's dues. The available funds for the year are **\$8,586.62**.



Ernie LeClair, Safety Officer: Due to Ernie's absence there was no Safety Officer's Report this evening.

Old Business: There were no motions made at the last meeting and there have been no noise complaints.

The bad news is that our Valkaria site **has not been approved as a FRIA by the FAA**. President Armstrong read an email from the AMA regarding the situation and that they are asking the FAA for an "alternate process" that would let us fly there without RID compliance. This would require a "Letter of Authorization" from the airport, is meant specifically for flying sites located on airport grounds, and, if granted, would only be good for four years. The AMA personnel will be helping us with the needed paperwork. For now

Dave MacPherson said that the real estate broker that he referred Gerry to (who said he would help us try to locate a new flying site) should be texted since he doesn't listen to his voice mails. Gerry noted that he also left messages with the agent's secretary but those haven't been returned either.

New Business: President Armstrong and Roger Hardin spent 20+ hours at the 524-site cleaning up the sunshade area, servicing the charging station batteries, and repairing/replacing sections of the pig fence. Gerry also purchased a wheelbarrow and tamper to facilitate members taking time to fill bird holes and ruts on the runways. (**Secretary's note:** there are 2 plastic buckets as well for hauling smaller amounts of dirt, of which there is plenty in the pile. Recently though it seems those buckets are being used as "trash cans"...come on guys, what the heck are you doing?

Dave Macpherson suggested that an email be sent out to all members asking for "a story" about our club. He said such a story might be helpful in finding us a new flying site by including what we are , what we do, and how we benefit the community.

President Armstrong said he already has “a story” but perhaps it could be expanded. (**Secretary’s note:** If anyone remembers any **significant** “community activities” that the IRKS has been involved in during the last decade please let us know.)

A question was asked whether or not the US 192 site was still in our future. Gerry replied that the new landfill may be in operation by 2027 and that we might be able to be in there a year before that.

There was more discussion about our current and future entry procedure(s), and some complaints (not new) regarding having to stand in line with the trucks at the landfill. It was explained that the current requirements for us to enter through the guard gate are in our agreement with the county.

Another question was posed regarding entry during events. For those who remember when we had events we always had to “man the gate”...which was also mandated by the county.

Show and Tell: Jim MacLean told us a story about a member recently trying to fly an older “cub” type plane that had been in his garage for **many** years. Jim said the plane took off beautifully, turned, and then the wing covering just shredded from the frame (and the plane obviously didn’t “stick the landing”.) He then showed us pieces of the Oracover material that had disintegrated. And the lesson to be learned is...?

Mike Conrad showed us a self-contained battery charging “suitcase” that he built to take with him when he goes flying. It has the ability to charge several types and configurations of batteries, including the new Spektrum “Smart” batteries, and can run on AC or DC power. He used a 3D printer to make the board covers and other parts.

The unit has built-in connectors and balance boards for different batteries. When asked, Mike said he was tired of forgetting to bring all the right connectors, wiring , and such each time he flew. This case keeps everything he needs all together in one place...as long as he remembers to bring the case itself. Nice work Mike!



Mike Conrad’s All-In-One Battery Charging case

Events: Gerry said that the Perry event was a bit disappointing. He said there were lots of people but few were buying and there was very little interest in anything with a glow motor...and most of the donated planes he took to sell were equipped with them. Ernie LeClaire made \$900 for his efforts though.

Someone said that there is a Jet Rallye being held in Apopka April 11-14.

Raffle: Gary Armstrong won tonight's raffle...\$20.00 just for showing up! Congratulations Gary!

There was no more business to discuss so the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM