

June 1999



The monthly Newsletter of The New Hampshire Flying Tigers Radio Control Club Send all correspondence to:

The New Hampshire Flying Tigers Radio Control Club P. O. Box 99 Derry, NH 03038-0099
President - Ed Burie, Secretary - John Marien, Safety Officer - Don Cox, Field Marshal - Dave Annicelli

Vice President - John Clark, Treasurer - Dan Wilder, Newsletter Editor - Keith Spaulding

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This Months meeting will be on Wednesday June 30 th, 7:00 PM at the Field.

What's Happening

The May club meeting was called to order at 7:08pm, Wednesday, May 26 th with 10 members & guests present at the Field.

Old Business:

Treasurers report was read and accepted.

Minutes of last meeting were read and accepted.

Shelter, we were over the budget for materials to build the shelter by \$ 310.40, Mostly due to the plywood being roughly double the cost expected, plus the concrete for the footings. The extra expenditure was approved with all present in favor. (More on this later)
Glen Bolser's proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

Fun Fly June 26th , Club members only, \$ 400 was appropriated for expenses and prizes, all members present in favor. (More on this later)

**New Member Bernie DiFloures
of Manchester, Renewed
interest in the hobby, new to
planes, He found us on the web.**

Welcome to the Club

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New Business:

Shelter: All of you know by now that the shelter has been completed and it looks great. The cost of materials budgeted for the project was \$400, the total cost of completing the project was \$710.40, leaving a net unbudgeted expense of \$310.40. I am proposing for a final vote that funds from the treasury be appropriated to cover these expenses. The details of the over run were presented at the May meeting and will be available to all those interested at the June meeting.

PICNIC TABLES ANYONE?

If anyone has or knows of any used picnic tables that aren't being used we now have a great shelter to put them under at the field. We've had some suggestion to put our fold up ones out and chain them down with the feeling being that although they would be susceptible to vandals, they really aren't doing us any good where they are now. No one wants to drag them all the way across the parking area. The officers think this makes sense, but we feel it would be better to start with putting one table out, chaining it good to the posts and see what happens, rather than put all our eggs in one basket. But if we can get some used tables that would be great!

FUN FLY Sat, July 10th!!!

We will be having a fun fly on Sat, July 10th provided the membership want's it and approves the money at our June meeting. This will be a contest style fun fly for NHFTRC Club members only. This is one you don't want to miss!!!

More details to follow on events, but for now I can tell you there will be 2 categories...Novice and Expert. The final events will be decided at least 1 week prior. If you want the list either e-mail or call me and you will get it as soon as it is finalized.

The Novice category...will contain events where luck is as much a factor as flying skill. We will try to set it up so there isn't a big advantage for someone who has been flying a long time and luck could turn against him letting someone who just passed their proficiency exam win. This should keep down the controversy as to whether someone "should" be in expert or not. Events MAY include things like 2 min "untimed" flight, or the blind man taxi.

The Expert category...will certainly be a test of pilot skill. It will contain events that MAY include the limbo, most T&G's in 2 min, or even an egg drop. You'll know as soon as we figure them out!

Prizes!!!!...There will be some Great prizes. This fun fly is ONLY open to NH Flying Tiger members, so we will be spending some money for great prizes as a way to give something back to the membership! I can't tell you exactly what they will be yet (because I don't know), but I can say you Don't want to miss out on this great day.

Need your suggestion...

Food!!!!...There will also be food available. What hasn't been decided yet is if we should sell food, increase the contest fee a little and provide the contestants with free food, or just provide food to anyone who shows up. **LOOKING FOR SUGGESTIONS HERE!!!** Drop me an e-mail or phone call. If I don't hear from you now, I don't want to hear a complaint later!

Trainees!!!!...Although this contest is for proficient fliers, I urge all trainees to come help out with the event. For one, you'll get to see what a great time we have and make sure you practice for next year (or maybe another one this year), and two, the more trainees we have to help run the event, the more proficient fliers can fly in the event not having to run it. Remember...these are some of same people volunteering their time so you can learn to fly. I'm sure they will remember who helped them to have one day of fun. If you think you can help, please e-mail me.

I'm looking for people that can help set up the day of the event, as well as people who would like to meet (soon) and help plan what the day will consist of. This is the time to speak. If you wish to have a say in how things are done, let me know ASAP and we'll figure out a day to get together when everyone is available.

RSVP me if you think you might be attending/competing...need to get an idea for food .

Ed Burie, President

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Proposed Rules/Constitution Changes

#1 Proposed modification to the Flight Proficiency section of our constitution/handbook

Original Text: FLIGHT PROFICIENCY

Any person that wishes to fly at the club field MUST first take and pass a flight proficiency exam or have a flight proficient member or instructor stand by his side for the duration of each flight made. The reason for this is simple, safety. If you have not passed your "Flight Proficiency Exam" and there are no

flight proficient members or instructors to stand by your side, **YOU CANNOT FLY**. This will be strictly enforced

Proposed replacement text: FLIGHT PROFICIENCY

Any person that wishes to fly at the club field **MUST** first take and pass a flight proficiency exam or have a flight proficient member or instructor stand by his side (within 1 meter) for the duration of each flight made. The flight proficient member, or instructor, must not be engaged in any other activity so that they may focus on, and assist if needed, the non-flight proficient member flying. The reason for this is simple, safety. If you have not passed your "Flight Proficiency Exam" and there are no flight proficient members or instructors to stand by your side, **YOU CANNOT FLY**. This will be strictly enforced

#2 Replace the "Section VII - General Membership" that did not have the required 2/3's majority vote for the constitution so now resides as an operational safety rule with the amended proposal below. If a 2/3's majority is not obtained, a simple majority will replace the old text from the operational safety rules section;

Original Text: To maintain a pilots proficiency rating, members must be re-certified every other year on or before the month of their last proficiency certification. Their next proficiency certification date will appear below their address on each monthly newsletter To maintain an instructors rating, members must be recommended by three other members and must be certified the first time and every year thereafter by two other current instructors.

New Text: To maintain a pilots proficiency rating, each flight proficient member must have made at least 6 flights each consisting of a take-off and landing from and to the runway during the preceding calendar year. Members may certify they are in compliance by signing next to the appropriate signature field on their membership renewal application. To maintain an instructors rating, each instructor proficient member must have made at least 12 flights each consisting of a take-off and landing from and to the runway during the preceding calendar year. Members may certify they are in compliance by signing next to the appropriate signature field on their membership renewal application.

Pilot proficiency ratings will appear below their address on each monthly newsletter.

Below is an example of the re-certification signature fields for renewal applications. The proposal is to attach these to the re-certification and renewal forms send to each club member each year.

I certify that I've made the required 6 take-offs and landings from and to the runway in the preceding calendar year to retain my airplane proficiency rating: _____

I certify that I've made the required 6 take-offs and landings from and to the runway in the preceding calendar year to retain my helicopter proficiency rating: _____

I certify that I've made the required 12 take-offs and landings from and to the runway in the preceding calendar year to retain my airplane instructor rating: _____

I certify that I've made the required 12 take-offs and landings from and to the runway in the preceding calendar year to retain my helicopter instructor rating: _____

John and Scott

#3 SECTION V – REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS

Vacancy in any office shall be filled by appointment or election at the discrepancy of the President or the remaining officers in case of President vacancy. Such person is to serve until the end of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Proposal: Replace SECTION V – REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS with the following

SECTION V - REPLACEMENT OF ELECTED OFFICERS

If any member, in good standing, has reason to believe that an elected officer of the New Hampshire Flying Tigers should be removed from office he or she must present his or her reasons, in the form of a proposal, at an official club meeting. This proposal must be published in the next newsletter and voted on at the following meeting. If replacement of an elected officer becomes necessary, through removal or resignation, replacement of said officer shall be by nomination at the same meeting, the nomination(s) to be published in the next newsletter. A simple majority vote of members present will be held at the following meeting. Absentee ballots or proxy votes are not allowed. During the absence of the impeached officer, the duties of that officer will be performed by the remaining officers.

John Lavery

#4 Questioning of past votes:

The following is a proposal for an addition to the Flying Tigers RC Club constitution. This requires a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the next business meeting to become part of our constitution. Please vote for this proposal. It simply outlines a method for members to question the procedures followed during a vote and protects any rule from being changed, removed or declared “invalid” without following proper procedures as outlined in our constitution.

Questioning of past votes:

This should create a new section labeled “Section IV” of the Constitution under “Article IX – Amendments”

A member may question the validity of any vote within three months of the meeting in which the vote in question occurred. To question the validity of a past vote, a request for a check of the minutes of the meeting in question may be made at a regular business meeting or via a letter to the secretary. This request, either verbal or written, must be published in the newsletter as a request to have the meeting minutes checked to ensure that the proper procedure was followed at the meeting in question. The report and final statement of the findings is to be presented to the members by the secretary at the next regular business meeting following publication of the request for verification. The valid or invalid determination is made by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting. The results of this determination are to be published in the next newsletter. Any valid vote or action taken which has not been questioned by this procedure within three (3) months must be considered valid and binding and cannot be questioned by any member or officer.

Rich Bono

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From the President

I have just a couple things to talk about this month. The first is the fun fly. We are going to be having a fun fly on July 10th. There should be a section elsewhere in the newsletter discussing what it will consist of. This is the fun fly that was originally supposed to be held on June 26th. We had to move it

for several reasons, one of which being we realized that we needed to wait til the July meeting to allocate the money for it, so at this meeting we will be taking the official vote to allocate the money for the fun fly. It should be a fantastic time, and I hope all can attend.

This brings me to my next thought I had. Originally, at the beginning of the year we had thought to put in the budget a lump sum of money allocated toward events such as this. We had also put an expected profit of at least what we spent on the events which I felt a very reasonable expectation. Unfortunately there were people who felt we couldn't justify a profit unless we had some past experience or documentation to back it up. I was new to all this at the time and not prepared to back up our figures so we removed both areas so as to have a balanced budget.

As you all know, one of my goals to improving our club and building the membership is to have more club activities such as fun flies, auctions, etc. So, I have a proposal that should satisfy those concerned about operating on a balanced budget as well as those interested in hosting more events. This year we were fortunate enough to sell our club trailer. This brought an unbudgeted income of \$1000 to our club. What I would like to propose is we take this money and put it into a "kitty" to run club events with. This will give us a pool of money to purchase things up front for events which the goal will be to make a profit from most of them. When we are successful we can then take that profit and put it back into the "kitty" for future events. This way we can plan events thru-out the year and not have to foresee every event we want to have in January at budget time when everyone is still new at running things.

The next area I feel I should address is our training program. From reading the Delphi forum and talking to members at the field I've noticed some people not too happy with how the training program is going. I've heard things like "we need to make more people instructors," or "we need to make our instructors come to the field." I think we all need to remember first off is that our instructors are ALL volunteers receiving nothing other than self-gratification and a thank you for their efforts, and sometimes not even that. A few years ago we did have a lot of instructors. At that time we felt it necessary to have a training coordinator. This persons job was to have all the instructors on the same track so a student could fly with multiple instructors and still know what's going on. For the record...I am the training coordinator. I show up to instruct as much as possible, but unfortunately we don't have all that many instructors showing up at the field on training night. If I don't have instructors to coordinate, I can't make instructors magically appear. Its not the coordinators job to "make" instructors show up.

I've heard excuses like "I showed up once and there wasn't anything for me to do." In reality, anyone who has been with our training program in the past knows that it isn't til the middle of June we really start getting busy, and some nights are busier than others. Simple fact is instructors get burnt out after a few years. Our membership has declined by 30% or so in the past few years, and if we loose 20 to 25 members, some of them are going to be instructors. If we want to get our instructor program back to where it used to be we need to look at how to increase the membership and make members want to stay after they learn.

Basically, I just want to remind people of a few things. Students...if you see an instructor at the field on training night, don't hesitate to ask them to take you up. That's what they should be there for on Tue and Thu. nights. Some instructors wait for the students to ask to be taken up, so don't be afraid to ask. Also, remember...they're ALL volunteers. If one night there aren't "enough," thank the ones that are there instead of talking bad about the ones who might have had to work late or had to go out of town.

Instructors...WE NEED YOU. If you can show up on Tue or Thur. nights there should be enough students to keep you busy. Also remember, many students are probably very nervous and may hesitate asking for help. Don't be afraid to walk right up to a new student and ask if they need help.

Although it may seem like our training program may be on the down side, I want to remind everyone that we not only still have more instructors than when I learned to fly here, even at our worst, our training program is still the BEST of any club in the area. So lets all work on building our club, building our training program, work on showing our instructors that they're appreciated so more will want to help out, and be thankful for what we do have rather than complaining about what we don't.

Happy flying and see you at the field!



Ed Burie, President

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Notes from the Secretary

In last month's newsletter I made a mistake about the new certification rules. The plan I implemented was what I thought the club membership present at the April meeting had requested. This month's newsletter contains replacement membership cards for those of you who were affected by the mistake. If a new card is not attached to your newsletter, then you were not affected by the change. The roster on the back of the newsletter has also been updated.

The Club Picnic has been scheduled for Sunday August 29th this year. Like last year the club will provide food (hamburgers, hot-dogs, buns, condiments). Unlike last year we plan on also providing salads and deserts (since the volunteers last year for these items were pretty slim). The planned entertainment for this event is an IMAC demonstration flight or two around noon (the details on this still need to be ironed out).

The officers also discussed holding a gremlin contest on Sunday August 8th at our club's field. Jim Reith, of RA Cores (aka Mr. Gremlin) has been contacted and has agreed to assist us with this contest. Jim assured me that a properly run Gremlin contest is a break-even event for the club. This event would be open to New England area to attract more participants. We are thinking about having two classes of combat - stock and open. Stock gremlins have at most a .25 plain bearing engine and no modifications to the kit. Open class is anything goes as long as it has a streamer and resembles a gremlin. No, my Staudacher will not be competing in this event. Now is the time to discuss whether or not the club wants to hold this event. Bring your suggestions and opinions to the June meeting for discussion.

Both the Club Picnic and the Gremlin contest need volunteers to run these events. Let any officer know if you're interested in helping out. For the trainees it's a great way to give something back to the club by helping out.



Take care, JRM

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Notes from the Treasurer

If you attended the May meeting or have checked out the web site lately you probably know that we were planning to have a club members only fun-fly on June 26th. If not, some of you may be hearing about this fun-fly for the first time in receiving this newsletter. Either way, this fun-fly date has now been moved to July 10th. The main reason for moving the date of the fun-fly is that the money to cover the cost of prizes was not appropriated according to methods established in the printed and distributed club constitution.

At the club meeting in May a proposal to spend \$400 of the club treasury on a members only fun-fly was put forward by the club president. This was a new proposal that had not appeared in the club newsletter. There was some discussion on the proposal and then it was voted on and it passed. I suggested that the proposal be published in the newsletter as required by the club constitution. The president then said that the rule requiring publication in the newsletter was invalid because it mysteriously appeared in the constitution somewhere along the line. So the members present considered the appropriation successful.

After the meeting I checked my copy of the club's constitution dated January 1, 1993 and found the section regarding the appropriation of money for non-budgeted expenses. The NHFT rules for the appropriation of non-budgeted expenses out of the treasury are given in the article VI, section VII listed below.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS Section VII - General Membership· Shall vote approval of all moneys to be spent by the club except in the case of emergencies, up to \$250.00 may be spent without membership approval if determined necessary by two or more elected officers. All non-budgeted expenses must appear in the newsletter or be presented to the club at least one meeting before a final vote is taken on the proposed expenditure. Any emergency moneys must be explained and approved by the membership at the next club meeting. A special fund for purchasing club event raffle prizes allows for spending of up to \$350.00 without membership approval. This expenditure must be approved by a vote before the fund can be replenished and used for another raffle purchase.

In light of the above article and section of the club's constitution, the rules of the club were not followed. The constitution specifically states that non-budgeted expenses must appear in the newsletter or be presented to the club at least one meeting before a final vote is taken on the proposed expenditure. This was not done.

As for the statement that this requirement mysteriously appeared in the constitution and therefore we do not have to follow it is concerned, that is not a valid argument. Simply not knowing the origin of a particular rule does not make it invalid. Further, it is not up to the officers to decide which rules are to be followed and which are not. It is up to the club members. If this rule is invalid or deemed unwanted by the club members then it should be changed by the mechanisms allowed in the constitution. The officers of the club do not have the power to declare a constitutional rule invalid and ignore it. This club works because everyone gets a chance, if they want, to voice their opinion when important issues come up.

After attending the May meeting I can understand why this rule was adopted. The reason for the rule is to allow the members' time to think about a proposal, attend the meeting, and vote rather than having things railroaded through. Railroading appears to be exactly what happened at the May meeting. Only ten members showed up for the meeting and those ten members appropriated \$400 out of the treasury for the fun-fly. What about the other 43 members, who never got a chance to be heard on the fun-fly issue or who are just now finding out about it. This hardly seems fair to those members who could not make the meeting due to other obligations or simply did not attend because nothing important was in the newsletter. The newsletter is the pulse of this club and ignoring this rule without giving the club members a chance to decide the issue for themselves is wrong.

Given that the vote to appropriate the money for the June fun-fly was not done per our club constitution it is not a valid vote. My duty to all the club members, as treasurer, requires that I act in an ethical manner regarding club finances and therefore refrain from dispersing funds until the members of the club properly approve the expenditure. I am not opposed to having a fun-fly and look forward to additional events.



Dan Wilder

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Commentaries from the Membership

April and May Meeting Happenings

What the heck is going on!?!?!? Do you wonder what is really going on?

Why is it that for over ten years the Flying Tigers has been a club which had meetings which were not only fun to attend but they ran smoothly and without problems, yet since January of this year we've witnessed nothing but conflict at the meetings?

In April the president and secretary surprised the members present at the meeting by declaring that a five-year-old procedure was instituted by an invalid vote because:

[The] "amendment to the constitution that instated the re-certification process back in Sept 94 has been found to have not passed by the 2/3rds majority needed to make a constitutional change" (this quote is an excerpt from an Email by club secretary).

This procedure has been in place since 1994. Why are the officers questioning a vote that occurred five years ago?

The president has been working hard to remove the pilot proficiency requirements from our operational rules. He claims that a lot of members have complained about this to him. Yet he has never been able to supply any correspondence or names to back up these claims. No members have stood up at a meeting and stated that they want to change these procedures. Yes, after the president brought up this topic, we've had a lot of pro and con discussions about it. Discussion is good, and so is change, when the membership wants it.

This was NOT handled properly at the April meeting. If someone doesn't like a rule, the only way to handle it is in the OPEN and with the blessing of the membership.

Our own constitution states in Article IX, Section III that:

"All proposed amendments of this Constitution, or of the Club Bylaws, Safety or Operational Rules must be published in the newsletter or presented to the club at least one meeting before a final vote is taken on the proposal".

If the published proposal is changed at a meeting from what was originally published, we require that the modified proposal be re-published again to give everyone a chance to review the changes.

This is in place for a very good reason! It is there to protect each and every member. It allows you to know what is happening at any given meeting, so if an issue is important to you, you can show up and voice your concerns and cast your vote. This insures that the club is run by the members, and for the members. Since we know that every member can't be at all meetings, this allows you to be aware of changes before they happen. If you can change your personal schedule to be at a meeting, it gives you a chance to do so. If you can't be at a meeting, it gives you the opportunity to draft a letter to be presented at the meeting to voice your opinion. It's not the fastest way to get things done, but it is safe, fair and gives us all a chance to think things over.

Our Constitution does NOT give the officers the power to declare that a previous vote was invalid. This is up to the members! To change anything we have to vote on it. The officers must defend the votes of the members, even if they do not agree with the results of the vote.

I could understand a member saying "we didn't follow the correct procedures last month, let's correct it now". In fact, we have recently done this. But to question a vote, which took place so long ago? What is going on?

Some officers have been trying to change this particular procedure for some time now, and fabricated a method to throw out the need to vote on it. This is NOT an option. This policy is already part of our rules and has been in place for five years. To change it requires us to follow the proper procedures to allow the membership to decide how we want to handle it.

Were you at the May meeting? Did you know what was being planned for that meeting so you could decide if you wanted to be present to voice your concerns on the subject? No, it seems that most members had no idea of what was being planned. It seems that the president wants to have a fun fly late in June. Most members would agree that would be great to have more events.

The president asked the membership at the May meeting to allow him to spend \$400 on prizes for this fun fly (more funds will be used to supply food for the event). There were members at the meeting who reminded the president that this \$400 was not in the budget, and also that he would have to publish this in the newsletter and allow the members to vote on it at the following meeting. At this point the

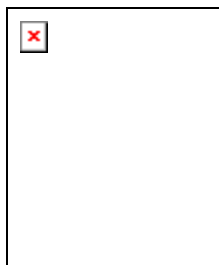
president stated that he reviewed the club records. He could find no record on how the vote was handled for this, so he declared that this procedural rule which we have been following for a long time was invalid. With this in mind, the few members at the meeting passed the president's request for spending these funds.

Who gave the president the right to declare our rules invalid? Can we have a fun fly without spending a lot of money on it? Without planning and publishing such an expensive event, who would you expect to be able to attend such a fun fly with short notice? Would you expect a very large turn out?

Can we change how we handle these situations? Yes, of course we can! But the 'we' here is the MEMBERSHIP. If we want to change our procedures, or get rid of them completely, we the members have the power to do so. It's sad that we need to do this, but please see my proposal on this subject to help protect our club treasury, constitution and operational rules and regulations from abuse.

This club belongs to the members, to be run by the members for the benefit of the members. The officers MUST follow and defend the rules, regulations and procedures that the members pass by vote.

Please do your BEST to come to the next meeting to voice your concerns on these matters.



A Very Concerned Member, Rich Bono

Pilot Re-Certification Rule Still Valid

At the April meeting, the club officers raised issue with the pilot re-certification program our club developed, voted on and has used quite successfully for the past 5 years. According to the May newsletter, some of our club officers decided to go back through past meeting records to find any possible discrepancies. They found that the record on the vote for the pilot re-certification rule is only recorded as having received a simple majority vote, not a 2/3 majority vote as is required for a constitutional amendment. I am quite sure this was one of two possible clerical errors in recording the meeting records. Either it did get the 2/3 majority and was recorded incorrectly or it only received a simple majority. Either way, I take full responsibility for the error as it was my job to document the meetings and maintain the Membership Handbook at that point in time.

The record does reflect without any question that this proposal did receive the simple majority vote which means the rule still stands as a valid rule but must be relocated to the Safety & Operational Rules section of the Membership Handbook rather than remaining in the club constitution. Pilot proficiency is an important issue for our club. Without it, we have a serious safety problem waiting to strike and it could ultimately lead to the loss of our flying site. Either way, we have always had a requirement that no member be allowed to fly alone at the field until he/she passed a flight proficiency exam. I know there are some that object to re-taking the proficiency exam every other year or every year if they hold an instructor rating.

With all of the above in mind, I had begun working on an amended pilot re-certification proposal to address these issues. While I was working on this proposal, I learned that John Marion was also

working on a similar proposal. John suggested he and I get together and present a joint proposal which you will find elsewhere in this newsletter. I would ask every member to consider this amended proposal to replace the current re-certification rule that still stands but must be relocated from our Constitution to the Safety/Operational rules section. If this proposal is not voted in, the previous proposal must remain in effect as it is still a valid rule having obtained the necessary simple majority vote documented to have taken place 5 years ago.



Scott Fuller, former club secretary



From The Editor

Any comments or suggestions will be greatly appreciated, and if anyone has anything to contribute please mail to me at: Keith Spaulding 13 Higgins Ave, Sandown, NH 03873. or (Email: KeithSP@mediaone.net)