

Florence RC Flyer

Picture Credits:

Gene Haynes has provided all of the pictures in this newsletter. Thanks again Gene, for providing a visual record of the club's many interesting activities.

Florence Area RC Aircraft Association, An Oregon Non-profit Corporation, AMA Charter # 4634

Editor: Russ Petersen (russ@rjpetersen.com)

From The Left Seat By Russ Petersen

Special points of interest:

- From the Left Seat
- Safety Discussion
- Secretary/treasurer's Report
- Member Profile—Don Coffi

Officers (2011-2012):

Russ Petersen	President 10-31-2012
Rob Quandt	Vice President 10-31-2012
Ed Gunderson	Secretary/treasurer 10-31-2012
Gene Haynes	Safety Officer 10-31-2012
Russ Petersen	News/web Non elective Indefinite
Gene Wobbe	Board Position #3 10-31-14
John English	Board Position #1 10-31-13
Gary Israel	Board Position #2 10-31-2012

Modelers:

This begins the 8th year of the existence of the Florence Area RC Aircraft Association. We began with 9 intrepid flyers in Miller Park with the hope of finding a flying site and establishing a more permanent presence in Florence for an RC Aircraft Club. It seemed to us that such a club would contribute a good deal to the community, given the retirement status of a number of its citizens. We are now 31 members with an active core.

Rob Quandt was our first Vice President and was followed by Gene Wobbe. Rob, Gene and I spent a good deal of time looking for a flying site, and after three years of presentations, proposal drafting and telephone work we almost began to despair of finding any home for the RC club. Then, at the end of my third year as president, we found two sites where we might be welcomed. The north end of the airport, our present home was one, and the Oregon Department of Recreation agreed to let us fly near the north jetty as well. After some discussion with club members the airport site was chosen.

At about that time Gene became President and he oversaw the physical establishment of the club on the north end of the Florence airport. Many members contributed to grading, seeding grass and constructing facilities. During his four years as President the club has literally risen from nothing to a functioning RC Club.

During Gene's four years as President of the club we had lots of kinks to work out. Flying



on an airport site involved a much more formal flying environment and rules than most of us had not experienced in the past. Not the least of these was using a Unicom radio and the requirement to have an active observer to deal with potential conflicts with full scale aircraft. Also, the field needed a non-standard flying pattern in order to safely fit into the corner of the airport, next to the full scale runway. In getting this done, there were growing pains, and we still are learning how to do this to have fun, and not conflict with the higher priority full scale aircraft operating at the airport. These growing pains usually resulted in Gene negotiating with the airport manager and/or others, to assure them that we were a responsible group and trying our best to operate safely with the clear understanding that the full scale traffic had the highest priority. Gene's patient, calm approach to resolving these matters is the largest single reason we are still welcome at the airport.

Thanks Gene for your leadership, good judgment and support. Russ

Safety Discussion - Gene Haynes

AVOID SAFETY COMPLACENCY.....Especially when it comes to Lipo batteries. The subject has many pro/con suggestions as to the storing/charging/use of....etc. etc.

AMA/MAN's monthly publications are coming out with excellent articles on the subject. One should not pass up or ignore these monthly articles because they are extremely informative.

Here are seven general rules to observe:

1. DON'T STORE BATTERIES IN YOUR PLANES.
2. DON'T CHARGE BATTERIES IN YOUR PLANES.
3. SLOW BATTERY-CHARGING IS BEST.
4. USE RECOMMENDED CHARGERS BY THE BATTERY MANUFACTURER. **DON'T EXPERIMENT**.
5. Charge your battery at an outdoor location that is cool and dry.
6. Store in a fire-proof container that is safely located in a cool and well-ventilated area.
7. Safety glasses recommended.



Secretary/treasurer's Report—Ed Gunderson

FARCAA 2011 Fall Meeting minutes October 9th
15 members present

Old Business:

Improvements that were intended for the field this Summer (alignment of the field with the airport runway, electric airplane take off area, and moving the helicopter pad) will be postponed until late winter/early spring of 2012.

New Business: An observer radio is not picking up pilots calling in and needs to be sent in for repair. A motion was made and passed to continue charging new members the \$50 field fund fee, but abolish keeping the field fund separate from the general fund. A motion was made and passed to use links on the clubs web site for other club's newsletters instead of loading the newsletters onto the web site, This will save time and space. A revision was passed to change the clubs by-laws concerning the new airport gate code cards.

Safety Officers Report: Club members are courteous and safety minded. It was a great flight season this summer. A directional arrow has been placed in the shed for setting on the airfield to remind pilots which direction to fly in so as to avoid head on collisions. (see p3 for continuation)

Opening Balance Cash in Bank 6-7-2011		\$1,848
Receipts:		
Raffle	\$ 348	
Membership, hats and donations	619	
Old Mower	<u>150</u>	\$ 1,117
Disbursements:		
New mower	1095	
Gate pass cards	\$ 440	
Set-up tables	102	
Hats	208	
Donation, License, PO Box	143	
Raffle prizes	125	
Maintenance	<u>131</u>	(2,244)
Ending balance 10-9-2011		\$ <u>721</u>



Member Profile—Don Coffi

Born/raised: Stockton Calif.

Married/Children: Yes - two children.
(boy and girl)

Occupation: I worked for the local phone Co. as Central Office Engineer. I am now retired.

Years in hobby: I started in 1960 with a home-built one-tube receiver and Bonner rubber band escapements. Engine by Cameron. (we went to the factory in Sonora for it). This plane landed in a sewage pond so it was named “Honey Bucket”.

Member since: Day one. (Don is a plank holder in the club and has served as a board member for three years. Ed.)

How I became interested: I had a friend and RC was his one and only hobby. This person spent ALL his money on the hobby and did not even notice girls?

Planes/ helis owned: My first success was a Falcon 56. I have owned maybe 50 planes over the years.

Favorite plane/ heli: I like a “Sig 4-star 40” best. I have wrecked a few

Favorite size of plane/heli to fly: I like 60-size now since I am scheduled for a cataract operation so the larger planes are much easier to see.

Worst crash: **A recent mid-air crash with an Electric DC3.**

Best advice I have received : If you don’t crash once in a while you are not learning. I have been “learning” a lot.

Something you may not know about me: I have a Ham license and a commercial radio license.

Secretary/treasurer’s report continued—Ed Gunderson

New Officers:

President- Russ Petersen, Vice President: Rob Quant, Sec/Treasurer: Ed Gunderson, Board Director #3: Gene Wobbe, Safety: Gene Haynes

A Big Thanks to: This seasons observers & mowers, Ron Hokensen for fixing the frequency board, the club officers and board members, Jerry for building the new flight stands, Trumps Hobbies and everyone who contributed prizes for the raffle, and to all members who have donated time and money to help keep the club running so well.

An important reminder: It is very easy to bump the key on the riding mower to the “On” position when getting off the mower, resulting in a dead battery. If you are mowing, please make sure the key hasn’t been turned on after you are finished.



Florence Area RC Aircraft Association
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Special Note: You may know that the airport is losing its full time manager December 31 and will shift to volunteers to staff the airport office, at least for the time being. The club has been asked if members would want to volunteer a few hours or more, each week to help with the volunteer effort. If you are interested in this you should contact Shawn Penrod, Executive Assistant, City Manager's office, 541-902-2182 and let him know that you may be able to volunteer some time to keep the airport open.



If you aren't flying you aren't trying

