



Las Vegas Soaring Club Membership Meeting January 27, 2024

MINUTES OF RECORD

Today's meeting was called to order at 9:05am by the LVSC Flying Field President Al Badoux and VP, David Knapp. A total of 25 members were present - to achieve a quorum of 10% of general membership of 145 members, a minimum of 15 would be required. Today's meeting was held at the Las Vegas Soaring Club under blue skies, low wind and comfortable temps. I'd like to welcome and thank all new members for joining the club and being here today.

NEW MEMBERS:

I would like to now call out a few of our newest members so please raise your hand when I call you: Gianni Catanzaro, Justin Day, Cody Collins, Montana Jorgenson, Andrew Harper, Perry Horwich, Corey Ware, Donald Hill, Glen Dassoff, Brian Dickerson, Frank Harper, Anthony, Garcia, Mickie Poon, Nathan Segal, Kyle Sweeney, Bryan Everidge, Preston White, Hunt Wornall & Malachi Gabriel..

LVSC has recorded a sizable membership increase over the past five months resulting in 32 new members and 30 renewals. We have approx. 4 new Jr members (under 18) as well. According to Group Works, we have 145 members. 93 (65%) have logged into GW in the last 30 days while 26 (35%) never logged in. So how are the 26 members getting updates for the field/club?? I've met with most of the new members/parents and have heard the same comments that everyone at the field has been very welcoming, friendly and helpful. The actual stats are:

Sept: New: 06 / Renewals: 03

Oct: New: 04 / Renewals: 03

Nov: New: 10 / Renewals: 07

Dec: New: 06 / Renewals: 14

Jan: New: 06 / Renewals: 03

Under Old Business:

- **Glider Project Updates:**

At the moment we have \$8512.10 in our general fund. The club also has established a "Go Fund Me" account to help pay for the necessary construction costs to repair the 600' of glider winch run-up area. That Fund had approx. \$3046.88. This GFM Acct paid to send our very own Safety Manager, Mike Dantonio, to a required State class on "Dust Abatement", it paid for the permits, water truck rental, heavy equipment use and operator and fuel expenses amounting to approx. \$2500.00. Actual heavy equipment began on Saturday January 13, 2024 – go view results on Group Works. The remaining \$546.88 will be transferred to the LVSC General Acct.

Swap Meet:

- A triple club swap meet was held at Willie Mc Cool on December 09, 2023. It was a huge success with many members from all three clubs in attendance. Barry Mattison advised that another tri-club swap meet is being planned for April 2024. These are free of cost and can help clear out some older stuff for some of the neat newer stuff.. The fine folks in Lake Havasu are hosting a swap meet on February 10, 2024 at 8am.. Havasu is about 2 hours from us and offers great restaurants too..

Under New Business:

- The club has recently paid \$100.00 to the State of Nevada for the Business License.
- The club has received a \$100.00 donation from D-Fend Technologies for the use of the field on Dec 13, 2023.
- Another \$50.00 donation has been received from the Special Tactics & Solutions Group for use of the field for two hours on **January 22, 2023**. Notice to all members of the temp field closure was sent on Jan 15 (GW) and a final reminder on Jan 19 (EM).

Financial Report: (Barry Mattison): *See attached*

Winch Area Construction: (*Huge Issue – just read it*)

- Last year a 600-foot section of land used by our winch pilots was demolished by a nasty storm known as Tropical Storm Hilary. The damage which dropped 4” of water in 48 hours was far beyond a voluntary group of members to fix. Remember, our field is in a known flood zone. On October 02, 2023 Board Members held an emergency meeting and devised a plan to repair the damaged area. First we needed to share our plan with the Gun Club to obtain permission, which they granted. The Gun Club explained that we needed to obtain a \$376.00 City Permit and have a State trained “Dust Abatement” person to preside over the project to prevent our neighbors from calling the dust cops on us. Our very own Safety Manager, Mike Dantonio, agreed to attend the all-day \$51.00 State class and become certified in Dust Abatement. Now we just needed some money for a water truck, some heavy-duty land movers, some fuel and people to operate them.. Our very own glider pilot, Mac Crockett, has a son in the construction industry who agreed to provide and operate the heavy-duty equipment. Then, Mike Dantonio stepped up and established a “Go Fund Me” account that netted \$3046.88 from member contributions and a few outside donations. Our very own Treasurer, Barry Mattison, contacted the AMA, and because we are a “Gold Standard Field”, they donated \$500.00. It’s also nice to have a District Ten, Associate VP of AMA as a member of our field – take a bow Barry!! Approx 100 days later, on January 13, 2024, everyone’s collective efforts paid off and the area has now been restored. After all expenses we spent \$2500.00 and have approx. \$546.00 left to address various additional field improvements. Special gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved in this huge undertaking.. Visit the Group Works web page for additional ground and air photos.

Occasionally the Air Field is Closed to Members Why you might ask?

- At this time, we have 2-3 regular private contractors working on government projects, mostly involving Anti Drone software/hardware and training military troops how to develop runways in unusual places. The Anti-Drone folks typically come out to demonstrate their equipment to prospective buyers (CES) from all around the world. Military soldiers use back pack mounted GPS units to compile statistical data and calculate feasibilities for military landing zones. Of course, we ask for a donation based on the hours used, obtain a hold harmless document and provide a Board member to remain in presence the entire time.

What Other Reasons Would the Airfield be Closed?

- Unscientifically, we monitor the NOTAM system which informs us when the general airspace will be closed for a specific reason and in a restricted radius of McCarren. Sometimes it's a VIP visiting and other times military training. We will place a secondary lock on the gate to prevent access in addition to sending out a message via Group Works as early as possible to everyone notifying them of the closure.

Weather Station:

- According to my records, we paid the annual invoice of \$220.00 for the weather station cellular service. The invoice was paid out of the club's credit card. Our weather station is a great tool for members of the gun club as well as our members. On January 12, 2024 Al Badoux spoke to a LVSC member, Alex Ibasco, to solicit his assistance in performing an annual service on the weather station. Alex agreed to meet with Al Badoux and Sandy T. on Tuesday January 16, 2024 at the Gun Club to perform this annual service.

Bike Path Updates:

- None. Despite countless calls to the BLM folks, no response back has been made. Little if any activity noted in the area.

Main Gate Left Open:

- Our main gate has been reported open and unlocked on the following three dates: Thursday November 30, Friday Dec 08, 2023 and Tuesday Dec 19, 2023. (Weekdays) Two messages from Al Badoux were posted on Group Works (11/30, 12/19, 01/23/24) in hopes of reminding members to close & lock the gate. We solicited suggestions from the members and I have listed them below for our consideration. After review, we believed the most effective steps would be to:
 1. Require and enforce that **ALL members wear the ID cards** while on the field.
 2. Add contact info on ID cards and asking members to **report when they find the gate open** and no one present. An E-mail will be sent to members reminding them to please close the gate.
 3. Second to last members please **verify others have gate code and remind to please lock up.**
 4. **Include reminder (in red) on renewal and new member applications.**

FLASH: Information from a member was shared that he was told by a new member that they did not know the gate needed to be locked by the last person and they had left it open on several occasions. In addition, several members complained the pad lock was defective and prevented them from locking up. On January 31, 2024 the pad lock was replaced with a new one in hopes of rectifying this issue.

Why must we monitor this field?

- The land we call LVSC belongs to the gun club and they have set some basic ground rules in order for us to make use of the property - and since 1991 everyone has done a great job. A small number of examples would be: Maintaining a clean appearance. No overnight camping. No open fires. No permanent structures. No shooting of firearms. No peaceful demonstrations, No excessive noise which may disturb our new neighbors. No flying over our new neighbor's homes and creating an issue for the gun club. *I made up the peaceful demonstrations.*

Non-Member / Observers Limit Line:

Our club has seen first-hand how quickly the AMA responds to requests for monetary help. We've reached out twice and have received nearly \$1500.00 to help rebuild/repair damages. It is the belief that being a "Gold Standard" field gave us this advantage. To continue with this Premier status, and add a layer of safety/security, to both physical and property wise, we have opened up the concept of replacing the orange cones with 16 solid metal semi-permanent posts and marine grade rope. As the traffic cones grow weaker and the plastic chain has become brittle with the sun's heat they slowly no longer serve the original purpose. Barry Mattison has developed a scale drawing that provides six individual entrances & exits to the spool area. (See *Diagram*) Spectators and pilot vehicles must stay behind this safety line unless invited in by a member. This safety line should not be confused with the Red Pilots safety line adjacent to the runway. Estimated cost for this project is \$200.00 and we would be covered with the "Go Fund Me" money allocated to Airfield Improvements. **Follow Up:** Marked on AI's calendar for February 16, 2024.

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Replace Old & Tired Spools:

At the moment we have twelve spools – many are original equipment, and in need of replacement. This has been a topic at several previous meetings which died on the vine due to limited availability. Barry M is attempting to reach a local company that may "donate" to us some new spools. With the increase of members, we may consider adding 2-3 more spools – if space permits. **Follow Up:** Marked on AI's calendar for February 23, 2024.

Member Appreciation / Fun Fly:

- This event will be planned when the weather warms up – we estimate Mid-April 2024. To help keep costs down, we will be asking for an RSVP prior to the event. Events could include: Pop the Balloon / Pick Up Block (Heli's) / Land within area (Gliders) / Double Touch & Go's (planes) / Cut the Streamer (planes) / Land in 3 marked boxes' timed (Heli's), Auto Rotations (Heli's), Scale Heli, War Birds..

Chair Challenge:

- In June 2023 the topic of adding more chairs at the airfield was discussed. Members were asked to donate chairs that were in safe condition for member use. This program did result in a few chairs, but members should keep an eye out for more as the club continues to grow..

Radio ID:

- As we all heard, the deadline for the RID was Sept 16, 2023. That date has been postponed an additional six months – March 16, 2024. Recreational RC models with a flying weight of less than 250 grams are exempt from the Remote ID requirement. All others will be required to obtain this device OR fly in an FAA approved Frias Airfield. These RID devices will broadcast Serial number of the Remote ID module, Current location of the model (latitude, longitude, and altitude), Current velocity of the model and Takeoff location of the model (which is presumably where the pilot is located). If you have a RID system installed in your drone's software, please go to "FAADroneZone" and follow the prompts to enter your transmitters ID number.

Jr. Pilot Program:

- Barry Mattison has worked to develop a method of identifying new members who could benefit from having an AMA Instructional Pilot assist in the early portion of development. New members will indicate on the application their level of experience. Though we have used a form on 2-3 occasions, I do not feel we are completing them, nor properly saving them. Is this something we wish to continue, if so, what steps may we take to improve the documentation process. **Barry and Al will review this process and take steps to streamline it.**

Local Hospital Plaque:

Last year the Board discussed the benefits to have a small plaque attached to the bulletin board that provides the address of the closest ER/Hospital in addition to our relative location for 911 calls. Perhaps give location such as ¼ mile past the Gun Club (12201 W. Charleston Blvd) Lat: N36.1498 Long: W115.3653. Barry Mattison will look into having an appropriate sign designed, fabricated and mounted. A suggestion was to list a local Urgent Care as well. UMC Urgent Care is 5 miles / 11 mins and Summerlin Hospital is 5.8 miles / 12 minutes.

Follow Up: Marked on Al's calendar for February 13, 2024.

FPV Ducted Fan Jets Vs Gliders:

- In an effort to avoid mid-air collisions, the Board agreed that a special battery powered "whistle" would be used by glider pilots PRIOR to winching up in an effort to alert ALL pilots, including FPV jet pilots under the hood, that a sail plane will be ascending toward the East sector of the field and to be courteous and give way. (Give example of whistle) We have obtained a special battery powered whistle (*more sanitary*) that, if approved, will be used and kept with the winch items. **FLASH:** The electronic whistle failed – a standard coach type whistle is being used and REALY captures your attention. Additional whistles will be purchased for each winch pilot.

Club Donations:

- Don Hill donated two helicopters to the club and Ron Gross donated two gliders and three planes. Most of the items were bought by members while Al Badoux will be taking the reaming to the Lake Havasu swap meet. Extraordinary recognition and thanks go to both for donating these items so generously to the club..

Open Forum:

1. A recommendation as made to relocate several (4-5) large boulders to block off the area east of the runway to prevent non-members from parking and creating an unsafe environment. The Board will ask the Gun Club if they can use their heavy-duty equipment to support with this project. **Follow Up:** Marked on Al's calendar for February 12, 2024.
2. A member suggested discarding any old spools at the "Apex Dump Facility". To dump for free, someone would need to be an established account holder. Once the spools are replaced, the Board will reach out and find someone qualified for free dumping.
Follow Up: Suspended till spool removal.
3. Paul Johnson offered to purchase and donate a FRSKY Real Flight Training Dongle to help new members obtain valuable stick time prior to visiting the field. Any new Jr. Pilot will be loaned this device for two weeks.
Follow Up: Marked on Al's calendar for February 19, 2024.
4. Mike Dantonio, (Safety Manager), discussed several unsafe acts he has observed over the past several weeks. These acts include flying over the pits, parking aircraft on the Taxi way for extended periods, short take-offs across the runway from the taxi way and standing over the red line while flying. All pilots were admonished to avoid this type of behavior to help maintain a safe field.
Follow Up: On-going.
5. Mac Crockett suggested the Board contact the local BLM office to ascertain if they would take into consideration installing a dedicated RC flying field east of Moenkopi Road between the Red Rock BLM Fire Station and RV campground. This field, if donated, would provide adequate parking, tables and overhead covering and eliminate the fear and cost associated to rain run-off. Al Badoux agreed to open dialog with the local BLM office to determine if this is feasible. **NOTE:** If development of this field were to be approved, and based on the time projected for the current bike path, we may not see the first take off till 2029....
Follow Up: Marked on Al's calendar for February 21, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am following a motion by Mac Crockett and approval by Mike Dantonio.