

The Flight Line

Mid-Hudson Radio Control Society

AMA Charter #703



December 2006

The Flight Line Volume 49, Issue 12

President's Corner

By Bob Magee

"The next club event is the Christmas Party at Umberto's, Friday, December 8th. You must reserve your seats by Friday December 1st."

It is hard to believe that the flying season is winding down but then, the beginning of the Indoor activities, the Trade shows and the building season are upon us. For those hearty enough to brave the cold, a few winter fun-flies will be scheduled so don't pack those every-day crash and burn models too far away.

The next club event is the Christmas Party at Umberto's, Friday, December 8th. You must reserve your seats by Friday December 1st as Jim has to give the restaurant a firm number that will be attending. The cost is free to members, \$25 for each guest. Members

attending without a guest still must let Jim know if you are coming. We must know the exact headcount. Jim can be reached at 845- 485-1744 or by mail at 2 Seamen Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or by email JRANGITSCH@HVC.RR.COM. We plan to raffle off many prizes left over from the Jamboree. Get together with your flying buddies and reserve a table. What a great way to end the modeling year.

The field situation has become somewhat clearer in the past several days. First, we have heard from the owner of the Hopewell site, Joe Petrinella, that the option to buy the property by Toll Bros has been extended to January 2007 but it is still not clear if Toll Bros will exercise that option based on the current economic outlook for the housing market and considering the additional infrastructure requirements placed on the developer by the Town of East Fishkill.

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

President's Corner 1

Flying Sites:
Membership Survey Results 1

Flying Sites: Membership Survey Results

By Bob Magee

Last month, a membership survey was conducted to determine the impact to Club operations if the primary flying field was moved to Northern Dutchess County.

Certainly, the prospect of having to drive an hour to reach a suitable site to accommodate all club special interest groups including Giant Scale was

not being viewed by many as a particularly acceptable alternative when compared to the "in-town" Hopewell field. But, given the fact that the Hopewell Field was about to be sold to Toll Bros for housing development and after several years of intensive search in Southern Dutchess, it was becoming apparent that the only viable flying

Continued on Page 2

No Club Meeting on Dec 1

We're on the web at www.MHRCS.com

President's Corner - cont'd from Page 1

However, Mr. Petrinella did say that even if Toll Bros does exercise the option to buy the property, we WILL be permitted to use the property until actual construction begins. Mr. Petrinella feels quite certain we will have the use of the property throughout the 2007 flying season. Joe Petrinella negotiated this agreement on our behalf with Toll Bros. Inc. as he said he would do in exchange for the environmentally friendly guardianship of the property we provide and our long term amicable relationship with him.

As far as Wilcox Park is concerned, the county has informed us that the "upper field" we were considering for use will not be practical as the cost to develop the property into a suitable flying field is beyond their means at this point. We expect to hear from the County relative to the "lower field" by the middle of December.

So to sum up the field situation, it will be Hopewell for another year followed by either the lower field at Wilcox or the Aerodrome. My recommendation is that we continue to have regularly scheduled flying days at the Aerodrome starting early next spring. We need to stop talking and get up there and get established before we find ourselves without a flying field.

And so with that positive news on the Hopewell site I will be stepping down as president of the organization. I wish to thank all that have supported the club efforts in the past several years. I wish Joe Williams and the new board all the best...the club is in good shape Joe and I hand you the ball for the next ten yards...!

Survey - cont'd from Page 1

sites to accommodate giant scale operations were going to be located to the North.

There seemed to be major disagreement within the membership as to whether the club would continue to exist if the primary flying site was moved an hour away. It was felt by many that the club would fragment into several smaller groups, the Electric power folks moving to the field in Pleasant Valley, the Sailplane folks moving to a fields located in Red Hook or Pine Island, the Heli folks moving to the fields located at Overocker Rd or across the river and so on. Further, the Board of Directors needed an accurate assessment of the size of the club in order to negotiate in good faith with Dutchess County regarding development of County property in Northern Dutchess.

And so, a survey was mailed to the membership last month and the following is a summary of the results:

Total Inquiries sent: 94
Total responses received: 72 (77%)
(64 signed, 8 anonymous)

Note: The total membership at the time of the survey was 106 however, inquiries were not sent to life members living out of state, folks known to

have moved this year, folks known not to be returning next year and junior members.

The following responses to the questions were received:

1. *If the club moves its primary flying site to Wilcox Park in Northern Dutchess, will you continue to be an active member of the MHRCS ?*

YES	65	(90%)
NO	7	(10%)

If you will continue to be an active member, approximately how many times per month will you fly at the Wilcox Park site ?

Of the 65 respondents who said they would remain a member of the MHRCS, 54 indicated they would fly at Wilcox. The other 9 fly at an alternate site or were/are non-flying members of the club. The frequency of use distribution of the 54 respondents was as follows:

Several times per week:	8	(15%)
Once per week:	17	(31%)
Several times per month:	15	(28%)
Once per month:	14	(26%)

Survey - cont'd from Page 2

2. *If the Wilcox site is not ready when the Hope-well site is lost or we are unable to secure County approval to use the site, the club will move its prime-flying site to the Rhinebeck Aerodrome. Will you continue to be a member ?*

YES 63 (88%)

NO 9 (12%)

3. *In order to fly at the Aerodrome, the club may be required to sponsor the Jamboree every year and therefore you will be asked to commit to work at the Jamboree as a condition of membership. Will you continue to be an active member of the MHRCS ?*

YES 62 (86%)

NO 10 (14%)

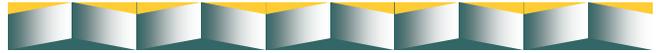
Conclusions:

First, the response was excellent. I wish to thank all those that took the time to respond and particularly those that took the time to write in comments.

The membership voted quite convincingly (approx 90% of the respondents) that the MHRCS will continue to exist despite the move of flying operations to Northern Dutchess. The fragmentation of the club as was feared was not evident in the response.

To the 22 members that didn't respond I can only assume you have no interest in the club operations. We experience about a 25 to 30 % turn-over rate every year and so I assumed the 23% that chose not to respond were statistically within the expected turn-over rate.

All responses have been shredded as promised and the only data that exists is that which is presented above.



The Flight Line

This is a monthly publication of the Mid-Hudson Radio Control Society, an organization established for the promotion of the hobby of radio-controlled model aircraft.

President	Bob Magee	845-462-0955
Vice President	Bob Allen	845-473-5611
Secretary	Lou Callan	845-496-6038
Treasurer	Whitney Philbrick	845-463-0805
Membership	Mark Monroe	845-227-6212
Field Directors	Bob Zuznis	845-221-2603
	Victor Horton	914-525-7833
Flight Instructor	Whitney Philbrick	845-463-0805
Safety Officer	Jerry Rohling	845-297-7827
News Editor	Thea Kjellstrom	914-980-9871
Directors at Large		
	1 Year	Norm Coard
	2 Year	Dick Kalbfus
	3 Year	Jim Wood

Regular club meetings are held on the first Friday of the month at All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Church on Rt. 82, one mile north of Rt. 55 in LaGrange, NY at 7:30PM. Check calendar for any changes to location or time.

FLIGHT LINE submissions are preferred as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint or .jpg, but are also accepted as ASCII, email text, other word processing file, typed or handwritten. Input must be received by the 20th of the preceding month to be considered for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Please e-mail input to MHRCSFlightLine@aol.com
Or send to Thea Kjellstrom, 81 Montrose Point Rd.,
Montrose, NY 10548.



Happy Holidays!