

Flightlines

Newsletter of the Aurora Model Aircraft Club October, 2006 2006 Executive

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Important Notices

- AZM this Sunday – get your proxy in to Bob Hudson NOW!
- October Meeting will be election of new Board of Directors

Next Meeting: October 18th, G. W. Williams High School Lounge, 7:30PM

Website: <http://www.auroramodelaircraft.com>. Visit for all the information on the club!

Special AGM Event: Raffle for brand-new BBQ!

Election of Board Officers Scheduled for October Meeting

Currently, we have three Board members are thinking about standing for election (Bruce Dealhoy -- President, Peter Maxwell – Vice-President, Clair Murray – Treasurer or other position) and some other people have been suggested but have not confirmed if they are running or not. Volunteers will be accepted for any post at the next meeting.

According to the Club By-Laws, elections can be held at any time, and the intention doing it now rather than at the Annual General Meeting is to give the incoming Board time to learn the ropes (if necessary) and to put together the budget and proposed membership fees for a November AGM.

If the election is held at the AGM, the outgoing board must set the membership dues, effectively setting the budget for the incoming Board.

Safety Reminder (ALL MEMBERS TAKE NOTE: *The MAAC Safety Code requires that no plane be flying when field maintenance is being done. We had a recent incident where the runway was being cut and someone insisted on flying their airplane. Paragraph 4.3.8 specifically talks to this. If there is a mower on the field, there **WILL** be no planes in the air. If you see the lawn tractor, land immediately. Do not take off. We're talking about an hour at most here, folks!*

Items and questions arising out of Board of Directors meeting (October 12):

Short-term priorities are: Zone Meeting, Election of new Board, Swap Meet, AGM (budget and dues)

Medium- and long-term priorities: grass service versus tractor, field facilities, building membership, new field

Safety Memorandum (see above)

Swap Meet status: 25 tables confirmed and the rest are moving quickly. Contact Clair if you want a table.

Should the club accept MAAC memberships?

AMAC website has been updated.

Lease renewal

Comments by Bruce Dealhoy:

Setting and keeping to priorities is a tricky operation. Day-to-day events cause the best-laid plans to get tossed into the dustbin and everyone to fly blind. This past summer's situation with the fire is a case in point, which is still causing problems for the Board.

One of the key items that needs to be discussed and a consensus from the membership reached is what we plan to do with the field over the next year or two. This is a perfect time to decide just what we want to do. There are two courses of action possible, each with its own costs, benefits and disadvantages. One is to contract out our grass cutting to a reputable landscaping maintenance service; the other is to buy a tractor and do the cutting ourselves.

I've asked Clair and Peter to put together cost-benefit spreadsheets so that we can determine all of the costs associated with both options and what the impacts will be from a monetary viewpoint. I will admit that there is also a subjective component to this (what does the VP do if not the grass mowing, loss of control over when we get the grass cut and how, defining what a good cut looks like.) The intention is to give this information to the membership and reach a group decision rather than someone dictating what the club wants.

This is going to be a really thorny issue and tempers are going to be hot no matter what happens. One advantage right now is that we can afford to take a year and see how a professional service operates and whether or not we want to continue that way into the future. If we rush out and buy a tractor and all the associated items (plus sheds and insurance), then we're stuck.

I do know that the club has had bad experiences with services in the past but I'm not sure if this was a reputable service or someone "doing a favour" for the club and then deciding to make extra money.

One thing that we can get an immediate handle on is what facilities we should have at the field (sun shelters, flight training equipment and storage, that sort of thing.)

A second item that comes from our Membership Director is the question of whether or not the club should stop accepting MAAC fees with membership renewals. Many members belong to two or more clubs, and there have been delays in getting MAAC memberships processed due to having to create cheques and mail them off, and then verifying the forms being sent to MAAC or even having to fill out the MAAC forms. Last year, we got stuck in the middle of a back-and-forth with MAAC and a club member where the member had short-changed the fees payable to MAAC. Dave says that the majority of his time as Membership Director is spent doing MAAC items, plus the expense of cheques, mailing and followups via mail and phone calls. He is proposing that the club no longer accept MAAC membership payments, which has already been done by other regional clubs such as Richmond Hill.

Our web-master Isaac has updated the web-site (www.auroramodelaircraft.com – SEE! I did get it right this time! BTW, the old website is now owned by a porn company.) The counter at the bottom of the first page is the number of times that the page has been viewed so we can get some meaningful numbers on visitors and where they are going. Our buy-and-sell page is having some success and all items for that page should be sent directly to Isaac (webmaster@auroramodelaircraft.com) and don't forget to include a date on which it can be removed.

The lease on the field came up, and I pulled out the copy from Murray's binder. The good news is that the lease is perpetual – as long as the town wants us and we pay the rent due in January of each year, we can stay there. The bad news is that if the town wants us off the field, they can do that with 90 days notice in the normal course and emergency situations can be done in ten days or less.

With the construction to the north of us and the planned police station, we now have to face several options: rearrange the field to eliminate overflights of the police station and any other buildings (airplanes regularly do go north of the 15059 Leslie property line and not just our field), shift to the field east of us if necessary, or find another field. I figure that we have one maybe two years of use left from the current field and layout.

We have enough funds in the bank to develop a new field in another location and still have funds left over (hopefully we can also get another Trillium grant to help out). We do need to figure out where we can put a field and what development is planned for that area. I'd love to see a field with ten or more years of life but the pace of development is picking up and we may have to go far afield to get a perfect site. Clair Murray has done some checking around and I'm going to distribute some flyers to see if we can get nibbles. Possible locations are welcomed from all members.

Historical note: This month marks the 50th anniversary of the rollout of the Avro Arrow. This week also marks the rollout of the full-scale replica at the Toronto Aerospace Museum, Downsview Park. While not the first full-scale replica, it is the most accurate (the one used in the Arrow movie had a distinct droop in the outer wing panels due to the rushed construction job done for the movie's key scene.) Lots of imagery are available on www.youtube.com (search on avro arrow), www.rcgroups.com (Airplanes: General Topics forum) and at the TAM website <http://www.torontoaerospacemuseum.com/home.html>

I'm including just one of the images so you can see that the replica is really there. Drop by the TAM for a close-up look soon!

