

Mount Pleasant Model Aircraft Club
November 18, 2014 Monthly Meeting
Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport Conference Room

Members Present: Jim Whitehead, Paul Blakeman, Doug Jennings, Rick Harless, Susie Harper, John Harper, Peter Knorr, Mark Szymczak, George Jennings, Milo Frisbie, Norm Eifler, Monte Stratton

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Vice President George Jennings in absence of President.

Guest: Gordon Tengen

- Gordon Tengen presented information regarding solar panels as they might relate to the possibility of setting up a charging station. He provided general information about batteries, power usage and principles, deep cycle batteries (special charger needed for these), voltages and battery chargers.

He told us that this type of system would require some minor charging during the off-season to prolong the life of the battery. The panels would also need periodic maintenance such as cleaning, but will deteriorate over time. Gordon also told us that such a system would require a special regulator and controller, batteries would still be needed for power storage, and that periodic repositioning of the panels is necessary to maximize power charge. Normally you get about 3 amps from a solar panel.

Many members were of the opinion that charging batteries from vehicles (in a safe manner) would maybe be a better option for us. Purchasing a generator for a power source at the field was also mentioned. John suggested that our money would be better spent on field improvements versus investing in a charge system that would require considerable maintenance, especially deep cycle battery replacement.

Thank you, Gordon, for sharing your expertise with us and answering all our questions. After some further discussion, the group unanimously agreed that we did not want to pursue the solar charger system.

- The minutes of the last meeting were distributed. Motion to approve by Peter Knorr, seconded by John Harper. Motion carried.
- Treasurer's report showed a beginning balance of \$310.13, with income of \$190.00 from dues and hat sales, and expenditure of \$69.70 for t-shirt set up fee, leaving an ending balance of \$430.43. We still have 11 hats left, and sold 2 more hats at today's meeting.
- Susie presented the logo draft from C&O for the club t-shirts. Everyone agreed it looked great; orders were discussed and taken. When the shirts are ready members will be notified..

- Upcoming indoor flying activities and dates were discussed. The dates for flying at Finch Field House are: November 9, November 29 (Toys for Tots), December 27, January 4, February 8, February 21, March 1, and April 10.

The dates to fly at the Baptist church for our own indoor flying are January 17, February 21 and March 21. All times are from 10:00-2:00, and we will have our donation can in place for the church as usual for allowing us to use their facility.

- There was discussion about the scheduling of our customary club Christmas party. Motion to have the party at the Ponderosa on Sunday, December 7, beginning at 10:30 was made by Monte Stratton, seconded by Rick Harless. Motion carried.
- George raised the issue about monthly club meeting times during the winter. Since a 6:00 start time is a problem for Brian due to his work schedule, we would like to find a time to schedule our meetings so Brian can be there. Last year we held some of our meetings during the time we were flying at the Baptist church; maybe we want to do that again this year. George will talk with Brian and get back with us. A motion to explore alternate meetings times during the winter was made by John Harper, seconded by Peter Knorr. Motion carried.
- There was some discussion about winterizing the mower. We will check with Jon Beutler on this issue and go with his recommendations.
- There was further talk about fundraising ideas. Doug Jennings checked with AMA and couldn't find procedures about this. If we did host an event a few ideas included: selling 50/50 tickets, \$1.00 spectator charge, \$10.00 pilot charge. Do we even want to host a fun fly fundraiser? If so, maybe we could tie it to the local hospice group or other local service organization. We would need an event contest director and select a date to not conflict with other events. Norm Eifler, Doug Jennings and John Harper will present information at the January meeting.
- Field winterizing is scheduled for Sunday, November 23 and volunteers will meet at 1:00. Please take a little time out of your schedule to help out; shouldn't take too long.
- There was further discussion about field improvements for small planes to be able to taxi on the runway. Rick Harless suggested maybe laying down a length of indoor/outdoor carpet. Peter Knorr suggested setting the mower to a very low setting and mowing a designated section of the field for this purpose. Motion was made by Susie Harper to try to low mower setting option, seconded by Pater Knorr. Motion carried.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Susie Harper, seconded by Norm Eifler. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting is January 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the Baptist church.

Minutes taken by Susie Harper, Secretary/Treasurer