

President's Column

First off, I would like to apologize for the format. Steven Flarity has resigned as club secretary and I am filling in until a replacement editor/secretary can be found. The newsletter editor and secretary do not necessarily have to be the same person, providing of course that two people volunteer.

The 10th annual Phoenix Fun Fly has come and gone. Despite windy conditions on Friday and cold/wet conditions Saturday, we had 62 pilots attending. This is down from previous years, but the weather forecast leading up to the weekend scared away 20 to 30 pilots. Unfortunately, some of the pilots were the Szabos and other sponsored pilots. Our own Jason Krause put on a nice show on Friday and Sunday. Saturday was wet and cold, but we still carried out a couple of events. Personally, I was afraid that the club would be lucky to break even, but through the help of some of our members, the raffle saved our butts. In the end we cleared approximately \$1000. Mark Ryder of Runryder.com was in attendance and videos of the event can be seen on his web site. I want to thank everyone who helped out especially: Chris Alex, Paul Clifton, Al Stills and our newest member Cody Anderson. These guys helped out enormously. I also want to thank the SVF kitchen crew. They made more coffee on Saturday than ever in the history of SVF, wonder why?

The last newsletter, I briefly discussed an option we were looking at with Sun Valley for a flying area. When brought up at the meeting, I received nothing but positive response. As most of you know, the area where we are flying will

be developed soon. Additionally, the dumping has increased considerably. I have met with some of the SVF people and discussed further details. I wish I could say that this would be a cheap solution for all involved, but it won't be. Because SVF is on City/County land, they cannot sub lease. The only way for this idea to work is for ARMS members to join the Sun Valley Fliers. This would cost each ARMS member (except those who already hold a SVF membership) \$125 the first year and \$50 there after in addition to the normal \$25 dues for the ARMS. In exchange for that initiation fee/dues to SVF they will be splitting costs on the site improvement rather than the ARMS footing the full bill. This may sound expensive, but look at it this way. If we were to rent a field at \$500 a month (which one potential field owner wanted) that would be \$6000 a year, add a toilet at \$90 a month and you are at approximately \$7100 for one year with no amenities such as pads or shade. Now look at that with 30 members and do the math per member. It has always been known that had we found a field to develop, all club members would have to contribute an additional fee to get the ball rolling.

In order to keep city and county folks happy, officially we are SVF members who fly helicopters at the new helicopter site that was relocated for safety issues. The ARMS would be an association like the 1/8th Air force is for the fixed wing guys. I won't go into the specifics of that other than it is a financial thing for the fun fly. Our portion of the development costs would be a "donation" to the field improvement fund.

What I have asked Sun Valley for is 3 pads, 15 X 15, with 200 feet spacing. A

covered sunshade and toilet. Because of the distance from the normal impound, a new frequency system would go into place. Helicopters would fly on channels 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 (this being one of the drawbacks) and frequency control for helicopters would stay in the helicopter area. We may be able to obtain more frequencies in the future, depending on numbers of pilots. This entire plan requires an o.k. From the city and county to proceed with the pads and shade. This process will not be quick, but it is forward moving. I know that some member's will chose not to join the SVF and I understand. This club has looked at many areas over the years as possible flying sites. We have also witnessed an explosive growth in the real estate market which is taking away most of the open areas in the Phoenix area as well as other special interests groups which have more influence, i.e. soccer, baseball, skate board parks. The fact is we are just running out of options and our current location's days are number. I've gone on long enough; I wanted to bring everyone up to date. I will finish by listing the names of members who have not renewed. If you name is on the list and you believe it is in error, pleas contact me.

Timothy Bleh, Alfred Drake, Darryle R. Gratz, Matt Jacobson, Rob Keller, Garry Kraemer, Jacob Maestas, Dave Newman, Paul Ostwinkle, and Robert Palmer.

I hope to see as many of you at the meeting as can attend or at least at the field. We still have Fun fly shirts available at \$10, last years at \$5, limited sizes.

Eric

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