



**Las Vegas Soaring Club  
Membership Meeting  
November 16, 2024**

**MINUTES OF RECORD**

Meeting was called to order at 9:07am by the LVSC Flying Field by President and V. President. Board members in attendance were Al Badoux, Chad Leonard and Mike Dantonio. A quorum of 18 members braved the cold windy weather and were present .

**Modifications to Board Members: *(not fully discussed nor voted)***

Due to the unexpected resignations of our Treasurer, and Facilities Manager, the Board has been reduced from five to three people. In the best interest of the club, the remaining board members have taken on dual roles to avoid any disruptions, to you the members. The existing Board, Chad, Mike and I, would like to propose to you the membership, to continue operating as the Board with this modified number with current assignments. Obviously this is temporary as this is not written in the Bi-Laws and we will revisit this in the future. Our Safety Manager, Mike Dantonio, will accept the responsibility of the Treasurer. Our Vice President, Chad Leonard, will accept the responsibility of Facilities Manager and I will continue to be the President and Membership Manager. Does the Membership approve or disapprove?

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_. Disapprove: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Membership Update:**

Within the past 90 days, we have accepted six new members, one of which is a Jr member.. During the same period five members have not renewed. I'd like to recognize our newest members –

**\*\* Justin Barker / Dylan Bedard / Shawn Sherman / Joseph Golden / Lovena Harwood / John Riess**

According to my records, we have approx. 148 members.. Please be advised that for renewals I typically will send out a two week notice via E-mail that your membership and/or AMA are expiring soon. Upon the first of the month, I remove you from the E-mail directory and send the names of non-renewing members to the Board.

**Method of Contact:**

In the event you change your E-mail address or have not been receiving club related e-mails, please contact Al Badoux so that your info may be updated. At the moment E-mails are our best and only reliable method of communicating in mass.

**Treasury Update:**

Presented by Mike Dantonio. As of today's, date, we have \$5711.91 in the account. Barry Mattison continues to honor his payback agreement on a monthly basis.

### **Real Flight 2025 Vs LVSC:**

Last month I was approached by two employees from Horizon Hobby, Jason Merkle and Jeremy Babbar-Sebans. These individuals are part of the Research & Test Development for the Real Flight Simulator program produced by Horizon Hobbies. They asked if we would be interested in having our field assimilated into the Real Flight Sim Program – heck yes. They came out and took a significant number of photos of the area, and runway, and will have their computer geniuses’ program it into the next generation of Real flight. Now you can pick an aircraft, and our field, and fly it from home before ever stepping foot at the field..

### **End of Runway Suggestion:**

I’ve been approached by a few members asking if we make the runway longer. The answer is complicated as it involves considering rain run-off, existing gullies, material costs, large equipment permits, permission from the gun club etc etc. At the moment we are considering extending the east side with a thicker indoor/outdoor style carpet to help slow down aircraft that come in a bit too hot.

### **Anti-Snake Screen on Spools:**

Our very own Rick Kehoe has donated a tight mesh type screen to wrap around some of our older wooden spool bases to prevent snakes from nesting inside. Rick has a couple staple guns and meshing and is working with our VP, Chad Leonard, to begin this project very soon. I’d like to recognize and thank Rick for the suggestion and donation of materials needed.. Billy suggested attaching a metal band around the circumference to prevent bowing outward. Chad will explore the cost of the metal bands and specific tool to rent. (See Pic Last Page)

### **Emergency Where Am I Sign:**

A while ago a member ventured out to recover his downed airplane and experienced a medical incident. At that time, we learned that the 911 operator was not familiar with our field thus the need for a posted sign explaining just where we are in relation to Charleston Blvd. The field does not have an exact address so we must use the gun club driveway address and explain we are 1000’ further west. I had a sign made up that gives the address and GPS coordinates of the field. I recommend everyone consider writing it down, entering it into your cell phones and being familiar with where the closest ER rooms are located. **UMC Urgent Care** is 5 miles / 11 mins and **Summerlin Hospital** is 5.8 miles / 12 minutes.

### **AMA Safety Requirements: (not discussed)**

The LVSC has been recognized as a Gold Standard club which comes with specific benefits to us such as emergency storm damage reimbursement. To remain in this category, the Board members are charged to help enforce some basic guidelines provided by the AMA – such as:

1. While operating any aircraft, the PIC must stand behind the red safety line.
2. Spectators and guests must remain behind the spectator fence (in process). This helps reduce/eliminate damage to aircraft and theft. At sister clubs, spectators have been known to steal transmitters, LIPO’s, cell phones, & tools. Friends & guests must stay with the member.
3. Children (under 16) are not allowed to play on or near the runway at any time.
4. All aircraft must have your AMA number attached in a conspicuous place.
5. All members must have a valid AMA card.

### **Safety Manager Reminders:**

- Mike Dantonio discussed the importance that all pilots making high speed passes (80mph+) must ensure that the aircraft remains north of the runway as far and safe as possible. Slower passes may be made over the runway center line.
- Helicopter pilots doing “3d acrobatics” must keep the aircraft on the north side of the runway to insure a safe distance to the pits.
- Drone pilots are asked not to fly along Charleston behind the pits – this area is not within the authorized fly zone.
- Billy suggested that glider pilots use a whistle to alert other pilots of take off’s and landings. The idea, though well intended, was dismissed due to the complexity of whistle management.
- Helicopter pilots flying the pattern must call out, loud and clear, intentions to take off or land – when a helicopter(s) and plane(s) are up at the same time, common courtesy, respect and aircraft avoidance becomes mandatory.
- A suggestion to mount a lock box with a first aid kit was dismissed due to the high probability of theft.

### **Membership Meeting Recaps:**

If you have visited the LVSC website you will see a tab (documents) that will allow you to open and view past membership meeting notes. In the event you are unable to attend and participate, you can at least be updated on events. This site is currently under construction.

### **Main Face Book Photo Change:**

On Oct 10, 2024 Sam informed me the main photo on the LVSC webpage had nothing to do with the club. It took some research but I found the original Admin known as Tod Anderson. Tod hasn’t been active with LVSC since 2013. Tod made me a co-admin and I was able to change the photo to something more appropriate – a jet. I will re-visit the very so often too.. Nice suggestion Sam !!!

### **Radio ID: *(not discussed)***

Effective September 16, 2023 all RC aircraft weighing more than 0.55 pounds or 249 grams must have Radio ID either built into the software or an external module. Drone operators can look up specific drones to determine if they have the built-in software or not. Initially we saw these models trickle out, but were way over priced starting at \$150.00. Well, I found a RID unit for \$39.00 at Amazon known as a Ruko R111. Its small, lightweight, rechargeable and FAA compliant. Other features are:

1. Ensures FAA Compliance for Drones over 250g
2. 13.5g (0.48oz) and 1.3\*1.1\*0.5inch
3. 5-Hour Battery Life and 40-Minute Charge Time with Type-C Cable
4. Compatible with Drones, FPVs, and Other Aircrafts
5. **Locates Aircraft** When GPS Signals Are Lost
6. 3 Velcro Pairs Included for Easy Installation; One Module for Multiple Drones

This unit uses a free software app for both IOS and Android. You buy this unit then log onto the FAA website, add the device and pay \$5.00 for three years. Does the FAA have the manpower or funding to hunt us down? No, but is \$5.00 worth spending just in case your luck is bad one day??

**Main Gate Padlock:**

On Oct 23, 2024 a couple members contacted me stating they had difficulty locking the padlock. I ordered a new Alpha Numeric lock from Amazon - total cost was \$28.16. Upon inspection, it appears to me the original lock only needed to be serviced and should be able to be put back into service in the future as a "Back Up lock". This padlock will be kept in possession of the President.

**Future Event Scheduling:**

Doesn't happen often, but has happened and we can take steps to minimize and/or avoid double booking events with our sister clubs. Before we plan any future club events, I will contact both Rex (Prop Nutz) and Randy (Bennett Field) to verify neither has any event that will conflict with ours.

**NOTAMS:**

Recently a couple of NOTAMS which did not affect our field due to the specific distances involved were announced. With the absence of Groupworks, we must rely on E-Mail blast notifications to all registered members when we do have a required field closure. We can also add a notification on the Facebook site however this platform is not as heavily viewed as Groupworks once was..

- The idea of having a sign fabricated to indicate NOTAM was considered and not approved.
- Both Mike and Al have padlocks which will have labels indicating NOTAM on each lock.

Examples of recent NOTAMS:

- Oct 31 from 12:45pm to 4:00pm with a 5-mile radius of Mc Carran for VIP Movement
- Nov 01 from 8pm to 10:30pm with a 5-mile radius of Mc Carran for VIP Movement.
- Nov 5 from 08:30-09:30 and 4:30-5:30pm Nellis AFB Display with a 5-mile radius alert.

**Membership Fee Increase:**

During the previous Membership Meeting held on August 24, 2024, the Board made a recommendation to increase the annual membership fees to \$30.00. Our fees have not been adjusted in over ten(+) years and this would match us with the other two local clubs in Las Vegas.. At today's meeting, the vote was approved by the membership in attendance by an overwhelming amount of hands. Upon voting, the Board agreed to begin the increase on January 01, 2025. On December 01, 2024 an E-mail will be distributed to all members informing each that club rates will increase effective January 01, 2025.

**Umbrella Proposal:**

Our very own VP, Mr. Chad Leonard, has voiced a proposal which you, the membership, are being asked to consider and vote on today – Chad has suggested that the club purchase 6-8 full size umbrellas which will be mounted in accommodating spools to help provide shade from the sun to both members and sensitive electronics. These umbrella's cost approx. \$30.00 each and the total cost may be \$240.00. These umbrella's must be closed and secured by the members using that specific spool to prevent wind damage etc. If these umbrellas are neglected and become damaged, the club will not replace them. These shade devices will be purchased toward the beginning of the summer months which will allow the 5-6 months of renewing membership fees to help offset the cost. The proposal was given to the membership to vote upon and at today's meeting the membership overwhelmingly voted to approve with a show of hands.

**Weather Station Use & How to Link in:**

Go to <https://www.weatherlink.com> and complete the enrollment boxes – this is all free. Add device as "LV Soaring Club@Desert Sportsman.

**Flight Simulator for new young members:**

One of our favorite members, Paul Johnson has donated a complete Real Flight Simulator kit for any new members that may benefit from some extra practice.. The club will loan the equipment, complete with a transmitter, and all necessary software for a two-week period for free. I believe LVSC is the only club that offers this type of support to new members so special thank you to Paul for this donation..

**Lighter Side:**

The FAA has cited a Pueblo Colorado Real Estate Developer who has a You Tube site called Bums & Drones. This guy would fly over homeless camps and tape their reactions as he harassed them. Well, the FAA cited him for careless & reckless operation of a drone, flying over people, operating an unregistered drone, not having a Part 107 certificate and flying at night with no strobe. He violated 230 other FAA rules and was cited..... \$270,000.00. OUCH !

**Open Forum:**

1. A reminder was made that pilots needing a restroom may use the restroom at the Gun Range Security entrance. Members were cautioned to obey the posted speed limit as you approach the security check stop.
2. A recommendation to use Groupme as a free and public platform to communicate was made and will be explored immediately. It is our hopes this could replace the former "Group Works" and allow notifications for Notams, Meetings and other club related info.
3. An AMA requirement to have a physical barrier for spectators was explained and discussed. Chad has accepted to research this project and has viewed a previously installed pole placed by Dave Knapp. The Board opened a budget of \$1000.00 with the membership approving by a show of hands at this meeting. A suggestion to use less expensive fencing "T-Posts" was made and will be explored by Chad. The concern for either posts is how easily it will penetrate the desert caliche and what tools would be required. Billy volunteered to paint the posts if necessary – thank you.

All projects mentioned above; Spectator Fence, East Runway Extension, Anti Snake Screening, Spool Metal Band, Umbrella Purchases and Membership Fee Increase have all been tagged on Al Badoux calendar for a two week follow up to ensure completion in a reasonable time frame.

At 9:56am, Al Badoux made a motion to conclude this meeting which was seconded by Mike Dantonio.

