

# Hawk Talk



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THE VOICE OF THE OMAHAWKS R/C INC Vol 67, # 01  
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President... **Rick Sessions**  
Vice Pres... **Steve Farner**

Editor/Publisher  
Joe Hunt

Secretary... Greg Nelson  
Treasurer... Kevin Hyde

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Friday, January 26, 2018--19:00 – 21:00 \* Church of the Cross, 1517 S 114<sup>th</sup> St.  
MEETING PROGRAM: Club updates, bring something to show at the meeting.**

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, January 16, 2018--19:00 – 20:30 \* Church of the Cross, 1517 S 114<sup>th</sup> St.  
ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS**

## Happy New Year to all in 2018

How does an avid RC'er end one year and start the next one, with a Flight of course, regardless of the conditions.



One Club member Dan Creagan, sent in these two photos, taken not at Omahawks field were taken on 31 December. I wanted to fly on the last day and the first day of the year, my airplane from 31 December was an AXN that had its wings trimmed.



Marvin Goldberg



Randy and Dan

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Rick Session with his Skipper



Randy Seggerman flying his Drone



Dan Creagan airplane (above) on Jan 1, 2018 was a PopWing modified for combat (it had a tractor motor instead of a pusher). I was having a bit of an aileron issue with it - I think it froze up a little. Got it around and down so it was a success... sort of...

After the flights, Ric, Dan, Randy, Marvin and Joe met at the HyVee for breakfast, Marvin wife' Jennine and grandson Leo joined as well. Great time was had by all even though the temperature was just -16 degrees.

Looking forward to next year's flights.

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Thoughts from Dick Behrens on the Tree Removal Project with historical background, updated on 31 December 2017.

With winter weather now in charge, not much is expected to be happening at Hawk Field. Briefly, I will provide some background regarding removal of the growing trees. Most active flyers have had an issue with the trees and their adverse effect on observing planes, turbulence, catching planes, and then the difficulty of safely retrieving them.

**Why the Dam** - In 1964 and 65, seven people were killed by flooding in the Papio Creek basin. Following this, a local government body, likely the City, requested it's congressman to provide some protection from flooding in the basin. Funds were appropriated for a study by the Department of Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The City served as the local sponsor informing Congress the project had local support. The recommended plan included many dam sites with dam 16 being the first one to be built by the Corps. Authorization to fund the dam was in this order; flood protection, recreation, fish and wildlife and water quality. In April 1972, a contract was signed between and the City and Corps regarding project operation and maintenance. Construction began in mid-1972..... Later in 1976, the City signed a 50 year lease with the Corps, for the period from 1 June 1976 to 31 May 2026, for "Public Park and Recreational and/or Fish and Wildlife Purposes", using 511 acres of land and water at the project. Hawk Field uses about 20 acres of this total. Fill of the normal operating pool occurred in Oct 1977.

**Club/City Contract.** With the increasing growing tree problem in mind, the following sub-paragraph was added by the contract committee, when renewing the contract that began in 1986 and ended in 2016. This renewal will also expire at end of 2026, with a provision for a 5 year extension to 2031. (Contract Committee - Hyde, Baker, and Behrens) .....**"The City shall; Assist or grant permission for the trimming and/or removal of trees and/or brush immediately surrounding Hawk Field that affect safe takeoff and landing of aircraft due to obstruction of view or air turbulence in the area of the runway and its approach;"**

This renewal was signed by Mayor Stothert and approved by the City Council in Dec 2016.

**Memo of Understanding.** This memo was prepared to clarify the duties of the outdoor working force regarding the actual removal of the trees and thereafter. This was signed in Feb 2017 by the City Parks Director. Included in this is the following statement; **"Omahawks are responsible for upkeep of the newly cleared area, as in the past"**.

**Difference.** A huge difference was made at Hawk Field this past year, thanks to the able volunteer club members and the City **with little cost** to the club. Club president, Casey Vohnout, and Arborist's, Mike Donham, gave the green light to start clearing about 8am on March 18<sup>th</sup>, with caretaker, Matt Ruma, attending. A lot of sweat, especially during the summer, and aches occurred. One person broke a bone in his foot. Others had slivers removed. Chain saws got a workout, some had to be re-sharpened, Dennis 'mower blades got bent , low air in tires etc, scrapes on pickups used to haul and drag trees, etc....Starting on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, the city began to help clearing out. This was huge as they used their heavy equipment, etc....There are still about 5 stumps left to be removed. Some trees marked for removal northeast of the runway did not get removed, as volunteers lost energy or had enough. Perhaps these can be looked at in the future.

**Editorial:** Members must not forget "April showers bring May flowers and rapid growing unwanted weeds, thistles, bushes, etc." .....**Complacency should be avoided**.... It could be put in the bylaws that this area should be mowed regularly with a lawn mower and not a brush hog, starting in mid-April every year, then at least every 2-3 weeks until it freezes in the fall. This may require the club to buy their own lawn mower, like most RC clubs have done, then have a safe container for storage or buy theft insurance.... Bill Andersen, City District 4 Maintenance Foreman, has said the City mows grass more often because it is much easier on the mowers than to let grass get too long. - Dick Behrens



Tree Removal East of runway 2017 - Volunteer Saturday Work Days as of Dec 31.



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<u>Date</u>	<u># Volunteers</u>	<u># chain saws</u>		
March 18	~35	~14	Dropped trees	
May 6	11	6	Drag, limb & pile	
July 15	7	1	"	
July 22	9	3	"	
July 29	10	4	"	cut few stumps
Aug 5	8	5	"	
Sept ?	2	0	"	
Oct 21	7	1	"	cut few stumps
Oct 28	8	3	"	cut few stumps
Nov 2(Thur)	2	1	limb & pile	cut few stumps
Nov 4	2	0	find stumps	
Nov 9(Thur)	2	1	"	
Nov 18	15	2	Drag, limb, pile & find stumps	
Nov 22(Wed)	2	1	Mow & find stumps	
Nov 25	12	3	Drag, limb, pile, find & cut stumps	
Nov 29(Wed)	2	1	Clearing & mow	
Dec 2	7	0	Clearing & pile	
Dec 9	2	2	Drop two trees, drag, limb & pile	

Dennis used his mower for clearing many of these times and by himself other times. Prior to November, when stumps were cut to ground level, stump killer, from the city's caretaker or bleach was applied to most.

The City started work in the area on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 currently (Dec 31), there are about 5 stumps that need cutting by the club near ground level. During the Dec 17-19 period, the city grinded almost all cut stumps at ground level, killing the roots. The caretaker said, on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, the holes left by the grinding will be filled and leveled by the city, using a Bobcat. Snowfall arrived on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>..... The club may still need to clear a few areas to make way for mowing (with a lawn mower, not a brush hog). Dick B

## Hawk Field Work Day Crew Photos 2017, Photos Credit Dick Behrens



Oct 21



Oct 28

# Hawk Talk



Nov 18



Nov 25



Dec 2



Dec 9



Feb 2014 -- Brush Clearing - Club cost about \$5,000.



Sept 2016



## Hawk Talk



4 Dec 2017 -- Tree/Brush Clearing, little club cost so far, thanks to able club volunteers. Ariel Photo Credits Cole Meyo

Credit for this continuing successful project must be given to the active participation of all different club volunteers, but especially to **Dick Behrens, Dennis Bender and Casey Vohnout** continued attention to keeping this effort front and center at every board meeting!

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## President's Message

New Year's greetings!

As we move into 2018, I'd like to thank and acknowledge several leaders who have served you well! Casey Vohnout led the tree removal efforts last year and with Dick Behrens, Dennis Bender, Greg Nelson, Jacob Brown, Fred Wilke and many other's outstanding efforts, the whole east side of the field has been opened up for flying! We had another very successful Labor Day air show (\$4,700 to Make-A-Wish) led by Ed Paasch and a ton of helpers! Kevin Hyde spearheaded another successful fall auction.

Thank you Gary Vohnout and Larry McChesney for your dedicated efforts and leadership on the board. Gary led the runway resurfacing effort and Larry recruited significant sponsors for the Labor Day air show, along with several years of service we thank you both! Don't be surprised if we call you for advice and support.

Welcome to our new board members: David (Skip) Haney and Rick Haneline. We look forward to their contributions in 2018 as your leadership "hits the ground" running to serve you. Remember, you are encouraged to attend the board meetings and make suggestions and help make things better for our club! Our first meeting is Tuesday, January 16th.

Stay tuned for lots of fun and excitement at Hawk Field this year!

Rick Sessions

## General Meeting December 19, 2017

CTO 7PM

Rick Sessions chairs:

Special Member Meeting Minutes, Election, Trees, Kevin Hyde, Ideas for 2018.

The minutes below summarize the election results.

Kevin Hyde was honored for his 24 years of service to our club as Treasurer. Thank you Kevin!

Your officers are excited about the upcoming year and are looking for ways to enhance the monthly meeting. Specifically, the following ideas were suggested: (Thank you Fred Wilke.)

Invite more guest speakers and have them present first

Include more than one workshop at the monthly meeting.

Workshop ideas included: monocoat covering, repairing ARFs, where to buy planes and supplies, indoor plane ideas, jet flying, engine sizing (nitro, gas, and electric) and general building techniques. (If you have other ideas, please let me know.)

Ways to grow our club were touched on including events to attract youth, tap the Scouts, UNO aviation (Skippy), etc. An exciting new foam rubber band stick model has been developed by the AMA and aimed at a low cost way (\$8) to introduce youth to model flying. Growth is a focus for the coming year and beyond!

A tree removal update was given by Dennis Bender and Dick Behrens. The city Parks Department has removed all the large piles of tree limbs and stumps and had chipped/dug out most of the ground level stumps! A huge improvement to the east side of the runway has been made this year! A big thank you to the MANY volunteers who spent tons of hours, lots of sweat and many aches and pains!!

## Upcoming Events

- **Breakfast get together every Tuesday Morning @ Hy-Vee , 10808 Fort St, Omaha**
- **January 16, 2018--19:00 – 20:30 – Board Meetings**
- **January 26, 2018--19:00 – 21:00 – General Club Meetings**
- **Wednesday and Fridays year round:  
Performance Flyer's Indoor Flying 11:30AM  
- 1:30PM Sports Center - 14706 Giles  
Road Cost will be \$5.00 per session** *For more information contact Tom Egbert at [tagbert@cox.net](mailto:tagbert@cox.net)*