



# Hawk Talk

THE VOICE OF THE OMAHAWKS R/C INC. July, 2016  
Corporate Office - 2739 N 61<sup>st</sup> St. Omaha, NE 68104

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Friday, July 29th \* 7:00 P.M. \* Hawkfield (Hot dogs, etc. at 6:00 P.M.)**

**GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM: Make-A-Wish Donation**

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, August 16th \* 7:00 PM \* Make-A-Wish Foundation \* 11926 Arbor St.**

**ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS**

**The 2016 Omahawks Auction will be held October 16<sup>th</sup>! Mark you calendars now.**

### Upcoming Events

Training Night	Hawkfield	Every Thursday	6:00pm-Dusk
Offutt Airshow	Offutt AFB	7/30 - 7/31	All day
Old Timers	Hawkfield	Weds - 8/10	9:00am-Noon
Omaha Pattern Championship	Hawkfield	Sat - Sun* 8/13 - 8/14	
Old Timers	Hawkfield	Weds - 8/10	9:00am-Noon
Electric Sailplanes	Hawkfield	Weds - 8/24	8:30am-11:30am
Labor Day Air Show	Hawkfield	Mon - 9/5	10:00am-4:00pm
*-Friday afternoon practice			

**Renewal contract with City of Omaha is signed.** On July 6th, a special board meeting was called to approve a contract draft from the Parks Department for the renewal of the Hawkfield management arrangement with the city. This new contract is for a ten year term, starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, with an option to renew for another five years at the end of that term. That takes us through 2031! All the conditions requested by the contract sub-committee (Kevin Hyde, Dick Behrens, and Bernie Baker) and approved by the Board were included in the version received from the city. President Mikey Furrow signed the document with Kevin Hyde as witness.

Although this is certainly a milestone, it's a little early to pop the Champaign corks just yet. The contract must now go to the Omaha city council for final approval and it must also be signed by the mayor.

As a final note, even though there is a provision in the new contract whereby 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"; coordination with the city of Omaha and Corp of Engineers is still required. That being said, it appears the Omahawks are well on the way to many more years of flying at Hawkfield.



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**Dirty Dozen Complete Runway Sealing.** Club members came out to Hawkfield Saturday morning at 6am to finish sealing the runway. The group applied 75 buckets (5 gal) of asphalt sealant to the runway, access ways, and pit area. This was followed by Robert Green applying the finishing touches with some masterful paint stripes. It was a great effort with everyone pitching in, getting dirty, and having some fun at the same time. Thanks to all who helped. Special thanks to Greg Nelson for working out the logistics of getting two pallets of sealant along with donuts for the work crew; and Gary Vohnout for getting the project off the ground to start with. Members of the dirty dozen (plus one) were Greg Nelson, Mikey Furrow, Gary Vohnout, Rick Sessions, Josh Sorensen, David Jones, Ron Pacana, Dennis Bender, Bob Wheeler, Gary Pinnt, Tom Floyd, Robert Green, and Bernie Baker.



(Left) Greg Nelson and Ron Pacana giving advice to the crew. (Ron and David Jones were named as Squeegee Masters.)



(Right) Bob Wheeler displaying his black badge of courage – sealant splatter. (There were lots of those to go around.)



(Left) Gary Vohnout sealing cracks on the runway prior to applying sealant.



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Robert Green salutes the work crew for a job well done. (It's actually coffee in the mug, so we were told.)

Overhead shot from Josh Sorensen's drone showing the day's activities.



**A reminder note from Board.** When locking up the field when leaving, be sure to put the hasp of the combination lock through the hasp of the City-owned lock. Otherwise, the city cannot get access to the field. Also, please remember to re-lock the padlock after you've opened the gate. We've had them stolen.

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**Electric Sailplanes (Frank Wisinski).** This is a combined report with photos of the June 22nd and July 20th sailplane events. June attendees included Judd Bock, Larry Bailey, Dick Behrens, Rick Haneline, Steve Farnen and son Jack, Ron Pacana, Mitt Grimes, Dennis Bender, Bob Zitzlsperger, Dan Cramer, Bud Mitchell and Frank Wisinski. Flying conditions in June were excellent with light winds - everyone flew.

The July 20th conditions were a little different 10-20 mph winds with only Judd Bock and Larry Bailey flying. Mitt Grimes brought a new sailplane to the July 20th fun-fly but because of the winds decided to hold off on the maiden flight till a later date.



**Float Fly, July 9. (Dick Behrens)** The wind was 9-16 mph from the SE. Mikey did the retrievals, which were many. The parking lot was full, overflowing on the joining road, as there were many park spectators. Pizza from Irvington was served. Nineteen signed in: Greg Nelson, Tom Floyd, Rick Hanline, Rick Sessions, Tom Virgillito, Fred Wilke, David Jones, Bob Roegge, Gale Sherman, Rick Miller, Jud Bock, Josh Sorensen, Frank Vanecek, Tim Peters, Gary Vohnout, Steve & Jack Farner, Jared Hays, Bob Wheeler, and Dick Behrens. A quad copter with floats was flown by Josh, a first at these events. The City caretaker provided two picnic tables.



**In Passing (Dick Behrens):** Gene Alexander passed away at age 82 on June 27 at the Life Care Center in Elkhorn, NE. He had been a member of the Omahawks for over 40 years and took part in many events. Gene made the plane retrievals when the Omahawks started their first float fly back in 1999, and did so for many years after that, making these events possible.

Gene was born in Nebraska City. After his discharge from the army, he went back to school and became a licensed barber. In 1964, he bought his own shop in Omaha and practiced this profession for over 30 years. Gene and his wife had been married for 59 years. They had one daughter and two sons.

Gene also piloted full size Pipers, Cessnas and other small planes until his health didn't permit. He was an easy going, well liked and a helpful person.

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## Omahawks General Meeting Notes – June 21, 2016

(Submitted by Larry McChesney, Secretary)

**Club Officers present:** President Mikey Furrow, Kevin Hyde, and Larry McChesney.

**Board members present:** Gary Vohnout, Dennis Bender, and Greg Nelson. **Guest:** Hague Howey.

Kevin Hyde provided the financial report. He also shared the current membership update, which were 114 as of this date.

### **Hawk Field:**

A rreport on status of lease document is that it still has not been received. The Board will send letters to the city as needed to attempt to move the matter forward.

A large field sign is still needed to replace the one that was taken. Greg Nelson made a motion to spend up to \$200 to build a new 4'x8' sign. (Wording to be approved.) Dennis Bender seconded. We will look for a club member to construct and paint it. Motion carried.

Greg Nelson proposed we tackle the erosion in the parking lot and along the steep drive. Greg will look for a party to bring machinery to move rock. Kevin Hyde made a motion to spend up to \$300. Gary Vohnout seconded. We also discussed the need to complete this work over the next three to four weeks. Motion carried.

July 11 from 8:00am-4:00pm (weather permitting) was designated a work day to finish the recoating efforts for the remainder of the run way. Motion made by Kevin Hyde with second from Dennis Bender. Job remaining will be repainting white markings used for the Pattern Contest.

### **Old Business:**

Mikey will prepare paper work to submit to Make A Wish to get permission to use their name while promoting the Labor Day Air Show.

### **New Business:**

Omahawks were again awarded "AMA Gold Leader Status." Thanks to those who put together the paper work to send in.

There was lengthy discussion about the impact of FAA rules (Part 107) on our members at Hawk Field. The board will be considering our position on these regulations. It is understood that the AMA is almost ready to provide a public statement.

Following the news about a couple of fly-away away incidents, the board decided to propose a simple rule change to respond to these matters going forward. In the future, whenever a plane is lost outside the boundaries of the park, for whatever reason, whether there is property damage or not, an incident report needs to be filed with the board. This is proposed for defensive purposes only. There is no intent by the board for taking any action against a club member for accidents of this nature. This proposal will expand Rule Five and asks that a report be made within 24 hours to any Board Member for the record. The exact language of this amendment will be posted on the website and the rule change will be brought to the membership for a final vote.



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**Offutt Reminder.** A number of club members will be manning the Omahawks tent all day at the Offutt air show this Saturday and Sunday. Even if you're not one of the people there for the day, feel free to stop by the tent, watch a great air show, and say hello. We'll have plenty of shade, chairs, and camaraderie to make it a fun time. Below are a couple of pictures from the 2014 event.



**Pokémon Lives!** (From Mikey Furrow). The new Pokémon Go game has brought many new visitors and guests out to the field, but for the wrong reasons. There have been several instances where a very unhappy situation could occur. Therefore, as a club member, please be on the lookout for this new fad and the safety issues that could easily arise.

Saturday evening, while at the field, two young boys came bounding past the guard fence, staring at their phones, and ran right onto the middle of the runway trying to "catch" a Pokémon character. I quickly went up to them and asked them what was going on, and informed them about the flying area they inadvertently ran into. Their parents were down in the lower parking lot totally unaware that a flying field even existed. However, they were intrigued and the two boys were very interested in learning more about the hobby.

Then on Sunday afternoon, another couple of young boys were chasing Pokémon characters at the south edge of the runway just as Robert Green was coming in for a landing. Luckily he saw the two boys in time and was high up enough to avoid them. This is a potentially dangerous situation. All day Sunday, cars were driving around the lower parking lot looking for and catching these Pokémon characters; and again, some came up into the parking lot at the field. The Pokémon creators have used city parks as a common Pokémon stop and our field is part of a city park. The risks are real and we need to be vigilant. We will raise this issue at the next board meeting, but as responsible and safety-minded club members, we need to be vigilant.

**Congratulations to Robert Green.** If you see Robert, be sure to congratulate him for his top five finish (4<sup>th</sup>) in the 2016 AMA Nationals Masters Class. His scores got better each day as the contest continued. This is a big deal, so be sure to give Robert a pat on the back.