

## Hawk Talk



# Hawk Talk

THE VOICE OF THE OMAHAWKS R/C INC Vol 67, # 11  
Corporate Office- 15442 Seward St, Omaha, NE  
68154-4116

President... Rick Sessions  
Vice Pres... Steve Farner

Editor/Publisher  
Joe Hunt

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

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Friday, Nov 30, 2018—7:00 PM – 9:00PM \*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, Nov 20, 2018-- 7:00PM – 8:30PM \*Church of the Cross, 1517 S 114<sup>th</sup> St.

ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS

### President's Message

Dear Fellow Omahawks:

With outdoor flying very limited, consider checking out indoor flying at the Sports Center near Wehrspan Lake. Follow this link for details:

[http://www.metrorcflying.com/metro\\_schedule.htm](http://www.metrorcflying.com/metro_schedule.htm)

We had another successful auction netting just over \$2,800! Thank you Kevin for once again master minding this event!

Officer nominations are being taken with elections this month at our meeting on the 30th.

A runway Task Force, headed by Luke Hughes has been formed. Any ideas, suggestions, encouragement, let Luke know.

Let me know what special events you would like to see next year. Better yet, let me know if you would like to lead/run a special event next year!

2018 was a good year, 2019 will be even better!

### Getting the flying itch?

Bring your indoor slow flyers to:

**Soccer & Tennis Club** 4718 N 120th St, (Just south of Fort on west side of 120th)

Time: 10:30am to noon

\$5 per flyer (no charge to observe)

When: **Monday, 11/26**

We need 10 flyers to break even on the cost.

**See you there.. coordinated by Fred Wilke**

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**P.S. If we have a good turnout, we plan on flying again on December 10th at 10:30 call if you have questions. Fred Wilke 402 571 1513**

### **Omahawk's General Meeting Minutes**

October 26, 2018

CTO 7PM. Rick Sessions, President

122 members paid in 2018. Average membership is 120/yr. Auction netted ~\$2800 for ~600 items. AMA announced the passage of FAA reauthorization Act. No impact for Omahawks as of yet, per AMA. Stay tuned.

Nebraska Make A Wish sends Jenna to accept Omahawks annual donation check. This year the check is \$4,000.00 exactly! Well done Omahawks on a rainy Labor Day!!! Make A Wish granted 107 wishes in 2018 for Nebraska and 7 Wish-Assists from out-of-state wish kids. This year is the 35th consecutive year for Omahawks helping Make A Wish.

Benny Hafkamp is a new visitor tonight with his son, Benny Jr. (he joined that night!).

Chili Feed night Fly was great. Congrats Kristy Perkons for winning the People's Choice of Chili Award!

Interest was expressed in having 2 or 3 building nights this winter. Watch for details.

Club Officer Nominations are made. Kevin for Treasurer, Rick Sessions for President. Doc for Secretary. Cole Mayo for board member. Steve Farner for Vice President. And Dennis B for Board member. Skippy Haney for Board member.

Runway improvement. The board created a task force to explore specific options to improve the runway. Luke H is spearheading. He says Nebraska climate has made some cracks. He is aiming high for some very nice repairs and upgrades with grant money help from AMA and involvement from the City of Omaha. His Task Force will put together the details and report back at the next meeting and final recommendation by January 2019.

Fundraising: The City of Omaha has a Grant program that may have funds available for the club, Steve F is exploring.

Time was spent reviewing this year's most and least favorite programs and requests for next year. Ideas included: Military scale event, events before monthly meetings at field then do night flying, bi-plan event, Jet fun fly, specialized planes event and a combat event.

Needed: Training leaders to help coordinate Thursday evening training.

Indoor Airshow SAC Museum January 19, 2019 9:00 AM till 5:00 PM

**Indoor Flying Wednesdays** at the Sports Center near Wehrspan Lake on Giles  
11:30am-1:30pm.

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Next Omahawks Meeting last Friday in November for ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS.

Please try to attend this important meeting.

Adjourn 8:05 PM

Show and tell included several interesting new flying machines!  
Raffled off two tables full of auction items. Everyone went away happy and with a full stomach from the chocolate chip cookies!

### **Omahawk's Board Business Meeting Minutes**

October 18, 2018

CTO 7PM

Rick S, Ed P, Greg N, Cole, Rick H, Skippy H, Gary V, Robert W, Steve F,  
Norris, Luke

Treasurer's Report; October Expenses \$235, Net of \$2389. 2018 Fiscal  
Year End Balance \$17,805 (2017 was ~\$10K). Make A Wish check will be  
for \$4000 and presented at the October 26 member meeting.

Membership now 122. New 2019 memberships are just starting.

Newsletter.: Thank you Joe, it looks great!

Auction Results: Auction netted \$2814. . Thanks to Kevin and all who  
made this possible!

Runway options: Cracks are becoming a problem. Replace or resurface?  
Motion to establish a runway task force. AMA has a Grant Program which  
can provide up to \$3K. Board wants to flesh out a concrete and detailed  
plan to present to the City for specific repair work to be done.

Task Force Volunteers will be Luke, Norris, Bob W, Skippy, Cole, Rick S.  
First Report to board next month. Hope to finalize plans by January,  
2019.

AMA FAA update. No changes for now. AMA membership is still required  
to fly at Hawk Field. Omahawks position is that your compliance with  
FAA rules is between you and the FAA.

Club Officer Elections will be held in November. Nominations now being  
accepted. Kevin H is nominated for Treasurer and accepts! Bring your  
nominations to the October General Meeting at the Presbyterian Church of  
the Cross at 114th south of Pacific on October 26th.

**Indoor Airshow SAC Museum** will be January 19, 2019 at the Museum 9:00 AM  
till 5:00 PM.

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Chili Feed/Nite Fly this Saturday night 5:30 PM at the Field!! This is a popular event with fun flights and great chili. Bring a pot of chili to compete and watch the fun!

Raffle Prize for next meeting will be assorted auction leftovers. First ticket drawn gets first choice.

Norris has a box of nitro engines available if anyone has a need.

Adjourned 8:20

### Featured Article

This is another installment of look at the Omahawks club's rich history!!

*"We are not makers of history. We are made by history."* (Martin Luther King Jr.)

I huge shout out and my sincere thanks to Dick Behrens for all his research / documentation in making this historical account possible.

Summary: **Maintaining Unwanted Vegetation at Hawkfield after 1986**

\*As I understand from observations and other sources – Nov 9, 2018

**1986** – It should be noted that before Dam 16 was built in 1972-3, the land where Hawkfield is now located was no doubt primarily farm land (for crops or grazing). Farm land would keep unwanted brush and trees from occurring. In 1986, the southern 11 acres of Hawkfield, that was acquired to enlarge the field, was mostly grass with some bushes and Russian olive trees.

Prior to 1986, the Western Flyers and others were using the northern part of what is now Hawkfield, which was land acquired by the Corps to store design floods below the designed maximum reservoir elevation. This area was likely mowed to make a grass runway, by the City or volunteers .....

However, about this time the Western Flyers arranged to get their field at Meade and the Omahawks moved from their Ida Street location to their current location..... The 11 acre enlargement was sought by the club after problems they were having at the Ida St location. (**Editor's Note**, for more info reference the [Sept Issue of Hawk Talk](#)).

This action had approval of the City and US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).... Sometime between May and Aug, three club members (President VanOveron, Vice Pres Ferguson, pilot Abrahamson) flew out to negotiate & paid the \$42,500 sale of this 11 acres with the property owners, who lived in Mid Nebraska. (Originally the owner wanted ~ \$70-80,000.)

**1986-87** – Following the building of the asphalt runway in Nov 1986 the Omahawks had some small trees, planted in a N/S straight line east of the asphalt runway. These eventually became part of a significant unwanted growth problem, as they grew taller (Source: Old newsletters & observations) See photo 1:.

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Row of trees planted in 1986-7 became a problem (2017 photo)

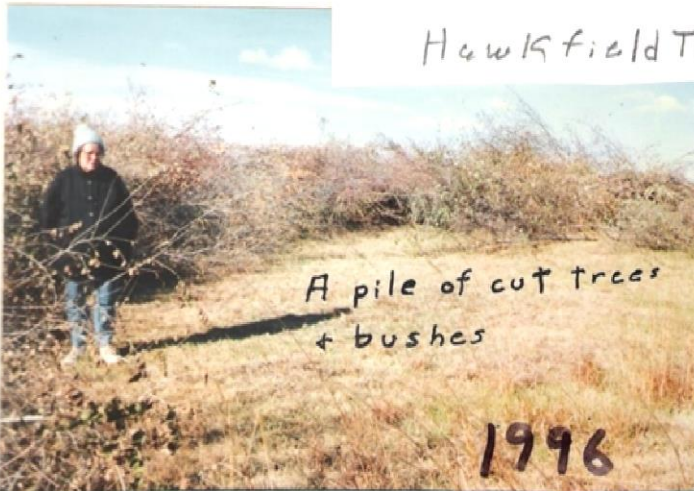
**1991 May** – Three volunteers cut down some unwanted growth east of runway (\*\*morning flyers). The Saturday after the next club meeting about 25 volunteers helped drag the cuttings & piled the brush for city removal.

**1996 Oct 15** – About 20 volunteers cut down, hauled, growing trees, brush east of runway & piled the brush for city removal (\*\*morning flyers). See photo 2

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	chain saws	drag / cleanup
1991	3	25 (week later)
96	6-7	20
98	2-3	10
00	7-8	8
07		

## Hawkfield Tree Removal



Summary of four 1991- 2000 vegetation removals

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**1998 June 2** – About 10 volunteers cut unwanted growth & piled for city removal. (\*\*morning flyers)  
(Sometime in the 90s, a sewer/water line was installed across the southern part of the field for the then future housing to the west. This contractor removed some growth in that area.)

**2000 Oct 3** – About 8 volunteers cut down, dragged & piled the bush for city removal (\*\*morning flyers & caretaker)

(**Between 2000 and 2014** no significant tree/brush removal east of the runway occurred. City Forester then wanted a large amount of money (\$31,843+) if the club removed trees the club had flagged for removal or have the club replace with new trees elsewhere)

**2014 Feb 18th** - Club paid Jason Tiller, \$5000 to cut & grind the brush/small tree jungle. (President Bob Wheeler, Bernie Baker & Larry Inness) See photo 3.



Feb 2014 Brush cutting \$5000 Jason Tiller

**2014 Nov** - About 12 volunteers cut lower limbs off trees & piled the bush for city removal. (Wheeler, Baker &

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Inness)

**2016 December**- City Mayor and City Council approve the new 10-15 year club/city contract. The contract renewal included a new sub paragraph 6 c: “Throughout the course of this Agreement, 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 contract comes up for renewal in 2026 the same year that the City/Corps 50 year lease comes up for renewal.)

**2017 March 18** - About 35 volunteers cut down trees, limbed, etc (President Casey Vohnout, Vice Pres Rick Sessions, Arborist Mike Donham). An observation: A rare sound was heard around 11:30 am this day from the top of the runway, when the writer was going to get pizza. It was the sound of about 12-14 working chain saws seeking revenge for all the problems & damage caused by these unwanted growing trees, bushes, etc. See photos 4, 5, 6, and 7.



Sept 2016 Where is plane?



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May 2017 Downed trees ready for dragging

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Sept 2017 One pile for city removal

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Oct 2017 One crew taking a break

**Remainder of 2017** - volunteers cut, limb, drag, cut stumps & piled for city removal... All told there were about 50 volunteers involved in the 2017 effort to remove an estimated 100 deciduous and evergreen trees, etc .

**2017 Nov/Dec** - City removes piles & stumps and grinds tree roots using their efficient heavy equipment and staff. This was big and most important. The root holes did not get filled.

Note: These 2017 efforts of this huge undertaking was at little cost to the club, saved hobbyist thousands of dollars and made Hawkfield friendlier and attractive to interested air plane modelers.....Recreation was and is a Congress authorized and funded (\$\$) purpose of this dam and reservoir project. **The hobby of building and flying model airplanes is recreation.**

**2018 July 14-15** – City mowed new growth east of the runway following a request/reminder by club president (Sessions) via e-mail dated July 11th. (Previously, at a March 26th meeting at the field between City District 4 Maintenance Foreman, Bill Andersen, and club President Rick Sessions, Field Chairman Gary Vohnout and the Dick Behrens; Andersen recommended a mowing in early July to a level of about one foot high, leaving ground

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shaded to slow additional growth and a second mowing later in year prior to winter. He said the city would do this, however, he requested the club first send him an advance reminder/request via e-mail. (In other words, it is up to the club to formally initiate needed field maintenance east of the runway)..... He also indicated the city would spray/apply weed killer in this area when conditions are suitable..... He asked that all other field work requested of the city be directed to him.)

\*Sources include other club current & former members, old newsletters and files of Ron VanOveron. For more summary history, reference newsletters of March 2015, Jan 2018, & Sept 2018.

\*\* (XXXX) represents initiators (party/person). The group of morning flyers got started in the spring of 1990, and was mostly retired guys. Almost every morning when the weather was good, some would show up at the field, and on occasion visit with the city caretaker about the field condition. Because of the work and club savings initiated by these able club members, the board funded many breakfasts for them at the field. The cooks were Ed Splittgerber, Tom Shapland & Bob Burt, who now have name plates on pit benches..

Dick Behrens - Nov 9, 2018

### **Upcoming Events**

- Breakfast get together every Tuesday Morning @ Hy-Vee , 10808 Fort St, Omaha
- November 20, 2018--7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Board Meetings

November 26, 2018—10:30 AM – 12:00 AM – Indoor flying – Contact Fred Wilke...  
@ **402 571 1513**

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- November 30, 2018--7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – General Club Meetings
- December 18, 2018--**7:00 PM – 8:30 PM** – Board Meetings
- January 15, 2019--**7:00 PM – 8:30 PM** – Board Meetings
- January 25, 2019--**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM** – General Club Meetings