

# Freestate Aeromodelers

Newsletter  
August 2008

## Meeting

The club meeting is Friday, August 8th, at the field. The meeting starts at 7:30pm.

## Tim, the Newsletter Editor

Tim Corrigan, our newsletter editor, is in the hospital. He is in the Neuro ICU at the UMD Medical Center. He is now alert and able to read cards and such. The full address if you want to send a card is:

Tim Corrigan  
Neuro ICU, Room 722  
University of Maryland Medical Center  
22 S. Greene St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201

## Field Changes

In the near future we are going to make a couple of minor changes at the field. Right now, the pilots boxes do not actually line up with the runway. We are going to shift the pilots boxes slightly. After we see how that works, we may or may not make further adjustments to the field. There's a rumor going around that we are going to rotate the field all the way back to how it was when the field was first built. Needless to say, that would be a really bad idea, and there was never any thought of doing it.

Regardless of any changes to the field, everyone flying needs to keep in mind that Van Dusen Road is off the end of the runway, to the right. Even with the current layout, it is possible to fly over the road if you take too wide of a turn onto final, or go too far straight out. So, as always, be aware of where your model is at all times when flying.

## Club Rules

There have also been some questions about how close you can fly at the field. The current rule is that all flying should be over the tall grass unless you are the only one flying at the time, in which case, you can come in to the runway center line. (Obviously, landings, touch and goes and missed approaches may be performed over the runway at any time.) This rule was voted on at a meeting a little while back, but apparently not everyone was aware of the change.

I'd also like to clarify another rule. Currently, there is no pitting allowed behind the pilots boxes. The intent of that rule is to prevent engines or motors from being run directly behind someone while they are flying, which is a safety issue. With the growth in electrics and gassers that are easy to move prior to starting and do not require much in the way of field equipment, there is no reason someone can't park their model behind the boxes as long as it is moved off to the side prior to starting. A couple of members have already been doing this, and there has not been a problem, so we are going to allow this going forward. But I want to stress that there is to be no running of engines or motors behind the pilot boxes, and certainly no taxing back.

## Membership Update

There are currently 130 club members.

## Next Month

This month's newsletter is being thrown together at the last moment. If anyone wishes to volunteer to handle next month's, I'd appreciate it. I'm sure Tim will want to take back over as soon as he is able.

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## **Video Library Update**

This month's featured video (SFD-F) is about the massive fire on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Forrestal on July 29, 1967, while steaming off the coast of Vietnam. 134 crewmen were killed and 161 injured. 21 aircraft were lost. The video follows the investigation into the cause of the disaster, which concluded that a Zuni rocket was accidentally fired from one of the planes preparing for launch. The rocket struck another plane on the opposite side of the deck, causing a fuel spill and fire that quickly spread. Secondary explosions of old bombs on the planes spread havoc and destruction.

Check the FSA website for more information about the video library. Better yet, come to a club meeting and choose from the growing list of DVDs.

You are welcome to borrow tapes and DVDs from the library. Just remember to return them at the next meeting. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions for the library, pass them on to Les Hamilton at [les23hamilton@verizon.net](mailto:les23hamilton@verizon.net).

## **Flight Training**

Tuesday evening flight training has been off to a slow start this year. We haven't had very many students coming out so far this year. However, we have had several new members join recently who will be needing flight instruction. I expect that the number of students will be increasing in the near future.