



## **Las Vegas Soaring Club Membership Meeting March 04 2023**

### **MINUTES OF RECORD**

Meeting was called to order at 9:03am by the LVSC Flying Field President Al Badoux and Vice President, David Knapp. Board members in attendance were Barry Mattison and Neil Welch. Mike Dantonio was out of town. A quorum of 30+ members was present.

#### **Under Old Business discussion ensued the following:**

Discussed former VP, Sandy Tiedeman, stepping down and David Knapp assuming the position.

Discussed use of Restroom at Gun club for Members. (Approved)

Discussed hiring Landscapers to clear Winch Area. (Completed)

Discussed current knowledge of Bike Path. (Yes)

Discussed Runway Safety and new steps on the application process. (Yes)

Discussed the financially unreasonable cost to install a Chain Link Fence Safety Barrier. (Yes)

Discussed Rut on Charleston and having it back filled. (Completed)

**POINT OF INTEREST:** Meeting notes are now posted on the LVSC website by tapping on the "Documents" section. Later on I will be sharing web sites you may find of interest so please pull them off the LVSC web site.

A motion to approve the minutes from Dec 10, 2022 / was approved by Rick Sked.

#### **Under New Business discussion ensued the following:**

##### **Emergency Board Meeting:**

Board held Safety meeting on Jan 14, 2022 to discuss and review methods to improve membership safety.

- Youth pilots (17 and under) will be subject to aircraft inspection prior to flight, in addition to a verbal review of rules & regs with an IP Instructor. The sign off will be conducted by an AMA Certified Instructional Pilot. A checklist will now be included in the membership application to signify the very basics have been read and once certified, the pilot will receive a certificate..
- New adult members will also be subject to the above criteria.
- Pilots are asked NOT to take off from taxi ways to avoid aircraft collision and/or personal injuries.
- Pilots hand launching planes may cross the red line and complete the process as long as it is safe to do so. Verbal notifications of intent are still required.

- Rule violators will be asked no more than four times to obey field safety rules after which the board will vote for intervention from the AMA District X VP or suspension of membership up to revocation based on severity.
- Pilots involved in a “significant accident” involving injury or property damage to another must report such an incident to the President and current Treasurer. Any accident involving personal injury or unconsciousness or property damage exceeding \$500.00, excluding the drone, MUST be reported to the FAA within ten days.
- AMA claims and how to submit – Our website now has a link to the AMA for instructions to file a claim. Take photos if you're involved.

**Safety Guidelines Updated:** As discussed at the previous Emergency Safety Meeting held on January 14, 2023, Barry has made (numerous) modifications to the LVSC website. Meanwhile, on line applicants will be directed to a two-step process to renew or apply and will have the safety rules with the members signature included.

**Jr. Pilot Safety Program:** Las Vegas Soaring Club is proud to announce our very first Jr. Pilot Safety Program Graduate for 2023. The program was originally introduced by our very own Barry Mattison, who has been extremely instrumental in the oversight of this program by speaking with new pilots and inspection of aircraft. Lo, Barry made numerous modifications to our website to help promote the very same program. Today, we asked the AMA I.P. (Instructional Pilot), Dan Valdes, to present the certificate to Chad Lim in recognition of his recent accomplishments to become a “solo” pilot. To graduate this program Chad was asked to demonstrate several flight patterns and answer basic safety and protocol procedures. Dan also purchased and presented a book to help Chad with his future goals in FPV. Chad was proud to report he has logged in over 30 safe landings.

**Charleston Rut:** At our last meeting, a member expressed concern over vehicle damage caused by a large rut on Charleston. On January 07, 2023 we had a large tractor from the Gun Club come over and fill in the rut on Charleston Blvd best as possible to help members transition safely onto the dirt driveway. The Gun Club was gracious to donate both the tractor and operators time for free to us..

**FRIAS Update:** Several months ago, the AMA reached out to all Club representatives with an on-line questionnaire/app to declare and approve your field to become FRIAS certified. I completed the document and we are currently awaiting word back from the AMA. Currently AMA estimates there are over 2.5 million active RC pilots nationally and the FAA anticipates to register over 4000+ airfields, which is greatly underestimated and will cause delays in certifications.. Remember, in the event your aircraft is under 250 grams, you are not required to have a RID unless flying Part 107. The **deadline is still set for September 16, 2023** to either fly in a FRIAS field or have a remote ID module – basically a digital license plate that will broadcast specific points of data. Location of take-off, Location of Drone (Lat & Long), Speed, Vector & Emergency Status Indication. Some DJI Drones have already been updated with RID too.

**NEWS FLASH:** On Feb 24 Mr. Ashton Lewis called me from the AMA (765-287-1256) and advised he was processing our application this morning.

**Radio ID – Plea for Help:** Flitetest, seen on You Tube, in addition to several other organizations, is petitioning the FAA to modify the current weight limit of 250 grams or less and increase it to 1 Kilogram or 2.2 pounds. This will allow so many more aircraft to fly without registration and Radio ID. Flitetest is asking for help – <https://fpvfc.org/congressional-outreach>

**Pedestrian Safety Fence Project:** Numerous bids were collected as quickly as possible in hopes of being able to submit one to the AMA for financial assistance.. Best bid was \$4600.00. We were not able to secure AMA deadline for 25% financial assistance leaving us with dangerously low in bank funds (\$1400.00). As President, I do not believe this would be the best use of our funds, and with the approval of the Board, we will continue to use the yellow chain and traffic cones to remain a “Gold Member” with the AMA.

**Pilot Safety Boxes:** A question was brought up why LVSC pilots actively flying must remain behind the red safety line, while pilots at Bennett field have pilot boxes at the edge of the runway. This is a great question. AMA rules require a pilots safety line be established 25’ from the runway center line. Bennett field has a 100’ wide runway as we are 35’.

**Sign Update:** Initially, I solicited the assistance of a club member to have some signs made up as he had connections with Yesco signs. On Feb 12, 2023 Barry located a sign maker who would produce three signs within 7 days at half the cost. In an effort to accelerate and close this project, which has been open for over one year, Al Badoux approved the purchase by Executive Presidential decision. The signs arrived on February 19, 2023. If you paid attention coming in today, all three signs are up. Super thank you’s and appreciation to Barry for working so diligently on this for us, and special thanks to Neal Welch for meeting us on Thursday early morning to install them...

**NO-TAM Sign Demo:** I have brought a cardboard sign which will be posted on the gate during events such as No Fly during VIP visits, airshows or any other government operation. Most often we will change the lock to prevent access for your safety as well. These events are posted on a NO-TAM website. Please DO NOT ignore these warnings/closures as they can result in a stiff fine.  
(<https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>)

**Membership Status:** We so often see parents or friends that come out and support pilots and enjoy the day with good people, fresh air and fun. The LVSC has created a new membership status called **Associate Member** for those who want to belong and contribute to the club, but don't fly. Barry Mattison is working on our website to include this position just for those folks – fee’s are \$12.00 or half the regular fee.

**Next Fun Fly Event:** We have had several requests by members for a “War Birds Day”. Let’s pick a weekend and advertise on Group Works and LVSC Website. Shall we have Subway and drinks ??  
*Concept was greatly accepted and a day in the near future will be released. Food was approved as well.*

**Work Party:** We should consider having a Pre-Summer “Work Party Day” to help clear the over-grown hedges, remove larger rocks alongside the runway and rake the general area. Usually we ask volunteers to show up with a shovel, rake etc. Our Facilities Manager, Neal Welch, will organize and announce the event on Group works and we will offer a Subway Sandwich lunch and drinks to the crew.

**Runway Pilot Safety:** The west taxi way where the main runway join, a significant amount of dirt has eroded away leaving a hidden dip which could cause a member to fall. On February 29, 2023 Barry Mattison took it upon himself to come out and make necessary repairs. If you see Orange cones in this area, be aware for wet tar till it dries properly. We believe this has eliminated the danger – Thank you Barry!!

**Swap Meet:** Many members have asked about a swap meet. Barry Mattison mentioned that both the Propnutz in NLV and the members at Bennett Field are also interested in a swap meet and so Barry is working on the collaboration of this event. At the moment we have two potential locations, and one will be confirmed weeks in advance. So, start dusting off those items of gold and make a few hobby bucks.. The event will have food/drink which proceeds will go to the club, eat lot.

**Drone Pilots:** LANNC (*Low Altitude Authorization Notification Capability*) just announced the following: Starting on February 20, 2023, recreational flyers may apply for near real-time airspace authorizations to operate at night through the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC). LAANC is a collaboration between FAA and Industry, which directly supports UAS integration into the airspace and provides drone pilots with access to controlled airspace at or below 400 feet. Recreational flyers must meet the requirements of [the Exception for Limited Operations of Unmanned Aircraft](#) and follow safety guidelines of FAA-recognized Community Based Organizations. To obtain this visit sites such as Airmap / B4UFLY & Air Control. For more information, visit [https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational\\_flyers](https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_flyers) or submit your questions to our [UAS Support Center](#).

Drone pilots may use b4ufly to obtain LAANC permission to fly in specific airspace:  
(<https://www.aloft.ai/b4ufly/#:~:text=What%20is%20B4UFLY%3F,check%20airspace%20before%20taking%20flight>)

Another great app is AIRMAP (for IOS): <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/airmap-for-drones/id1042824733>

For Android:  
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.airmap.airmap&hl=en\\_US&gl=US&pli=1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.airmap.airmap&hl=en_US&gl=US&pli=1)

**Field Security/Safety:** I hate to nag about this; however, we are continuing to see people unlocking the padlock, leaving the combo then not securing the gate open via the chains. This practice will allow bystanders to obtain the padlock code, which defeats the purpose of having a locking gate. Also not securing the gate can allow the wind to blow open the gate and possibly strike your car either coming in or leaving. Be safe / Be careful please.

**Field Improvement:** An interesting recommendation has been made to install Astro Turf between the Taxi ways and both right & left runways edges. The idea is to reduce the amount of dirt/rocks kicked onto the runway and reduce the number of times the runway needs to be blown off. This would also have a clean aesthetic appearance and may save a prop or two. Barry Mattison has seen this Astro Turf at a reasonable price – we need to collect the amount of turf needed to help determine cost. Is this something we should consider? *Membership did not oppose the concept and agreed to review the estimated costs which will be provided by Barry Mattison.*

**Bike Path Update:** On July 23, 2022 we met with Mr. Josh Travers, the Assistant Field Manager for BLM, Southern Nevada District to discuss the bike path project. We collected plenty of info and shared our concerns. On February 10, 2023 I reached out to Mr. Josh Travers and asked for any updates and learned he relocated to Idaho. I was directed to speak with the new project manager, Tira Saiieae ([tsaiieae@blm.gov](mailto:tsaiieae@blm.gov)). After countless failed attempts to reach ole Tira, I contacted the Field Manager, Angelita BULletts pleading for help. Several days later Mr. Gaard Braydon ([bgaard@blm.gov](mailto:bgaard@blm.gov))

contacted me as the new BLM Point Person for this project. Mr. Braydon promised an update prior to this meeting -

**Life Time Award:** Mr. Bill Richardson has not only held most positions in the club, but has helped countless members along his years with LVSC. Bill, and his lovely wife, will be relocating out of State in late April 2023. In recognition of his tenure and service, a special plaque was designed as our token and appreciation for his devotion to the club. In addition to this plaque, bill will receive an honorary lifetime membership to LVSC. (See Photos)

**Farewell Morning Flight:** I propose we host what Bill enjoyed most, a “sunrise flight”, on Saturday April 22, 2023 at sunrise.... We can announce it via Group works for those who wish to brave the early hours and scratch the sky once more with a great person. *Membership was open to the idea and once Bill has a solid date, we will advertise and meet on the Saturday prior to his departure.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am following a motion by Al Badoux and seconded by 2 members.



*Illustration 1: President Al Badoux presents a Lifetime Membership Award to Bill Richardson*





*Illustration 2: Chad Lim is presented his Solo Pilot Certificate by Instructor Dan Valdez*