

WHAT'S UP
Quarterly Newsletter of the Owatonna RC Modelers
by Dick Baumer
January – March 2018

With 2017 in the rear view mirror it's time to peer over the snow banks to the 2018 flying season. Hopefully, you've repaired the damage inflicted on your aircraft last season and those birds are ready to take to the air again. Or maybe you acquired a new aircraft and are patiently waiting for a nice day to send it aloft. Regardless, let's hope for an early spring and get this season under way.

January 2018

January 1 each year is traditionally the date for our Frozen Finger Fly but cold and snow forced its cancellation this year. Wind chill in the -37 degree range is not kind to human skin so the event was scrubbed in the interest of safety. The Minnesota Vikings said "there is always next year" so there is no harm in us using that statement as well.

Neil Tryhus, our newly-elected club president called the January meeting to order. A number of procedural issues, event planning, field maintenance tasks and other general issues were discussed. High on the priority list is repair of the shed doors and much needed field repair on the north and northeast part of the field where skunks have had a field day tearing things up in their search for grubs. Getting rid of the grubs and trapping the skunks should prevent future damage but the ground will need considerable work to make it smooth again and covered with grass rather than weeds.

Sadly, long time member **Roger Soukup** passed away in January after a courageous battle with cancer. Roger was a master builder, classic car buff and a wonderful person to be around. His airplane of choice during the time immediately prior to his passing was a Sig 4-Star 120 powered by a DLE-20 gasser which was prominently displayed at his wake. Other aircraft in his hanger were a Cessna 310, TomCat, Laser, Cap 231, Hog Bipe, Ultra Sport, Spacewalker, Lite-Bipe, and a Pylon Racer to name just a few. RIP Roger.

February 2018

The February 7th meeting was called to order by President Neil Tryhus but a quick shift of venue was needed as we were locked out of the Pilots Conference Room at the airport. We made a dash for Olivia's Restaurant and conducted the meeting over coffee and desert. Attendance was light and lack of an audio/video system meant it was more of a social gathering although field maintenance and field leasing were topics of interest. Although ORCM was invited to participate in the 2018 Home & Recreation Show this year it was decided to pass on the offer. It is a lot of work and we've gained only one or two club members from this event.

March 2018

The March meeting was lightly attended and that was probably a good thing as we were once again locked out of the Pilots Room at the airport. With the light turnout the meeting was held in the hallway. The major topics of debate were the 2018 AeroTow, the 3D Fest, and the turf repair plan for the northeast portion of the field. Approval was granted to repair approximately 41,500 square feet of turf that has been damaged by skunks looking for grubs. The repair will include dethatching, leveling, grub control, skunk control (trapping) and reseeding. This effort will begin early this spring and should not impact any events.