

The Search for a New Model Airplane Flying Field



The DeLand Golden Hawks
Radio Control Club

Introductions

Commissioner-Carl G. Persis



DRCC President-Jessie James

DRCC Vice President-David Shorrock

Meeting of May 2nd, 2012

Purpose of the Meeting

- To engage Volusia County Leadership in our quest for a new model aviation flying site.
- The City of DeLand is a gracious partner in allowing us to fly on an old runway, adjacent to the DeLand Airport. Proximity to an active airport is an issue and requires strong governance of our safety procedures such as no turbine powered jets and a 400 ft altitude limit. This will affect the long term growth of our club and its mission
- The existing site is a candidate for city growth, and could require us to move at short notice
- We have begun the search for an alternative location

Model Aviation

- A world-wide hobby providing recreation for our members and families plus educational, vocational and economic benefits to our County.
- The club has a legacy of holding the largest model air shows in FLA, with pilots from several countries participating.
- Successful spectator events represent an opportunity to provide a unique learning environment for students and to give charitable donations. We have donated to Volusia County Middle Schools, Central FLA Shriners Hospital for Children, and this year, we will donate to the USMC Toys for Tots Program
- Our National organization (AMA) has provided courseware for math and science classes and several clubs around the United States are engaged in the STEM initiative.
- Through the theory and practice of model airplanes, we are encouraging students to become interested in aviation in general, with field trips to learn to fly, in-school briefings by our members and the donation of flight simulators for use in the classroom.
- Aviation is vital to this community and an important contributor to the economics of Volusia County

Creating a Dream.....



"I would encourage young people who have any interest in aviation at all, or even if you don't know if you have an interest in aviation, ***go try model flying.***

And the learning, the introduction you're going to get from models, is going to translate directly, in my opinion, into flying a full-scale airplane.

And it's just 'plane' fun."

AMA AMBASSADOR
Robert "Hoot" Gibson
Space Shuttle Commander, Naval Aviator
Astronaut Hall of Fame
AMA Life Member, EAA Member

Hoot Gets the Flying Bug!

PLAY VIDEO



Festival of GIANTS



This is a *GIANT!*



Ready for Flight



The DeLand Golden Hawks RC Club

- Through the generosity of the City of DeLand, members of the DeLand Radio Control Club, Inc. have enjoyed over 23 years of flying model aircraft at the DeLand airport. Our goal is to promote a safe and enjoyable model flying atmosphere. We are fortunate to have access to the north end of runway 18 which is non-operational to full scale aircraft. The site offers both asphalt and grass north/south runways. We currently have a roster of over 100 members with flying occurring most days.
- We are involved with our communities mainly through schools, scouts and spectator events. We are an active club with monthly meetings and a newsletter from September through May. We host a yearly picnic and fun-fly and weekly afternoon cook-outs on Thursdays during daylight saving time. We also host annual fun-flies to which the public is invited, showcasing the aircraft of our members and members of neighboring clubs.

The DeLand Radio Control Club participates in the Academy of Model Aeronautics Pilot Introduction Program, offering the inquisitive the chance to fly and “try it out” before making an investment of time and money. Free flight instruction is offered by several experienced club members. Student members pay one dollar a year in dues.

- All club members are required to have current AMA membership, which provides liability insurance. AMA information may be accessed at www.modelaircraft.org.
- We extend a cordial invitation to all who are interested in a friendly, responsible, safety minded and well established flying club.
- Through our membership dues structure and donations given at our spectator events, we have funds available to support the development of an alternative site.

Golden Hawks-We look to the Future

- Our mission is to provide a safe and enjoyable family environment for flying all types of model aircraft.
- Our student members are our future
- We have an outstanding reputation in the community and share our enjoyment through spectator events that will benefit local charities and students.
- We want the DeLand Golden Hawks RC Club and Volusia County to be known as the best Radio Control location in Florida!

Fun with Math and Science



Young (Top) Guns of Volusia County



Why do we need a new Field?

- To improve safety and eliminate the incursion risk with full scale aircraft
- It will enhance the quality of flying for our members and guests. Examples: multiple runways (grass and asphalt), improvements in amenities such as power/water for the kitchen, better facilities for pilots and improved safety for spectators
- To provide a friendly and safe environment for students to learn RC Model Aviation and provide family entertainment for the community.
- We want to eliminate the eviction threat from our current site due to new business development or other City priorities

Flying Site Preferences

- An ideal area, including safety zone, parking and pits is roughly 65 acres
- Normal overfly area is about 22 acres
- Rectangle shape with east/west orientation
- Safe vehicular access for members and spectators
- Water and Power
- Not within 5m of an active runway

Existing Site



Search Plan

- We are active and working rigorously
- We would like to collaborate with State and local authorities to create advocacy, spread awareness, obtain ideas for areas of research, seek advice on zoning considerations,..... and more.
- Work with our membership to design and specify an ideal location. Define dimensions and a candidate site plan.
- Design a process for qualifying sites; focus on those.
- Engage with our National Organization, www.modelaircraft.org/ for legal and procedural expertise.
- Develop a budget and acquisition strategy

We Need your Help

- Create a dialog for us to interact with those who can share ideas, consider potential locations and be team players in our quest.
- Spread the word. This is a great family activity for our members and we are inspiring students to consider a career in aviation, which can eventually benefit our community and Volusia County.
- Drill down on geographic data, land use information and provide insight into zoning issues through consultation with County subject matter experts
- Help focus our research in areas we have not even thought of!

Summary

- The DeLand Golden Hawks is one of the top RC clubs in Florida and an asset to Volusia County
- Our focus is on safety, fun for our members and the learning opportunity and career goals that model aviation can create for young people.

A new field is critical to our mission for the future

We need your help

THANK YOU!

More information?

Deland Golden Hawks Radio Control Club

<http://www.delandrcclub.com/>

The Academy of Model Aeronautics

<http://www.modelaircraft.org/>

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