Las Vegas Soaring Club
Membership Meeting
February 01, 2025

MINUTES OF RECORD

Today's Meeting was called to order at 9:10am and the LVSC Flying Field by President Al Badoux and VP Chad Leonard. Board members in attendance were Al Badoux, Chad Leonard and Mike Dantonio. A quorum of 23 *(need 14)* members was present satisfying the requirement of 10% of members present to hold voting. Members are treated to pastries and coffee provided by the club.

Hello & Introductions:

- Proud to introduce Chad Leonard as our Vice President and Facilities Manager.
- Proud to introduce Mike Dantonio as our Safety Director and Treasurer.
- We have 32 topics and 60 minutes to drill through them. *(Feel free to ask questions)*

Temp Board Position Opening:

- We are currently looking for a temporary Vice President/Facilities Manager as Mr. Chad explores the Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. The hours are good and pay is even better. If interested, please contact Al Badoux for specific details.. At the end of the day, with no one coming forward, Al asked our previous VP, David Knapp, if he would be interested in stepping into this spot. David agreed, and upon the unanimous vote by Mike D and Chad L, Al confirmed David's nomination to the Board.

New Members:

- In the past 120 days (Oct 24 to Jan 25) we have added twelve new members. We also had 18 did not renew. Total number of members, based on by E-mails, is 125. We typically fluctuate between 125 to 130 members.
- With sadness, I was informed that Dennis Griggs passed away in November.

Financial Report: Presented by Mike D.

- Mike Dantonio was thrusted into the position of Financial Manager now for approx four months and is doing a fantastic job. By now we have had time to test and monitor safeguards recently installed to keep an oversight on the club funds. All Board members randomly monitor expenses and look at the acct independently on line to assure of no unauthorized expenditures. *The LVSC bank has $7039.41.*

Under New Business discussion ensued the following:

- **Special Thank You:** Wish to Thank Mike Dantonio for re-installing our "Lock the Gate" stop sign at the top of the hill and securing it firmly in Mother earth.

- **Special Thank You:** Wish to thank Mr. Chad Leonard for his efforts on maintaining the Red Safety Line. He has excelled where three others failed..

- **Spectator Limit Line Project:** Wish to thank all who helped with the research, purchase of material and physical labor to install the spectator fence. The high visibility yellow nylon rope and seven metal signs are working well.. Total budgeted cost was set at $1100.00 and actual was $1031.28. We came $70.00 under budget!!! This project was on our "To Do" list since May 2024.

- **FAA Visit?:** Two men visited the field on Dec 07, 2024 and one was from the FAA. Was it an official visit?? They claimed they were from back east and here for the Rodeo. They asked basic generalized questions and took some pics before leaving. It is imperative that we do not fly over, or, too close to the homes to avoid generating a complaint. Just a friendly reminder that the FAA does have the authority to ask for your TRUST Certificate and FAA Reg number, which must be attached on your aircraft. It's a $5.00 fee to register, it's good for 3 years, and can be used for each of your aircraft. The club will not be held accountable and the citation is given to you.

- **Crowded Airspace:** A few members have expressed frustration that often they must to wait to fly. The field is not capable of expanding any-more than it has, and with the added popularity of the club, and increase of attendance the Board believes the best option is to: Remind members to be **continue being *courteous and avoid rapid battery replacement flights***.

- **Membership Limits:** The topic of limiting members has been brought up. It is my understanding that the AMA opposes any sanctioned field from limiting membership. It is my position to avoid creating specific days for specific aircraft, or hours set aside for one type only. The Board has reviewed the topic and continues to suggest LVSC members must find a way through being courteous and fair.

- **Runway Extension:** So, a proposal has been submitted that we consider extending the eastern end of the runway by 40-50 feet or so. The purpose of this extension will be to slow down landing aircraft (left to right) before running into the dirt. This will require the purchase of Astro Turf, Clean dirt, Use of a tractor to level off the area and misc stakes and glues.. We believe this project will cost between $1800.00 and $2000.00 and will require a team of volunteers to help with misc labor. A project of this magnitude requires a majority vote – today we have a quorum of 23 members which satisfies the requirement. By show of hands, how many approve of this project - 19. By show of hands how many oppose - 4. Al will begin coordinating with Mike and Chad to begin this project.

- **Runway Project:** Project to extend & level east runway and use Astro turf.

1. Chad stated the turf was still available and would cost approx. $900.00 for three rolls.
2. Chad also suggested we contact a member known as "John" who has volunteered to purchase/donate some dirt and use misc construction equipment he has at his disposal for his employment.
3. All he would need is help from a few members once we are ready.

- **Runway Obstacle Removal & Clearance:** Several members have asked that we consider having several large rocks and misc vegetation removed/pushed away from the N/W section of the runway which some pilots have reported to have a "bizarre gravitational attraction" to inbound aircraft. The Board discussed two options. We can ask the Gun club if Tenny can drive down with the dozer **OR** use the dozer while extending the east end of the runway. Al Badoux agreed to contact the Gun Club on Feb 05, 2025 for assistance with their tractor.

- **Runway Maintenance:** The Geo-Tech material we use for the runway has been in use for nearly five years, or more. Though we believe we can get many more years out of it, a general inspection and repair program will be headed up by our very own VP, Mr. Chad Leonard, who will make spot repairs caused by prop strikes etc Chad will inform us when the repairs will be done so you may avoid sticky patch spots. Discussions were made to return back to carpet when this Geo-Tech wears out.. Time will tell.

- **Secondary Runway:** A beloved member has proposed the addition of a second isolated runway for helicopters and drones. The Board reviewed the proposed hand drawing and discussed the effectiveness, safety, available useable land, water run off zones, proximity to Charleston Blvd, material costs, labor/equipment costs combined with recent and future significant improvement projects made (Extend east Runway, Summer Umbrella Project & Spectator Fence), and at this time felt this project could not be approved. In the meantime, the Heli Pad is best served as a "test" pad OR for drone take off's and landing. Of course, Heli's may fly off the pad with <u>extreme caution</u> to avoid crossing the west end of the runway. Pilots be advised when using this pad, visual avoidance is paramount as you will NOT hear call out's for landings due to noise & distance.

- **Project Spool Band** ? Not discussed.

- **Project Snake Screen** – **Presented by Chad & Rick Kehoe**. Summer is coming and so are some critters. Now is the time to keep a sharp eye out for snakes *(see photo).* Rick Kehoe is donating special screen and materials to place around the spool stems to prevent critters from nesting within.

- **Upcoming Fun Flies:** The Board agreed to re-visit this and set dates at the second quarter Board Meeting where we will have a better idea of weather conditions.

- **Bike Path:** Little to no changes at this time.

- **ID Cards & Lanyards:** Does everyone have an ID card or need a Lanyard? *(One lanyard was issued)*

- **Project GroupMe:** The Board explored a potential online app called GROUPME that would allow members to share photos and comments similar to the former Groupworks. It was discovered early on, the importance that "Group" is spelled correctly. FYI: The site Grope-works is a whole different app. The unanimous conclusion was this app was not going to be user friendly or meet our needs. Eyes are still open..

- **Membership Rate Hike:** Effective Jan 01, 2025 members voted on, and approved to increase the annual membership fee from $25.00 to $30.00 – a $5.00 increase (minus PayPal fees). This makes us equal to the other two sister clubs in Las Vegas. Please be aware, applications and renewal payments do not work on cell phones and seem to work best on desktops.. We are hoping this will be resolved with a new Website.

- **Field Closures:** You can expect to receive E-mail notifications that the field will be closed for various reasons such as TFO's from the FAA or spot closures for temporary use by D-Fend Solutions or Special Tactics & Solutions. The later are two are private companies contracted by the Government – one trains military personnel how to develop landing fields while the other specializes in Anti-drone hardware. When either of these two companies use our field, they donate a fee, which is based on time used, which goes directly into the LVSC bank account. **FLASH:** Special Tactics will be using the field on Monday Feb 10, 2025 from 1pm to 3pm so the field will be closed and I will be present. STS used the field on Dec 16 and now Feb 10 and we've secured $200.00 in donations – equal to 6.5 memberships..

- **Upcoming Swap Meets:** In order to avoid double booking, I will reach out to Rex (Prop Nutz) and Randy (Bennett) in the next week and coordinate with them for any future group swap meets. The Board was in favor of hosting our own swap meet in early Spring (April-May). This will be re-visited at the next Board Meeting to establish dates – so save up those parts. **NOTE:** These swap meets can be for donations to the club or private sales.

- **Potential New Members:** If anyone is approached by someone asking about how to join the club, I have placed flyers in the mailbox you may pass out..

- **Parking Violators - Presented by Chad:** Signage to Prevent non-member parking/locked in status. In Nov and December 2024, we have had two incidents involving tourists parking in the lot and going hiking. The Board discussed and provided a sticky pad of pre-marked sticky notes kept in the mailbox which the last LVSC member can attach to the violating cars window. These notes will tell the vehicle owner the lock is not closed, but to please lock it when they leave. This will eliminate the need to have someone respond in person. On February 01, 2025 Al placed a sticky pad provided by Mr. Chad inside the mailbox with several "pre-made" messages.

- **Our Weather Station:** The LVSC Weather Station cellular fee of $ 220.00 was due and paid via the LVSC Visa on or about January 8, 2024. *Al sent the link to two members.*

- **Website Update:** Our current LVSC website is based on a Vista Print platform which has increased their annual fee from $100.00 to $325.00. We are exploring a platform used by our sister fields and the costs associated to convert over. This week, with the Boards approval, Al has spoken with Barry Mattison to ask for his expertise with this and help with the convergence from Vista Print to Wimbley.

- **AMA Certificate of Insurance:** The AMA Charter & Insurance Certificate will be due on March 31, 2025 – we expect to pay $85.00 to AMA to receive a Certificate of Insurance naming the Gun club as additionally Insured. On Jan 28, 2025 I received the packet in the mail and will be completing it on line and will coordinate payment with Mike Dantonio.

- **Drones:** How many fly drones? Do you know the difference between Part 107 and Recreational? Are you aware DJI has removed "Geo Fencing" yet YOU are still responsible to know where you are allowed to fly legally? How many are aware of the many Apps avail to make this hobby even more fun and safe? Using these app's will inform you what airspace you are in, if it's restricted, authorization zone, altitude zones or an enhanced warning zone and finally if the weather is contusive to fly and even give you FAA permission to fly in controlled airspace. Have you tried LITCHI? **(flylitchi.com).** What about Air Control **(air.aloft.ai/login)**, and UAV Forecast **(Apple App Store / Google Play).** If interested, see me after the meeting for the links..

- **NEWS FLASH:** On Fri Jan 31 the FBI has announced they tracked down, arrested and obtained a confession from a guy in California who flew his drone into a Quebec fixed wing Fire-fighting water tanker. The man admitted he had gone to a third-floor garage and eventually lost track of the drone approx. 1.5 miles away. He was charged with unsafe operations of a UAS and fined one year in Federal Prison. In addition, he will serve 150 hours of community service and pay $65,000 in damages.

- **Main Gate Pad Lock Combo Change.** As of today, Saturday February 01, 2025, we will be changing the main gate combo [redacted] It was last changed on May 18, 2024 when we believed a hiker was inadvertently given the combo. The Board agreed the combo is due to be changed and will be at the conclusion of today's meeting. Do we have a code?

- **Flight-Sim Offer:** LVSC is unique in that we offer new members the one-time, two-week, free rental of a MS flight Sim to better prepare a student for the first day of flight.. This sim was donated to LVSC by Mr. Paul Johnson to help members become better pilots. The Board agreed to continue offering this to new members upon contact. And remember, later this year the folks at Horizon Hobby will be adding our very own flying field!! *(See below for addtl notes)*

- **BLM Vs New Air Field:** The topic of asking BLM to construct a new airfield near the Dept of Forestry Heli Pad just west of our field off Charleston was resurrected. Al agreed to research who to speak with regarding this project and hopes to have some additional updates by the next Board Meeting.

- **Glider Expenses:** The Glider pilots are preparing to replace 1000' of 150-pound test retriever line which cost $29.75. This line lasts over 5 years and is included in the annual budget.

- **Winch Line Area:** The Glider winch line landscape area is typically cleared out by hired landscapers once a year which is also included in the annual budget. It is expected to be scheduled this year around May/June or even in October – depending on growth levels. This typically costs $600.00 and the landscapers usually tidy up around the runway as well..

- **Meeting Notes on Line:** The Secretary will have annotated Membership notes posted to the LVSC Webpage within five days (or so) of the meeting. All members that were not able to attend are encouraged to review the notes to remain current on club activity. *(Barry Mattison reached out to Al on 02/01 and was ready to post these notes immediately to the LVSC website.*

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

Open Discussion:

1. A suggestion to minimize air congestion was to implement a pilot box system as used by other clubs. This limits the number of aircraft to 4, 5 or 6 pilots at one time. The concern of spreading out that many boxes was the inability of the pilots toward the west end of the runway to hear glider call outs from the east side. Though the idea is good, and may be re-considered, at this time the general conscientious was every pilot must simply use good common sense and courtesy. High speed multiple pilots should co-ordinate with existing pilots to avoid a blend of slow Vs high speed air traffic.

2. LVSC has a MS Flight Simulator available to new members to help familiarize themselves with flight controls etc. Phillip Garibaldi offered to sell the club a NX-6 for $80.00 that could be used with a FS system. Paul Johnson will provide a special dongle for the system that will allow any NX-8 to also wirelessly connect to the system. Rick Kehoe offered to donate an older Real Flight 3.5 flight simulator which may work with older computers. This option has been available for over 7-8 months and we have not had anyone ask to use it – we will consider purchasing the NX-8 if it becomes necessary.