

## Hawk Talk



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THE VOICE OF THE OMAHAWKS R/C INC Vol 66, # 12  
Corporate Office-15442 Seward St Omaha, NE 68154-4116

**President... Casey Vohnout**  
**Vice Pres... Rick Sessions**

**Editor/Publisher**  
**Joe Hunt**

**Secretary... Greg Nelson**  
**Treasurer... Kevin Hyde**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, December 19th \* 7:00 P.M. \* Church of the Cross, 1517 S 114<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**MEETING PROGRAM: Board Elections, Club updates, bring something to show at the meeting.**

**Christmas Dinner: Sunday, December 17th \* 6:00 PM \* Jack and Mary's, near 114<sup>th</sup> street and Dodge, Omaha**

**ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS**

The board suggested that each candidate be given a chance to write a couple of paragraphs about themselves, or what they want to accomplish in the position they are running for?

The following paragraphs are what was submitted to the Newsletter Editor by December 6<sup>th</sup> cutoff date and are published in no particular order.

Rick Sessions for President, Steve Farner for Vice President—Focus on Growth, Safety, Communication and Member Engagement

### **Rick Sessions: Why I'm running for President:**

I have good experience with our club as a Board Member, VP, and chairman of the Labor Day concessions and facilitator of the massive tree removal project. I bring 35 years of proven management experience at Quaker Oats, ConAgra and running my own investment company. I'm now retired and have the time and energy to focus on helping Omahawks build on its strong foundation, traditions and grow membership.

I've had a lifetime passion for this hobby and enjoy both building and flying mid-sized airplanes, mostly electric. My vision for the club is to build upon our successes and begin to grow back our declining membership. The member level has been flat for the past 5 years and I'd like to turn that around by being more proactive in adding members.

Most of you remember Ralph Brown and his passion for inviting new members. I personally remember in 1996 getting retrained by Ralph and how his passion for flying was contagious! We need to encourage more outreach like that and events including:

- Invite a friend initiative.
- Enhanced training night.
- More inclusive special events.

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- Reach out to Boys and Girls Scouts and Civil Air Patrol Cadets
- Engage Hobbytown more in our club and events.
- Efforts to reach all ages: young, middle age, retired
- Community outreach: Labor Day enhanced communications

### **Steve Farner: Why I'm running for Vice-President:**

I am a recently retired management/leadership professor. My field is managing people, and I have an understanding of the unique dynamics associated with a volunteer board. I have served on many boards like ours, and have learned that the key is recognizing individuals' talents and strengths, and harnessing these strengths to fully benefit the club.

Aviation has been my hobby in some form most of my life. I got my start with the Cox control line planes at an early age. I started flying lessons in High School, and received my private pilot's license when I was 17 years old. I enjoy both RC and scale aviation. My son Jack is the primary RC flyer in the family. He enjoys flying more than repairing and building, so together we make a good team! I have been on the board for one year, and would like to be your Vice President in order to continue the work that we started.

### **The Plan for the Future**

As members of the Board the past two years, Steve and I can point to several significant accomplishments by the club:

- Contract renewal with the City for 10 more years.
- Over 100 trees cut down east of the runway. Dramatically improving the flyability of Hawk field. Clearing of trees and stump removal over 80% done.
- Very successful Labor Day Air Show with \$4,700 contributed to Make-A-Wish.
- Another successful pattern contest hosting many from around the mid-west.
- Excellent mowing and maintenance of the field.
- Runway repair and coating.
- Re-grading and stoning of parking lot.
- Many float flies, sailplane and Oldtimer events coordinated by Dick Behrens.

Here is what we have planned for the coming year:

**1. Membership-** We have about \$7,500 in fixed costs each year. These costs need to be covered by the membership. We recognize that our hobby is changing, but we think we can do more to promote our hobby. We are working on various ways to target the drone market, the youth market, and the "middle age" people looking for a new hobby. If we can grow our membership, then we can avoid future dues increases.

**2. Organization-** In general, we have a very well organized club. The Labor Day Airshow and the annual auction are great examples of "well-oiled machines." We want to take what we are doing right with these events and use those principles for other areas of the club as well. We would like to expand our roster of events, and make our existing events even better through a more systematic approach.

**3. Radio Interference Issues-** We are using a spectrum analyzer to try and get a handle on why we are seeing an increase in radio frequency issues. We are working with a club member who has the equipment, along with an RC radio expert out of Fresno California to get a handle on the issue.

**4. Safety-** The radio issue really illustrated why safety should be our #1 priority, especially at the Labor Day show when the public is watching in close proximity. All necessary and reasonable steps will be taken going forward to keep safety the top priority!

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**5. Training-** The revised training program allowed students to learn to fly quicker by pairing them with an instructor and not limiting training to Thursday nights. This part was a positive improvement, but what we lost in this process was the great dynamic we had every Thursday with kids trying demo flights and potential new club members trying out our hobby. We need to preserve the benefits of our revised program, but also not lose what is really unique about our club's "Thursday Training Night."

**6. Member Engagement-** We need more member input at the meetings. We have some ideas to get more people involved in the meetings, and in the goal of increasing membership. We would like to try some different times other than Friday night, and possibly move the meeting location to different venues throughout the year.

We (Steve Farnier and Rick Sessions) would like to run as a "ticket." We recognize that the President and Vice President are elected separate, but based upon the things we are already working on, and the synergies we have together, we would like you to consider electing us as your next President and Vice President. We are not trying to preclude anyone else from running for these two positions, it is simply that the past year has shown us what we can do together.

If elected, we will do our very best to continue Omahawks strong traditions and reach out to more people and share the joy of our great model flying sport!!

**Gregston Nelson - My duties as Secretary** are to faithfully attend all meeting of board or members and carefully record the minutes of those meetings. The other classic duties of Secretary have been handled very well in this club by others for many years and this works well. Most of what I need to do as Secretary in our club is to help the President implement his agenda in whatever way he asks me.

**Kevin Hyde – Treasurer** - I joined the Omahawks in 1991 and solo'd in August of that year. In November someone convinced me it would be a good idea to run as treasurer because the then current treasurer was leaving the state. For some reason I was voted into the treasurer position in 1992. Since that time I have made changes in the treasurer's report to the board to make it more clear where the money was going and how much money we had on hand. I also took on membership recording. I currently have 1334 names of people that were once Omahawks members.

I also changed the format of the membership card. In 1991 the membership card was a hand written card made out by Ralph Brown and encased in a sleeve with a cloths pin attached so you could claim a transmitter frequency. **Between 1991 and 2007**, I had flown trainers, sport planes, semi scale mono-planes and bi-planes, indoor, pattern, Pylon racing and Jet airplanes powered by nitro, gas, electric and jet fuel. I was also heavily involved with the training program as an instructor. In the mid 1990's I started overseeing and managing the annual auction using a program written by a previous member using MS-DOS, transferring data by carrying a floppy disc across the room. **In 2001** I wrote a new program, currently in use for Omahawks auction management. In 2007 and 2008 I was relocated to Atlanta for a work assignment and Ed Paasch took over the Treasurer position although I returned in October of those years to run the auctions. **I thought I was out...** but Ed mounted an aggressive campaign on my behalf (thanks Ed) and I was re-elected in 2009. I've been looking for some poor sucker ever since that will commit to the position for the next 20 years. So far no one has raised their hand. Seriously though, while in Atlanta I fell in love with a new hobby and began cycling 1500-3000 miles a year and quite flying, although I still enjoy being involved with the great folks in the leadership of this club. I feel strongly that successfully maintaining the Omahawks club viable over the next few years will depend on strong leadership actively working to reinvigorating the training program, attracting new members and keeping the members we have now. If elected I plan to continue providing financial information for the board to help them make good decisions related to income and expense management.

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**David Junior Haney II or Skippy – For President of Omahawks Club** - I have a love for the aviation industry and the hobby of flying model airplanes. Since the age of three, I have been involved with aviation. I am currently a Operational Supervisor with Delta Airlines Inc. with Compliance and Safety. I am running for President of the Omahawks R/C club. I have a vision where all ages will use the field for drones, helicopters, airplanes, cars and rockets. I will help promote the field by involving the UNO aviation program and High school programs and by working with local boy scout groups, local public schools promoting the hobby. I have a vision to get more of the younger and older generations involved in this great hobby. The club members need to spend a year promoting the club by newspapers, magazines and local school presentations. I am one of the members you can find at the field almost all days and in any type of weather. The club needs to be open to new prospective members coming out to the field. I am for policies and compliances for safety at the field. When someone comes to the field, we need to be more welcoming and let the guest fly one time if their AMA insurance is current. I will be at the field as much as possible to welcome new members. I am here for the membership of the club and to make the field as enjoyable and fun as possible.

I am open to updating the current club by-laws. I will give the members more input on club decisions before they are set by the board. I will listen to the memberships concerns and I will not make decisions overly costly to the members. Donations should be taken for any field projects. I will bring back the rights of the membership to have the authority to raise and lower dues, not the board. I want to make more improvements to the field. I will make improvements by not raising the dues. The mowing budget needs to be lowered by accepting bids from mowing contractors or using city help. One local club has made an agreement with the city of Bellevue, that dues would be split and the city mows the field every other week. At the end of June, the city will gets half the dues and the club will keep the remaining money from the membership dues. This would allow the club to keep half the money taking in from 120 member dues. If the club was to have 120 members, dues would equal \$9,000.00. City of Omaha would receive \$4500 dollars for mowing and the Club would get the \$4500 to spend on whatever improvements needed for the year. This plan would give the club more money on the budget to sponsor fun fly's or field improvements. The runway needs more improvements. The cracks are getting bigger and need more filler. I want to remove more trees on the north side of the field to make the landings easier for all hobbyists at the field. The field needs to have more fun flys and get more outside clubs involved. I love the annual Labor Day fun fly which helps raise funds for disadvantaged kids. The club needs to have more open houses to allow other local clubs to see the amazing field facilities we to offer. The club can be much larger, if we get other clubs involved by inviting them to the field more often than just the Labor Day airshow. Not very many clubs have asphalt runways, power, and shelter. I want to build more shelters on the field for cover during rainy conditions. This field could become the primary field for entire Omaha Area.

### **The Christmas party**

Sunday, December 17, 6:00pm  
Jack and Mary's near 114th and Dodge

We have a special slide show program to review the past year of events at Hawk Field!  
Bring your spouse or significant other for great food and fellowship!  
Call Rick Sessions if you have not yet signed up: [402-312-6482](tel:402-312-6482)

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**Mit Grimes 1930-2017**



Mit was born in Chambers NE and passed away in Omaha.

After graduating from Chambers High School, he attended college at Nebraska Wesleyan in Lincoln. He was drafted into the Army, serving in Europe in the early 50s. After his discharge he became a CPA, with a finance career including Touche-Ross in Kansas City, the Nebraska Med Center and Blue Cross in Omaha until he retired in 1985.

He was a former licensed pilot and member of the Omahawks club for over 45 years, the club being formed in 1953, and 64 years ago. From his love of flying, he wrote and published a science fiction story of personal gliders titled "Ride with the Wind". He and his wife Mary were avid motorcycle riders, traveling all over the country, with bike tours in Europe. Mit also had an interest in sports cars, still owning a convertible.

Mit and his wife had a son, Jerry and a daughter, Karen. While living in Omaha, in the 70s, Jerry was also a member of the Omahawks for many years. Mit's wife passed in 2013.

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General Meeting November 17 2017

CTO 7PM

*With 19 Members present we didn't have a Quorum. Bylaws require a quorum of 30 in order to do business like electing officers or board.*

## **Nominations for President**

*David 'Skippy' Haney and Rick Sessions*

## **Vice President**

*Scott Rathman and Stave Farner*

## **Secretary**

*Greg Nelson*

## **Treasurer**

*Kevin Hyde*

## **Board**

*Dennis Bender and Matt Carlson and Steve Farner and Cole Meyo*

**19 Dec 2017** will be a special meeting to propose a change to Bylaws redefining 'quorum' from '30 Members' to a fewer number of 'Members' and to elect next year's board and Officers.

*Work day tomorrow 18 November at the field to remove trees. Meet at 9:30AM.*

*Ed P presents a program outlining his thoughts on membership and recruiting and club dues. He suggests encouraging members to reach out to friends to increase membership numbers and then tying the cost of annual dues to the number of members sharing the costs. That way, as membership numbers go up there are more people to share the cost and dues could be lowered while the club remains able to pay its bills.*

*Meeting adjourn 8:50 PM*

Board Meet November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

CTO 7PM

Rick Sessions chairs

Present; Rick Sessions, Larry M, Matt C, Ed P, Joe H, Dick B, Kevin H, Gary V, Dennis b, Greg N, Hague, Steve F.

Treasurer's Report. Balance now \$10,705. Auction netted \$2,530. 30 day Transaction +\$3,595. Membership now 16 for 2018

Thanks, Joe for your work on the newsletter. Still need submissions from membership for the winter. Photos and articles are welcome.

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Christmas Dinner. 45 RSVP's now. Capacity 55. Reserve now with Rick Sessions.

Motion to spend \$400 on the party. Carries.

2.4 radio interference suggestions from survey of Hawk Field by Kieth Kroeker, radio expert;

All cell phones into 'airplane mode' at the field.

Max 6 planes in the air at one time.

Wireless mic interference is likely. Transmitters to 'OFF' when not flying. Check receiver pack voltage before each flight and keep packs topped up in both transmitter and receiver.

**Fixed wing and Quadcopter flying rules.** No flying over the Pits, Shelter or parking lot. Takeoff and Land East of the Safety Fence only. All Field Flying rules for fixed-wing aircraft apply to rotor wing aircraft. Call Takeoff and Landing. Fly Friendly.

**Tree removal** has taken a huge step forward. The City has hauled away many trees and mowed much of the area east of the runway, especially to the south. Looks really good now. Downed aircraft recovery will be very much easier since this difficult project has cleared this area. Still some work to be done, but this is encouraging. Workday this Saturday.

### **Board Nominations;**

President Dave 'Skippy' Haney and Rick Sessions

Vice President OPEN

Secretary Greg Nelson

Board Members;

Casey Vohnout

Steve Farner

Dennis Bender

Matt Carlson

OTHERS???

Board will cancel Trash pickup and Porta-potty for 3 months over the winter to save \$375.

Board would like to consider suggestions for growing membership. Ed P has a suggestion to scale dues to membership to encourage members to recruit. Committee is formed to explore membership growth and field enhancements.

General Meeting Friday the November 17th at the Presbyterian Church of the Cross at 7PM.

Adjourn 8:30

## Upcoming Events

- **Breakfast get together every Tuesday Morning @ Hy-Vee , 10808 Fort St, Omaha**
- **December 17, 2017--18:00 – 21:00 – Omahawks Christmas Dinner**
- **December 19, 2017--19:00 – 20:30 – Special General Meeting for Board Elections**
- **January 1, 2018--09:00 First Fly Coffee at field followed by Breakfast at Hy Vee**
- **January 16, 2018--19:00 – 20:30 – Board Meetings**
- **January 26, 2018--19:00 – 21:00 – General Club Meetings**