



FLYING TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the Valley RC Flying Club

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 24th Annual Ray Gordon Memorial Jumbo Fly-In was a big success! A lot of people worked many long hours leading up to the event and worked on-site during the fly-in. I originally intended to list everyone by name who participated, but there are so many people to thank that I didn't want to risk upsetting someone by accidentally leaving their name out. However, there are two people I especially want to thank: Jim Stogdale (for getting it all organized and supervising the event on Friday and Saturday) and Whitney Williams (who sold over \$400 worth of raffle tickets during those two days). I'd like to mention that Whitney isn't even a member of our club nor is she related to anyone in the club, but she came out and sold those tickets through sheer determination and her winning personality!

Awesome job, Whitney!

As most of you know, the fly-in was cut short Saturday due to the weather. Around 3:00 or so it was really looking bad over Harrisonburg and we advised everyone to take action before Blacks Run rises and they get stuck on the runway side of the field. It started to rain lightly at about that time and people began packing up. Most folks left before the big storm hit which brought lots of rain, wind, and hail. I left before it was all over, but I was told that the creek rose until it was just a few inches below the bottom of the foot bridge!



Speaking of bridges, there was much discussion at the end of the June meeting about placing a box culvert at the creek where the vehicles cross.

Those of you who were there noticed that I was doing my best to slow things down to delay the decision making process. I want you all to know that I'm not fundamentally opposed to the idea of having a bridge to drive across (although I'm aware that's how my actions came across to many of you). I am fundamentally opposed to making a decision on this particular proposal before both sides are thoroughly discussed and carefully considered.



The advantages of a bridge are pretty obvious to most folks, so I'll mention a couple of potential disadvantages that really haven't been discussed much. **FIRST:** What happens when there's a huge storm that dislodges the culvert? The worst case





scenario is that it gets knocked askew and blocks access to the south side of the creek. This would result in the farmer being unhappy, which in turn would result in the landowners being unhappy, which ultimately would result in us being unhappy. Unless there is a very convincing argument that this can't happen we'd be taking a big risk. I know the rushing water can do a lot of damage, because during my 21 years of being a member of this club the foot bridge has been knocked down twice. Also, you may not know it (due to the vegetation overgrowth) but the remains of a steel and concrete bridge are lying in the creek today. It was once used to extend the full-scale runway north of the creek. SECOND: If the scenario I just described did happen we would be financially responsible for correcting the situation. Depending on the type of equipment required to re-set it or remove it we could be talking about thousands of dollars. Walking away and leaving it there isn't an option.

I look forward to a lively discussion of this and other topics at the July meeting.

See you then!



All Photo's by Fred
Foster