

Eastern Soaring League
Minutes of October 5, 2013

The annual meeting of the Eastern Soaring League was called to order at the Daniel Boone Homestead in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania on October 5th, 2013, at 4:39 PM by President Josh Glaab. Approximately 40 members were in attendance.

Old Business:

Secretary's Report –

David Beach summarized the minutes of the 2012 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the 2012 annual meeting as posted on the web site was made and carried.

Treasurer's Report –

Starting Balance on 1/1/2013: \$5315.61

Estimated 2013 Income \$3683.89

Estimated 2013 Expenses \$3380.05

Estimated Ending Balance on 12/31/2013 \$5619.45 (net increase of \$303.84)

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made and carried.

President's Report

Josh spoke briefly on the league's activity in 2013. He noted the addition of two new unlimited TD contests in Rhode Island and western Pennsylvania. The number of TD pilot days in 2013 is up due in part to the new contests, and improved attendance at existing contests. However, attendance at ESL hand launch contests is down.

Winchmaster's Report

Tony Guide summarized the winch maintenance for the 2013 season. Winches continue to perform well with regular maintenance and the batteries are still going strong. There was discussion regarding recent issues with line breaks. The addition of spacers in the turnaround pulleys and a new supplier for winch line may have addressed the problem. Pete Schlitzkus noted that he plans to replace the turnaround retaining straps with thicker steel this winter.

Old Business

Hand Launch Division

Josh informed everyone that Frank Nisita had resigned as ESL hand launch contest coordinator. Frank was thanked for his efforts on behalf of the league in 2013. Unfortunately, a call to the hand launch community to solicit a volunteer for the position in 2014 has been unsuccessful. Considerable discussion followed regarding how the league should continue to support a hand launch division.

The proposal that was voted on and accepted unanimously was as follows:

- 1) The ESL will provide contest coordination for the ESL DHLG events (Josh Glaab will coordinate).
- 2) The ESL will list the ESL DHLG contests on the ESL website.
- 3) The ESL will provide access to the ESL website for contest registration, as needed.
- 4) The ESL will not require contest sanction fees to be paid to the ESL Secretary Treasurer. All of the above items are considered free.
- 5) The ESL will perform scorekeeping for the determination of overall season standings. However, in order for this to occur an ESL DHLG representative is required.
 - a. Rationale: Scorekeeping does take some significant time through the season. Part of the ESL DHLG scorekeeping task for 2013 was tracking down the scores to submit. If the overall ESL DHLG scores are considered to be valuable to the ESL DHLG community, then it was considered reasonable to have some help and commitment to the ESL. An ESL DHLG Rep is considered to be such a commitment.
- 6) ESL DHLG End of Season Overall Championship awards will be determined and procured by the ESL DHLG Rep.
 - a. Rationale: It was considered that the ESL DHLG Rep would be better situated to determine what the ESL DHLG pilots wanted to have in terms of awards and sanction fees. It was discussed that there was interest in the "Top 3" in each class as a likely good way to go. However, handling the awards at the ESL DHLG Rep position was considered to be simplest and most likely to succeed.
- 7) ESL DHLG Rep: The ESL DHLG Rep would need to collect the scores from the ESL DHLG contests and forward them to the ESL Scorekeeper (Luis Bustamante) in a timely manner. The ESL DHLG Rep would need to coordinate the desired awards with the ESL DHLG community and determine a sanction fee structure to support the purchase and collect the sanction fees. The ESL DHLG Rep is also encouraged to provide a summary of the year to the ESL President (Josh Glaab). The Summary should include how the season went and plans for the following year.

Master's Class

Once again, a proposal from the floor was made to establish a Master's Class. This time, the members of this class would be all pilots higher than Tom Broeski in the overall ranking. The motion was defeated by a show of hands.

Newsletter Editor

Ed Anderson apologized for the lack of league newsletters this year and announced that following the production of a year end newsletter he will be resigning from the post. Discussion followed regarding the need for a formal newsletter, and how the league might be better served by a 'Publicist' on RC Groups and other online venues. John Marien volunteered to accept that responsibility.

New Business

Electric Soaring Division

David Beach proposed the establishment of an Electric Soaring Division for the 2014 season. The idea is to embrace the growing popularity of electric soaring contests through a regional league. David offered to coordinate the activity with more details to follow. He offered the guidelines of no league fees, no league awards, and no schedule overlap with traditional TD contest days. A motion to approve the establishment of an electric soaring division was made and passed.

Web Site

David Beach mentioned that this year has seen several bogus ESL web site registrations strictly for the promotion of commercial interests within the ESL forum area of the web site. It is possible that forum posting may require additional validation if this continues to be a problem.

This year's end of season contest saw the first integration of the ESLScore software with the league web site. This contest's online posting of group assignments and standings was automatic, and reduced some of the crowding around the scoring tent. Further integration is planned for the 2014 season with the possibility of having pilots record their flight times and landings through the web site.

Other enhancements under consideration for 2014 include detailed historical reporting of contests, an online only implementation of ESLScore, and the possibility of club specific calendars and contest results.

2014 Calendar

Details regarding the contest calendar for 2014 were not available. It is assumed that most clubs will retain their traditional calendar slots. The AMA has announced that the NATS will return to its normal schedule next year, specifically, July 26th thru August 2nd.

Kerry Cochrell mentioned that he is unsure whether or not CASA will host a TD contest in 2014 due to apparent lack of interest in thermal duration contests by CASA club members. ESL members present expressed an interest in having the league find an alternate host for a September contest at the Horsefeathers site, if possible.

A very brief discussion occurred regarding the SKSS no fly zone. John Bitzer noted that the issue would be discussed. No further discussion occurred at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM.