

2018 ESL End of Season Minutes

- 1) 2017 minutes approved
- 2) 2018 treasurer's report has been reviewed by board/everyone. About \$4K in treasury
 - a. Net change in treasury was approx \$0. ESL earned about \$1K in fees, spent \$1K from treasury, including a \$500 donation to USA Junior F3J team.
- 3) New officers elected to board.
 - a. Tom Broeski, Alex Hall, Maarten Broess and Chris Burns added to board. ESL board is now fully staffed.
- 4) Status updates
 - a. Website has been updated by David Beach
 - b. 2019 ESL schedule is set with exception of possible ALES contest at BRASS in June.
- 5) *Motion 1*: ESL recommends that clubs raise entry fees if possible. This is just a suggestion and each club can decide whether it makes financial sense. Suggest \$5 per person per day. This will help pay for ESL donations to USA F5J and F3B teams in 2019.
 - a. Motion passed. ESL-run contest fee is now \$30 per day. Club contests have option to raise entry fees or not.
- 6) *Motion 2*: Maine electric division requests to become part of ESL.
 - a. Motion passed
- 7) *Motion 3*: Elimination of Sportsman class from ESL EOS standings. Individual clubs can still have sportsman and novice class awards.
 - a. Motion passed
- 8) *Motion 4*: Allow electric and TD contests to occur on the same weekend. This will only apply to Maine and Quebec (Canada).
 - a. Motion passed
- 9) *Motion 5*: In an effort to increase attendance, the 2019 EOS contest will be for both electric and TD divisions (i.e. mixed launch). David Beach will write up rules for how to score the event in a way that is mutually fair.
 - a. Motion passed

Secretary's note on Motion 5: This motion was preceded by a long and heartfelt discussion about the declining attendance at ESL TD contests. There is some agreement that the popularity of ALES/F5J has likely contributed to a decline in TD attendance. Motion 5 was seen as a way to attract more pilots to the EOS contest. The proposal is a *soaring contest* format that will be fair to both electric and TD pilots.

In follow-up discussions with several pilots, there was a consensus that the decline in attendance should really be addressed by recruiting new soaring pilots. The lack of new pilots is the most pressing issue for the future of the ESL. While having a social media presence (e.g. Youtube and Facebook) is a good start, we likely need a more active approach to recruiting pilots. One proposal is to select *ESL ambassadors* that can make presentations at High School

clubs/ science fairs and similar events. The ambassadors would promote the sport and the ESL, and direct interested novice pilots to a local club. Additionally, the ESL could consider helping clubs purchase some beginner sailplanes (RES) or electrics (Radian) to give new pilots the equipment to get started. These are just a few of many possible ways to increase attendance and recruitment.