

## RPA DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL

NOVEMBER 10, 2009

MEETING MINUTES

### PARTICIPANTS:

- Mark Davis, National Director
- Jim Goolsby, National Director
- Hal Morley, National Director
- Darrell Gary, President
- David McGirt, Vice President
- Ron Lee, Treasurer/Secretary
- Gordon Witter, SW Region Director
- Ron Morrell, NW Region Director
- Scott McMillan, SC Region Director
- David Mills, NC Region Director
- Shane Golden, SE Region Director
- Steve Dalton, NE Region Director

Meeting began at 4:05 PM with Darrell Gary welcoming the new National Directors – Mark Davis, Jim Goolsby and Hal Morley.

Ron Lee gave the Treasurer's report by stating that all bills received during the last 12 months are paid and up to date and the RPA account is in good shape with approximately \$22,000 - \$23,000 in the account.

Darrell mentioned that the Fall Issue of Red Alert is at the printer, so a \$4,800 or so invoice is forthcoming. The Winter 2009 Red Alert issue is expected in December 2009 and Darrell explains that the Red Alert editor's (Mike Love) schedule has been impacted somewhat due to his wife's health, but he has done a great job getting the Fall issue to the printer despite the circumstances.

Due to a prior engagement, David Mills' topic of having a national RPA meeting is discussed next.

Everyone thinks it's a great idea, however, in this economic climate members have shown a reluctance to spend money to travel. They prefer to stay close to home and spend money on local flying. Before something of this magnitude can be rolled out we need to address:

- The construct of the event;
- How to implement it and the location;
- How to attract participants
- How to attract sponsors

David states that the charter for the RPA is to host fly-ins in specific regions, and he supports this, however, certain regions, such as the NC region, are growing at a smaller pace than the other regions. He states that there are a lot of participants but there is a struggle with growth. He

is concerned that the organization is becoming splintered where some groups are flourishing and others not. Would like to suggest for consideration:

- Cross pollinate the regions by having a multi-day event; participants can drive in, fly in commercially or in their plane;
- Enables members to put faces with names and photos;
- can have meetings and breakout training sessions before flying;
- bring in outside vendors, which could help offset expenses with their sponsorship or by charging a fee for their attendance);
- could bring more consistency in standardization;
- Invite speakers from the FAA and other organizations to discuss safety, operation, equipment, etc.
- Proposing Dayton because it's centrally located and they have shown interest in hosting such an event.

Gordon Witter states that what David is proposing sounds very similar and could be a duplication of NWOC (National Warbird Operation Conference), which is usually held once a year in a different venue (it was in Dulles last year and will be in San Diego this year). It's geared for generic flying but does provide breakout sessions by signatory or organization.

Darrell states that NWOC has a strong emphasis on safety and legal fundamentals, but they don't have a strong flying component, which is something that may attract other participants. Steve Dalton agrees that the NE members would be in greater attendance for a national event if the emphasis was on flying.

Jim Goolsby thinks there should be a national fly-in for just RPA members. It would:

- be a week event with ground school training everyday so that no matter what day a participant flies in, they would be able to get a training session in.
- make sure instructors are there for BFR and formation;
- allow standardization for Check Pilots and Instructor Pilots;
- suggest Salina, KS, which is centrally located and the facilities could accommodate all types of airplanes, a large number of planes as well as having classroom space and barracks.

Jim would like input from the Regional Directors to see what interest level their respective regions would have.

In the interest of time and in an effort to move on to the other topics on the agenda, Darrell suggests forming a committee of himself, Steve Dalton, David Mills and Jim Goolsby to discuss further.

#### The Instructor Pilots (IP) Program

- came up in the last Directors meeting, where a decision was made to get input from the Check Pilots to see if they want to continue the IP program.
- Gordon Witter held a conference call with the Check Pilots in July and the results are detailed in an article he wrote which appears in the Fall issue of Red Alert

- 10 of the 15 Check Pilots are on board with keeping the IP program in place, but modifying it so it lends value to events.
- The plan is to re-write what is on the website and update the national registry of IPs which can be used as a resource for events.
- Not all Lead Pilots are capable of being Instructor Pilots
- Organizers of clinic events should reach out to Check Pilots (or designated IPs) and their Regional Directors to ensure that IPs are qualified
- A vetting process to determine who is qualified to be an IP is done by Check Pilots and Regional Directors but the Check Pilots will only be able to sign off on the IP in accordance with criteria to be posted on the website.

#### Membership/Change of Leadership

- Membership is at over 450 members;
- Selecting the new wave of leaders for the RPA will fall on the 3 National and 6 Regional Directors.
- Darrell thinks the organization would be better served if the new leaders are younger (under 55) in an effort reinvigorate the RPA, increase members and engage them.
- Need to send an ECOM to the members looking for thoughtful input on the new officers, which include President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

#### Formation Manual

- Is being reviewed with the thought of reorganizing some of the information
- Concentrate the most basic and essential materials in the early chapters and require every event participant be familiar with that content
- The Check Pilots are taking the lead role in reorganizing the presentation of materials

#### Miscellaneous Items:

- Winter 2009 Red Alert issue should be out before Christmas;
- Need more input for Red Alert (articles, photos, etc.)
- Darrell encourages directors to look with their regions for new/previous members....we all need to be recruiters.
- Think about sponsorship opportunities

Meeting concluded approximately 5:20 PM.  
Minutes taken by Geri Stewart