



January 2024 Edition

President's Corner: Gordon Collyer



Welcome to the first CMB Newsletter.

I joined CMB in 2012, there could have been an earlier newsletter, but at any rate this is a first for the “modern era”!

Last year had its share of changes and challenges. We did successfully resolve the county’s abandonment of turf care at the field, facilitated by donations of both cash and labor from the membership. The field is in good shape and should continue to improve for this year. Residual funds from the field “go-fund-me” campaign are expected to cover most of the turf care this year. In addition, Jay Zompanti has submitted an AMA grant request that may significantly contribute towards field maintenance.

Thanks to Nic’s dogged stewardship and headquarters’ efforts with the FAA, we were finally granted our FRIA request in the fall of last year. If you followed this process in any way, you saw the thrashing about as the FAA sorted out the FRIA process. The uncertainty moving forward now revolves around how, and if, the FAA will consider higher FRIA altitudes for uncontrolled airspace (CMB is class G uncontrolled to 700 feet) and TBD impacts of any UAV provisions contained in FAA reauthorization legislation now expected in March.

I experimented last year with a “Second Saturday” Buddy Box program to encourage interested public to visit when we would have buddy-box and instructor resources available for introductory flying. One of the Club Buddy Box Saturdays we did have a significant turn-out, most importantly including the Stevensburg area County Supervisor who got some buddy-box time. However, that weekend was the exception and no new members have resulted from the program.

Our security concerns for the field were addressed by the county. We spoke to the county’s Parks and Recreation Advisory committee about the continued vandalism at the field, the high-speed traffic on the creek road, and the questionable commercial activities at the end of the road. We had hoped for some cameras on the road and possibly a gate/fence at the front of our driveway. By the time the rest of county government weighed in, we got the “always locked gate” at the front of the park. There is some good, some bad with this solution. While it has decreased issues in the park, and makes the field more secure, it also makes public access to the field more difficult and may reduce opportunities for increasing local membership if we don’t rise to some innovative solution to encourage visitation.

For the upcoming year I hope we can now focus on some long-desired upgrades at the field. Ideas range from a 12V power system in the shed to cellular based weather and video system to facilitate travel decisions before coming out to fly. On the list also are more storage and an upgraded Port-a-Potty. I will be assembling a list and asking the Board to evaluate when, how and if such things might be undertaken. Input and ideas are solicited. As feasibility etc. are considered we will likely see that some projects need to be addressed over

multiple years, but I am hopeful we can build a list and a plan for accomplishing some improvements at the field.

We will again be encouraging more participation for mowing. Last year we experimented with shifting mowing days and times. Several of the members also contributed by bringing their own zero-turn mowers out to mow. While clearly not everyone, me included, cannot trailer out mowers to the field, these folks did bring relief to the “regulars”. The speed of these mowers did not escape notice and with more security at the field, acquisition of a zero-turn mower to make the mowing task easier could also be on the list for upgrades, as of course the budget might allow.

At the annual meeting there was a consensus that the dues (unchanged since the club’s inception) are overdue (yes a pun) for consideration of an increase. I will also be asking the Board to consider this issue for implementation in 2025 as we see how our expenses, grants, membership etc. pan out for the start of this year.

I would also solicit your idea for events and programs for the coming flying season. It has been a while since we’ve had a cook-out and a fun-fly day perhaps coupled with a community open house might be in order.

Finally, I will continue to look for ways to expand local membership and interest in the club, as community relevance is a policy being encouraged by our landlord, the Parks and Recreation Department.

I hope the best for you and yours this year. With domestic and overseas unrest carrying over from last year, a few quiet hours among friends at the flying field has become exceedingly valuable. I hope to see many of you at the field again this year. When we are out flying, let’s continue to do a good job of leaving all that other stuff

“out-there”.....beyond the line-of-sight. *Gordon*

President’s Pilot Box: Gordon Collyer

- See Above.

Vice President’s Pilot Box: Jay Zompanti



And the Weather People said
“It would have 30 inches of Snow!”

As we move forward into 2024 we are approaching this year with a new approach to field maintenance.

This year we will not rely on Sign-up Genius and the week-to-week volunteer process. Nic has designed a spreadsheet for us to use that spans the entire season.

This year we have zero-turn owners covering a good portion of the mowing and the balance will be done with either personal mowers or club mowers. Using zero-turn mowers makes a huge difference in the cut.

We have a new Field Marshal Committee, aka Field Site Committee, in place for maintenance, safety and any needs to be addressed throughout the flying season. This committee will meet formally on the same dates as the quarterly membership meetings throughout the year.

All members have input into what happens at the club. Remember, any member in good standing has a voice. That said, if needed, here I am: jay.zompanti@gmail.com. Feel free to reach out with any suggestions,

comments or complaints and I will do what I can to assist. *Jay Z*

Secretary's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

Happy and Safe New Year to all and your loved ones.

As you can see from the banner at the top, the Culpeper Model Barnstormers' (CMB) flying site at Lenn Model Airpark is an FAA Recognized Identification Area (FRIA).

This designation satisfies the remote ID requirement for anyone flying at our club's site after 16 September 2023. Our FRIA will be in effect until 12 October 2027. At/or before this point AMA will request a renewal from the FAA for our location; once the FAA renewal guidelines have been established.

If you would like to see where all the FAA approved FRIAs are located, utilize this link:

<https://www.friamap.com/?fbclid=IwAR2ykt9qzx4gwNjTrBU2-2UN56zNEfFejVdDQ1P6DUoTQuLkKbFt7XkT4S8> then click on the overall map and you can zoom into any area of your interest, including CMB.

The AMA will not be enforcing their Remote ID (RID) requirements for those flying outside FRIA designated areas until 16 March this year. At which point, you will need to be flying an aircraft either with an RID module already installed by its manufacturer (Standard mode) or a separately purchased RID module installed by you in your aircraft (Broadcast mode). If you purchase a RID module, you can use it in all your aircraft that do not have a module imbedded by its manufacturer.

If/when you purchase a RID module, you will need to go to FAA's Drone Zone website

<https://faadronezone-access.faa.gov/#/> (where you got/renewed you FAA registration number) and register your RID module.

The 2024 AMA charter renewal and site insurance process has been completed.

The initial 2024 Club Calendar has been published on the Club website. Some of the dates and locations have not been confirmed as of yet. Please note that there will be two 5K runs in the park this year where Lenn park will be closed to all except the runners until noon of each run.

The initial 2024 Lenn Model Airpark mowing schedule has published on the Club Website. Thank you to those who have volunteered to mow this year.

Below is the list of the CMB Club officers, their respective positions, and their phone numbers.

With the new gate at Lenn Park and its restrictions, if you have not already received the entrance code, call either the President, Vice President, or Secretary for the code. Remember that after you unlock and enter the park that you need to relock the gate behind you. If you have a guest entering with you, you cannot leave the park until they have departed with you. When you depart the park, unlock the gate to exit and relock the gate behind you. If non-club vehicles want to enter when you do, we are not allowed to let non-club member cars into the park. They must park in the area near the gate and walk in. This is the P&R gate rule we must to follow.

CMB 2023 memberships have expired and those who have not renewed their memberships are not allowed to fly at Lenn Model Airpark until it is renewed for 2024. The regular annual CMB membership renewal process will remain underway until applications postmarked 31 January 2024. If your 2024 CMB membership renewal package is not postmarked as of 31 January 2024, you are required by the Club's Bylaws to add an additional \$40.00 to your renewal (regular and senior members).

At this point, two members, Terry Edwards (getting out of the hobby) and Jim Woodward (moving to another club) have chosen not to renew their CMB memberships.

As has been noted, the Club put a lot effort into rejuvenating the runway last season. In recognition of the entire team, a plaque has been positioned on the Club's shelter:



Thank You

To All CMB members, this is your Newsletter. The “*CMB Tips and Projects Jar*” and “*From the Field*” sections are for your inputs for the edification, enjoyment, and potential feedback from your fellow CMB members. Publishing input deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Take the time to help us all enjoy our hobby to the fullest. *Nic*

Treasurer’s Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

Happy and Safe New Year to all and your love ones.

The 2024 AMA Charter and Insurance fees have been paid.

The 2024 Culpeper STEM and Airfest week Sanction and Insurance fees have been paid.

As of 8 January the CMB Club has 51 members. Of these, 39 have renewed and 19 are awaiting renewal package processing.

The 19 remaining renewals represent \$475.00 in dues.

The Club’s General Fund has \$4,321.65.

The Runway Repair Fund has \$861.16.

This gives the Club a potential of \$5,618.81 to work with this year.

Now that we have an approximate handle on or new runway maintenance costs, and assuming that all current members will renew for 2025, we should end up 2024 at about \$400.00 less that we started this year. Therefore, we have started eating into our capital cushion

As noted by the President at the Annual Club Membership Meeting, and approved by those present, the Board of Directors will be discussing and putting forward to the membership in September a revised membership dues schedule revision to the Club Bylaws for a vote prior to the November 2024 start of the 2025 Club Membership Renewal season. The scheduled 29 September membership meeting is one you should plan on attending. *Nic*

Safety Officer’s Pilot Box: Ernie Padgette

- No Specific items this Month.

Field Marshal’s Pilot Box: Jay Zompanti

As the 2023 flying season began we at CMB found ourselves facing a flying field that had been deteriorating for the past couple of years. This was mostly due to flooding and the county's discontinuation of their weed and feed maintenance.

Faced with the overgrowth of weeds of various species, but predominately clover and dandelions, we decided to take action. More on this later.

We as a club needed direction to proceed in a way that would be beneficial without a lot of cost. That's the trick, right? Keep costs down because you have little income and at the same time maximize results. We sought out that direction and came up with a plan.

Where to start?

Drainage. As you know we sit in a flood zone, but I guess when the land is pretty much given to you to use, you can't complain too much. So, how do we make it better with little funding?

The first step we initiated was to bring in some heavy equipment, reshape the west side swale, and create another on the lower east side. The east side project turned out to be more or less a long-running ditch from the runway to the road, finding its way behind the outhouse and just nudging the farmer's land. Choices were limited as we could not go under the road. The field drains much better and quicker in the summer months when the heat is on our side. Drainage in the cooler months is improved, but still challenging. The field drains off quicker than before creating a small pond behind the outhouse due to the incline as the ditch moves towards the road. I'm thinking of stocking it. I hope we don't attract geese this coming year.

All joking aside, all in all, this was a big improvement. We may need to revisit it over time as rain and the natural flow of things will gradually fill the area back in, or at a minimum, reduce the effectiveness. When the time comes, we will reshape it.

As we go forward through the winter months it will be interesting to see what we end up with this coming March / April. We had a very dry summer here in Culpeper this past season. It seemed as though we were in some kind of pocket where the rain continued to miss this area. If the winter turns out to be as predicted we could end up with a lot of moisture creating a lot of runoff. It's wait-and-see.

As we look towards the 2024 season, we are committed to continuing our restoration and enhancement of the CMB field in many ways. Moving water is only one. Although we can't promise we will not have floods, puddles, and squishy areas at times, we can promise we will be doing everything in our power and budget to make your flying experience the best it can be.

Stay tuned – More to come in upcoming newsletters. *Jay Z*

Member at Large/Field Site Committee Pilot Box: Jay Langley

- No specific items this Month.

Member at Large/Field Site Committee Pilot Box: Bill Pratt

- No specific items this Month.

Member at Large/Field Site Committee Pilot Box: Bill Towne

- No specific items this Month.

Web Master's Pilot Box: Dick Sutton

As many of you have noticed by now, CMB has a Newsletter! Since this is the first newsletter, I wanted to direct your attention to the Newsletter section on the website. You will notice that the page lists the one and only newsletter so far: January's. As the year progresses, every month there will be a new newsletter. When next year arrives, 2025, you will notice that the 2025 newsletters will start over in the left-hand column and last year's newsletters are available in the archives.

You will notice that there are two buttons below the Archive, the bottom button "View 2024" will always bring back a list of the current year's newsletters, while the second from the bottom "View 2023" will always bring back last year's newsletters. Initially, there are no 2023 newsletters, so naturally that list will be empty. Eventually, when we have accumulated 3 or more years of newsletters, the Newsletter Archives area will become useful. Here you can select a desired year of newsletters and have that year fetched into the left-hand column for your viewing pleasure. You can always return to the current year or last year newsletters via the two buttons provided.

If you are interested in seeing this feature in action, mosey on over to the FARM Club website (<http://farmclubrc.com>) and play around with the Newsletter feature along with 25 years of newsletters. Here's hoping you all have a Happy New Year and enjoy your newsletters. Also, if you have any questions/concerns about the website just send me an email and let me know. *Dick*

“CMB Tips and Projects Jar”: All CMB Members
 Bill Towne:



Happy New Year one and all!
 Weather has been challenging with lots of rain and wind this month I haven't been flying since before Christmas. I had a house full this Christmas holiday with my three kids, spouses and six grand kids! This picture shows me assembling a Guillow's Foker triplane kit in the kitchen. My basement hanger ping pong building table had to be cleared off so Lionel trains could be set up as required by the grand kids!

Member “From the Field” Input Box:
 - No Items this Month.

CMB CLUB 2024 OFFICERS		
President	Gordon Collyer	540-547-4117
Vice President	Jay Zompanti	978-804-8660
Secretary	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Treasurer	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Safety Officer	Ernie Padgette	540-439-6085
Field Marshall	Jay Zompanti	978-804-8660
Member at Large.	Jay Langley	540-905-5833
Member at Large.	Bill Pratt	703-472-5304
Member at Large.	Bill Towne	540-428-1053

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 Publishing input deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please forward all inputs to:
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