

The Aerogramme

Official Publication of the NorthEastern Drone Society

February 1, 2018
AMA Club #187



Officers:

President:
Rich Pierce

Vice President:
Greg Watson

Secretary:
Bill Tripp

Treasurer:
Tina Pierce

Instructors:

Aero/Glider
Bill G 860.429.1046

Ron V 860.205.3277

Aero/Heli/Multirotor
Greg W 860.508.2394

Rich P 860.614.3915

Aero
Matt D 860.228.2059

Introductory Pilots:

Rich P
Ron V

Field Marshals:

Don M
Ray B

Its been a tough winter so far. Theres not much

January Minutes

1/12/2018 7pm Mansfield Library

New Members

Tina Pierce, new NEDS member AND new club treasurer, was introduced to the club. The club thanks her for her willingness step forward and generously volunteer her time. She has assured everyone that she had no interest in attempting to fly.

Old Business

- Club members who donated food and/or raffle items to the December meeting were thanked. Everybody agreed the Christmas Party was a great success. The club even came out a bit ahead on the raffle.
- The "Frozen Finger" fly at Coventry on Jan 1 was discussed. The brutal cold (-4F!!) brought out only 10 or so club members and not many of those opted to try flying. Winds whipped up after 10am to make flying even more challenging.
- Rich P read an email he received from Bill T RE a phone call Bill received from DEEP. In short, Army Corp of Engineers, who ultimately owns the Mansfield site are troubled by two issues: 1) The word "Drone" in the club's name 2) Access to the site in terms of "National Security" (IE it's a dam). There are two separate applications for the club's usage for the site: regular day-today use; Special Float fly events. Issue #1 could affect both applications, Issue #2 could affect only the day-today use. In other words, if we don't address the name issue we will jeopardize both applications, but even if we do change the name, we could lose the day-today usage of the site for reasons beyond our control (IE the very nature of our hobby). The DEEP officer offered a suggestion that the club form a new non-profit with the state with a different name and use that to re-apply at Mansfield only. The club discussed the ramifications of this suggestion Vs. the idea of just changing the club name. Many questions were raised: A new non-profit entity might satisfy the permit application process, but what would it mean for AMA? Do we need to link the two entities? Can one non-profit own another non-profit? Just how difficult is it to change the club's name anyway? If we did that how could we avoid the pitfalls of the last name change attempt? Rich P ultimately opted the club to wait to see if the applications were in fact denied and to go forth from there. A motion was raised that if the permits were denied, the club board both choose a new club name and then move forth to change the club's name. This motion passed with a vote of 16 for, 4 against and 1 abstaining.

New Business

- Rich L shared an announcement of an upcoming presentation regarding drones and their use in tracking invasive species on Saturday 1/13.
- The annual club Swap Meet has been designated for the March meeting.
- The annual Build Contest has been selected for the May meeting.
- It was pointed out that there were a number of forms on the website that require updating for the new year, particularly the membership form. Bill T made note of this and agreed to address the situation.
- New membership cards will be printed and available for 2018 members at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 7:51pm

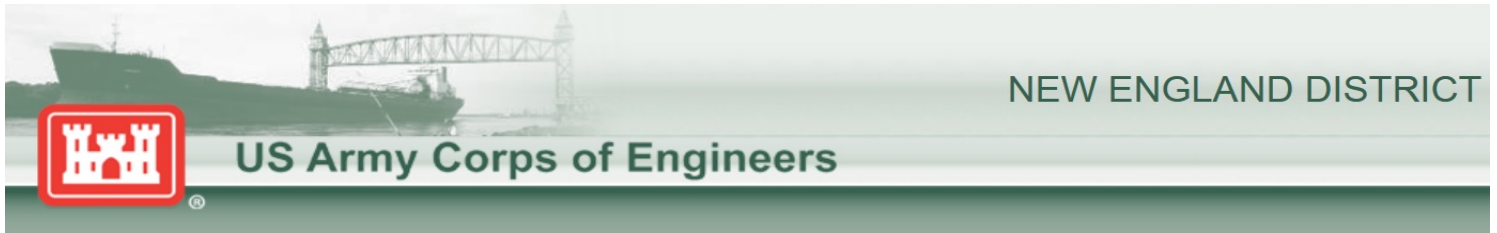
Raffle: 3 cell 25c Pulse 2200ma battery – won by Calvin G

wdt-002

Place
Stamp
Here

Bill Tripp
88 Pine Hill Rd.
Tolland, CT 06084

www.flynedsrc.org



Due to all the discussion of Army Corps of Engineers and the Mansfield Hollow Dam, I decided to do some investigation. The first thing I discovered is ACoE has a truly incredible website broken down by region. MHD is under the jurisdiction of the ACoE North Atlantic Division which has its own website that illustrates not only the MHD, but all flood control sites in New England. The dam is a part of a larger system collectively called the Thames River Basin. The dam was built between 1949 and 1952 at a cost of \$6.5 million and they estimate that it has prevented \$108 million in damage over its life. The dam itself is 14,050 ft long and 68 ft high. The site also include 6 dikes totaling another 2656 ft.

The resulting lake (upon which we fly) is 450 acres and has a maximum depth of 16.5 ft. It is a habitat for many species of fish including Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Chain Pickerel, American Eel, Rainbow, Brook and Brown Trout and Northern Pike.

The ACoE owns 2,472 acres at the site and leases about 2,300 of it to DEEP for recreational use. They also claim the site has evidence of habitation of the Nipmuk Indian Tribe, a people who lived in the pre-2.4gHZ era. People from this forgotten time had to perform an ancient ritual of displaying flags on their transmitters and placing pegs (there is evidence that even clothespins were used!) on a board to declare their frequency. It's amazing to wonder how people survived before modern technology!

All joking aside, the following websites are well worth visiting:

Main Site: <http://www.usace.army.mil/>

North Atlantic Division: <http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/>

Mansfield Hollow: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Mansfield-Hollow-Lake/>