



## President's Message - A New Normal



While the warmer weather we have been enjoying lately is encouraging, it looks like we will be dealing with COVID restrictions for the rest of the summer. With the city currently in a 28 day lockdown, the impact on the club is that we have to go back to a limit of 5 pilots at the field in any given time slot. Last year we were only able to open the field on June 7<sup>th</sup> so perhaps we should count ourselves lucky that we are open.

We cannot let our guard down when we are at the field. Masks should be worn if you are within 6' of anyone at anytime, even outdoors. And we also recommend you bring hand sanitizer and use it especially if you are touching surfaces in the shelter and charging station. We do not want a member to become infected at the field as this would result in everyone at the field at that time getting tested and having to isolate for 14 days. Among other things it would mean missing 2 weeks of flying!

This edition of the Flyer contains important information on new LIPO and fire safety guidelines and reminders about other procedures you must follow to fly at our club. So please, let's everyone set a good example and at the same time help each other stay compliant with the guidelines that are designed to keep everyone safe. Thanks for your cooperation.

... Tom Gottlieb, President

## LIPO Disposal and Fire Safety

There has been a lot of concern and discussion at the field lately about the risk of fire caused by damaged or puffy LIPO batteries. This has prompted the executive to review club guidelines and safety protocols and make some needed changes. Please review the following carefully make these procedures part of your daily routine.

### When you are at home:

- 1) Inspect your LIPOs regularly and do not use any battery that is puffed out or damaged. Damaged LIPOs could explode and cause a fire at any time.
- 2) Store your LIPOs in fireproof LIPO bags or metal Ammo containers and preferably not inside your house. If you use an Ammo container, remove the rubber seal to allow venting and avoid pressure buildup inside the container.
- 3) Use only the correct charging amperage rated for the LIPO battery. Overcharging can cause a fire.

### When you are at the field:

- 4) Make sure the charging station box is open or open it when you arrive at the field. The box now contains a fire extinguisher and first aid kit for your emergency use but it's no good to you if it is locked when an accident happens.



- 5) We will soon be placing sand bags along the fence near the pilot stations. Use sand to douse any battery related fire.
- 6) Inspect LIPOs after a crash for any damage. Do not use damaged LIPOs.
- 7) Move any smoking or burning LIPO to a safe open area as soon as possible.
- 8) Use the fire extinguisher and sand from the sand bags to douse and contain any fire.
- 9) Call 911 if you cannot contain the fire.

## LIPO Disposal Tips

We have found a number of discarded LIPOs at the field around the shed and near the gate this spring!! **IT IS NEVER OK TO DISPOSE OF A LIPO BATTERY ANYWHERE AT THE FIELD UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** This would just be inviting a future fire event to happen.



### How to dispose of a bad LIPO pack:

- a) Discharge the battery on your charger - but this will usually only achieve 3v per cell.
- b) Drain the remaining charge by any means possible. Some methods include leaving power on in your plane for a few days, connecting to an 12v automotive light bulb for 48 hours, or immersing in salt water for a week - whatever works for you. The Internet and YouTube will give you lots of advice.
- c) Optional: Once you are sure you have ZERO voltage across the pack, cut the power leads off, strip the insulation and twist the positive and negative leads together.
- d) Drop off the battery in the recycling box at any of the following big box stores: Home Hardware, Lowes, Rona, Home Depot, Canadian Tire, Staples, Best Buy. They all use Call2Recycle as their battery recycle provider. Google any of these names with "battery recycling" for more information.





### Student Instruction Program ... Managed by WhatsApp



Our student WhatsApp group is very active and now has over 30 members! Chief Flight Instructor **Randall Thomas** posts what is going on at the field, what the weather is like, when instruction can happen and when he is able to attend. Other instructors weigh in and students are able to post comments and pictures on their progress. "It's a great way for students to connect with instructors in real time" says instructor **Zoltan Pittner**. This group is a great way to keep up with the club, even if you are a cleared pilot. If you want to join, drop Randall a note and he will invite you. See you there.



### WhatsApp

**Note:** With the current restrictions in place due to the pandemic, Randall tries to schedule student training to fully maximize time slots. This may result in short notice for training so monitor the WhatsApp group for last minute updates.




### Field Booking Reminder

- 1) Book your time slot using the online booking system before coming to the field.
- 2) Book no more than 2 slots at a time.
- 3) Do not bring non-member guests to the field until further notice.

### Label Your New Airplanes This Spring!

Everyone should be aware that MAAC policy requires you to mount an identification label on all models. It can be on the inside or outside of the aircraft. You can use clear Scotch tape to laminate it on your airplane. You can make your own label or cut out the sample below. There is also a label sheet you can download and print in the Library tab of the club website.

Model Aeronautics Association of Canada (MAAC)  
[www.maac.ca](http://www.maac.ca) MAAC Office Phone: 1-855-359-6222



MAAC # \_\_\_\_\_

If found, please call:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Number

### Don't Forget to...

- 1) Always do a range check.
- 2) Hang your member card on the frequency board.
- 3) Set your failsafe surfaces to neutral in your receiver.
- 4) Check circuit direction and enjoy your flight.



### New Signs and Fencing Coming

We are actively working on installing new fencing and signs around the gate area and along the roadway north of the field to warn hikers and dog walkers and advise them to stay clear of the field.



### What should you do?

If you see spectators entering the field area or walking across the field, here is what you should do:

- 1) Immediately inform any pilots that are flying of the danger and the location of people around the flight area. Pilots should fly cautiously and only land when the field is clear.
- 2) Notify an executive to take action requesting people to clear the area or ask spectators to leave yourself.

### Do we still have to keep the gate locked?



A number of members approached me recently asking if we must continue to keep the gate locked after we enter and exit the field. After reviewing the policy, the executive reached a strong consensus that we must continue to keep the gate locked. We cannot afford a

repeat of past incidents where uncontrolled vehicles are left in the lot unattended and we cannot account for people at the field while we are following City COVID guidelines. If another member is driving in behind you, or if you are leaving and another member is packing up and agrees to lock up shortly after you, that's fine. Otherwise, it only takes 2 minutes to be safe and protect our field permit.

### Remember to Scramble the Numbers!

**If you are the last person to leave, be sure to relock the First Aid Box and Gate locks and scramble the numbers after closing the shank. The lock is not fully locked and will open if you do not scramble the numbers!**

### Your 2021 Club Executive

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