

Aero Club Board Meeting Notes July 9, 2025

Attendees:

Steve Anderson
Maddie Cassidy
Colin Doyle
Gary Engler
Wade Nelson
Bryan Pearson
Heidi Schimnich
Paul Schwinghammer (*non-member observer*)
Reuben Wagenius
Alyssa Windorski
Nick Witte (*remote via phone*)

Introductions: Board members stated their names, aviation experience, and their history with the Aero Club.

Board members approved the written summary of the June 17, 2025 board meeting.

Badging authority discussion: To ease the workload on Steve, the board has nominated and approved Reuben to act as a second signatory for club members' airport access badge applications.

Discussion of safety threats and insurance coverage: Wade has determined that the insurance coverage of club assets is adequate, and in line with current market valuation. Reuben confirms that hangar area slip & fall coverage had lapsed, but a new policy has been bound. At meeting time, the club had not yet received a bill for the new policy.

Discussion of aircraft usage rates: Moving forward, all club members will be classified as Corporate Members, and the multi-tiered pricing system will be consolidated into a single rate for each airplane. Wade led a discussion regarding the current aircraft usage rates and how they compare to St. Cloud Aviation's rental rates. As a result of the discussion, the board has chosen to adopt a new usage rate of \$100/hour for the Cessna 152 (N46308) and \$140/hour for the Cessna 172R (N3517V.) After an interim period, the board may revisit the pricing structure.

Renumeration for officers: Steve led a discussion regarding discounted usage rates available to board members. Historically, the club's bylaws allowed for certain board members to utilize the club aircraft at a rate not less than 75% of the normal hourly rate, with the discounted usage rates capped at two hours per month and six hours per quarter. The board determined that structure to be appropriate. Board members eligible for renumeration include President, Vice President, Operations Officer, Secretary, and Treasurer. When new club bylaws are drafted, they may include a provision for other persons performing work on behalf of the club to receive renumeration.

Rainy day fund: Wade expressed a desire to diversify the club's investment portfolio, and to have other board member(s) named on the investment account. Currently, Alan Anderson and Steve Anderson have access to the fund. This will be an ongoing project.

Club bylaws: The board wishes to review the existing club bylaws, simplify and streamline the language therein, and codify the new membership structure. Volunteers are needed to help Wade perform these changes.

Annual dues: A brief discussion took place concerning the start of the club's fiscal year beginning July 1, and noting that members who had not yet paid their \$40 annual dues may be restricted from booking club aircraft on Flight Schedule Pro. Ensuring it has a roster of dues-paying members in good standing is one way a flying club differentiates itself from a flight school or aircraft rental business.

Flight instruction: Heidi Schimnich expressed interest in becoming an approved flight instructor utilizing club aircraft. Board members discussed the club's current working relationship with St. Cloud Aviation's roster of instructors, and possible experience and insurance requirements for independent instructors who wish to utilize club aircraft to instruct club members.

Cloud sharing: An effort will be made to place relevant club documents into a Google Drive or similar repository where they can be accessed by board members.

The next board meeting will take place on August 19, 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Aero Club hangar, immediately preceding the monthly meeting of EAA Chapter 551.