



STETSON FLYERS



Minutes of May 15, 2026, Club Meeting Meeting held at Stetson Field, 5800 Frontier Road, Vars, Ottawa

1. John Weekes (Stetson President) chaired and called the meeting to order at 10:15am.
2. Twenty-six club members attended the club meeting.
3. **Motion to approve the Previous Minutes of February 26, 2026:** Were not circulated so will be reviewed and accepted at the next meeting.
Not Moved
No Motion
4. **New members:** There were no new members present at the meeting.
5. **Membership Report: (Andy Leu):**
 - a. The club has had about 98 renewals to date which is normal for this time of year.
6. **Webmaster Report: (Gary Puppa):**
 - a. The main server website upgrade is done including security updates.
 - b. Facebook membership has increased from approximately 350 last year to over 400 members.
 - c. The website has had 280 Canadian visits, 794 from US and 3000 from Vietnam.
 - d. The popular website pages are registration, events, and flight training.
 - e. Gary noted he is still uploading Stetsons archival material.
7. **Field Coordinator Report: (Charlie Colwell):**
 - a. Todays cleanup has the field ready for summer use. Lock the gate when leaving.
 - b. Thanks to Charlie and the volunteers for making the cleanup a success.
8. **CFI Report: (Nigel Chippindale):**
 - a. Flight school started Tuesday May 5th.
 - b. The school is starting with 3 to 4 students and 7 instructors this season.
 - c. The instructors & Nigel are looking at the possibility of opening flight school up to current members who may wish to brush up on their skills such as aerobatics etc.
9. **Events Report: (Jeff Nidd):**
 - a. The next event is the Ed Rae Fun Fly scheduled for 9am June 6, 2026.
10. **Monthly Financial Report: (Andy Leu):**
 - a. Andy noted that expenses are on track. Most major costs have been prepaid (all summer lawnmowing \$4,300) with only the outhouse cleaning costs to be paid.
 - b. The snow clearing contractor did a great job and invoiced \$1,000 for 23 clearings. The executive determined to pay an additional \$500 to ensure that the contractor did not lose money and would be minded to snow clear for us next hear.

11. New Business:

A) Stetson's 50th Anniversary & Zone G fun Fly (Carried from previous meeting)

The 50th anniversary fun fly is still planned to be celebrated in style by hosting the Zone G fun fly in 2026. Please consider volunteering for the organizing committee by contacting John Weekes or Jeff Nidd directly.

B) Flying Field Status Update

- a) John Weekes provided an update of recent City of Ottawa interactions regarding the status of our flying field lease. The current lease expires Jan 20, 2027.
- b) There have been some exchanges of emails between John and the City Staff that have been somewhat encouraging.
- c) City staff will be visiting the flying field to do an informal reconnaissance Friday May 22nd, 2026. John noted that the flying field will be closed that day. John and Charlie will be present for the City staff visit to represent the club.
- d) Jeff Nidd reminded all that John Weekes (President) is the point of contact, and is to speak for the club in all matters related to the field city interactions.
- e) Please do not respond to any media requests and refrain from commenting on-line including Stetson Facebook. We are trying to demonstrate that we are a low maintenance tenant that they would be happy to extend our lease.
- f) Hal suggested that the executive develop a bugout plan, should we not find a field in time, that a plan be made to store club assets on a temporary basis.
- g) Requirements for Field Search are to be codified such as:
 - a. Must pass an RPAS site Survey
 - b. Verify the site would permit our club use
 - c. Approximate area of 13 acres (area of current site)
 - d. No residential housing near by.
 - e. Confirm that the proposed site accommodate larger model aircraft

C) Finding a Replacement Field - Field Search (John Weekes)

John Weekes noted that the executive is waiting to better understand the City's position. The following is a precis carried forward from the previous minutes:

- a) Field search will take time needing help from all members to find a field with suitable zoning and neighbours. Liaise with the executive with ideas prior to taking action (Core Executive: John Weekes, Andy Leu, Jeff Nidd & Jon Harper.
- b) Taggart & Tomlinson etc with large land holdings would be approached.
- c) Real Estate agent Bob Andrews may have land options.
- d) The land owner of the farmers field to the East of the field might be an option.
- e) The brickyard located toward Russell was previously an option.
- f) The Executive will reach out to the MAAC field search committee to see if they have some ideas, strategies, or advice on how to proceed.

12. Next Meeting: the next meeting will be scheduled for early fall (Sept or Oct 2026) at Pat Clark Community Centre, 4355 Halmont Drive.

Motion to adjourn: Moved by Hal MacDonald and seconded by Andy Leu.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting close: 11:00am.

Chaired By: John Weekes (MAAC 9358L, CD, DZD), (President, Stetson Flyers)

Prepared By: Jon Harper (MAAC 17919), (Secretary, Stetson Flyers)