**From the Oval Office**

Newsletter of the Inland Soaring Society

 Okay, if you are reading this email, it means that you are a current member of the club and we have a good email address to use when sending out the newsletter. It’s not that we haven’t written one. We simply did not have quite all the tools we needed to start sending out the newsletter each month by email address. So, this email is being sent by email and is copied to the website of the ISS. Thanks for your patience!

 Okay, here is my first presidential decree upon the club. There has been virtually zero talk about any changes to the officers of the club. To me, this means that not only are the club members satisfied with the current cabinet who preside over the membership, but also that the officers who are in place are not worried about retaining their positions within the club. I therefore decree by Presidential authority that the current cabinet members of the club, including the office of the president, shall be retained in office for the period of 1 January 2018 through 31 December 2018. Note that this doesn’t have any effect upon the current President….really? Yes, really. You guys actually voted to retain me as the president for life! Believe me, it’s more of a curse than an honor. The good thing is that I enjoy being a part of the club and sharing the sport with others.

 The ISS is unique in that we have the support of the City Parks & Recreation Department who provide us with the flying field. And we are unique in that we host three distinct sectors of the RC flight on a single field. We host sport electric models as well as First Person View (FPV) drone flight, and of course, Sailplanes. And we make it work by stressing fun, sharing of technology and the miracle of flight. I bring up these points of interest often because the ISS seems to be leading the way on how to host all three segments without a problem. The secret? There is no secret; just the desire to share a common interest and a respect for each person. With that in mind I wish our members a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year from your club president.

# The AMA Show

Coming to you on January 5, 6, and 7 is the annual AMA R/C Expo West at the Ontario Convention Center. This show is the largest show on the western edge of the country and a place to see and purchase the latest in technology, equipment, materials, model aircraft of all types, building supplies, adhesives, tools, just tons of hobby related goods that you may not get a chance to purchase at a later date. And you will probably bump into a few old friends you haven’t seen for awhile. There is usually a very well attended swap meet, plus product demos and more, so plan on making it a date. See you there!

# Safety Message

 There is a lot to be said about one of the best features of the Spektrum line of radio systems. I’m talking about Model Match, which is a binding method that allows the receiver side of the radio system to operate only when the correct model set-up from the transmitter is being used. It prevents the possibility of the pilot setting up the wrong plane from the transmitter I have witnessed pilots with multiple planes on the deck fly their primary plane without a problem, land, switch to another plane and then attempt to fly the new plane. The result of my most recent observation of that attempt resulted in the first plane leaping off of the table the plane was sitting on while the second plane was rolling on take-off, at the same time. The first plane immediately crashed into a parked car and then began beating itself to death with a broken prop, and the second plane lifted off to fly but then suddenly dove into the ground as the pilot tried to stop the first plane from doing anymore damage. The result was pretty much total destruction of both planes and a very disappointed pilot. (but, it was funny!)

There is a very common incident that occurs with electric models, and that is to accidentally bump the throttle stick while on the ground and before you are ready. The best way to prevent this from occurring is to use the throttle lock feature of the radio. This is a normal feature for the Spektrum brand and several others, but not universally provided across all brands and all models of the product line. Using this feature, you will prevent 98% of all “propeller versus fingers” incidents from occurring and it will become a regular safety check item for the experienced pilot.

If your radio does not have a throttle lock feature, you can create this feature by using the mixing feature of the radio. Take any of the servo channels not being used by the plane, preferably a channel that uses a switch and set the mix such that when you select the throttle lock, you hit the switch and causes the throttle channel to go to the extreme signal position causing no power signal to be sent. In the normal position, the mix is simply removed and there is no mixing from the switch. Unfortunately, each brand of radio is different and so I cannot provide a “how-to” article that will work for each brand and each model of transmitter. But, do check it out and give it a try. It will make you a lot safer.

# Finally….

Okay, so the season is upon us and we will be seeing some new faces at the field as some lucky pilots bring out their latest and greatest models and equipment. And, no doubt, we will have some new student pilots coming over,they are all welcome and invited to fly! I hope that this newsletter finds you in great spirits (not the alcohol type), with family and friends. Pray and give thought to those who have suffered, that their lives may heal from the wounds of the unspeakable, and devastation of nature. We that are blessed by our hobby should think twice of our good fortune, and give thanks. Be good humans.