**YOLO COUNTY SHERIFF’S AREO SQUADRON**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 25, 2014**

Meeting was called to order by Commander Shannon Newbold at 19:30 hours.

**Visitors:** Carlo Stamaria (3), Rebecca Hendricks (1), and YONET Representatives Deputy Gary Richter & Deputy Chris Lara.

**Executive Officer:** Executive Officer Keith Bakula reported that we currently have 20 members, with 1 new application in process and 1 application on “hold”.

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes of May 28, 2014 were previously distributed, and approved, without changes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Brett Dockter reported that as of May 31, 2014, there was $11,907.57 in the General Fund and $6,078.92 in the Special Ops Fund. Total “Net” Revenues for the Five Months Ended May 31, 2014 was a negative $487.67, whereas the Total Expenditures for the same period was $5,553.14, for a Net Loss for the Five Months of $6,040.81.

**Operations Officer’s Report:** Ops Officer Dave Goodhue reported that for May,

1. Flight Participation was 14,
2. Missions Flown were 14,
3. Hours Flown were 33.6 hours,
4. Hours Flown (YTD) were 132.9 hours,
5. Fuel Used was 226.41 gallons,
6. Fuel Average was 6.74 gallons,
7. Fuel Costs were $1,242.99.

**Liaison:** Sgt. Kurt Zeiler reported that the more information we can give YONET, the better. Even if YONET doesn’t answer us back, doesn’t mean they are using the information we provide. This coming Sunday (June 29th), “Rage on the River” will be taking place on the American River. Due to the draught, “Rage on the River” will probably be very close to where the American River joins the Sacramento River. Sgt. Zieler would like to see if we can cover the event that afternoon.

**Commander’s Report:** Commander Shannon Newbold introduced YONET Representatives Deputy Gary Richter and Deputy Chris Lara, who presented a sobering and informational program, highlighting the following:

1. Marijuana is Yolo County’s Number One Crop. It is grown both outdoors and indoors.
2. Meth Sales are Number Two and a huge problem, but it isn’t usually manufactured in the County, but rather brought in and sold.
3. The growing season for Marijuana was early this year, due to the lack of water. By late October, early November, the harvesting season should be over.
4. The majority of Marijuana is grown West of Highway 16 around Bear Creek and Cache Creek.
5. These growing fields house approximately 50,000 to 75,000 plants. Each plant produces 3 to 4 pounds, valued at $1,300 per pound, bring the value of the crop (OMG I just did the math) from about $225 million to $350 million.
6. The growing fields are Mexican Cartel based and their “employees” are told to shoot to kill. And they will do it, without batting an eye.
7. Deputy Richter doesn’t want us flying West of Highway 16, for two reasons:
   1. He doesn’t want us “spooking” them, and more importantly,
   2. He doesn’t want us shot at. At 1,000 feet, their guns can take us out.
8. Marijuana is also grown in amongst crops, back yards, etc. Richter suggested that we look for “planting patterns” rather than foliage. The holes are usually dug in symmetrical lines, and are easy to spot, although he has had 20 years’ experience.
9. Fish and Game offer a class, which teaches “identification techniques”. Commander Shannon is going to look into that for us.
10. Deputy Richter noted that with all the new laws regarding prescription medicine(s), it’s much more difficult for kids to get prescriptions so Heroin and Crack is on the rise.
11. Deputy Richter offered up his cell phone, if we see and/or hear anything (530) 638-9461.

Commander Shannon continued our meeting with noting, that:

1. On hot days, the engine runs hot and that we are not to take off with less than 6 quarts of oil.
2. If it gets too hot, clean up the airplane, increase its speed and climb (gently) to a cooler altitude.
3. The Annual is due during the last week in August and the plane will be down for probably about a week.
4. In order to get more patrols, Commander Shannon suggest the requesting to fly, is a two way street. If you are an observer and what to fly, reach out to the different pilots. If you are a pilot and want to fly, reach out to the different observers.
5. Also, if a request is put out there, either for a pilot or an observer, if you can’t go, say so, by responding in the negative.
6. While being pulled out of the hanger, the right elevator edge was banged up a little. Commander Shannon removed all the paint that had transferred, and what was left, was solely cosmetic. So, when pulling out the aircraft, follow the yellow line all the way to the intersecting yellow line.
7. Commander Shannon is soliciting Yolo County’s Gang Task Force, to see if they would be able to make a presentation to our group.
8. The pilot’s I Fly has been sent back to the manufacture for repairs. Looks like we are back to Sectionals (if you remember how to use them).

**AJOURNMENT**

The next General Board Meeting will be held at the Cameron Training Building, Sheriff’s Department, on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at 19:30 hours.

Meeting adjourned at 21:10 hours.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patrick Scribner, Secretary.