

## **CRM MOWING GUIDELINES:**

By Field Marshall, Paul F. Haley

### **Background :**

About March of each year, a mowing assignment list is generated from Coulee Region Modelers membership list. Each member is assigned a weekly slot in which to mow the airfield grass. This list is published annually (Website, Club newsletter, and posted on the information side of the frequency board) showing the club members name, phone, and the mowing assignment. The assigned week for individuals will vary each new year since the list is by random selection. Mowing of the airfield will begin the last week in April and continue until November, or the first frost.

A week is defined as starting on Sunday and ending seven (7) days later on Saturday. Club members have the responsibility to manage the flying field lawn during the assigned period. This means that the individual should mow as often as necessary to keep the field in good shape (twice a week is normal during peak growing times), may hire it done (Eric Mills, etc.) or can switch with another member. The point is that the assigned individual responsible to get the job done.

When your week is complete, please call the next individual on the list to give a status report. Any issues with the mower should be brought to the attention of our club maintenance officer (currently Craig Lassig) or Field Marshall (currently Paul Haley).

### **The Mower:**

The club mower is currently a Scotts (orange) rider, and is to be used exclusively by CRM. The John Deere (green) belongs to Al Bushek and is to be used only when the club mower is not available and only with permission from Al. The keys to enter the "club storage building and the Scott's tractor are one the same key ring. Contact Field Marshall for their location. Please make absolutely sure that the key ring is returned to the same spot when finished mowing.

The CRM mower should be used carefully to promote longevity. Care for it as though it were your own machine. Always check the engine oil before starting. Always clean the mower deck and mower when finished mowing (ramp located on fence line north of big red shed, the garden hose is located near the back entrance of renters home). Always leave the tractor full of gas for the next one on the list. The gasoline containers and their contents which are located in the shop do not belong to CRM, so do not use them for your mowing. **Bring your own fuel** (takes about 3-4 gallons) to mow the field each time and fill the tractor **OUTSIDE** the building. Again, leave the riding mower full of gas. When the next person is called, remind that person about bringing gas for the tractor/mower.

### **Starting:**

Follow the instructions on the mower placard. Depress brake pedal (on the LEFT), choke and advance throttle, turn key clockwise. Do not force the ignition switch. If the starter does not engage, it is more likely that one of the protective interlocks has been activated. You must be sitting on the seat, LEFT brake pedal depressed and the mower blades disengaged.

### **Cutting Grass:**

**Blade height settings:** Two mower blade heights are labeled, one for the pits and infield, the other for the main body of the airfield. Please set where indicated for each section. Disengage the blade when crossing the gravel road, or raise the blade height sufficiently when mowing along the roadway as to not pick up rocks. Even small gravel damages the blades making the grass blade ends ragged.