

Mowing Manual for BCRCFliers



Released 7-14-09
Marthaler

Instructions for Mowing the BCRCFliers Flying Field and Grounds

The following paragraphs contain instructions for mowing the BCRCFliers flying field and parking area with the club mowers. If you have any questions regarding these please feel free to contact Field Marshal Mike Marthaler.

Safety is a key objective of the BCRCFliers. Please use caution when operating the clubs mowing equipment.
PLEASE Review these instructions prior to your schedule week to mow.

The flying field grounds are mowed each week and a schedule of volunteer mowers is listed on the BCRCFliers website.
The weeks are listed beginning with Monday. However it is preferred that the field be mowed Thursday thru Saturday of the week you register for in order to maintain the best consistency in grass length.

If any club member wishes to register for one or more of the mowing days they should contact Field Marshal Mike Marthaler.

Mowers:



Club Rotary Mower



Club Reel Mower

The best time to mow the field is early afternoon when the grass is dry. This is especially true when using the reel mower. If you need to mow earlier in the day because of your schedule then pay particular attention to the reels on the reel mower. In wet grass they MAY stop spinning as the drive wheels slip. Also wet grass may build up between the reel blades and the cutter bar and not allow the blades to spin. If this happens try backing up for a short distance with the mower in order to loosen the grass. Then pull forward and watch to see if the reel begins to spin. If this doesn't help then SHUT OFF the tractor and dismount it. On the reel that is not spinning grasp one of the wheels (NOT THE REELS!!) and turn it by hand in a forward direction. This will exhaust any clogged grass. USE EXTREME CAUTION when doing this! Do not place your hands near the reels as they spin. Then continue to mow per the guidelines below.

The mowing of the BCRCFlers field can be divided into two main sections. The first section to be mowed consists of the runway proper and extends eastward from the East side of the pilot stations to the opposite side of the runway.

The second section to be mowed consists of the rest of the field grounds including the grass around the shelter, storage building, and flag pole.

We use two different types of mowers to mow the grass at BCRCF Field. All grass other than the runway is mowed with the Club Craftsman 22.5 HP rotary mower (or tractor). (Please refer to the appendix for tractor controls orientation)

This mower is currently stored in the large red metal barn at the entrance to the landfill near the convenience station (where the large trash compactors are located). The mower is located in the North East corner of the barn and can be accessed by entering the large sliding door on the East side of the Barn. (The East end of the barn is the end toward the recycling bins near the courtesy station.

To start the mower, depress the clutch / brake pedal located on the left side of the mower and turn the key. You may also want to move the throttle lever off the idle position. If the mower has not been running recently you will need to pull the choke lever out while turning the key. Once the engine starts and is running push the choke lever in all the way.

Release the brake and move the ground speed lever toward reverse. As you do this the tractor will begin to move rearward. For forward motion move the ground speed lever to the desired ground speed desired. Note that once the mower is outside of the barn the throttle speed lever should be moved to full throttle.

When mowing with the rotary mower the height setting of the mower deck should be set in between 4-6. To raise or lower the mower deck height pull the deck lift lever rearward while depressing the button on top of the lever. While holding the lever in the rearward position, turn the grass height knob either CW or CCW to adjust the cut height for the grass (deck height). Release the deck lift lever and look at the height of cut indicator to see what the grass height will be. Repeat as necessary until the desired number for grass height is reached.

The throttle lever should ALWAYS be set to full throttle when mowing in order to provide adequate cooling air to the engine and adequate splash oiling for the internal engine components.

Use the ground speed lever to select the tractors forward speed which provides the best grass cut depending on grass height and dryness. Generally taller grass will require a slower speed as will wet or damp grass.

To engage the mower blades push the blade engagement lever toward the front of the tractor and to the right at the top of the stroke to lock it in position. When dismounting the mower ALWAYS disengage the blades.

The field runway is mowed with the Clubs "Reel" mower.

Currently the reel mower is located under a tarp near the flagpole. At some point this summer we hope to relocate it to an area near the storage shed.

Prior to mowing the runway using the reel mower it is suggested to use the rotary mower to make one pass around the perimeter of the field with the grass exhaust blowing away from the runway and toward the longer grass of the landfill. This pass should be made at the lowest setting of the mower.

Please note that the reel mower is a finish cut mower and is the same type of mower used to maintain the grass on most golf courses around the country. As such it requires a slightly different mowing technique to ensure the runway is given the best possible cut the mower is capable of.

When preparing to use the reel mower back the tractor into position to allow the tongue of the reel mower to be attached via the hitch pin at the rear of the tractor. When using the reel mower the most important thing to be aware of is maintaining the proper ground speed. This mower will provide the best cut if ground speed of the tractor is no more than 4mph. This can best be described as a brisk walk.

To ensure the tractor ground speed is correct when preparing to use the reel mower pull the ground speed lever to the neutral position, then move the lever forward until you reach the first stop or indent on the right side of the tractor speed indicator panel. (See Illustration below)



Ground speed lever in Neutral

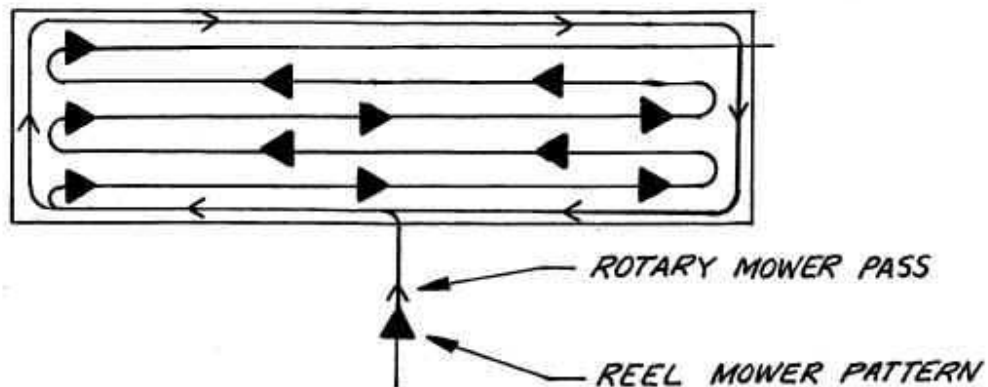


Ground speed lever location for reel mowing

This setting gives a ground speed of approximately 4mph. (Remember that the throttle lever needs to be set at full throttle or highest speed).

After making a perimeter pass with the rotary mower as mentioned above the reel mower can then be used beginning at one end of the field and making

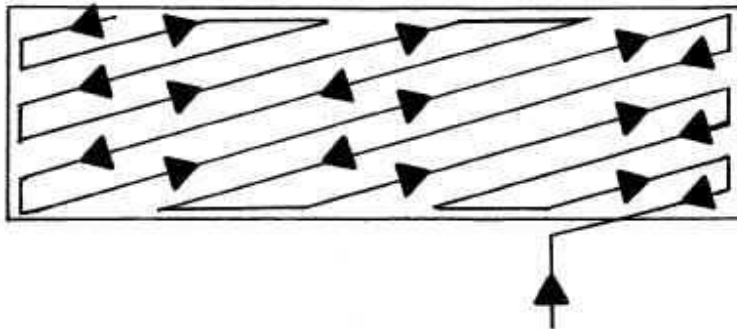
parallel passes in a serpentine pattern the length of the field until complete.



Remember the reel mower is capable of zero turn radii when making the serpentine pattern. Reduce speed when making zero turns by using the ground speed lever. Also note that the reel mower can be backed up if necessary with no damage to the mower components.

Excellent results can be obtained by making a second pass over the field in the opposite serpentine pattern used for the previous passes. Although this is optional it is preferred if your time permits.

For exceptional results and a true golf course look the field can be mowed in an "X" pattern, ie diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner of the runway. After the field is completely mowed repeat but mow in the opposite diagonal direction corner to corner. (See Figure Below)



This diagonal pattern should be used before any fly-ins held at the field.

Once the field is mowed completely the reel mower can be returned to its storage area. Please sweep as much of the grass clippings off the mower frame and from the reels as possible. USE CAUTION when sweeping around the reel blades, they are very sharp!

It is suggested that after every second mow the reel cutting edges be sprayed with WD-40 to inhibit rust formation. A can of this will be located in the new storage shed.

When completely finished with the reel mower please cover it with the tarp provided.

At this point the rotary mower can also be swept off. Try to remove as much grass as possible. Once this is completed return the mower to the red barn. Please refuel the mower when you return it to the barn so it is ready for the next person to use.

Our club suggests that if possible each volunteer bring a can of gas with them to refill the mower. It takes approximately 2.5 gallons of regular grade of gasoline to mow the field grounds. This gas can be donated to the club or if desired the club will reimburse the volunteer for the gas. If you wish to be reimbursed for the fuel please bring a receipt to the monthly club meeting and give it to the Secretary Treasurer Russ Kuhns.

The club also keeps 5 gallons of gas in a yellow container in the red barn. This is there in case you forget to bring the gas with you or have no way to transport it to the field. If after filling the tractors fuel tank you notice the gas container getting low please refill it if possible and turn the receipt into the Secretary Treasurer Russ Kuhns for reimbursement or report the empty container to the Field Marshal Mike Marthaler and he will refill the container.

Last but certainly not least is Thank YOU! The club appreciates your efforts in helping maintain the BCRCFliers grounds and flying field!

FMM
Field Marshal Mike Marthaler

Appendix:

Description of BCRCFliers mowers

Clutch / Brake
Pedal



Height of Cut
Indicator
(Heights from 1-6)

Grass Height Knob
Rotate to adjust

Mower Blade Engagement Lever



Ground Speed Lever

Grass Chute

Deck Lift Lever



Throttle lever in "Full Throttle Position"

Mower Blade Engagement Lever

Throttle Lever At Low Throttle (Idle) Position



Front of Tractor

Grass Height Knob
Rotate to adjust



Hitch Pin

Seat Position Adjustment Knob



Fuel Tank and Gage
(Under Seat)

Hitch Tongue of Reel Mower

