

Meeting Minutes July 5, 2001

President Brad Wall called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m. There were 39 members and 6 guests present, the same as last month. Brad opened the meeting by reading from a list of amazing facts. This was not funny like a joke might have been, but it was enlightening; many of us came away enriched.

Guests were introduced and new memberships were approved for Harold Hebert, John Avant, and Ray Withrow, who has been with us for some time but whose formal approval had somehow dropped through an administrative crack.

There being no additions or corrections, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the Prop Wash.

Treasurer Don Ramsey reported that we presently have 146 members. The treasury is in good condition and we can more than meet foreseeable expenses. Annual dues of \$100 are due in August. Members will receive an appropriate dues reminder in the mail.

Committee Reports

Pattern Contest- Don Ramsey reminded the membership that this event is scheduled for 8/25 and 8/26. Traditionally this event has attracted 25-30 contestants. Volunteers are needed for concession service and judging. There will be a training seminar for any new volunteer judges in the August time frame. The contest usually goes all day Saturday and ends around noon on Sunday.

Big Bird- No report

Fun Fly- No report

Field Committee- Vice President Greg Gathright reported that the sprinkler system has been installed and tested and is working fine. Prior to the installation, Greg contacted the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to be sure we were within the conservation laws with this project. The TNRCC representative said there would be no problem using the existing water supply; however, since it is also used for drinking purposes a "double check valve" must be installed to prevent contamination from the sprinkler system into the drinking system. (Such a valve was installed.) The representative further pointed out that the watering itself would provide an element of safety, preventing cracks in the ground, which could interfere with the safe operation of our models.

Greg observed that someone has borrowed the roller, which is needed to smooth the field. Also, he reminded the members to turn off the clubhouse air-conditioning, shut the bathroom doors, lock all the locks, and close and lock the gate when they are the last to leave the field.

Bob Schlotter reported that work on the shed overhang has been completed. Old

Business

Brad reminded the members that a Friendship Center cash donation container was provided at the front table. He also stated that this was the last call for members to pick up their individual Gold

AMA Leader Club pins from Jack Evans. (Unclaimed pins will be melted down and used as a weight to balance our club trainer, if such is ever obtained.)

Max Taylor said that we need a new set of bearings in the spindle assembly on the old mower. Moreover, the Ford tractor has a flat tire, but this may just be just the result of a valve stem leak. The flange on the gearbox gets loose and leaks oil; consequently, we have to watch for this when we are using it. We need to find a volunteer to go to Sears for mower parts. There were encouraging, supportive utterances from the membership.

Don Ramsey described the extensive volunteer membership effort that it took to get the watering system installed, primarily on June 25 and 26. The trencher was delivered at about 11:30 Monday morning to begin the project and the first flights from the field were made at 3:30 on Tuesday afternoon to mark the successful completion. As the project manager, Don wanted to thank all those who have contributed to this effort, and there were many.

Of course, more needs to be done. On Saturday July 7, a truckload of sand will be delivered. This will be used to fill holes and smooth out trenches. Also, construction junk and other debris need to be removed for off-site disposal. Saturday has been declared a membership workday at the field. (Those members who are just now learning of these efforts and who wish they could have participated, may yet do so by volunteering their properties as field debris dump sites.)

New Business

Brad Wall announced that well known AMA Hall of Fame Member, and highly respected Texas modeler, George Aldrich had passed away on the 4th of July.

Brad also displayed a pile of important club records, which have been resting securely in Darl Hopper's safe deposit box. Darl would now like us to take them. Don Ramsey will obtain a Barnstormers club box for these records.

George Grock moved that we provide two plastic garbage cans and appropriate plastic bags for garbage collection at the field. This was seconded and passed.

Kirk Jensen asked whatever became of our plans to install a paved runway. This question provoked a really productive discussion among the membership, which Brad Wall moderated.

In the end, it could be concluded that there presently are no tangible, active plans for a paved runway. Nor is money being set aside for this purpose. But there are still firm hopes.

Unfortunately, the fiber underlayment runway, once contemplated, has been a disaster at other fields. (Bumpy and susceptible to damage/vandalism.) Asphalt field experiences have also been unsatisfactory. (Breaks up, bottomless cracks.) The key here seems to be in providing adequate base preparation. Estimated costs of field preparation for a sustainable asphalt base range up to \$30,000 before the asphalt is even put down.

f From here the discussion evolved into how much we would appreciate a really fine grass runway *I* right now. The installation of our sprinkling system is a major step in support of this, perhaps even contributing to soil preparation for some future paved runway. Indeed, the sprinkling system was designed to be compatible with, and complementary to, the ultimate hard surface runway.

But fine grass runways need weed killing and frequent mowing. Our rotating member mowing crews have had mixed success, with people failing to show up, not taking responsibility to provide their own substitutes, and abusing the equipment. On the other hand, someone always pitches in to get the grass mowed, even when it needs it three times a week, as is presently the case. Basically, the same few people do most of the work. Attempts to obtain outside professional mowing contractors have been fruitless. They come; they look at our field, and then never even make a bid, according to Max Taylor and others.

Ray Withrow said part of our problem is that we have a predominance of Bahai grass, which grows vigorously but thinly. What we need to do is kill it off and plant Bermuda, which will be thicker, yet should need mowing only once a week. A special poison, called ALEE, can selectively kill off Bahai without harming the other grasses. Reseeding can be done immediately.

As a result of, or embedded within, all this discussion the following motions/actions sprang forth:

Kirk Jensen moved that we regularly set aside some to-be-specified amount of money for a paved runway. This was seconded and voted upon twice, resulting in a tie vote deadlock each time.

Bob Schlotter moved that we expend funds now for weed, feed, and grass for our field. Seconded and carried.

President Wall appointed Ray Withrow to head up a committee, to include George Crock, to price-out, and, if reasonable, purchase ALEE and apply it to our Bahai, preferably in a test patch so we can assess the result.

Bob Schlotter moved we create a permanent 12 person mowing and maintenance team, the members of which will have their annual club dues waived. This was seconded and approved. Bob will head up this effort. He provided a sign up sheet at the head table. Interested parties should contact him. (Meanwhile, the rotating crew assignments are still in effect.)

Crash of the Month

Tom Dwyer described how he stalled out his (very nice) P-38 on a final approach and crashed off the field to the north. Both engines were running when the trouble started and, although Tom didn't say this, witnesses observed that the plane stalled out at a pretty good speed, in a most unforgiving manner. Miraculously, the plane was not badly damaged and will soon fly again.

Model of the Month

Natalie Marshall (age 8)- Global Right Flyer Sixty ARF. Super Tiger 75. Modified for additional strength; wing bolted on instead of using rubber bands. Larger wheels were used and some lead weight was added to offset the larger engine. Natalie and the plane have had 13 flights together and she said the plane "can do loops and stuff."

Winner: Natalie Marshall

Product Demo

Greg Marshall showed a Sig field box kit. Cost about \$59. Quite large but well made and practically snaps together. Made of laser cut quarter-ply. The box will replace the wagon he has used over the past years.

There was no raffle.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Ken Bauske - Secretary