

Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2001

President Brad Wall called the meeting to order at 7:30. There were 44 members and 5 guests present.

Steve Tinsley was called upon to tell us the joke of the month, which he ably did. The

minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the Prop Wash.

In the absence of Treasurer Don Ramsey, Jack Evans and Brad Wall provided a report on the financial status of the club: There has been no change since last month; it was very good then. Brad will see if he can't get an E-mailed report from Don, who will be away for some additional weeks.

Brad gave a report on the health conditions of some of our members and their families.

Committee Reports:

Field Committee - Vice President Greg Gathright reported that the field is in pretty good condition, considering the weather. We are ready to begin the installation of the sprinkler system. Jim Sheffield was called upon to discuss the plans for this irrigation project. He related that this project would require renting a ditch witch to dig 1200 feet of trenching, plus laterals. The project will start on a Friday and finish over the weekend. During that time, the field probably will be closed for safety reasons. When the system is installed and the trenches are filled in, the soil will need to settle for about a month, then be topped off and seeded. This interim period could be a problem for those few club fliers who may not have perfect control of their landings and take offs at all times... or those who prefer to use their own diagonal runway.

Volunteers are needed to help install this watering system. Greg provided a sign-up sheet. The date for this project remains to be determined, the weather being a big factor. When the start-day is selected, it will be posted at the field and at Just Hobbies.

Bob Schlotter reported that the framework on the new shed overhang has been completed except for painting. When it stops raining, he'll get it painted.

Sailplane Event - Al Dalnoki reported that he is trying to get AMA approval for this event on Saturday, May 26th.

Big Bird - No report

Old Business

Greg Gathright presented the proposed design for a new Barnstormer sign to be installed at the field entrance. Members were urged to look it over at break-time. If there are no modifications suggested, the sign should be completed and installed by next month. Greg is providing this new sign at no expense to the club, a generous deed, indeed.

Brad Wall solicited comments on last month's proposal to open up the newsletter for other area clubs' event schedules and relevant activities. This "newsletter co-op" should provide better co-

ordination of events. The inclusion of this material in the Prop Wash may increase printing and

postage somewhat, but not importantly. There being no rioting over this issue by those in attendance, Brad recommended that we implement this program. Steve Tinsley moved that the newsletter co-op program be adopted. This was seconded and approved by the membership. Brad assigned himself and the Secretary to collect this information from other clubs and to provide it to the Editor.

Last month the club approved the renewal of a service contract on our three-year old mower. However, it was later learned that the service to be rendered under the new contract was far less than that of the old contract, yet was offered at the same price. As a result, President Wall and others concluded that no such contract should be signed. (At this point in the meeting a motion for impeachment was made but failed for lack of a second.)

Brad reviewed several safety considerations that have been emphasized in recent publications. Among these was the need to stay alert around our propellers. There is a tendency to become too comfortable with running motors and we sometimes become careless with our hands and fingers. Another pertinent caution: Don't land or take off when someone is out on the flying field.

New Business:

Brad opened a broad ranging discussion on suggestions for club expansion. Members' comments included ideas on how to attract more young students to RC flying as well as a suggestion that we install a RC car track on the field property. Someone recalled and reviewed Scott Rippetoe's (and Bob Upton's) fine program of a couple of years back, which taught high school ROTC students to build and fly. Perhaps we should repeat this type of program with other youth groups. The suggestion was made that the club should have training planes available for newcomers.

Others pointed out that the club has already grown substantially over the years and that we long ago removed and exceeded the 100 member limit. It was said that our field is often crowded with students on weekends. We are already active in encouraging newcomers in that we presently have an Introductory Pilot Program for non-AMA students. For the beginning club members there is sometimes a shortage of volunteer instructors.

It was generally agreed that we need to decide just how big we want to get. On the one hand more members bring in more revenue, which could be used to build and pave runways, and fund other improvements. On the other hand, we are already a rather large club, have successfully paid off the mortgage in only 8 years, and presently have approved further expansion plans, which we seem to be comfortably funding.

A suggestion to further promote membership by building a float for the Go Texas Parade was met with a groundswell of apathy.

The discussions about field improvements revealed that there may be a problem about the chair inventory at the field. Jack Evans recently provided 15 additional metal chairs, which may have vanished. Chuck Rodgers and others have in the recent past contributed substantial numbers of chairs, which gradually disappeared. Those who have noticed this drainage may have assumed the missing chairs were stored in the barn. Those who are familiar with the barn don't think there are any chairs in there. The case has been referred to Scotland Yard.

Dick Pursley has been hosting the Barnstormer web page on CompuServe. He indicated that for various reasons he would be leaving CompuServe; consequently, we need to find a new host and

URL for our web page. Brad Wall said that Datatronics maintains a web service and would host the web page for no cost. Dick moved that we register a Barnstormer URL. (The approximate cost discussed was \$30. The exact name will depend on what is available.) This was seconded and approved. Dick's offer to turn the job over to some other member was ignored.

A show of hands was requested to see how many people would be interested in a fun fly. The resulting display of interest was sufficient for Brad to ask Bob Upton to look into setting up such an event.

Model of the Month

Steve Sinner - BF/ME109, model G6. From a Dave Platt kit. 1/5 scale, 80", 17 pounds, Webra 120, JR radio. Scale flaps, retracts. Not flown yet. Steve mixed Perfect Paint to get the right colors.

Pete Lepir - BB Jodel, geared Speed 400, 7 cell/600mah with BEC, ESC. 21 oz. From a Midwest kit of the 1960's, cost \$8.95. Not flown yet. Bench tests indicate a 7-9 minute motor run.

Bart Massey - Super Aeromaster, OS 91 FS. Bi-plane Great Planes kit from the late 1980's. Not an easy plane to build. Bart undertook the project while recovering from surgery but found it not therapeutic.

Winner: Steve Sinner

Raffle

Gene Dobesh - MPI MAXX Products field box John Schuren - Easy fuel cap fitting,

MPI hand cranked fuel pump Jody Stevens - Just Hobbies slow cure epoxy,

Cyberbond thin CA, Ultraflex CA Chuck Rodgers - VQ North American T6 (SNJ-3)

Texan ARF

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 B.M. Ken

Bauske - Secretary