

Meeting Minutes November 1, 2001

President Brad Wall was away on business. Vice President Greg Gathright called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 42 members and 3 guests present.

Greg called on Kirk Jensen for the monthly joke, which was a good one. Minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the Prop Wash.

Treasurer Don Ramsey was away on a business trip to Germany. Greg reported on the Barnstomer cash balance and on the general financial condition. In summary, all is well.

Committee Reports

Field Committee- Vice President Gathright described how he, Terry Foote, and others mowed and sanded down the field prior to the Big Bird. Assistance was provided by visiting members of the Fort Worth Thunderbirds. During this process, one lawnmower ceased to operate. Al Dalnoki and Ray Withrow are checking into this now. The grass is going dormant.

Big Bird- Terry Foote, the Event Director, was away on business. Greg Gathright presented awards of appreciation to Katy Langner, Tory Langner, Mary Ann Langner, Jim Hurley, Pete Lepir, Courtney Foote, Ken Bauske, Ray Kohn, Adam Kaminskas, Jack Evans, Charles Hirsch, and Joe Lauterbach, who flew by in his semi-full size plane but, fortunately, never dropped in. Additionally, members Terry Foote, Bob Upton and Gene Dobesh were featured in articles in the Conroe Courier, which Mary Reeves thoughtfully brought to the meeting. (Greg Gathright asked the Secretary to explore the possibility that these could be submitted for a cash award through the RCHTA program.) The Big Bird was profitable.

Fun Fly- Bob Upton passed out flyers he had prepared for this November 17th event. He described the events he had planned and he urged the membership to participate. If they couldn't participate, then help. If they couldn't help, then come out and watch. The Fun Fly is supposed to be fun. (Among competitors it has been said that "the fun stops when the motor starts.")

Old Business

The Big Bird event generated a lot of trash. Members were urged to pitch in and haul it away. Bring a bag home to your family.

As a result of the AMA Library Program, the Montgomery County Library has sent us a thank you note, which is posted on the field bulletin board.

The Friends of Aviation event for "at risk" children, scheduled at Montgomery County Airport for November 3, has been cancelled, for reasons unknown.

Greg reviewed some safety violations, which were witnessed during the Big Bird event. Fortunately, no trouble resulted. Additionally, a couple of planes dropped from the sky but did no damage to people or club property: Bob Kozak's plane was lost due to a (borrowed) battery failure. The team of Langner/Arnold scored a perfect 10.0 into the stock tank to the east of the field, possibly as a result of a frequency conflict with persons unknown. Eventually, both plane and motor were recovered from the water. The plane floated; the motor did not.

The Committee For The Exploration Into Obtaining New Tractor and Mowing Equipment made its report. Ray Withrow presented the first possibility, a top of the line John Deere lawn tractor with a 60" deck, with liquid cooled diesel, costing about \$10k plus. The committee felt this was indeed a very fancy lawn tractor but really would not provide much more oomph than our present lawn tractor. Max Taylor then described a 40hp, 4 cylinder John Deere tractor that could easily replace and out perform our nearly 50-year-old Ford tractor. This new machine could haul our brush hog, included a 72" finish mower, a 3 point hitch, front loader, turf tires, and 4WD, and would cost in the vicinity of the early \$20k's. (A similar Ford package was cheaper initially but came out about the same price when the features were added. Both Ford and John Deere maintenance are available out of Conroe.)

No recommendation will be made until a proposal package can be developed with the concurrence of our traveling Treasurer. Meanwhile the committee has equipment brochures available for review by interested members.

New Business

Barnstormer Harper Taylor won the Big Bird raffle, the prize being the Top Flight Stinson Reliant kit and O.S. 1.08 motor provided by Charles Hirsch.

Jodie Stevens has used planes and equipment available for sale. He provided a list, which may be published elsewhere in the Prop Wash.

Greg announced that, as usual, there would be no January meeting. The December meeting will include installation of officers, a short regular meeting, and a swap meet. Members were urged to bring any equipment they would like to sell or exchange. Jack Evans offered to be the auctioneer, as he has been in the past.

Mark Kozak moved that we take the money we made on the Big Bird Fly In and place it into a dedicated account for a hard surfaced runway. Ray Mack seconded this. After a short discussion, the motion failed.

Greg asked for volunteers for the Audit Committee. This committee is appointed annually to review the financial records and to report the results to the membership at the December meeting. Bart Massey, Jeff Tucker, and Joe Berryman offered to do so.

Steve Tinsley, head of the nominating committee, reported that there was a general lack of enthusiasm for volunteering as candidates for Barnstormer officer jobs. As a result, the incumbents were again nominated, with the exception of Jack Evans who is retiring after 10 years as Editor. Mark Kozak has agreed to be the new Editor. There being no other choice, the entire slate was elected. The Barnstormer officers for 2002 will be as follows:

President	Brad Wall
Vice President	Greg Gathright
Treasurer	Don Ramsey
Secretary	Ken Bauske
Editor	Mark Kozak

A round of applause was given to outgoing Editor Jack Evans.

Model of the Month

Ray Kohn- Hanger 9 Edge 540 ARF. 78" span, weighs 12 pounds. Powered by a Saito 180,1010 Square inch wing area. Ball bearing bell crank on elevator, titanium rod ends. JR radio. Thanks to a wing recall, this may be the longest building ARF in history. Not yet flown.

Steve Tinsley- VQ A26 ARF, much modified by Steve. 68" span, 11.5 pounds, with a wing loading of 43 oz. per square foot Powered by two Magnum 52 four strokes, with nacelles modified for upright operation. On board EDR 103 glo-drivers, Robart pneumatic retracts. Repainted with auto enamel. Patriotic nose art created off the Internet by Steve, using decal kit from Just Hobbies. Airtronics and Hitech radio equipment.

Kirk Jensen- AirWild Edge 540 ARC. 81" span, powered by BME 2.7 gas engine, swinging a Mejzlik 20 by 10 prop. 14 pounds. The ARC kit cost \$449. JR radio. Not yet flown. Kirk also displayed some \$70 wing bags that were fully featured.

Winner: Steve Tinsley

Raffle Tom Dwyer- Hanger 9 Heat

Sealing Iron

Bob Butley- Robart Super Stand II

Joe Berryman- Top Flight MonoKote SmartStripe cutting tool John

Schuren- Hobbico Hot-Shot 2 Glo Starter

George Grock- Model Tech Luckey Stick ARF

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Ken Bauske- Secretary