

Meeting Minutes  
October 4, 2001

President Wall called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. There were 38 members and 5 guests present.

Brad read a humorous accident report about a fellow who had problems with a barrel of bricks.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the Prop Wash.

Treasurer Don Ramsey provided his report: We have a healthy cash balance. Don gave the estimated cash flow to July 2002. The club books were available for review at the head table.

Field Committee- Vice President Greg Gathright reported that the hog problem appears to be solved. The wild domestic hogs, which have been tearing up the turf, have apparently moved on. (Perhaps to spend the winter season at the shore.) Should they return, Greg has a trap. The Bermuda is really spreading nicely and the field is in decent shape. We need to spread a lot more dirt on the low spots. Saturday is a club workday, weather permitting.

#### Old Business

Ray Withrow reported that all we can do to get rid of the undesirable Bahai grass has already been done. Recently Don Ramsey and Ray did a double spray treatment. This was not as successful as it might have been because of the windy conditions. From now on there will not be enough heat to promote much growth of Bahai so further poisoning would be ineffective. Ray said the Bermuda was having tremendous growth.

Brad reported that the trashcans are again full. When we had no trashcans we didn't have this problem. George Grock, who had offered to police this, said he had been away on vacation for two weeks and had since emptied the trash. Paul Langner and Ray Withrow volunteered to help haul garbage away in the future. Anyone can empty the garbage cans without first getting permission.

Brad announced that Just Hobbies has moved to Budde Road just behind Randies off Sawdust in Spring.

John Schuren and Bart Massey have provided application forms to Montgomery High and other schools as part of the District 8 School Library Project, which will award subscriptions of Model Aviation Magazine.

Brad reminded members that Friends of Aviation is looking for volunteers to display and fly planes at the November 3 Youth Aviation Day at Montgomery County Airport.

Nominations for Barnstormer officers for the upcoming term, normally presented by the Nominating Committee at the October meeting, weren't. Committee members were not present at the meeting, for reasons unknown. (Rumors of an impending coup persist.)

## New Business

President Wall opened a discussion about the flying field width. He said the new sprinkling system was designed around a potential future hard surface size of 40 feet. The mowing crews adhere to this. He understands that some of the members would like the field to be wider. He asked us to consider the consequences on the mowing equipment in wear and tear if an additional area had to be mowed. Maintenance is already a huge problem. A couple of people do 90% of the work on our equipment and they are getting worn out barely keeping up with it.

Dick Moore suggested buying a new mower every year, or so, and letting Sears maintain it. Others replied that Sears's maintenance terms have changed in recent years, making Sears's maintenance prohibitively expensive. John Powell suggested we look into how golf courses and farmers buy their equipment. They have a large initial investment but then are able to replace the equipment through some yearly fee. Paul Langner said that if maintenance is the problem, then we ought to deal with it. If there is work to be done, we need to so advise the membership. Then, people will help. Don't put all the work on one or two people.

Don Ramsey replied that a certain mechanical skill level is required to do the maintenance work and this is not generally available among the membership. As for volunteers, it is difficult to get members to show up for even the club workday, much less for a longer-term effort. If people want a wider runway, then they can start next Saturday by helping to fill in the sunken trench holes associated with the installation of the sprinkler system.

Other suggested that we needed a crosswind runway, or a paved runway, or flight stations closer to the edge of the field, or a centerline painted on the field.

A show of hands was requested of the members present for the runway width they would prefer. Surprisingly, only a very few voted for anything over 50 feet. This seemed to demonstrate that the number of club members yearning for a wider runway has been exaggerated.

Eventually, Ray Withrow moved that we form a committee to explore obtaining new tractor and mowing equipment. This was seconded and passed. The committee will consist of Ray Withrow, Max Taylor, Larry Asaro, and Tom Walterk.

President Wall concluded the discussion by saying that we would continue to improve field conditions at each member workday on the first Saturday following each meeting. When the Big Bird fly-in is over on October 28, members who want a wider field may undertake to maintain such an expansion by themselves, preferably using other than club equipment.

Brad advised the membership that a number of incidents of unsafe flying had been recently observed, particularly on the weekends. He noted that the Flying Field Rules were posted at the field and should be observed at all times. At a recent Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that warning letters would be sent to future violators as specified in the Constitution and By Laws. An individual failing to heed these warnings could lose his membership.

#### Model of the Month

Paul Artz- Proctor Antic, OS 40 four stroke, new radio with five servos. Plane is for sale at \$500. (Paul didn't really bring it for Show and Tell but it was included here to pad the inventory.)

Kyle Foote- Lazy Panda ARF. 61" wingspan, Saito 50 for power. Weighs about 4 pounds. The plane has torsion bar landing gear and a bolt on wing. It does wild aerobatics.

Ray Kohn- Scale Australian Pilatus ARF from Richmond RC in Canada. The printed adhesive backed covering shows much detail such as panel lines, rivets, and Kangaroos. Plane has a 58" span, weighs four pounds. Powered by a Saito 56. The ARF package cost about \$150 plus freight and was very complete. The plane has not been flown.

John Avant- Edge 540 ARC from AirWild Hobbies. Weighs 14 pounds with a wingspan of 81". With 1164 square inches of wing area the plane has a loading of 28 ounces per square foot. Powered by a BME 44, using a Menz 20 x 8 propeller. It is a good flier with 3D potential.

Winner: John Avant There

was no raffle. Meeting adjourned at

8:51 p.m.

Ken Bauske- Secretary