

Barnstormer
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2002

President Brad Wall called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. There were 40 members and 4 guests present. The call to order had been delayed from the usual 7:30 start time because the meeting had to be relocated to the Golden Corral in Conroe from the Friendship Center, which unexpectedly had locked us out. (This was not a friendly thing to have done.)

Brad read a series of humorous observations as an opening joke. Then, guests were identified and welcomed.

Secretary Bauske read the minutes from the previous meeting as published in the newsletter. There being no additions or corrections, these were accepted as written. He further reported that we are again being asked to re-charter the Barnstormers by the AMA. This will require that all members have a current AMA membership. The AMA has identified 14 current Barnstormer members as not having AMA renewals by mid-January. The Secretary will contact these individuals to confirm that they have a current AMA card, as required to maintain Barnstormer membership. He also reported that the club had been contacted by E-mail by the widow of a former R/C enthusiast regarding the sale of his equipment, the details of which were provided in handouts at the front table.

Treasurer Ray Kohn said he really appreciated the help he received from former treasurer Don Ramsey during the transition period. Ray then reviewed the status of our current bank balance, which is quite healthy. The Barnstormer books were available at the front table for member review.

Field Committee- Vice President Greg Gathright reported that the field is in good shape and that all the rain we have been having has not hurt it. There are a few dips that will require some sand fill, possibly next month as the weather improves.

There was no Old Business.

New Business

President Wall reported that in December we received a letter from the Friendship Center advising us they would start to charge \$65 a month for our meeting place. Brad telephoned them and tried to negotiate a better price but was told this was not possible. Brad promised to review this with the membership and get back to the FC people with our conclusion. However, now that we had been locked out without warning, he felt that we should actively examine other alternatives.

In the meeting discussion that followed it was learned that the Friendship Center eventually would be moving to remodeled facilities at Candy Cane Park and that our present meeting place would be lost at that time anyhow. Various alternate meeting places were suggested. Ultimately, it was decided that we would meet again next month in the Golden Corral. Meanwhile the membership would fan out and search for a better place.

Brad asked that the Secretary give a report on the Executive Committee meeting, held on 12/29/01. The minutes were read aloud. Recommendations from the EC meeting: The Friendship Center rental issue would be brought before the membership, President Wall will be added to the checking account as an authorized check writer, and we would seek membership approval to negotiate the deal recommended by the Tractor Committee (roughly summarized here as a 40 hp diesel tractor, possibly a

John Deere, with finishing mower, 3 point hitch, front-end loader, 4WD, with turf tires), not to exceed \$xx,xxx. Treasurer Ray Kohn offered to develop the supporting financial analysis, which would then be reviewed with the membership.

When the Executive Committee report was concluded, Ray Kohn then presented his extensive analysis of our financial capabilities. This was a really professional quality presentation, with charts and graphs to support the conclusions. The complete text of the presentation material, totaling 9 typewritten pages, was given to each member of the Executive Committee. Because these are meeting minutes, not the Congressional Record, the Secretary must summarize here what he views as the pivotal conclusions:

1. With our present/historic membership level and dues level The Barnstormers can not afford to spend more than about \$xxx a month for anything.
2. Assuming a \$xxxx down payment and a 4 or 5 year financing interval, the contemplated tractor purchase is within this requirement.
3. With or without the tractor purchase, "There isn't a 'Snowballs Chance in July' for this Club to be able to afford a hard surface runway."
4. A large inheritance could change things.

Ray concluded, "Given the financial realities of a hard surface runway the ONL Y OPTION available to the Club is to move ahead with the purchase of high quality, professional grounds maintenance equipment, and through an aggressive 'Turf Management Program' create a grass runway of exceptional quality."

The usual discussion followed. (See October, November, or December minutes.) Ray pointed out that since the first purchase of the Sears Mowers, we have spent \$9,000 on the mowers for purchase, maintenance, and repair costs. (And not considering the wear and tear on the people who are caring for this equipment.) These mowers appear to have only a two-year life in our application and were never intended to maintain a 40-acre field. At the present time, the club needs to purchase another replacement mower. If we bought a professional piece of equipment, we could go, possibly, 10 years without any significant repairs needed.

Eventually, Larry Moore moved that we buy the new tractor. A series of amendments were proposed and passed, which resulted in the following appropriately seconded motion: Moved that we buy the recommended tractor package for an amount not to exceed \$xx,xxx, with 4-year financing, and sell the old Ford. This motion was passed. A round of applause followed. The Executive Committee will approve/select the lending agency. Individual members are encouraged to provide the loan.

President Wall thanked Loman and Mary Reeves and Bob Upton for providing news articles from the Comoe Courier. These were then sent to the Radio Control Hobby and Trade Association (RCHTA), which pays clubs for publicity generated for the hobby. As a result, the Barnstormers netted \$50.

Gail Phillips gave a report on the upcoming IMAC event to be held at our field on April 20 and 21. Don Ramsey will be the Contest Director. This event is heavily sponsored and the food will be catered. Members are encouraged to enter this event, which, in the Basic Class, permits any plane, any engine, not to exceed 55 pounds. (There goes my flying lawn roller project.) Extensive information on IMAC and this contest is available on the Barnstormer web site. Member volunteers are needed for sound check duty and as judges. An IMAC clinic is planned for March 16 at the flying field.

Model of the Month

Jim Porter- Road Runner, built from a kit by Fun Fly Models, a very small Wyoming company. G-38, 15 pounds. Will go vertical. 98" wingspan. Jim offset the firewall to

accommodate a standard muffler and used the standard engine mount that came with the motor. Wheel pants came from an old CAP. Elevator servos are mounted under the horizontal stabilizer. Used 6 rolls of red and white MonoKote. The plane has had 10 flights and flies great.

Steve Tinsley- F8F Bearcat, kit maker unknown. Purchased partially built from Larry Cox and his father, and worked on intermittently over the next several years. Wingspan 65 % ", weight 12 pounds. Powered by Thunder Tiger 91 FS. Wing loading 35 oz., with mechanical retracts, including tail gear. Extremely detailed: Rivets, Dzus fasteners, Phillips head screws, panel lines, gear doors, and rib stitching. The drop tank is made from foam turned on a drill press. Not flown. Available for sale.

Winner: Both

There was no raffle.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Ken Bauske - Secretary