

Barnstormer
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2002

President Brad Wall called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 44 members and 6 guests present. Brad read from a humorous list of aircraft repairs as an opening joke.

Guests were introduced and the new membership of Ellis Campbell was approved.

The minutes of the February meeting were discussed and approved as published in the Prop Wash.

Treasurer Ray Kohn reported that we had a lot of financial activity this past month, buying a new tractor and all the accoutrements that went with it. As a result the cash balance has dropped somewhat. The books were available at the front table for member inspection.

Field Committee- VP Greg Gathright reported the field was in good shape. The grass is starting to grow. Ray Withrow has done a soil analysis and he will discuss the results later in the meeting. The field could use a little bank-sand this next month. The faulty gate lock has been replaced.

IMAC- Gail Phillips reminded the members that there will be an IMAC clinic at the field on March 16. Members were urged to bling their planes and team. Preparations for the April 120/21st contest are moving right along. Sponsors are now sending in their merchandize. From the number of fliers showing interest it is estimated that we may have up to 50 contestants. Four of our members have volunteered to help with this event. More would be welcome.

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Meeting Place-

Brad asked Harold ("Bear") Hebert to give a report on his investigation into facilities for a new meeting place. Bear described the nine possibilities he had looked into and provided an overview hand out for the Executive Committee. In summary, restaurants are noisy and expensive, public funded places tend not to guaranty a fixed meeting date and time, some places are outrageously priced, and military facilities are off limits due to the national alert.

Brad summarized his top three choices: The Friendship Center in Conroe (They are 'sorry' they locked us out, \$65 a night, moving to Candy Cane Park with 'probably' a meeting place for us), the Willis Community Center (\$100 deposit, \$25 per meeting, full facilities, room for up to 100, pretty good parking), or Barnstormer member Father Dave Kennedy's church in Conroe (probably free).

Following a short discussion, Adam Kaminskas moved that we hold future meetings at the Willis Community Center. This was seconded and the motion was easily carried. Therefore, the April 4th and future Barnstormer meetings will be conducted at the Willis Community Center. A map showing how to get to this site will be provided in the March Prop Wash.

Tractor Purchase-

Brad informed the membership that the new tractor had been purchased and delivered. He asked Ray Kohn to provide a summary of the financial terms and details. Ray reviewed the original objectives for the purchase as approved by the membership: Price not to exceed \$xx,xxx, with \$x,xxx down, and 4 year term financing at 10% or better, keeping monthly payments no higher than \$xxx, which is the level Ray had calculated as affordable for our club.

Thanks to the detailed preparation and negotiation of Max Taylor and Ray Withrow the tractor, front loader, and finish mower were actually obtained for \$x,xxx less than the approved ceiling price. (Round of applause.) Ray pointed out that several members had come forward and offered to finance the tractor for 8% and that their offers were really appreciated. However, John Deere had a special financing offer that we were able to accept because Greg Gathright stepped forward to personally guarantee the loan. (Round of applause.) As a result, we were able to get a 3-year loan at 4.9% and still keep our payments at only \$xxx.xx. Overall, we saved \$xxxx and will pay off the tractor in three years instead of four. (Round of applause.)

Brad said that Max and the mowing team were now learning how to use and maintain the new John Deere. Members should not touch this equipment without first being properly trained.

Sale of the old Ford tractor was discussed. It may be possible, and more attractive to a buyer, to sell it as a package with some of our old attachments, which could then be replaced with new equipment. Because it is difficult to anticipate and pre-approve every deal perturbation, Brad proposed that Max Taylor, Harold Hebert, and the Tractor Committee, be delegated to get the job done the best they can. So moved and approved.

Ray said the John Deere dealer is offering a Lojack tracking device for our tractor at \$695. This would enable satellite tracking of our machine, if stolen. After some discussion it was decided that we are already adequately secure and well covered by insurance. (Would satellite tracking make the mowing crew nervous?)

Oil Lease-

Kerr-McGee has offered us a three-year oil lease on our field for \$2,000, with no surface operations, and a 1/6 royalty on any successful production. (Actually, it is a bit more complicated than this description, but that's the gist of it.) Treasurer Ray Kohn has discussed the contract with the leasing agent and finds him generally not amenable to changing the offered terms. (Although he has agreed to change some important wording at Ray's suggestion.) To bring us up to speed on some of the issues, Ray summarized Bob Butley's E-mailed written analysis of the contract Bob himself answered member questions during the meeting. Bob, who works for an oil Company, would like to see our terms improved in the areas of shut-in operation, termination, and drainage.

Brad pointed out that our property is just a small part of a large leasing effort by Kerr-McGee and that they are probably going to do whatever they want, whether or not we agree. We seem to have no negotiating leverage. In fact, we have the mineral rights to only half of our 40 acres. The owner of the rights to the other half is believed to have already accepted the offer.

It was observed that the lease offer was already almost a month old and that the lease broker expected our response within a few-days of this meeting. At Brad's invitation for a motion, Bear Hebert moved that the Executive Committee be empowered to obtain the best terms possible from the agent and then to accept the lease. This was seconded and approved.

Soil Analysis -

Ray Withrow reviewed the results of a soil analysis made at various points in our field. He said our soil would be excellent for desert cactus, but was "sour soil" for grass. He discussed an array of possible treatments: Pellets, something called "600 Plus", 13-13-13, 16-13-13 (Did I hear WD-40?) as well as various means to transport and deliver all this good stuff via highway and soft earth to our soil, and, finally, he recommended a lime treatment followed by "pure" nitrogen, to be applied some months later. So persuasive was his proposed soil treatment strategy that it was moved, seconded, and approved that he pursue it, as long as it cost less than \$300.

Flying Field Rules-

President Wall read aloud the rules for flying at our field. These are to be observed by all members and guests.

Model of the Month

Brian Sauers - Aeroworks Edge 540T ARF. 64" span, 9 pounds. Powered by OS9I FX with Jett muffler and covered with Ultracote. Good smaller 3D machine at only \$275.

Sam Ward - Kangke Staudacher 300 ARF. OS 61 with Pitts style muffler. Flown 4 or 5 times.

Winner: Brian Sauers

Raffle

Bob Bissell- WATTAGE MiniMax Electric Classic ARF

Bob Bissell- Modeltech MAGIC40 Fun Fly kit

Greg Gathright- Glue Kit collection of epoxies

Richard McCants- Hobbico Digital Voltmeter

Terry Foote- GP hole centerer, Hobbico modeling knife, 3M spray adhesive

Butch Nye- Freebee ticket to Golden Corral

Al Dalnoki- Freebee ticket to Golden Corral

Ken Bauske
Secretary