

Barnstormer Meeting Minutes

November 3,
2005

President Bob Upton called the meeting order at 7:30 p.m. in the Willis Community Center. There were 32 members and no guests present.

Harper Taylor provided the Treasurer's report. Membership stands at 140. Because annual renewals have been completed, any growth now must come from new memberships. BEST and Big Bird events contributed to the treasury balance, which now stands comfortably high. (Harper provided dollar amounts, including our monthly burn rate. For details, attend the meetings.)

Jim Porter gave the field report. The field is in excellent condition and was undamaged by the traffic during the October meets. The growing season is over and it is still very dry. Mowing continues but is less frequent. Bob Bissell asked about the longevity of the big tree by the club house, a major portion of which fell on the pavilion during hurricane Rita. Jim said the tree surgeon who removed the fallen limbs thought the tree was healthy. Max Taylor reported that trash is again piling up, particularly in the impound area, which is accumulating empty cans. Each member is reminded to remove his and his family's own trash and take it home for disposal.

Safety Officer Adam Kaminskas described some new flying rule recommendations from the AMA. These suggest multiple flight lines or curved flight lines to separate regular pattern traffic from 3D and other non linear fliers. The Barnstormers have already set aside special flight areas north and south of the runways and have used a curved flight line during the BEST meet, all with satisfactory results.

Scott Mrosko and Kirk Jensen reported on the BEST electric meet, held October 7-9. There were 61 registered pilots and hundreds of aircraft. The weather was great and the event was certainly a success. Thanks to the field team the grass was in such excellent shape that a minor problem arose: Some small planes could not ROG from the dense grass, which was mowed as short as our equipment would allow. Scott asked if we could look into getting a mower that could cut selected areas shorter for next year's event. Scott thanked the club members for all the volunteer support for this event.

Max Taylor reported on the Big Bird, which was held October 15-16. In spite of conflicting events, such as Wings Over Houston, there were 42 fliers and many more planes. The weather was great and there were only two unfortunate plane incidents. The fence patrol kept our neighbors satisfied by keeping air traffic confined to our own property. The CAP cadets seemed satisfied with the money they made running the food concession and would probably do it again next year.

OLD BUSINESS - Considerable discussion was devoted to a motion made by Paul Langner at the October meeting. This had been tabled. (and remains so.) Paul had suggested that the Barnstormers develop a mentoring program for new members. George Terry described the SPARKS program. Mike Wickizer described Jetero's. Others suggested doing next to nothing. Adam Kaminskas and Bob Johnson felt that the Safety Officer should be the one to develop any potential program. The Jetero and SPARKS programs will be reviewed for discussion on a future date. (See sparksrsrc.com[under News]) (Substitute Secretary's note: See also Tri-County Barnstormers New Member Guide, last revised 8/02, for our own existing Flight Skills and Pilot Training Program.)

There being no new nominations from the floor, the following members were elected by acclamation as officers for 2006: President- Ken Bauske, VP- Jim Porter, Secretary- Gary

Baumgartner, Treasurer- Harper Taylor, Editor- Bob Johnson.

NEW BUSINESS - It was decided to purchase a frequency monitor for the club. Expected cost is \$50-\$60 without antenna extension, which may be needed in the future. A secure storage location needs to be identified for this device. The monitor will be primarily used at the Impound during meets to confirm tx's are on the channel the owner thinks they are.

President Upton reported that SPARKS President Duane Neefe has asked that their members be able to fly at our field during their relocation to an undetermined site. There were no objections.

The December meeting will have the traditional Swap Meet at its conclusion. There will be no Model of the Month or raffle. Members are urged to bring their priced items for sale. (Planes, motors, accessories, radios, unidentified parts.)

There will be no January meeting. The next meeting will be on February 2, 2006. Model of the Month- Kirk Jensen's High End Technology (HET) Super Sniper electric ducted fan plane. 40 oz. weight, 400z. thrust, 700 watts. 120mph, bungee launched.

Membership Raffle- Bill Malone would have been the winner, but he didn't come to the meeting. The raffle rolls over once again.

Ken Bauske, for

Gary Baumgartner