



# THE PROP WASH

## Club Officers

- *President-*  
Gary Baumgartner
- *Vice President -*  
Max Taylor
- *Secretary -*  
Larry Bonnette
- *Treasurer -*  
Dick Pursley
- *Editor/Webmaster -*  
Larry Bonnette



Gary Baumgartner

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

I will try to lighten up on this edition of the Prop-wash. Had one complaint about the last one. Was told it was too harsh. Poppycock!!!! Well I said I would try. Didn't say I could do it.

This time around I want to talk about ideas. Ideas for improving our facility. Many have been submitted. Some are probably out of our financial reach. Others may be "pie in the sky" and would have little if any support with most of the membership. Others could well be great ideas and very achievable from a cost and manpower perspective. I certainly am not the judge as to which project falls into which category. But I can give my opinion.

I have been talking to various individuals at the field.

When I ask "Is there anything we must have or anything we cannot live without?" I generally receive the same answer. And that is "No, we don't need to do anything beyond maintaining what we have". That is also my feeling. That is absolutely my feeling when it comes to doing projects that are so expensive that we would be required to secure a loan. We are contemplating the replacement of the Craftsman mowers. Machines of this type can be maintained but eventually that becomes inefficient. As a result we are considering the purchase of a new mower. This falls into the realm of maintaining what we have. A vote on this will be taken at the March meeting.

Now, there are projects which are mostly labor intensive. Some cost may be incurred to buy material but with the labor provided by members we can accomplish a lot. So, I propose that when a member has an idea that member should plan to "BE PART OF THE SOLUTION". Have a plan in mind, maybe have conspirators ( i.e. helpers ) lined up. Have a cost estimate. That involves initiative. When I hear a suggestion without any thought to how or who will get that suggestion done it just sort of goes in one ear and out the other. Put some thought into it. Make it yours.

The bottom line from my perspective. I am NOT looking for a personal legacy project. Let's maintain what we have. Do the easy stuff with our own blood, sweat, and tears and have FUN.

In the meantime-

Never forget: When inverted, Down is Up, and UP is very expensive.

Check out: rcradionetwork.com

Every Tuesday night at 7:30 they have a broadcast on the internet. It is sponsored by Atlanta Hobby and is RC related. There is something to be learned. I have watched two nights and found it very interesting.

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Got something you would like to share?

Send Larry your stories, product reviews, or anything that would be of interest to the club.



Max Taylor

## Max Information

(The Vice President's Input)

The cold, wet weather has restricted activities at the flying field for most of the Barnstormers. I know there are a few hardy folks that fly in really adverse conditions, but I just watch from the sidelines and wait on warmer weather.

Warmer weather will be back before long, and that means the grass will start growing again. It is time to start asking for volunteers to mow grass and maintain our flying facilities. At the March meeting, we will be voting on whether or not to purchase new mowing equipment. If we decide not to get new mower, we will need to do some serious work on the Sears mowers. I will have a sign-up list for those willing to help. The list will look something like this: (Please see next Page)

Please volunteer to help where you can. Feel free to volunteer for other things like building maintenance, fence building or any other chores that need to be done.

Fly safely

Max

# Max Information

(Continued)

## **Crew to mow runway weekends**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## **Crew to mow runway during the week**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## **Crew to mow parking area**

- 1.
- 2.

## **Crew to mow road right of way and fence lines**

- 1.
- 2.

## **Crew to grade road**

- 1.
- 2.

## **Crew to fertilize, spray for weeds and pest control**

- 1.
- 2.

## **Crew to maintain equipment.**

- 1.
- 2.

# Meeting Minutes

(The Secretary's Report)



Larry Bonnette

## Barnstormer Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2010

- \* Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM
  - \* There was 1 guest.
  - \* December minutes were approved as posted.
  - \* VP Max Taylor reported that field is in good shape. One of the water cooler is out of service due to the recent freezing weather.
  - \* Treasurer Dick Pursley reported that finances are in good shape. We have 147 members that are current with their dues. He would like everyone to be sure he has their correct email address.
  - \* President Gary Baumgartner noted that he ask Ken Bauske to help run the meeting according to Roberts Rules of Order and that Ken agreed. Gary described the new flight station at the south end of field. This is for foamy, helicopter, and sailplane pilots that do not fly the standard pattern. There is a map showing the area posted on the bulletin board. Plans are to install a like station at the north end. Thanks to Adam Kaminskas for getting this done.
- A new trainer aircraft has been purchased. Cost was \$70.00 including shipping. Adam is assembling the plane. This will give us two trainers for Intro Pilot use.
- \* Safety- Adam Kaminskas reported no accidents year to date. He mentioned that one of the items that came out of the Executive Comm. meeting was a need for more safety signs. In addition a request was made for signs to remind us to lock the gate if we are last to leave the field. Cost of signs to be approximately \$500.00. Ken Bauske made a motion, seconded by Bud Brinkley to request \$500.00 for these signs. Vote on this will be at the March meeting.

## Minutes (continued)

### Old Business-

- Review of Fun Fly, Terry Foote-Terry was not present but sent notes to Gary Baumgartner. Gary said some 15 pilots participated. Thanks to New Creations, Larry's Hobbies, and Randy's Hobbies for the generous supply of prizes.
- Vice President Max Taylor reviewed a list of suggested projects for long range planning.

### New Business-

- Gary Baumgartner asked Ken Bauske after the Executive Comm. meeting to prepare a Memorial Policy. Ken presented the policy at the meeting. The policy was approved with the change of one word. The policy will be posted on our website. Many thanks to Ken for the development of this.
  - Gold Leader- Gary Baumgartner asked for a volunteer to coordinate the application for Gold Leader status. Eric DiSardi volunteered to do this.
  - Pylon Races- Eric DiSardi requested approval to set up two pylon races this year. This was approved. Further approval will be needed later when specific dates are proposed.
  - Max Taylor presented a recommendation to purchase a zero turn mower to replace the old Craftsman mowers. Max has done extensive research to arrive at a recommendation. His conclusion is that the club should purchase a commercial grade zero turn mower. He has not selected a specific model. That will come if the club approves funds. He can then negotiate the best deal possible. He has asked that the club approve an expenditure of not more than \$10,000. Robert Daffin made a motion, seconded by Bud Brinkley to request these funds. This will be voted on at the March meeting.
- BIG BIRD**-Adam described plans for the Big Bird which will be April 24 and 25. He said that the  $\frac{1}{4}$  scale rule will NOT apply. Therefore monoplanes must be minimum 80 inch and biplanes must be minimum 60 inch wingspans.

**NEW MEMBER**- Steve Brister was voted into the club.

## Minutes (continued)

**MODEL OF MONTH-** There were five planes shown. Bud Brinkley won the can of fuel.

**ATTENDANCE DRAWING-** There was no winner. Rolls over to next month.

Nametag winner was Andrew Foucht.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Gary Baumgartner from notes taken by Joe Berryman and Dick Pursley.

I would like to thank Joe Berryman Gary Baumgartner and Dick Pursley for covering for me at the last meeting.

-Larry



Dick Pursley

## Dick's Doin's

(Treasury Report)

While the weather has not been so great lately, hopefully you have all gotten in some building time (or repairing time for some of us, right Bud?).

Our membership is now at 148. We voted in a new member at the February meeting, Mr. Steve Brister. He plans on being at the field a lot, and will initially be wanting some help, so if you see him, welcome him and see what you can do to help him along (Bud, you just welcome him, but leave the helping to those who are qualified).

Our financial situation is just fine. Our club has a wonderful facility and we will not likely need to spend too much to keep it that way, other than possibly replacing the lawn mowers. Look at the minutes from the February meeting and you will see that we voted to put a new mower on the agenda to be decided on at the March meeting. Max is heading up the research what would best fit our needs.

Hope the number of your **SUCCESSFUL** landings matches your number of take-offs.

Until next month...

Hey guys,

The meeting location has changed. It is now at the Conroe Friendship Center on 1202 Callahan Ave in Conroe. See the web site for a detailed map and directions.

## Visit to Hodges Hobbies



Probably most of us have seen the videos of Mac Hodges flying a huge B-29 with a rocket plane attached. He performed at Bomber Field last fall. Mac takes off with the B-29, launches the rocket plane, and then does a series of spins, rolls, inverted passes and a hover, all with his 20 foot, four engine scale plane. (See You Tube-Mac Hodges B-29)

We had heard that Mac lived somewhere in Georgia and had a hobby shop. We frequently visit our daughter in Georgia and we hoped someday to

stumble upon the hobby shop. Well, on the day after Christmas we were driving down a country road after a visit to the historic Civil War prison at Andersonville on our way to see the Habitat for Humanity display in Americus, Georgia. Suddenly we passed a sign that said "Hodges Hobbies." The location is 3 hours from anywhere, in the middle of peanut and cotton farm country. We turned around and followed the arrow.

And, so, we arrived at Hodges Hobbies. It's on a farm! It has its own grass air strip, pavilion, RV hook-ups, neat red brick house, modern barn, and a stand-alone hobby shop building. The hobby shop is huge, several rooms, all devoted to aircraft, no cars, no trains. A few local guys had been flying IMAC-types and helicopters and were keeping warm in the store when we arrived.

I guess Mac was pleased that someone from New Waverly, Texas had come to shop at his store because he soon was taking us around for a tour. The store has a large work shop and he showed us the outboard wing sections and nacelles for the B-29. He had just replaced the ZDZ 80's with DA100's, which he said "ran smoother." Then he took us to the well lighted barn where the fuselage and inboard engines were located. (See [hodgeshobbies.com](http://hodgeshobbies.com) for details and history of this plane.)

## Visit to Hodges Hobbies



Apparently, the barn is storage for many of the planes flown at the field. The place was loaded with them. Mac said he and his brothers farmed peanuts and cotton on this site until the early 90's. The hobby shop has been open since the 1980's. It was not apparent where Hodges Hobbies gets its customer base way out in central Georgia but it sure has a huge inventory. Of course, we bought some stuff.

We were only able to stay about a half hour because it was mid-afternoon and we had other places to go. But, we all appreciated the friendliness and felt that Mac Hodges is a real gentleman. If you get a chance, visit Hodges Hobbies.

Ken Bauske



P.O. Box 916

New Waverly, Texas 77358

«First Name» «Last Name»

«Address»

«City»

«State», «Zip»

Useful Numbers:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 0

Web site [www.tri-countybarnstormers.com](http://www.tri-countybarnstormers.com)

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# DON'T FORGET

TRI-COUNTY BARNSTORMER  
CLUB MEETINGS ON THE FIRST  
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE

March 4th