



# THE PROP WASH

## Club Officers

- *President* - Robert Minieri
- *Vice President* - Sam Barrett
- *Secretary* - Larry Bonnette
- *Treasurer* - Dick Pursley
- *Editor/Webmaster* - Larry Bonnette



Robert Minieri

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

For those who care, a little bit about your new president - me!

I am 38 years old, which may sound young to some of you, but I have a lot of RC experience under my belt. I built my first built-up kit when I was 10 years old and have been flying ever since. My father, Bob Minieri, joined The Barnstormers in the mid 1980's and

I used to go to the monthly meetings with him, as well as fly at the old Crude Cemetery field.

While my father has passed away, his planes live on in my collection, a few of which I still fly, and a few of which will one day fly again. My oldest planes are as old as I am and still fly. My newest plane, well, may change by the time you read this.

I work for myself, running a dirt work company called A&J Tractor. I received my pilot's license in 2003 and, if I can get myself to quit spending all my extra money on RC stuff, I may get back in the air one day.

My wife Melissa also works full time, and we have 2 children - Alaina who is 6 and Jackson who is 4. Jackson is already quite the RC simulator pilot.

Flying and RC is my passion, and as President I will do all I can to keep the Barnstormers Club the wonderful organization it is.

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Meetings are at the  
Conroe Friendship Center  
on the first Thursday of  
the month at 7:30 PM

We hope to see you  
there.



Sam Barrett

## Words from the VP

(The Vice President's Input)

The March meeting was well attended and it was gratifying to see so many members willing to contribute to the betterment of our club and its facilities. The weather has been pretty decent and we managed to get the field mowed and sprayed with weed control chemicals the last week of February. Thanks to the efforts of many of our club members, the field is really shaping up for the flying season. In addition to working on the flying field surface, the members have been fixing irrigation system leaks and other things in need of repair. In the first weeks of March we will be putting down some grass seed on the side of the field farthest from the flight stations and continuing its care and feeding. Ant control is also on our agenda!

The side of the field closest to the flight stations may get the long awaited smooth surface pending a vote at our next meeting. There has been a lot of effort put into coming up with a cost effective solution for a smooth runway, especially to support models with smaller diameter wheels, and it seems we have decided on an option that should please most of the members, if not all. I am anxious to see the new improvement and applaud the work and study that went into the final proposal that we considered at the March meeting. The general acceptance of the proposal indicates we can expect installation to begin shortly after the April meeting. Maybe we'll need new web site pictures after that project is complete to show it off!

We have a number of pieces of equipment that belong to the club for use in maintaining the field. Each of these pieces of equipment requires some knowledge of operating and safety procedures to use properly. We have new members eager to help with field maintenance and I welcome volunteers to contact me for instruction and lock codes for the power equipment that have significant safety and operation procedure requirements. These equipments represent a significant investment by the club and proper checkout is needed to safeguard that investment and protect the user from injury. Email me at [sambarrett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sambarrett@sbcglobal.net) to arrange for safety and operation familiarization on our equipment or to report any problems with the functioning or condition of our equipment. Only members that have been so instructed by me or the previous VP are authorized to operate the locked power equipment. Any safety issues or incidents, with our equipment or the field, should also be reported to our Safety Officer.

It was asked at our March meeting if we had a "grounds committee" to coordinate field maintenance and the answer is, no. However, we do need some schedule for us to keep track of when ant suppression, fertilizer, grub killer, etc. needs to be and was applied to keep from duplicating such actions and wasting club resources. I welcome the knowledge of those members who have such experience. I will put a clip board in March at the field to keep track of mowing and other actions by our volunteers and a calendar noting such things as fertilizer and chemical application timing to guide grounds care. The clip-board will be kept in the mower shed and please complete the line with name, date and mower used, when mowing. Treatment with fertilizer or chemicals should be coordinated with me, before hand, to avoid duplication of effort. Thanks for your help in keeping up with the maintenance on our field.

# Meeting Minutes

(The Secretary's Report)



Larry Bonnette

**March 1, 2012**

**Members present: 37**

**Start time: 7:30 PM**

**Meeting called to order at 7:30 by President Robert Minieri**

**February minutes were approved.**

**Vice president reported that the field looks good. Someone mowed. The field has dried up after the rains. The gate is fixed (thanks Gary and Max). Sam thanked everyone for pitching in. A member asked that the mowing schedule be posted. Someone asked who to see to get checked out on the mowers.**

**The Treasurer reported that the bank account is in good shape. We are at 140 members and climbing. Dick said that the numbers were normal and usually goes up as the flight season progresses.**

**Dick told members that he needs to give up his position as treasurer because he cannot dedicate the time necessary to do the job. Dick said that he believes that Sam Barrett (our vice president) would make a good replacement since he is a CPA. If Sam takes over as Treasurer then someone will need to take over the Vice President position.**

**Robert stated that we still need a Safety Officer. Gene Edwards volunteered and the members voted him in as the clubs new Safety Officer.**

**Robert visited the "Houston Sports Fliers" club on Kuykendahl to see their runway that is covered with Geotextile (a material that provides a smooth flat surface). Robert reported that he was impressed with the way it looked and has lasted (it has been in use for more than 3 years). The material looks good and is easy to repair and holds up to the heat and the heavy rains. Members asked quite a few questions and at the end of the discussion a motion was made to allow the club to spend \$5000 on the project. When members were reminded that the vote could not take place this month the motion was modified to the following:**

**The club will vote at the next meeting (April 2012) to spend \$5000.00 for materials needed to install a 45 X 400 foot section of Geotextile material over a portion of the current runway. The current runway measures 125 feet wide by 550 feet long.**

**This motion was seconded and the members present voted (unanimously) to allow a vote to take place next month.**

## Minutes (continued)

There were guests present at the meeting. Bob Cook and his son Sam, Jeff Michael Brown.

Max mentioned that the Big Bird is coming up.

Gary Baumgartner told members that he had called the Sherriff about our neighbor's dogs. He told the Sherriff that the dogs had bitten people in the past and that they were chasing and biting at the tractors as they mowed. Gary said he posted signs to warn people about the dogs. Robert said he has purchased cans of wasp spray and will place them at the field for use against the dogs.

Robert was asked if he had written a letter to the neighbor about the dogs and his answer was no. Gene Edwards (our new Safety Officer) will write a letter and send it to her. Gary told members that the Sherriff said that ALL dog bites should be reported.

There was some discussion around the neighbor's use of our rest room and water. Dick said that we now keep the rest rooms locked.

Model of the month was won by Robert Minieri

The attendance award would have been won by Warren Dalton but he was not there and the pot rolls over to next month.

The name tag award was won by Paul Langer

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55



Dick Pursley

## Dick's Doin's

Hey folks,

All is well with your bank account. Membership is at about 140 and will likely reach 150 or so before the next time dues are to come in.

As those of you who were at the March meeting know, I am having trouble dedicating the time to the office of the treasurer that it deserves. Consequently, I am looking for someone to hand the treasury off to. My suggestion is Samuel Barrett. He is a retired CPA and considerably more qualified to handle the position than I. However, if we choose to move him to the treasurer's spot, we will need to replace him as vice-president. Suggestions?????

Please send any comments or suggestions to me or any of the other club officers.

Have a GREAT month.  
Dick Pursley



P.O. Box 916

New Waverly, Texas 77358

«First Name» «Last Name»

«Address»

«City», «State»

«Zip»

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

April 5th