



AMA Charter 1605

February 2013

THE PROP WASH

Club Officers

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



Robert Minieri

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Crickets.....

Crickets.....

Crickets.....

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Crickets.....

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Crickets..... Crickets.....

Crickets.....

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

**We hope to see you
there.**

**Robert Cook**

Words from the VP

(The Vice President's Input)

The T-CB's first meeting of 2013 was also my first as acting VP. I did my best to shuffle papers and act like I knew what was going on despite Sam's absence, although I think we were all in good hands with Robert at the bridge while Larry held down the fort. My job has kept me on the road a lot since last November and it doesn't look like my travel will be letting up anytime soon. It's a great opportunity that ties into our hobby – the mining and recovery of rare earth elements. Neodymium is among those which is the cornerstone metal used in the magnets of electric motors. I enjoy the fact that I am on the front end of mining the metals that go into our state-of-the-art technologies while also being on the consumer side. The Chinese have held the world hostage with their dominance

so I'm working hard to get a big chunk of that back in the USA. Enough work talk though.

At our officer meeting in January, we touched on three main topics that were also covered during the meeting. You should check out the minutes for details but quickly, these include:

Safety – we need to ensure that everyone (guests included) have AMA insurance and adhere to all AMA and T-CB bylaws.

Security – steps taken to help protect us from future vandalism and/or theft

Tips and Tricks – suggested by a club member as a way to share ideas and help each other with what we've learned.

I thought the tips and tricks idea was excellent. I'm guessing that the collective know-how of our membership could fill a couple volumes. Not only the "what to do" but as importantly, lessons learned and "what not to do". There are a few ways we can implement this idea and I'd like your feedback because we don't have a solution yet and I'm not even sure folks agree with me that we should even do this.

Gary Baumgartner suggested that one way to share ideas is to simply ascribe some meeting time to allow members a chance to share. We did this in the February meeting and it really seemed to be enjoyed by all. But (yes, here comes that big hairy BUT), I've noted that not many members actually come to the meetings. In fact, I've only been at T-CB for a year now and most of the meetings are filled with the same folks that come every month. We have 140 members so if you are looking for a way to meet some of the folks, the meetings isn't it. A practical concern is that the meetings only come once a month and are somewhat time limited. We always seem to be pushing on the 9PM deadline to get out before they lock us in. So I'm not sure that the meetings is a good place to reap maximum value from sharing ideas.

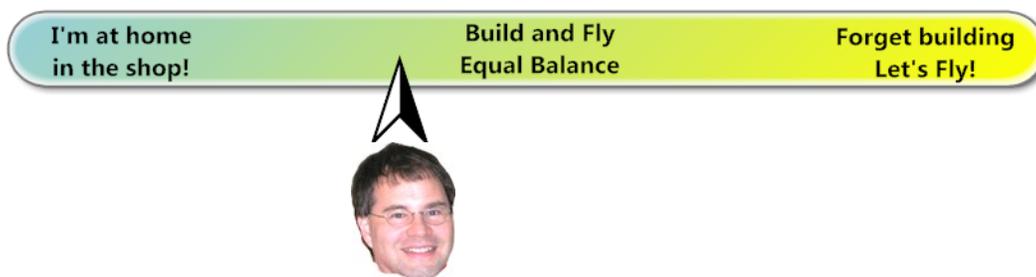
VP (continued)

Another suggestion that I broached with Larry during break was to setup a forum as a feature of our existing website and moderate that in much the same way forums are normally used. While I consider myself quite computer literate, I've never maintained and moderated a forum but I know from the ones I visit that they can become a nightmare for those with plans other than to share ideas about RC Aero modeling! I received feedback from several folks that the T-CB tried forums a while back but that participation was slim and they were overcome by hackers and spammers. I'm still open to revisiting this method.

I took the feedback received on the bad experience with forums and tried to setup a so-called Community hosted by Google that would afford strict control over membership while also delegating the heavy lifting of the service to Google. I received mixed feedback on this idea. Some folks thought it was a great idea and immediately joined while others weren't comfortable sharing their email address with Google. The community is still up but so far, only six folks are members and the post volume has been pretty limited.

From what I can see, the membership of the T-CB is not ones to partake of online community sharing, even where it involves their favorite hobby. OK, I get it, flying model planes and helicopters is an OUT DOOR sport, and maybe we shouldn't be promoting something like a computer-based community that diminishes that. After all, the world has seen enough of that with Facebook, Twitter, etc. right?

I don't know about y'all but if you pinned my head along the builder vs. flyer spectrum, I'd land about left of center as shown below.



VP (continued)

And if you are along the same lines as me, that means you too spend a lot of time building – more than flying! So your honor, I rest me case that our hobby demands a lot of quality time indoors so that we can enjoy the fruits outside as well! So maybe there are some like-minded folks who wouldn't mind sharing their skills and passion online?

I'd like to do a quick experiment because I doubt that many of our members even take the time to read our minutes or the PropWash musings! I'm only trying to help find ways we can enjoy the hobby more fully so maybe I am just a lone voice here. For those who are even reading this, would you please shoot me some feedback at Robert.graham.cook@gmail.com. In that feedback, please let me know your thoughts on setting up a forum online, sharing in a community or some other idea that we haven't thought of! I want positive feedback, not just what you don't like. Based on that feedback, I will then present suggestions at the next meeting. Or maybe the conclusion to just move on and forget it. I don't know.

Till next month, may lift exceed drag in all you do.

Over and out.

Meeting Minutes

(The Secretary's Report)



Larry Bonnette

February 7, 2013
Start time: 7:34 PM
Members present 32

The February 7, 2013 meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Robert Minieri

December's meeting minutes were approved.

Sam was not able to make the meeting

Vice President Robert Cook told members that he had been away on business and did not get to the field in a while but he assured the members that Sam Barrett was keeping him informed of any issues. Robert Cook told members that there were "concerns" raised at the yearly executive meeting in January. These concerns included unsafe behavior of some members and their guests as well as guests that have been using the field without proof of AMA etc. Robert reminded us that it is every members duty to help enforce the rules of the club (and AMA). He mentioned that our rules and regulations are very well written and that it might be a good idea for members to re-read them. Guests are allowed three visits (If they are accompanied by a current member). After three visits the guest must join the club. Members are to fly their aircraft from designated "pilot stations". These are rules that were written in order to keep people and property safe and should be followed.

Robert mentioned that "Barnstormer" stickers for the AMA cards may (or may not) be distributed to members this year. However it is still the responsibility of all members to take a baton from the frequency board and display a valid AMA card in its place. This is true for both 72MHZ and 2.4GHZ radios. This helps all members with their duty to ensure that pilots on the flight line have a valid AMA as well as a current club membership. Again this is well documented in our rules which can be viewed on the web site and is also posted on the bulletin board at the field.

Guests who are not AMA members can fly at our field ONLY with one of our designated (and AMA approved) "Intro Pilots". The list of intro pilots is on the web site.

The president reported that the new security equipment was almost in place.

Robert M. let the members know that he will be getting to the installation of the new heli pad on the south side of the field as soon as he can find some time.

Minutes (continued)

The club is looking for someone to be the BEST CD.

Will there be a “Big Bird”? Max thinks that Jimmy Moore is still going to be the CD but would like Jimmy to call him.

The Club voted to donate \$500 to the Civil Air Patrol cadet program. The final vote will occur at the March meeting.

The club is looking for nominations for the “Helping hands” donation.

Gary Baumgartner suggested that the club designate some time at every meeting to allow members a chance to share their “Tips and Tricks” with other members. The club liked the idea and began sharing many “Tips”. The president will set aside some time during future meetings for this.

Three new members were voted in:

Jerry D’Haan

Charles Ballard

Don Varwig

Welcome to the club !

Model of the month was won by Perry Baycroft

The attendance award would have been won by Karl Kiefer (but he wasn’t there)

The name tag award was won by Perry Baycroft

Meeting adorned at 8:56

**Sam Barrett**

The Treasurers Report

Sorry I had to miss our first meeting of the year but, family business doesn't always schedule itself for my convenience. Starting a new year and working on new projects. We submitted our form 1024 to the IRS to confirm our tax exempt status and have received acknowledgement but still awaiting our letter ruling. It may take up to ninety days but, hopefully we will have good news by the end of March. Our club records indicate this issue has been discussed and researched since the late 1990's but we will finally get off the fence and get this important compliance issue resolved soon. We will be filing our Texas franchise tax return in the coming months as well.

We are still in good shape financially to begin the spring maintenance and mowing. Last year was a better year for rains but our irrigation repairs also helped keep the field in good shape during the dry spells. We have had no damaging freeze weather this winter so luck has saved us the further expense of having to repair before the growing season arrives. Of course the covered surface will need some seam repairs and weed treatment but not expensive repairs and we can handle the upkeep. A project to put crushed rock on the entrance road to repair the low spots and smooth the ride will be proposed next meeting and our estimates for these improvements can be easily covered by our current resources.

We have one or two things to complete for our AMA leader club activities. We voted in the February to make a \$500.00 donation to the Civil Air Patrol to complete one of our leader club goals. The final approval vote will be next meeting.

On a member level, our AMA coverage is pretty solid but we still had over a dozen members with expired AMA memberships. As an AMA chartered club and as owners of our field, we need to maintain AMA coverage to protect us from liability. Remember to put your AMA card on the frequency board before you fly to let others know what channels are in use and to let the club know you are AMA covered. Flying without AMA coverage puts the club at risk and cannot be tolerated. Members are at risk of damage suits to protect the club if involved in accidents at the field without the required AMA coverage. Keeping up your AMA coverage is the responsible thing to do for the protection of our club and its individual members.



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«City», «State»

«Zip»

Web site 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 7th