

The PropWash

Newsletter of the Tri-County Barnstormers R/C Club



Club Officers

President – Kirk Jensen
Vice President – Keith Jarvis
Treasurer – Sam Barrett
Secretary, PW Editor &
Webmaster – Larry Bonnette

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**Next meeting
March 6, 2014**

**The Tri-county
Barnstormers hold monthly
meetings at 7:30 PM on the
first Thursday of each
month at the Conroe
Friendship Center.**

1. The Presidents Corner

[Kirk Jensen](#)



Hello,
Well, the year seems to be off to a good start. At the February meeting I proposed that the club host a leg of the Curtis Youngblood Stingray Race Series. The club voted on it and it was approved for May 30 and 31.

Curtis has been flying and competing with RC Helicopters since the early 1980s and is a Multi-time World Champion and Multi-time 3D Champion. He has his own line of helicopters and recently developed a radical new quad copter called the Stingray.

The Stingray uses variable pitch rotors rather than motor speed to control the aircraft. This

allows the quad to do every maneuver in the book, including hover inverted.

Curtis is a somewhat local. He lives in the College Station area.

As you can tell I'm very excited to have this event at our field. We will be looking for the usual volunteers to help with sign in, the kitchen, etc. as we get closer.

See you at the field.
Kirk

2. Vice President

[Keith Jarvis](#)



I want to say Happy New Year to everybody.

The building season will soon wrap up and the warmer weather that is more suitable for flying is approaching with the opportunity

to break out all the new projects that the building season has produced.

The field looks to be in pretty good shape for the time of the year and soon we will begin to prepare for spring and "going green" again. With the help of Sam, Max and others that contributed, we have so far made it through a couple of spells of freezing weather without any known damages and I would like to say thanks to all that have been involved with the preparations. I also want to say thanks to Max for devoting some of his time to start to get me familiarized with the duties, equipment and the lay out of the landscape at the field. It is much appreciated. Also thanks to Sam for a great job on repairing the tire tracks that one of our members thoughtlessly left behind, it looks great!

Hopefully, while the grass is not in full growing mode, we can get a jump on getting the walkways trimmed and edged while it may be a bit easier. This will give us a good start on being able to get things ready for the upcoming season as we continue to keep up with the maintenance and cosmetics of the field.

The fabric runway is in need some attention and some of this maintenance is going to require some downtime in order to do some maintenance on the seams.

I have a few volunteers that are going to help me start the repairs on the cuts and tears caused by prop strikes and gear contact with the runway. This will not require any downtime

but the seam repairs are going to be more time consuming.

Talking with Max, he has had some experience with making some repairs to the runway and has found some self-adhesive patch material that is very easy to use and works great. The repairs that have been done with this material looks to be a much better fix than the roof cement and a piece of the runway fabric. It seems to last longer and looks better and again, is much easier and cleaner.

I will try to have a little "how to" instruction article with some pictures to show how easy it is to make a repair in the next PropWash, and I will also post it at the field. Please remember that it is all of our responsibility to fix or repair a tear or rip in the runway that may happen by our plane. This will only preserve the integrity of our runway and be less costly in the long term.

The material I mentioned is what I am intending to use for seam repairs, but I am open to any suggestions if anyone may have a better idea. I am planning on picking the material up within the next few weeks, so if anyone has any other ideas, please let me know ASAP. I don't have a specific date yet but if you feel you can lend a hand when we schedule a work day, please let me know.

It is also time to start thinking about our BIG BIRD event. It will be here before we know it. We always can use the help for this event too, so if you can help out, please let Max or myself

know. We are hoping to have another good turn out so invite all your friends to come out and have some fun.

Until next time, be safe and have fun Flyin.

3. Words from the Treasurer

Sam Barrett



It's February and we are emerging from a cold, miserable winter, well for Texas anyway. During the winter months we often have to drain the water pipes at the field to protect from broken piping due to temps in the 20's for overnight or longer. The weather is warming up and we may finally be able to stop draining our water pipes and have the inconvenience of no water in the restrooms. Of course, the weather in Texas is anything but predictable this time of year, so don't be surprised if we have another day or two of freezing forecasts in our area and a related loss of water services.

With the coming spring, comes the mowing season, our most labor intensive season of the year. Our treasury is in good shape as we are preparing for another season of upkeep. If you spot anything at the field that is broken or needs upkeep, please bring it to the attention of club officers or, if it is something you can take care of, take care of it because it is your club too.

If you haven't flown since last year, better check that your AMA membership is up to date as we are an AMA Chartered Club and we need to have current AMA member coverage before flying, no exceptions. Also check the new AMA safety rule changes that became effective January 1, 2014. The new updates include rules related to FPV (first person view) operating, so if you participate in this new technology, make yourself aware of the requirements for flying FPV at an AMA field. If you are involved in an incident while flying FPV past the line of sight distance from Ray Brickhouse Field, you may expose the club to suits for damage not covered by AMA. This warning is to alert you that such operation may result in third party suits for damages that you alone would bear, along with action by club to recover any losses caused by a member for which AMA refuses coverage. Please read and understand the rules to protect yourself and the club. There are so many new technologies available to our hobby and we need to enjoy them in a safe

manner to protect the hobby and its pursuers.

We have several special events planned for 2014 which brings members of other clubs from all over Texas to Ray Brickhouse Field. Preparations for these events are made easier by keeping all trash and crash debris cleared away from the field and its boundaries. If you bring sodas and sandwiches or other consumables to the field please take all of your trash with you when leaving. We do not have trash pickup service at the field. Clean up the club house if you use it for eating or storing your food while at the field so it is ready for the next member and to keep pest infestation from getting a foot hold. Let's have a great and safe 2014 at Ray Brickhouse Field!

4. Meeting Minutes

Larry Bonnette



6 February 2014
Members present: 25
Start Time: 7:30

President Kirk Jensen called the meeting to order

December 2013 meeting minutes were accepted unanimously by members

Vice President Keith Jarvis reported that the field was in good shape. Keith thanked Max for helping him learn the ropes. The water was turned off because of the cold temperatures but it is back on now.

Safety Officer Gary Baumgartner reported that the AMA has issued document #550 titled "Radio Controlled Model Aircraft Operation Utilizing "First Person View" Systems. Gary explained that the AMA felt it was necessary to release this document to help keep us all safe. He recommended that all members take the time to read it. Gary told the members that this document contains requirements that the club (as an AMA chartered club) must adhere to. One of these requirements is that if you are flying FPV you must have a spotter who is prepared to acquire the transmitter/control from the *FPV pilot* and assume *VLOS* control of the model aircraft at any time safe operation of the flight is in question.

Gary announced a safety slogan. This month's slogan is: "Speak up for safety" and "Tell Me"

Gary reminded pilots that the club has a rule about flying high speed low passes over the runway. It is not permitted while others are flying.

Gene told the club that it may be unsafe to fly using the HAM band (50Mhz) because he observed intermittent spikes of interference. He suggest that everyone move to 2.4 Ghz.

New member Max D'Alessandro was voted in unanimously. Welcome Max !

Kirk Jensen proposed that the club host a "Curtis Youngblood Sting Ray racing" event on May 30 and 31 2014. Kirk explained that Curtis Youngblood is a world champion helicopter pilot and he has developed a very interesting "Quad copter" aircraft that uses a constant rpm motor and variable pitched rotors to maneuver the aircraft. Mr. Youngblood is promoting the new aircraft by taking it to different parts of the country. There was discussion between members and Kirk, and after the discussion ended Kirk proposed that the club host the event at our field on May 30 and 31. The motion was seconded and passed with a unanimous vote. Kirk will apply for an AMA sanction and asked that members help him with the event.

A member informed the club that one of its longtime members, Dick Moore had passed away.

Gary Baumgartner told members that he will replace some of the fans at the field but he cannot do it alone. He has asked that someone volunteer to help him. If you can help, please e-mail or call Gary.

Model of the month was won by Alton Simpson. Attendance award would have been won by Ted Lewis but he wasn't there. Name Tag award was won by Robert Bartley

Meeting adjourned at 8:50

