



# THE PROP WASH

## Club Officers

- *President* - Kirk Jensen
- *Vice President* - Robert Daffin
- *Secretary* - Larry Bonnette
- *Treasurer* - Sam Barrett
- *Editor/Webmaster* - Larry Bonnette



Kirk Jensen

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hello,

This should just make it out before the Tri-County Barnstormers Big Bird event, taking place April 25,26. I know Max Taylor is working hard to make this another great event. Please plan on attending and flying or more importantly show up and lend a hand. There is always help needed it seems.

I think it is time to remind the club members of some basic flight courtesy. As you know we have a flight direction arrow by the flight stations. It is changed to left or right based on the wind. Please, when there is more than one plane in the air remember to fly a general racetrack pattern. I was at the field recently on a day I don't normally attend and witnessed most flyers simply going every which way, with a few planes in the air. Most, if not all of us really like our planes and to see one destroyed by a midair would be heart breaking. And the blame game that follows would be worse. (for the pilot not flying the pattern). Thanks for letting me get on my soap box for a bit.

Be sure to PLEASE show up at the next meeting as we have an important item to vote on, covered elsewhere in the newsletter. We need to have enough people present to meet the club rules and make the vote. Thank You.

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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.**

**Robert Daffin**

## Words from the VP

(The Vice President's Input)

Howdy fellow Barnstormers. April is an exciting time of year. With Big Bird at the end of the month, and warmer temps, it means flying season has finally arrived! The field is in pretty good shape, we mow when it's dry enough, and everything has greened up. I have had a few members express interest in helping out with field maintenance and as soon as it's dry enough I will be calling on some of you who have offered. Many thanks to those of you who have helped out so far!

We have a new Facebook page that is open for anyone to post on and share information and pictures. It currently has 138 members with 4 people stepping up for admin duties. Anyone who wants to join is welcome to do so. So far it has been a great place to see some member's projects and swap some info. We only ask to keep the posts to hobby related items please.

Hope to see y'all out at the field sometime soon. Happy flying and safe landings!

Till next month,  
Robert Daffin

# Meeting Minutes

(The Secretary's Report)



Larry Bonnette

April 2 2015  
Present: 41  
Start: 7:33 PM

President Kirk Jensen called the meeting to order.

2 visitors

Larry Bonnette asked members to identify themselves by raising their hands so that an accurate count could be taken. The count was 41 members.

March minutes were accepted unanimously

Two new members were unanimously voted into the club. Jon Beamesderfer, and Jon Andrew Beamesderfer. Welcome !

Max Taylor updated the members on the preparation progress for the Big Bird event on April 25 and 26. The club still needs volunteers to help out. Please contact Max if you are interested in helping. Max explained that the Big Bird is for aircraft with an 80 inch (or larger) wing span. 60 inches if it is a bi-plane. Robert Daffin said that we are planning a bon fire (as long as it is safe).

Robert Daffin updated the club on the haying situation (see the February 2015 minutes). Robert said that he has not heard from the person who is currently doing the haying since their last discussion in February. Robert is assuming that the current haying company is no longer interested but will try to contact him one more time. In the meantime he will assume the responsibility.

Larry Bonnette told club members that the club constitution required a quorum of 20% in order for the club to vote on any item. The club is growing and at a current membership of 170 people the quorum number is growing as well. Typically the number of members who attend the meeting varies, but seems to be around 25 to 30. You can verify this by looking back at the past minutes. With our current membership count, a quorum is 34 (20% of 170). Since we only attract 25-30 members per meeting, we would not have a quorum and therefore could not call for a vote. We could not vote on allowing new members to join. We could not vote on the spending necessary for the upkeep of our field. We could not vote for anything.

Larry made a motion, He proposed that the club amend the constitution on page 6, section VI, paragraph 3. Second sentence, from: "A quorum shall consist of 20% of the regular membership of the Club." To: "A quorum shall consist of 10% of the regular membership of the Club."

The motion was seconded.

A discussion ensued. A few members thought that 10% might be too low a number. They proposed a number of 15%. But, the consensus of most members present was that 10% was the best number to allow the club to move forward. The motion passed with 34 members for the constitution change and 4 against.

## Minutes (continued)

The motion will be voted on one more time at the May meeting (if a quorum exists). Kirk encouraged members to be present for this vote.

Our Safety Officer, Gary Baumgartner told the club that he had no safety issues to report. He did say that he had been contacted by a person who is part of the "Military Veteran Network" and that she would be willing to speak at one of our meetings. Gary asked members to contact him if they thought it was a good idea.

The Treasurer, Sam Barrett reported that our finances were in good condition. He told us that we are going into a spending period in which we will need to buy gas for the mowers, repair pumps, and pay our property taxes. He also told members that the books are always open for inspection and that any member can feel free to come to the meetings and ask to see them. Sam told the members that if they needed to contact him by e-mail they should send mail to: [treasurer@tri-countybarnstormers.com](mailto:treasurer@tri-countybarnstormers.com).

Someone asked if we needed a new tree.

Our Vice President, Robert Daffin provided the club with a field report. He said it was time to put chemicals on the field, and that some spraying had been completed for a fungus caused by wasps. Robert also asked for help with field maintenance. He told us that he is available to check people out on the operation of the mowers. All members are encouraged to help with field maintenance.

Robert asked that if you see clumps of weeds or grass growing up through the fabric on the runway. Just give it a kick. That usually takes care of it.

Model of the month was won by Richard McCants

The name tag drawing was won by Eric Wilkinson

The attendance jackpot would have been won by Terry Foote but he wasn't at the meeting.

Larry made one more comment on absentee ballots (read the constitution page 10)

The meeting adjourned at 8:53



Sam Barrett

## The Treasurers Report

I want to thank those members who responded to our call for attendance at the April meeting. However, even with a specific topic announced of a vote on a constitution and by-laws amendment, we only had a turnout of about 23% of our membership. I know most of us joined the club to fly our models but, having a forty acre field, owned by a Texas non-profit corporation, which is an exempt organization under section 501 (C), 7 of the IRS code, that pays property taxes and expenses of maintaining that field takes some dedicated time of your club officers and other active club members. Our constitution and by-laws requires that we have a specific quorum present at two consecutive meetings to vote to allow our officers to act on behalf of the club in carrying out actions

which require the expenditure of club funds in excess of \$300; except for things like emergency repairs to existing club assets, etc.

Right now that quorum is 20% of "regular" voting club members. We will be taking a vote in the May meeting to change that percentage to allow the club leadership to act with the membership attendance more in line with our members who routinely attend the meetings. Please take time to read the club's constitution and by-laws and come to the May meeting to participate in that vote.

As you Treasurer, I am responsible for accounting for, and safeguarding of, the assets of the club. We own 40 acres of land in Walker County. We pay property taxes on that land and the improvements, such as our club house, well and other permanent assets which make up our flying field. During the year we also pay expenses to maintain the field and keep our field maintenance equipment serviced and insured. We pay for electric service which powers our field irrigation and lights and we also have a local phone so we can call out in an emergency or get pestered by the family while we are at the field. Every penny taken in by the club in dues and club events is recorded and reported annually to the state and the IRS to document our compliance with our exempt purpose and tax exempt status. All club expenses are classified and recorded in our accounting system and available for audit by our club annually or by state or federal audit. As Treasurer, I also have to comply with our club constitution and by-laws in disbursing of funds for club purchases and expenses. All of my services as Treasurer are free to the club, as are the other officers who donate their time to act as stewards of the club on behalf of the membership. We need your attendance at the May meeting to help us decide whether the change to our constitution and by-laws will make it easier for the officers to act on behalf of the club in a more efficient manner and still provide for adequate control of the leadership by the membership. It's your call; come to the May meeting and let your vote be heard.

As always, keep your AMA card on the frequency control board while flying at the field and make sure others do so as well. While we can't see if other drivers on the road are carrying insurance against them causing us harm, but we can do that at the field by checking other fliers by their AMA card posted on the board. All regular members are required by our constitution and by-laws to have current AMA membership.



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«First Name» «Last Name»  
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«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

May 7th