



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

We had a very good discussion at the last meeting regarding the condition of the runway. Steve Sartor brought up that the condition of the fabric is good, but there seems to be erosion going on under the runway causing hollow spots underneath. We were given some options from Steve and others that range from do nothing, pull it up and fill in, to put down asphalt. Members and friends, I think it's time to swallow the pill and go for asphalt. We have proven that the club can exist with a combination grass and hard surface field, I think most if not all love the challenge of hitting the runway 'on the stripe' and it makes you a better pilot, with a target to spot for, Not to mention the huge benefits of flying virtually any size or configuration of airplane off the runway! With the high interest shown at the last meeting I'm sure it will be brought up again and we can start to formulate a plan to make it happen. The club is debt free, we have strong membership and a nice down payment available. Come to the meeting for sure and join in the discussion please.

A reminder of upcoming events in our area: June 18-20 Is a Jet event at Bomber, US Scale Masters is October 7-11 at Bomber. Our club is hosting the (13th I believe) B.E.S.T. Event on October 3-4, 2015.

The club field is looking great and very green. The hay is now looking like hay should. weather seems to be drying out. Get out and do some flying and have a good time.

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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. Another month has passed and it's finally starting to dry up. The field is really looking good thanks to the hard work of Max, Steve, and some others whose names I do not know. Once again any and all help is appreciated. Just let myself or Max know when you can make it out.

The hard surface runway we have is in need of some serious repair. We discussed some options in the last meeting and some good ideas were passed around. There are many options for repair but, most center around still having some form of a hard surface runway. We have many members now who enjoy flying at our field that, if not for the hard surface, would not be able to fly. The majority of the smaller electric models are just not capable of taking off in grass.

We have received some quotes for different surfaces, from replacing the geo-mat to asphalt and concrete. We will discuss more options at the upcoming meeting when we will have actual numbers to work with.

I hope everyone gets a chance to fly while the weather permits. Everybody fly safe and happy landings!

Until next month!

Robert Daffin

Meeting Minutes

(The Secretary's Report)



Larry Bonnette

June 4 2015
Present: 31
Start: 7:34 PM

May minutes accepted unanimously

1 visitor

New member, Curry Matherne was voted into the club unanimously. Welcome Curry !

Gary Baumgartner reported no safety issues. No motto of the month.

The Treasurer reported that he received a new property appraisal and because it is higher we may face an increase in our property tax. We may protest the new appraisal. Sam also told members that he will be sending out renewal invoices in a month or two.

The Vice president reported that Max and Steve and crew are doing what they can with mowing. The field is still wet in places which makes it harder to mow. As always we are looking for volunteers to help with chores around the property.

Max asked about the sign replacement we talked about a while ago. Tom Bufkin said that he spoke to someone who would do it for \$200 if we delivered it to them completely prepared. This means sanded and pre-painted and ready for lettering. We need a trailer to deliver it and someone to prepare it. Kirk Jensen said he would talk with Greg (a member who does sign work) and see if he might do it instead.

Steve Sartor told the members that the runway is suffering from erosion. The erosion is occurring mostly on the East side of the runway but there are spots in the center that need attention. Steve said that he sees five possibilities for the outcome of the runway.

1. We do nothing and the runway gets worse.
2. We remove the fabric runway and replace it with grass.
3. We repair the current runway base and repair the current fabric.
4. We replace the current fabric with new fabric and a new base.
5. We prepare the base of the runway and pave it with asphalt or cement.

Minutes (continued)

The members discussed each of the items above and most thought that item #1 was not an acceptable approach. Item #2 is also probably not a way to go since many members liked the smooth surface of the current runway. Item #3 and #4 was kicked around and members were not opposed to either of them. Some thought that we could make the runway smaller which would reduce the cost of repair or replacement. Item #5 was discussed and most* members also liked the idea of an almost maintenance free surface like asphalt. The main issue seemed to be the cost.
(*several straw polls were taken regarding many of the sticking points of an hard surfaced runway . About 2/3 of the members were for it)

In the end no decision was made about runway repair.

Another new member Curtis Kelton was voted into the club. Welcome Curtis !

Model of the month was won by Steve Sartor

Attendance jackpot would have been won by William Postula

Name tag award was won by Gary Baumgartner

Night flying tonight.

Meet adjourned at 8:40 PM



Sam Barrett

The Treasurers Report

It is starting to pick up again for the club Treasurer We received our property appraisal from Walker County and, no surprise our valuations have gone up again. The effect is a slight increase in our proposed taxes for the year. We haven't had too much of an impact but, if values continue to climb, we might consider protesting tax valuations next year, especially if the real estate market takes a dip. We also have our property insurance coming up for renewal soon. All of our equipment and club facilities are insured to protect us from theft or damage by violent weather, etc. and the premium for this protection comes due in the near future.

The rains have taken a toll on our "smooth" surface runway with erosion and soil subsidence making for a rough landing on what looks like a level surface of petro-mat. The repairs most likely require peeling back the petro-mat and leveling or replacing and leveling the soil beneath. This is no easy task and will cost some money, for sure. This has raised the prospect of installing a more durable base and hard surface top coat to make a "paved" runway. The only problem is the cost and how to pay for it. The on-going discussions and investigations into the best cost-effective solution will eventually result in action. Please attend our monthly meetings and let us know your ideas. The more people involved in the process the more likelihood of a better decision on the final action approved. If you have any info on construction or road paving that might help, please share with our club officers and other members.

Speaking of members, invoices for 2016 dues will be going out in July, with a due date of August 1st. Per our Constitution and By-Laws, members have up to 60 days after the due date to get those dues in. This is a very busy time for the Treasurer and prompt payment of dues is appreciated.

The winds have been light and the weather finally friendly to our sport. Be safe and don't forget to display your AMA card on the pin board while flying.



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DON'T FORGET

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

NEXT MEETING WILL BE

July 2nd