



THE PROP WASH

Club Officers

- **President** - Keith Jarvis
- **Vice President** - Buddy Barnett
- **Secretary** - Larry Bonnette
- **Treasurer** - Sam Barrett
- **Editor/Webmaster** - Larry Bonnette



Keith Jarvis

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hello Fellow Barnstormers,

First, I would like to say that I hope all of our members came thru the rains and floods of hurricane Harvey with no damage or misplacement. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to those in our area who have suffered any kind of loss.

Well it looks like we may be able to get a taste of fall finally, or at least teased a bit. Fall is approaching and the much more pleasant weather will be welcomed. The weather should be an opportunity to get some quality flying time in for some of us as the heat has hampered us a bit for the past couple of months from doing so. Thanks to the continued efforts of a few of our members, the facility continues to look great and again, many Thanks to

those who have and continue to participate in the weekly mowing crews. And also, again, a Big Thanks to Buddy Barnett for his dedication in keeping equipment in great shape as well as the maintaining of the facilities. He also continues to devote a lot of time lining out us team leaders to keep the facility mowed and in tip top shape. It is so nice to show up at a well groomed facility and spend the day enjoying what we love to do at such a nice facility. I also want to say Thanks to Sam and Larry for the work and job they continue to do for our club. Most of us just don't see behind the scenes and the hard work they put in to our club. Thank you guys !!

On another note, thankfully, our severely leaning oak tree at the entrance was removed before the storm. We couldn't have picked a better time as the storm may have taken its toll on it and done it in and potentially done some damage. Thanks to Steve Burns (the tree man or monkey) for the great work he did.

I want to say thanks to those who came out to support the AMA's National Model Aviation Day event that we co-op'd with the Jetero club. We had a great time and were able to raise \$786.00 for the Wounded Warrior Project and had a good day of flying with friends too.

If you weren't able to attend the September meeting, we selected a nominating committee headed up by Tom Bufkin, to select candidates for new board members for 2018. Please feel free to contact Tom with any suggestions you may have with any candidates to fill any of the positions. The committee will announce their nominees at the October meeting so please plan to attend. We will then vote at the November meeting for any positions necessary and any new board members will be put into place at the December meeting. Do plan to attend the next couple of meetings so you can contribute to the selecting of our 2018 board.

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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.

President (continued)

We also chose the members to conduct our annual audit for this year. There was also some discussion on whether or not we might want to raise our dues. We will have more discussion on this topic in our October meeting so come out and get in on the discussion. Other topics that will be touched on in the next (October) meeting will be our addition of the FPV Drone racing and any changes that may need to be addressed that might possibly effect our rules, regulations or by-laws. And Don't forget to bring your magazine contributions to Gary at the October meeting too.

I would like to ask members to, please continue to keep one of our fellow modelers from the Beaumont area , Brent Powell, in our prayers as he continues to recover from a very serious accident with his RC Helicopter. He is continuing to improve but is still in pretty serious condition and needs our prayers. This brings to mind the need for all of us to always be on top of our game. Things can always go unexpectedly way wrong at anytime and the potential for something bad to happen is always there. Don't get complacent, and make sure you are proactive in doing your preflight checks, range checks on your radio equipment and mechanics of your aircraft. It just might save you or someone else from injury or worse.

Don't forget B.E.S.T. is next month. Come out and enjoy one of the BEST electric events around. Always a great turnout. If you would like to help out, get in touch with Kirk Jensen.

The Apache Pass Ice House Fly In is at the end of this month, September 28th thru October 1st. It too is one of the elite fly ins in the state.

"THE DIXIE STORM" event, which will be our version of a fall Big Bird is also coming up on November 10th and 11th. Get ready as "the Dixie Storm is Coming" !!!

Be sure to put these events on your calendar and come out to one or all of them and fly your club colors. If you need a T-Shirt, get in touch with me. We still have plenty. Red & blue available in various sizes. 20 bucks a piece or 2 fer \$30. Get em while they last. We still have some hats too. They are \$15 a piece or 2 fer \$20. You can't beat a deal like that and let everyone know where you fly.

Well the days are getting shorter and so are my contributions to the Prop Wash, so until next month.....come out and enjoy our fine facilities, be safe, have fun and have a Blessed month.

**Buddy Barnett**

Words from the VP

(The Vice President's Input)

Welcome to September. I am personally glad to see the cooler weather coming our way. Hopefully everyone one survived hurricane Harvey with little to no damage. Our field survived with no damage to my knowledge.

If you have been unable to get the field we have removed the big leaning tree just east of the entrance. Luckily Keith Jarvis and the monkey man made this happen before the storm hit. Just a heads up if you wandering around where it use to be or is currently sitting in the burn pile it was covered with poison ivy. I learned this the hard way so don't be like me and stay away or dress accordingly.

A big Thanks to all the members who come and continue to help with the weekly maintenance of our field. No way it would ever look as nice as it does with out y'all's help. We got a few more weeks before BEST so let's keep the momentum going and have it perfect for BEST.

On some other notes for field maintenance. We are in the process of getting the septic system pumped out as no one knows the last time this was done. Thank you Mark Whitley for taking care of this. As far as I know once the ground dries enough we still have a local guy coming to cut the hay. This was scheduled for the week Harvey hit but due to the storm, it has not been performed yet. The day I was planning for a work day will be postponed indefinitely as I am starting a new project for work and will be working 6 days a week for the foreseeable future.

If you didn't attend last months meeting you missed all the fun. Hopefully everyone will make it out to next months meeting and come voice your opinion in what goes on in our club. Till next month guys be safe and keep the wheels down for landing.

Meeting Minutes

(The Secretary's Report)



Larry Bonnette

September 7 2017

Present: 36

Start: 7:30

President Keith Jarvis called the meeting to order.

The August minutes were unanimously approved.

The Club class pattern event has been rescheduled for November 18 at 10:00 am.

Members discussed the possibility of a small water runway. Members think that the whole idea needs lots of discussion and planning if we are to proceed.

Drone racing may be a possibility at the field. But before that happens some planning and maybe some rules need to be established especially when it comes to "Video" frequency allocation. There needs to be some way to coordinate who is using what frequency. The Drone folks will be meeting at the field this Sunday (Sep 10) at around 10:00 AM and they will discuss while they fly.

Treasurer reported that the club is "solvent" and that we dodged a bullet in that hurricane Harvey had very little effect on our field.

The Vice President reported that the field looks good after all the rains from Harvey but noted that this means that the grass is growing again and needs cutting. He reminded us that BEST is coming up and we will need to assemble a working party to prepare the field for the event. We still need volunteers to take care of the field. Please help! Additionally, Buddy told members that the clubhouse was left open along with the tractor shed. Keith asked members to please double check all of the buildings if you are the last one out. Sam told members that the clubs electrical usage has increased by 24% from last year. The club paid someone to come out and remove the tree that was hanging over the road.

Someone asked if there was any progress on adding electrical outlets to the benches in the pavilion. Keith said he is waiting for one of the members to take a look at the electrical system at the field to determine if adding more outlets will have an impact.

A member asked if anyone had looked at the health of our sewage system.

BEST is coming in October. We will need volunteers.

Someone will ask Richard if he will be removing the old coke machine.

Gary reminded members to donate old magazines that he re-distributes to interested organizations.

Keith appointed the following members to the Officer election committee. Tom Bufkin, Mark Whitley and Scott Walters.

The Treasurer audit committee this year will be Larry Bonnette and Steve Tinsley.

Our President, Keith Jarvis asked members to consider a possible "dues" increase from \$100 to \$150. He asked the Treasurer to summarize our financial health. Sam told members that. Basically, the club has expenses each year totaling \$18,500. But dues only total to around \$17,000 per year. The shortfall (\$1,500) is covered by money taken in from events such as "BEST" and initiation fees. The club also has a fair cushion in the savings account.

Minutes (continued)

The discussion about dues went on for about a half an hour with members making many comments and suggestions.

A member mentioned that the power line issue is still alive but nothing had changed since we spoke last about it.

Model aviation day raised \$786 for the Wounded Warriors fund.

Keith told members that one of our members, John Powell, was in a bad model helicopter accident please keep him in your prayers

Model of the month was won by Charlie Barrera

The Attendance jackpot would have been won by Mike Wood but he was not at the meeting.

The Name tag award went to Jay Wright

Meeting Adjourned 9:02

Dues Commentary

None of us like it when prices go up. But the fact is, Prices do go up.

The clubs taxes are going up. The price of electricity is increasing. The club has to pay for gasoline and the cost of maintaining the equipment necessary to keep our field looking great. And, we have to take care of any other unforeseen issues that may arise.

Members discussed the possibility of an increase in the amount of money we pay in dues.

Surprise, no one liked that idea.

The problem is. The club last year only took in \$17,000 in dues but we spent \$18,500.

This years spending will not go down but most likely go up. So, how are we paying our bills ? The initiation fees and the income from events are used to take care of the short fall.

Is the club in horrible shape financially? No, we can get by with what we have.

But is getting by what we want to do?

The club this year and last made many impressive improvements in our facilities.

We have club officers and members who are forward looking and seem to be driven to make even more improvements. These future improvements will require investments in both sweat and cash.

If we make a decision to raise dues this year. We will be able to continue to make improvements next year and into the future.

Please think about how you see our club next year and the year after. Think about how we will attract younger members to join.



Sam Barrett

The Treasurers Report

It is September and the time of the year for some of the best flying, including night flying. We have made our 22nd runway loan payment and the Treasury is still going strong. But what does that mean?

Before we approved the runway improvement, I prepared a five year forecast of our anticipated revenues and expenses to ensure we had a financial plan to spend \$50,000 on a new runway and not break the bank. We are almost into the third year of that forecast and the club is still doing fine financially, if only slightly less than projected in my forecast. However, at our September meeting we introduced the subject of dues increases and presented some of our numbers that caused the officers to suggest increasing dues. If the Treasurer says we are doing fine financially, why would he suggest we might need a dues increase? I will present in rough numbers the reason we might need to consider a dues increase.

We have an average membership of around 170 members and that number goes up and down from year to year. Some of our members are "Youth" members and pay lower dues but, our dues revenues average about \$17,000 per year. Our current expenses, which includes a field maintenance budget of \$5,000 actually totals over \$18,000 a year and includes things like property taxes, property insurance, electric service, meeting place rent and meeting expenses, AMA Charter dues, office supplies and postage for club communications and invoicing, website fees, other miscellaneous expenses and our debt service payments for the runway. Before we approved the runway, we had almost \$7,000 less in expenses which left us a surplus of about \$6,000 a year which carried forward each year and gave us the ability to afford to pay down the cost of the runway by writing a check for \$20,000 of the \$50,000 runway project. Now we have debt service to pay off the \$30,000 loan we took to pay the remaining cost over 5 years and which we will be paying on until December 2020.

On the bright side we do have "event" revenues and expenses which do result in some additional revenue but event revenues are not as reliable as dues revenues. In my forecasting I have somewhat ignored these revenues as one hurricane or wash out weekend could reduce or wipe out those revenues and our risk of defaulting on our runway would be increased by relying on these "variable" revenues. My forecast for the runway did not assume the assumption of any further capital projects such as the new tables under the covered area or new metal siding on the club house. These types of projects are considered capital projects because they create new assets or represent a "betterment" of an existing asset, rather than a maintenance action on an existing asset. If we had just replaced the wood siding on the clubhouse or repainted it, the cost would be expensed. However, since the clubhouse was given a different kind of siding because it lasts longer, the betterment is capitalized. The reason why I give this accounting lesson is because we spent \$8,000 which is no longer in our bank account but accounting wise, our "expenses" didn't appear to increase. Had the two projects been treated as maintenance, our 2017 expenses would have been \$26,000 against reliable revenues of only \$17,000. This result is certainly not accommodated by the financial forecast I prepared for the runway decision. Thus, if we anticipate more spending on capital or maintenance projects, we might need to increase dues to reduce the risk we default on our runway loan or have to resort to member assessments to cover the shortfall. Even if we did not plan significant capital projects we have to keep our financial cushion in place to cover unexpected major equipment failures or maintenance costs.

We will continue to evaluate our financial position and whether to recommend a dues increase. If we wait until the Treasurer has to announce at the meeting that we face financial difficulties you can bet the news won't be good and the time to plan for solutions will be compressed. So my answer to what does it mean is that we are currently financially sound but, if we continue to erode our reserves in excess of my original runway financial plan, at some point we will have to consider the curtailing of necessary maintenance or capital improvements. My goal as Treasurer is to explain the numbers so that members can make choices to keep the club financially strong; by either increasing revenues or helping hold down expenses to restore our reserves to handle unexpected but unavoidable expenses.

Speaking of financial risk, be sure to check those AMA cards and keep yours current or you might experience financial risk of your own. Fly safe and fly AMA covered and no worries.



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DON'T FORGET

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

NEXT MEETING WILL BE

October 5th