



# THE PROP WASH

## Club Officers

- **President** - Joe Marquardt
- **Vice President** - Jay Wright
- **Secretary** - Patrick Mapston
- **Treasurer** - Sam Barrett
- **Editor** - Max Taylor
- **Webmaster** - Larry Bonnette

## PRESIDENTS CORNER



The TBS May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was well attended with 31 voting members present and 4 paper ballots provided. The bylaw changes were approved and the majority of the field improvement motions passed. See the meeting minutes for the details.

I fully appreciate the member input during the recent meetings for discussion, comments, and questions during the bylaw change and field improvement development process. A big thank you to Jay Wright, Steve Sartor, Jeremiah Langlois and others that contributed their time and efforts in working these proposals over the last 5 months.

One of the field improvements that I believe some additional consideration is the proposal that failed which was to remove the wood deck and replace that area with an airconditioned space dimensioned approximately at 25x25 feet. The major opposition to this was a concern that the space would be too small for the club. I counter this argument with a few points

Event planning and occupancy calculators use 6 sq feet per person as a measure for needed space. Using this the area would hold 100 people.

We lined up chairs on the deck (smaller than the 25x25) and came up with the deck space holding 6 rows of 14 chairs for a total of 84 seats.

This would be the best use of the existing structure on the property with an easier installation at reduced cost than a separate structure. Which I would equate with judicious use of club funds to improve the field experience.

The meeting attendance, that I recall in the 10 years I have been a member, at the Conroe Center have not gone over 40 people and are typically in the 20 person or less range. Either calculation method above shows the space would be more than adequate to host meetings at the field.

A straw poll at the end of the meeting indicated the membership wants a meeting space out at the field so expect we will revisit this issue in the near future.

Upcoming 2023 events:

June 3<sup>rd</sup> Field BBQ honoring Susan and Kirk from New Creations for their long support of the club.

August 19<sup>th</sup> Big Bird

October 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> BEST

Get out to fly and enjoy the hobby.

Joe

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**Meetings are at the Conroe Friendship Center (Meals on Wheels building) on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM**  
**We hope to see you there.**

# Meeting Minutes



**Patrick Mapston**

May meeting minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 at the Friendship Center in Conroe TX.

Minutes from April were approved.

Field looks good and needs to be mowed.

Zeroturn mower is repaired. And finish mower needs new tires on the front.

Stairs have been repaired on the north side fence.

Sprinkler system has been repaired.

New neighbors to the north west, has now moved a trailer on the property.

Treasury.

Account is in good standing. Zero turn has been repaired and the invoice has been paid. Payments for this next year's dues are coming up August 1<sup>st</sup> and we will need to keep an eye on our payments in a timely manner.

Field budget may need to be adjusted.

Old business:

Discussions on safety repairs for fencing.

June 3rd is the proposed cookout for New Creation Kirk and Susan celebration.

## Motions on Field Improvements

Failed 17 = yes / 20 = no

Motion to accept proposal to demolish the existing wood structure at the north end of the pavilion and build an enclosure, with air condition and large glass windows toward the runway, including 10, 110volt outlets down the north side of the parking area at a cost not to exceed \$57,000. Financing to be arranged post the club endorsement of the activity.

Approved by overwhelming visual majority

Motion to accept proposal by GreenGo Tree Service to cut down, grind the stump, and segment each branch into 4 ft. pieces for the club to move and stack at cost not to exceed \$1400.

Approved by overwhelming visual majority

Motion to rebuild the safety fencing to 5 foot high field fencing, and build new safety fence at the pilots station. Quote not delivered before meeting but pricing to be included in the balloting at the next meeting. Quote received for \$8,604.

Withdrawn: Motion to construct a East/West grass runway at the north end of the air-strip. Dirt work construction not to exceed \$1200.

Approved by overwhelming visual majority

Motion to replace Ray Brickhouse sign by the entrance on Dibond aluminum plate at a cost not to exceed \$550 (to be installed by club members.)

Approved unanimous visual vote

Motion to hold a BBQ at the field in honor of Kirk and Susan from New Creations for all that they have done over the years to support the club. A gift or gift card will be presented. The club will provide the gift and food for the event at a cost not to exceed \$500.

Motion for By-law changes approved 24) yes. 6) no. 1) abstaining  
Page 1 under Objectives add item 6.

To maintain the flying field and assets of the club.  
Page 7 under General Rules of Conduct modify item 7.

~~Each member will from time to time have an obligation to perform general field maintenance. This obligation will be performed willingly and in a timely manner. Each member is expected to perform 2 volunteer/maintenance days at the field during each fiscal calendar year of the club. The members will register their activities with the secretary or vice president when they perform their service day. Non-participation in the two (2) service days will incur an assessment of during the membership renewal.~~

Page 7 under Noise Policy modify the section

~~The membership has adopted a policy of 98 decibels at 3 (three) meters at the maximum permissible noise level of any model flying at the Barnstormers field. The membership will adhere to local and state noise requirements for permissible noise level at the Barnstormers field. Any member not abiding by this noise policy is subject to the grievance procedures as outlined in Article XIV herein.~~

ADENDUM page is modified with the addition of the following text.

**MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT:**

**\$100** annual assessment to be paid by members that do not perform the required 2 maintenance or volunteer days in the club dues fiscal calendar year.

New Business:

New member Kevan Foshee voted in with unanimous approval.

Charles McCraw for attendance. Was not present.

Joe Berryman, Won the name tag drawing.

Straw pull vote for the pursuit of a building for the property.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Bylaw change proposal are simplified as listed here.



Jay Wright

## Words from the VP

Two weeks past from when I write this, we had a work day after the May meeting and got the field completely mowed, weed whacked and edged with the help of several new members and some dependable members that always show up to help. We also got the wall repaired between the restrooms where the faucet was hanging precariously. Upon removing the metal paneling, it was evident that there was some serious rot going on. Some new wood was installed, and the faucet re-installed. Now, the field is wet. With the rain we have had over the last few weeks, it is too soggy to mow, so it is growing without control, and it may be a week or more before we can mow, so expect that we will have a bigger job ahead of us in the near future, so come on out and assist.

In our May meeting, several field projects were approved by the members, so we are pursuing the completion of some of the approved improvements. A new sign is in the works, and when complete, we will need some assistance to take to old sign down and install the new one. Also, we will schedule a contractor to cut down the large tree in the north west corner. Our contract will include cutting down the tree, and cutting it into short sections that will fit in the bucket of our tractor, so we can move the pieces to an appropriate place for stacking. When we schedule the cut down, we will need a lot of help to move and stack the wood. If you have a tractor or a flatbed trailer you could bring, it will facilitate moving the wood quicker. The wood will be available for any member to take home if you have a need.

One more quotation for a new fence is coming, in an effort to reduce the cost, so once we have that and pick a contractor, construction of the new fence will begin.

As a reminder, the possibility of an assessment to members that do not meet the obligation of contributing time to the club as stipulated in the bylaws is now in force. No one wants to exercise the assessment as the club needs your commitment to keep it in top shape for all members to enjoy.

Lastly, noise. The bylaws changes regarding noise at the field were approved at the May meeting and are now in effect. The bylaws now require that the total noise at the field (one or more airplanes at a time) shall not exceed state law, which is 85db over the fence (not the legal definition, but well understood). As such we must be good neighbors and not exceed this value. It is your obligation to configure your planes to not break this state law. It is the club's obligation to monitor this and file a grievance on a pilot if need be. Members should also get consideration from pilots with loud planes by not starting and running them full throttle directly in front of the pavilion. Out of courtesy, move beyond either end of the pavilion if you have a nitro or gas engine plane and intend to run it wide open to blow it out or tune it.





Sam Barrett

## The Treasurers Report

It's May already and that means there are less than three months left in the 2023 membership year. The treasury is doing fine and we don't know of or foresee any financial shortfalls for the Barnstormers. With less than three months before dues invoices go out for 2024 dues, I will refresh members on how our membership periods start and end.

We use a "fiscal" year for our club accounting which begins with our receipt of dues and ends one year later on the day before dues are again collected; or at least invoiced. We collect dues on August 1<sup>st</sup> of the year and our membership year ends on July 31<sup>st</sup> of the next year. There is a 90 day grace period before members are dropped for non-payment of current year dues. After that you may have to pay the initiation fee again to "re-join".

I often get questions from members in the early months of the year, asking if they are "paid up". If you ask in May or June you might be surprised when you get a dues invoice in June or July. Other members often confuse the AMA membership requirement with Barnstormer membership. If you are a flying member of the Barnstormers you are also required to have a current AMA membership but, those memberships may not have the same beginning or end dates. The AMA coverage is like having to have liability insurance to drive your car. If you fly at Barnstormers' field without a valid AMA membership, you could be financially ruined with a single incident of bodily injury or property damage caused by you. You need to check your expiration date on your AMA card to determine when it needs to be renewed. Your Barnstormer dues are always due on August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

We earn money for the club, besides our member dues, when we have an event at our field. Each year we have one or more events like "Big Bird" or Best Electrics in South Texas (BEST) and we earn money by collecting pilot fees from members and visiting pilots who like to fly with other pilots at events where we invite the public to a free air show. At the events we may also have raffles of donated or purchased prizes and we can also earn concession revenues when we have members volunteer to operate the clubhouse concession with money from food and drinks going to the club.

We have discussed planning of events for this year. Check out the link on our web site <http://tri-countybarnstormers.com/events.htm> for dates and details

that have been scheduled. We need volunteers for these events to help us earn money for the club. Volunteers help with field mowing and setup of our sound system etc., pilot check-in, clubhouse concession and just about anything needed to make our visitors impressed with our event! Check out what's happening and let the event contact person or one of the club officers know you want to help. You can help make the club some funds to keep our field ready for our hobbies or neat improvements like more taxiways or covered areas to escape the Texas sun. Being part of an event team can give you a lot of experience in social events and keep our club the best it can be. Don't be shy, there are jobs for all skills and time commitments; so volunteer to advance the club and help us keep our club and its facilities the best in our area.



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# DON'T FORGET

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

NEXT MEETING IS

**June 1st**