

February 2013 Meeting Minutes

The February meeting was called to order by President Bryan Reightley at 6:32. Bryan announced the officers present:

- President - Bryan Reightley
- Vice President - Brian Richardson - absent
- Secretary - Tim Baird
- Treasurer - Ron Swift
- Safety Officer - Vince Bell
- Field Manager - Jay Bell
- Newsletter Editor - Ron Swift
- Web Master - Ron Rueter - out of town for the winter

Visitors and New Members - Jack Workman is interested in joining a club and has a few planes already that he would like to learn to fly. He has been flying a bit in his yard.

Secretary's report - Tim Baird solicited edits and corrections for the January minutes. Ron Swift asked to have the Treasurers report corrected, the expenses from the freeze in had not been paid and closed as of January of the minutes reported. With this correction noted, a motion was offered to accept the minutes. This was seconded and accepted unanimously.

Report - Brian Richardson was unable to join us so Bryan R. provided the following. We have several events and contests planned for this year. We will have the Builders Contest during our May meeting, a Fun Fly, one Combat Contest and 2 Open Houses. The first Open House will be June 8th from 10:00AM to 3:00PM and will be combined with our Charity Auction. Then, of course, at the beginning of next year we will have our Freeze-In.

The Builders contest is now open. Entry fee is only \$10.00. Please join in.

Treasurer Report - As mentioned above, Ron cleared up the confusion of last month's minutes stating that the Freeze-In had not been cleared as of last month. He then gave a brief accounting of the health of our checking account. He also announced that for his convenience he is in the process of moving our club account to Bank of America. The new account will have a monthly service fee for which Ron is assuming responsibility but comes with the convenience of a credit card for Jay to use for needed supplies rather than to pay out-of-pocket then be reimbursed by the club.

Safety Officer's Report - Vince Bell only had to report on an injury that Jay sustained while taking tables down after the expo. It seems he pinched his finger pretty good while folding up the legs on a table.

Field Manager's Report - Jay Bell reiterated that the field, as well as the infield, is still in need of additional topsoil to help smooth out the surface. Fertilizer and perhaps even additional grass seed would also be good to add to both the field and the infield. Fill dirt is rather inexpensive from the nursery just west on Highway 2 if we can haul it ourselves by the pickup load.

Newsletter Editor's Report - Ron Swift has hardcopies of the newsletter if anybody needs or wants one. Please submit your photos to be published in the newsletter. It was suggested to have Dean's name removed as an instructor as it seems he is unlikely to renew.

Announcements:

The NWMHE was very successful for us all as we had one new member join at the show and a perspective member stop by the booth to ask many questions then was in attendance at the February meeting the following Tuesday.

John informed us all that he had heard at the expo that Tim's Hobby in Everett was due to close by the time of our meeting. Al Schmidt said he would stop by the next day to investigate this rumor. *** Secretary's note: Al confirmed that this was indeed only a rumor and there was no truth to it at all. ***

Field Business:

John's talks with Arleen.

I attempted to hold a frank discussion with Arleen regarding her changing needs for her property and MAC's rights as a tenant. Instead she let me know upfront she had no answers for my concerns and directed the conversation towards her program to help Vets and that she was still figuring out her own needs for the property.

At this point

- Arleen in moving forward with her plan to work with Vets in need. She refers to the program as "H3" short for Horses Helping Hero's. She is not totally confident "H3" will pan out but is proceeding as if it will.
- She will be in a training program in March working towards a required certificate prior to acquiring insurance for operating "H3".
- Arleen plans to begin working with 1 to 2 Vets in April or May.
- She's working on a plan to relocate several cabins to her property for use by the Vets but has not thought through where they would be located.
- She recognizes and will consider our flyover area if and when the cabins come to be

- She is aware of and sympathetic for the inconvenience to BBMAC having the gates closed along the access causes. She's willing to hear our ideas regarding the gates but non-committal in making any decisions to change the situation at this time.

The members present were concerned on many levels of the outcome of the chats Bryan has had with Arlene. At least one person suggested that it sounds like we are being set up for departure.

If she really is planning to have cabins in the field she has to understand that our insurance prohibits flying over people.

She is in a position where she feels she needs to utilize her property to produce an income.

What's next???

- I recommend the board meet with her so more representation is present when ideas and options are discussed. This will help with accountability.
- i. One suggestion for this is to invite her to dinner and have a discussion with some of the members of the club. We should have a list of issues with possible solutions to discuss. Bryan asked for volunteer and is still looking for volunteers for this dinner.
- i. We should have a written list of things we have done for her and how it brought value to her and her property as well as the challenges we are facing.
- i. We could offer again to fence off the field that Arlene wants to be able to use for the horses.
- y. If we make improvements to the gate off highway 2 then we need to use double gates to allow access to 'Big Trucks' when they may need access.
- y. We need to ensure that any future effort, and/or expense, promotes easier use of the field for us.
- i. Whatever we purchase leaves with us.

New Business:

Our goals as the board for the year include finding ways to access the field more easily. One of the ideas that we've come up with is to see if we can install an automatic gate opener for one or more of the gates.

Ron has done some research into the auto gate idea and has found examples that range from \$300 to \$400. Some operate on 110 volt while others use 12 volts. Some may require 2 batteries but solar power may be utilized to keep them charged.

Keep in mind that all of the fences need some sort of attention not just the main one.

we may also be able to post Arlene's phone number on the main gate so that we can call her if we find it locked.

Regardless of the outcome of these talks we need to keep looking for our next field. A proposal has been offered to form a committee whose purpose is to search for viable new flying fields. Volunteers will be needed to form the committee. The need for this committee is not likely to change.

The board is assembling a survey to be posted on the website. We are hoping to get a lot of the current and recent member to participate. This was actually suggested by Chet last month and Bryan has spearheaded the implementation of it. Some members present at the meeting were concerned the original survey may have been too broad in scope; perhaps it should be more focused. It was asked what the objective would be. The board is trying to learn what the membership feels we need to do to build more participation and grow our membership.

The board agreed to meet again on Saturday June 16 to review and edit the survey questions to have posted on the website as soon as feasible.

Bryan asked if the new orange fencing is helpful. The ones who replied said it did make the fence easier to see.

Program:

There was no Program this month.

The meeting officially adjourned at 8:02 PM. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 12th, 2013, at Alfy's in Monroe at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Tim Baird, Secretary.