

March 2009 Meeting Minutes

President Chet Blake called the monthly Barnyard Buzzard Model Airplane Club (BBMAC) meeting to order on March 3, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. at Alfys Pizza in Monroe. 23 members were present.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 6:30 P.M. at Alfys Pizza in Monroe.

The North West Model Hobby Expo event in February was a success. Turnout was good. Many hobby items were sold at the club's swap table.

Chet asked for visitors or guests and gave them an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Chet introduced the club officers. Most were present.

President - Chet Blake

Vice President - Ron Rueter

Secretary - Vaughan Houser

Treasurer - Rick Hanners - absent

Field Safety Officer - Vince Bell - absent

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster - Ron Swift

Field Manager - Jay Bell

Officers Reports

Vice President - Ron Rueter provided the annual schedule of events for 2009. Ron thanked Jay Bell for helping out with rebuilding the lawn mower. Replacement parts will cost around \$400.00 to \$500.00. A motion was made to approve the allocation of up to \$500.00. The motion was seconded, voted on, and passed.

Secretary - Vaughan Houger reported that the 2009 club dues were due at the close of this meeting. The assumption is that we have 70 members. The final count will be determined after assessing how many have currently paid.

Treasurer - Chet reported for Rick Hanners that the club financially is in good shape. Less the \$90.00 to pay for the AMA club registration, the Buzzards have \$7,662.53 in the bank.

Safety Officer - Vince was absent. Chet remarked that we do have an outstanding safety record. Keep up the good work!

Field Manager - Jay Bell is getting up to speed with the new responsibilities. The field looks in good shape.

Newsletter Editor/WebMaster - Ron Swift commented on the classified section. Bob Martin is using the space to sell his airplane trailer. Also, the classified section can be used for help wanted items.

Old Business

Brian Illston mentioned the topic of an extension ladder, or some tool, a pilot can use to retrieve airplanes from trees. A lively discussion took place about how to keep airplanes out of the trees. The discussion resulted in several members agreeing to be on the lookout for a relatively inexpensive solution.

New Business

Ron Swift reported that the club once again achieved "AMA Gold Leader Club" status. He had several gold leader pins available for those club members who didn't already have one. Good job, club for leading the way!

In the past the club has partnered with local Cub and Boy Scouts. Scouts who participate in R/C flying can earn up to three merit badges. This is an area we can support our local scouts.

Builder's contest winners typically received a certificate and a prize. A proposal was presented for Sandy to research the cost and type of winner's plaques as rewards for winning the builder's contest, as well as, the combat events. There will be more to come on that at a future meeting.

President Chet highlighted the issue of park flyers using the 27 MHz frequencies. There are other related issues to an individual desiring to learn to fly a plane using this frequency:

- Trucks, cars, and boats equipped with a citizen's band (CB) radio are also on the same frequency. One never knows if a hit to a plane could result from someone talking on a radio. Hence, the potential safety issue.
- The AMA has sanctioned park fliers at a reduced rate.
- These 27 MHZ radios are not buddy box equipped - which makes training problematic. A question was raised about what type of airplane is required for training and being signed off to solo.

Discussion centered on if the club should make individuals desiring to fly at our field possess "open" AMA membership credentials how to invite people who want to fly but in a positive way articulate the club rules. The club by-laws are vague in this area.

A motion was made to amend our by-laws requiring members to acquire "open" AMA membership. The motion was seconded and will be brought up for a vote at the May meeting.

[Secretary Editorial: Most individuals do want to know rules, operating guidelines, and what they need to do to be included in a club. As with any organization we want to be friendly and invite people to participate in our hobby. Along with that freedom to participate comes the responsibility to adhere to the club's, AMA, and land owner's guidelines, rules, and regulations. We do not need to feel guilty, or shy, about clearly stating what those rules are. We can, however, present the message congenially and in an inviting manner.]

Ron Swift proposed the club plan on two auctions this year - June and August. Perhaps we could conduct one of the auctions in collaboration with several other flying clubs. Ron volunteered to be an auctioneer. He does do an outstanding job as auctioneer.

Barnyard Buzzard Merchandise - Sandy has done a remarkable job expanding her product line: mugs, "T" shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and jackets. Contact Sandy for more information at 425-788-9824, or www.duvallsdazzlingdesigns.com.

Monthly Program for March, 2009: Ron Swift on radio programming.

Ron brought his Horizon Hobby UltraStick and radio to demonstrate hands-on what radio programming (mixing) can do for a pilot. He provided a brief history of how the mechanical mixing and recent programmable radio technology has advanced over the years to enable pilots to do some amazing things with their planes. Of course, the airplane needs to be set up to accommodate programming features

such as flapperons, mixing aileron and rudder, etc. Ron presented a balanced approach - positives and negatives of program mixing. Well done Ron.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next meeting is Tuesday April 7, 2009 at Alf's in Monroe at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Vaughan Houger BBMAC Secretary