

## March 2013 Meeting Minutes

The March meeting was called the order by President Bryan Reightley at 6:30.

Bryan introduced the officers:

- President - Bryan Reightley
- Vice President - Brian Richardson
- Secretary - Tim Baird
- Treasurer - Ron Swift
- Safety Officer - Vince Bell
- Field Manager - Jay Bell - not present
- Newsletter Editor - Ron Swift
- Web Master - Ron Rueter - out of town for the winter

Visitors and New Members - Richard Glenn came to our meeting for the first time and joined on the spot. Welcome Richard.

Secretary's report - Tim Baird announced that we had 29 Members as of the start of the meeting. He then solicited comment on last month's minutes. None were offered. A motion was entered to accept them as they were. This was seconded and unanimously accepted.

VP's Report - Brian Richardson handed out a flyer listing this coming year's events then reviewed it with the members present. The first will be the builder's contest at the May meeting at our field. The next one will be the Open House and Charity Auction on June 8th. More events will be posted in the newsletter and on the web.

**Treasurer's Report** - Ron Swift Reported that we have the funds in hand enough to last the year. The treasury is in good shape.

**Safety Officer's Report** - Vince Bell reported that we had an airplane come down on Highway 2 recently. The plane had hit a tree and came to earth in the highway. We need to all watch and avoid flying behind the pits.

**Field Manager's Report** - Jay Bell was unavailable this evening so Bryan presented the field report in his absence. The field is in good shape. Even access to the field is fine with the obvious exception of the gates.

**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.

**Webmaster's report** - Ron Rueter is still out of town for a couple more months. A couple of members mentioned they were having issues opening the newsletter from the website.

### **Announcements:**

The Leader Club summary form has been submitted. Bryan has copies of the form if anybody is interested in reviewing it.

### **Old Business:**

The AMA Site Grant Application has been submitted to Mike Mosbrooker, the District 11 VP. The club's expenditures for developing the field currently total \$7078. We have requested The Max grant of 10% or \$707. Mike has approved our application and forwarded it off to AMA headquarters. Now we just wait and see what happens.

Thank you, Chet, for suggesting the survey. The board got together and refined the survey to more focus it on our club and its challenges. This was posted by Ron Rueter on our website and we had a rather good response to the request to fill it out. Not only did our clubs members, both past and present, fill out the survey but many also provided comments that helped as well.

### **New Business:**

It is clear from the results of the survey that all who have used the field find it to be quite usable but not all members have tried flying at the field and some have chosen to leave the club due to the issues with the field, both real and perceived, and our landlord.

The thing to remember, says Bryan, that as long as we rent we will have issues with our landlord.

We have 4 areas we wish to speak to now that we have gotten from the results of the survey:

On the positive Side:

There seems to be abundant interest in the club and its future direction as out of a current member list of 50 we had 28 people who successfully submitted responses to the survey. Even more said they thought they had submitted their responses but did not see their comments in the results handed out to the attendees. Several found out through conversation at the meeting that their responses were not submitted. This seems to be a high percentage of members who participated.

The board was also encouraged to find no real surprises in the survey results. We seem to be focusing our attention on the same issues the results suggest need attention.

We have some opportunities for improvement:

We can and need to improve ingress and egress access for the field. Not everybody has the physical ability to get out of the car and open and close so many gates. The infield itself is too uneven and challenging for some of our members.

We can provide more service, to the club by attending and participating in the organized work parties, and to each other. Don't be afraid to offer a helping hand or positive advice.

The landscaping can be improved. The current trees have been problems and the barren, unevenness of the infield is an eyesore and causes problems for some of our members.

We can work on improving the relationship with our landlord.

In general we need to improve our field or find a new one.

Recommendations for actions:

See if we can strike a deal with our landlord to keep using the field for the next year, rent free, with the agreement that we will be out by May of next year.

Form a Committee to find a new field, preferably one that will not need as much improvement to be usable for flying.

Move to 2.4GHz radio equipment as our standard so that we have more viable locations to investigate. AMA standard is 3 miles separation from any other club using 72MHz frequencies or organize with the other club to use even vs. odd channels.

Tweak the survey to tighten the focus, based on results of this first survey, and post another one.

Board plans going forward:

We are forming a Committee to find a new field. By default, based on the club by-laws, our club president is in any committee formed. The committee should be populated by members local to a central area for all members. Tim Baird has also volunteered to be in the committee. As no one else volunteered at the meeting, Bryan is expecting to tap certain members to serve on the committee.

We are going to investigate the possibility of using the Cascade Family Flyers' field, in Snohomish, at least as an interim field while trying to find another one. The owner of the field for the Cascade Family Flyers really wants to have an AMA sanctioned club using his field and has seemed motivated to get the Barnyard Buzzards to be that club.

To that end we are going to work towards an organized, single day outing for the club, to go fly at that field to check it out and to gauge the club's interest in the field.

Discussion from membership:

What does it mean to "Get along better with the Landlord"? Our circumstances have not changed, hers has.

If her plans for "H3" falls through then a lot of our problems will "go away". But if they work out as she hopes we will have no choice but to cease all operations at this field and find a new one.

"H3" is her hope and focus and she currently sees us as in her way.

It was, once again, suggested that we prepare a list of improvements we have made that brought value to her and her property then approach her with this list in hand to discuss our future.

We have to find a way for her to see how the current situation is unacceptable and clarify our intentions for the future use of the field.

If we do approach her with the suggestion to use the field for the next year rent free and we will be gone by the end of that year, will this affect our use of the field for that year or will our situation get worse?

Bryan informed us that she was going to be out of town for the latter portion of March which prompted the question of whether she was going to lock us out, once again, while she is gone.

In the end we all seemed to agree that we really must find a new field sooner rather than later. The search for a new field will require a commitment of effort for the whole club, not just those on the committee.

### **Program:**

There was no Program this month.

The meeting officially adjourned at 7:58 PM. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 9th, 2013, at Alf's in Monroe at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Tim Baird, Secretary.