

October 2012 Meeting Minutes

The October meeting was called the order by President Bryan Reightley at 6:33. Bryan announced the officers present:

President - Bryan Reightley

Vice President - Jim Reynolds

Secretary - Tim Baird

Treasure - Rick Hanners

Safety Officer - Vince Bell

Newsletter Editor - Ron Swift

Field Manager - Jay Bell - Unavailable

Web Master - Ron Rueter - out of town for the winter

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written in the newsletter. This was seconded. There was no discussion. The members voted to approve the minutes. The minutes as presented were accepted.

Maryah and Julia Baird were visiting. We are still planning on having Julia join shortly.

Jim Reynolds had no competitions to report but brought up that we still need to plan the Christmas party and the Freeze in. While the date for the Christmas party is not yet confirmed it is tentatively set for Dec 11th at Alfy's. We are still looking for volunteers to help plan and organize the Christmas Party. If anyone is interested please let

the board members know. The Freeze in is set for Jan 5th with a backup date of Jan 12th

Rick Hanners Presented the proposed budget for the next year. The budget for the coming year is based on our current membership of 50 members. This is down significantly from 2010 when we had 59 members. This will require a raise in our membership fee from \$70 a year to \$100. We were able to avoid this in the past but with dwindling membership and added cost of a field still in development this increase is unavoidable. It was moved to approve the proposed budget, seconded and approved. It is hoped that with continued Field improvement and our chances to fly become more consistent we will attract new members, perhaps even regain some of our former members.

Vince Bell had no new incidents to report but cautioned that we are still flying too close to Arlene's house especially while setting up for landings. Please, let's all be cognizant of this issue.

Jay Bell was not able to attend but he was recognized for his effort to get the crushed concrete delivered along with the underlayment for the access road improvement. With the effort and time donated by a great core group of volunteers we were able to get the road way pretty well set up and ready for use. Please drive on outside edges when possible to help to compact the entire road way rather than just the normal ruts. At this point we are going to hold off on vibra-Rolling the roadway until the ground is softer so it would be more likely to help.

Ron Swift had nothing to announce about the newsletter but brought up the Scout outing. We did have a very short ground school on Sept 26th as part of the Cub Scout pack Meeting in which Ron presented how the movement of the stick on the transmitter would convert our movements into electrical energy to be sent to the airplane to be converted to mechanical energy to move the control surfaces. He also presented basic aerodynamic concepts to describe how Airplanes fly and change course (the Elevator does not make the airplane go up or down, the Motor does). The young men enjoyed the presentation and the 11 year old Scouts joined us in another room for additional instruction including what was actually going to happen at the field and basic etiquette to be followed by all.

On Sept 29th we had three 11 year old scouts and one mother join us at the field. In spite of having no less than 5 planes re-kitted and nowhere near as much flying as we would have liked, all three scouts and Julia got some stick time and had loads of fun. Two weeks later and they are still bragging to their troop members about what they did and saw and what the others missed out on. There are no plans at this time to do this again but we are in hopes that their enthusiasm will continue and might inspire the troop and the leadership to invite us back.

Announcements:

Robert joined Ron Swift at the field on Monday Oct 8 to watch Ron fly and get some additional info about our club and about the current state of the hobby. Robert had flown gliders while in the military in

Germany. He had not kept up with the hobby so was very interested in getting updated on what has been happening and wanted advice on what equipment he should get so he can return to the hobby.

Old Business:

Bryan has not received any new calls about plane flying near or over Arleen's house since the implementation of the Pilot/Observer program. Thanks to everyone for adopting the new program.

There were significant deficiencies to discuss concerning the Scout program. Next time we should be sure to organize better to make sure we have leadership involvement as well as parental permission and release statements signed. Also make sure the leaders know what to expect and plan for.

The Annual Charity Auction produced bids in the amount of a little over twice as much for the Charity than it did for the Field Development Fund. Additionally, Funds collected have been quite a bit higher than the bids. After some discussion it moved, second and approved to split the overage funds roughly in line with the bid distribution, 2/3 to the Charity and 1/3 to the Field Development Fund

Bryan has offered to assemble and erect the Field bounds markers. The intent, as discussed last month, is to have them bright and high enough to serve as a reminder to the pilots where the boundaries are

without becoming a hazard for the planes. Also, two will be in line with the landing strip to additionally serve as approach markers.

New Business:

Our field rules on the website currently show the flying time we had adopted to conform to our former landlord's restrictions. Our Current landlord has placed no such restrictions. The club has decided that we need to get the posted field rules updated to reflect that there are no time restrictions on our flying privileges. However, we recommend that we should fly between the hours of 9:00 AM and dusk.

As part of the budget discussion several member expressed a desire to shift concentration of the field development to the infield and to smoothing out the runway.

The question was asked if the initiation fee is really necessary. Could the club appeal to a wider range of potential members if we waved the fee, at least temporarily? Especially in light of the challenges, both real and perceived, we are having as we continue to develop our new field. Several members talked about the positive points our club has over others around us such as, even with our new membership dues, we are still less expensive than those around us. And we have a well-established training program that has brought us some notoriety. The question was also countered by other ways of attracting new members. One would be to set a date for an Open House that we promote at the Expo, perhaps with contact card so that we can send out personalized

invitations as the time nears for the Open House. This can show those who think we are having field problems see what progress has been made and how far we have come.

To encourage continued funding for the development of the field some ideas were suggested for the members to consider. One is to establish some form of benefactor recognition. Maybe have those who donate a certain amount be listed in the following month's newsletter or have some sort of sign or "monument" where the benefactors can be listed for all to see in the future. Perhaps to give recognition for both monetary donations as well as sweat donations.

It is nomination time again. Nominations for club officers are now officially open and will remain open until the November meeting. Jim Reynolds has served for three years as our vice-President and is ineligible to continue in office for a year. Rick Hanners is also stepping down as our Treasurer. Lastly Tim Baird had agreed to fill in as the club secretary when Vaughn stepped down a few months ago. Although these positions are, by default, open for nominations, as always, all positions are open for nominations for any club member who wishes to serve on the board.

Nominations presented at the October meeting are:

President: Bryan Reightley - Accepted

Vice President: Ron Swift - Accepted Brian Richardson - Accepted

Secretary: Tim Baird - Accepted

Treasurer: Luke Shegrud - Tentative

Safety Officer: Vince Bell - Accepted

Special Service Award: Jay Bell

Program:

This month's program was the presentation and judging of the 2nd Annual Rebuilder's Contest. We had two entrants, Tim Baird and Ron Swift.

Ron presented his giant Stinger with photos of the damage and the repairs in progress. During his maiden voyage of this aircraft his engine was running pretty rough. Before he could land it to straighten out the engine issues the engine quit and he was forced to perform a dead stick landing. To make matters worse the plane stalled during its approach and nosed in. When all pieces had been collected and examined it appeared that the engine quitting may have caused catastrophic damage to the structure of the fuselage and the engine and firewall may have been mostly separated from the rest of the fuse. During the rebuild he used a dado blade to remove the balsa firewall and front fuse supports and replaced them with hardwood. This significantly stiffened up the structure and should help the plane have a much longer and less eventful life. Although he was forced to use a slightly different color of white covering, you have to get pretty close to see the repairs.

Tim presented his brother's CMP model of the Piper L-4 Grasshopper. About a month earlier, during takeoff, Tim tried to get the plane to lift off the ground before it was ready to fly and it tip stalled and powered into the ground from about 4 feet up. This resulted in fairly extensive damage from the prop to the back of the

cabin area. The first two formers were in 4 pieces each. Tim was surprised that all pieces were recovered and did not have to produce any wooden parts for the plane. He did, however, purchase a replacement cowl. The colors on the aircraft cannot be found at the hobby shop as the entire plane has been painted to match the colors of the full scale plane. Thanks to a suggestion from Chet, Tim has the three colors reproduced in Latex Exterior Flat paint custom mixed at home Depot. Although he can see the faults and errors in the reconstruction work, they are minor and, again, because the paint matches so well and is flat which hides such issues, you have to get pretty close to see them.

The members attending the meeting chose Tim for first place and Ron for second.

The theme for this contest is that, with some effort and ingenuity, most models can be repaired after a less than graceful return to the earth.

The meeting officially adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 13, 2012, at Alf's in Monroe at 6:30 P.M.

The club newsletter is available on-line. If you still want to receive a "hard" copy, please, contact Ron Swift (425-788-6045).