



AMA Charter 534

Minutes of the Online Board Meeting March 25-April 7, 2021

Participants:

Bruce Tharpe
Scott Hudson
Art Kelly
Jay Strickland
Eric Kirby
Larry Cogdell
Rob Merriman

Agenda From President Bruce Tharpe

Old Business

1. The field was sprayed in late February. Thank you Scott Hudson for making arrangements and thank you Jay Strickland for opening the field. You might be interested to know that there were zero questions or complaints about the Board approval of this procedure. Spraying for weeds should now be considered annual field maintenance to be handled by the Board.
2. Thanks again to Jay Strickland for taking care of the paint striping project (for parking spaces adjacent to the pit area). As far as I know, Jay purchased the striping machine and paint, laid out the striping pattern, and did the actual striping. Are guys using the spots? Are the stripes holding up? I'm concerned about their lasting power, but time will tell.
3. The club charter is now renewed with AMA. The charter fees, some \$120, were "paid" by AMA District 11 this year as a prize for being declared winners of the Weight Lift Challenge.

New Business

4. Our Treasurer has concerns about the rate of membership renewals. Perhaps Art will chime in with more details.
5. Our Safety Coordinator has concerns about where members are gathering to fly. Jay wrote: "I have been made aware that when several gliders are flying the pilots are sitting in a bunch of chairs at the end of the pilot stations. I think this requires discussion as I don't think there is an easy solution. I have a couple of ideas but this should involve everyone."

6. I received this email from Larry Myers: "The motorcycle track at the sports park lost their lease. We had donated a 53' dry van but have now received it back. If it would be of interest for the club let me know. It does not however have doors but may be of use to store planes during events etc as is. Or I can do some looking and probably come up with some doors. If you think there would be some interest let me know."

Discussion

New Business Item #4-Membership

Eric Kirby reported the following on March 25:

"Art and I have been coordinating incoming dues and new memberships the last few weeks. We have 139 paid up members and 12 paid up members who chose to remain private. Total 151 members so far (See attached).

Correction...

Actual total member count is 127minus those still in yellow on this list. They will be moved off the list to reserve status shortly."

Following Eric's comments there was discussion about members who are late paying their dues and the possibility of incentivizing early payment of dues by increasing the amount due after January each year. That idea was countered with the concern that those who missed paying by February 1st might wait a full year to pay rather than pay the increased amount. No action was taken at this time.

New Business Item #5-Gliders

On March 30 Jess Walls informed Bruce that the CL guys were going to rent a forklifter to move rolls of carpet for the CL circle, and asked if the club would like any rolls moved for future use in the glider landing area. He also wondered if the club would be willing to share the expense.

Jay indicated that he would need a skid steer, so would prefer to not move any carpet rolls until he had the right equipment and estimated it would take 8 rolls. Jay did make a motion to reimburse \$150 toward the expense of renting the forklifter for the CL area (half their cost), Scott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

There was much discussion as to Jay's safety concern about glider pilots congregating at the west end of the pilot stations, sitting in chairs and their need to be in communication with themselves and other pilots (see Jay's comment in the agenda under New Business, Item #5). They fly for longer periods and enjoy being able to sit and chat with each other while flying, but when landing it is more of a challenge viewing their landing approach given their location and communicating with the pilots of powered aircraft who are far away. Suggestions included grouping them with multiple pilots in a single station toward the western end, adjusting the spacing of the existing stations to squeeze them closer and more toward the main taxiway, locating a carpeted runway across the main runway, or adding carpet for their runway to provide a landing across the runway, more perpendicular than parallel. It was also noted that the total number of pilots flying at any one time should not exceed five. No action was taken at this time.

New Business #6-More Storage

It was unanimously agreed that there was no compelling need for more storage so the offer from Larry Myers for a 53' container (see Agenda/New Business #6 and the email from Larry Myers) would be gratefully declined.

More New Business

Heli Pad

There was a question raised as to the status of the concrete pad adjacent to the run-up stations and whether it was available for helicopter operations (hovering). It was clarified that in the membership manual there is a diagram showing the concrete pad in the "No Fly Zone" and that the carpeted area at the east end of the parking lot was created as the designated location.

RV Parking

A new member parked his RV adjacent to the pit area at the east end of the field and it sparked discussion as to whether RV parking should ever be allowed in the spaces nearest (adjacent) the pit areas. The consensus was unanimous that all RV's should be parked in the middle of the parking area, and clarification will be made in the new member information packet.

Club Youth Outreach

Art shared a proposal for an Aviation Summer Camp (attached), with the suggestion that it be sponsored by the club next fall. It would be a good public relations opportunity, perhaps provide some income, and would boost future interest for new members.

New PR Person

Larry Cogdell announced he was stepping down from his PR position on the Board (due to time constraints) and Bruce praised Larry for his years of service and announced the appointment of Rob Merriman to take Larry's place. Rob will continue to share the Secretary position with Eric Kirby as well.

Meeting was adjourned April 7, 2021

Dues, Membership, Finances & Growth

Gentlemen, for several months I've been noodling on some ideas that might lead to more club publicity, new memberships, and contributions to the club's coffers. As some of you may know, when I was living in Grants Pass I worked closely with Larry Graves, manager of the GP Airport in developing a summer camp for youngsters. Over the years it grew into a fairly substantial program. In total we had about 150 +/- middle schoolers in the program.

I'd like to suggest for the BOD's discussion that Rogue Eagles launch an aviation summer camp. The general structure I envision is a three-day program (9 to noon). The program would focus on students of middle school age. At the outset we would accommodate maybe 15 students. We have resources on which we could draw to build a multi-focused program (i.e. our flight line, r/c simulators, control-line, rockets and float planes, drones, helis etc.) The general thrust of the curriculum would be to introduce students to the basic principles of aeronautics and flight and would use the tools of R/C to direct their thinking towards the many fields in aviation. I have a curriculum that was developed for the GP program. It could be amended to adapt to our facility.

Clearly this type effort would need support from a number of club members and would need an ad hoc committee to work up the detailed plans. At best we could point toward a late August or early September window. Parents will not want their young ones to be congregating until the community has achieved some separation from the virus.

I think there are a number of benefits we could achieve through the effort:

1. The project would support the AMA's objective of supporting youth education.
2. We could leverage the camp into some good publicity to increase awareness of RE.
3. There is a general consensus that model aviation needs to grow its youth membership.
4. There is a revenue component. I would propose a tuition of \$25 per student.
5. From the GP experience I found that through the students we gain access to parents and potential family memberships

There are others but this is a starting list.

I'm interested in hearing the response of other board members, new ideas, different approaches etc. In casual conversations with some RE members I have received positive reactions to the general concept.

Art