

Horse Feathers



January 2016



Official Newsletter
Billings Flying Mustangs
Volume 42 Issue 1

Catching Up From This Fall

Our last news letter was August. So, this one will catch you up on Board actions since then. One of the actions was creating a Communications committee that would help develop the content and posting of information in the newsletter and on the web site.

It is too much for one individual to handle and because of that, Newsletters and other things get delayed or postponed. As this committee gets up and running, they will communicate out to members about how to interact with it. So, more to come.

Gate Code Change

The gate lock has a new code for 2016. The code is on the 2016 Membership Identification Card sent to each member when they sign up or renew their membership.

Membership renewals are easy this year with 2 options.

Option 1. Just send in a \$100 check to Billings Flying Mustangs, P.O. Box 22406, Billings MT 59104. If you were a member in 2014 or 2015, we should have your information and an ID card will be sent within a few days.

Option 2. Sign up online at www.billingsflyingmustangs.us/Membership On the web page "Membership" select the renewal option and your name. Then go to the bottom and select a payment option. You can use a credit card or PayPal account.

If of course, some of your contact information has changed please update that when you send in a check or register online. And don't forget to update your AMA membership.

Once renewed and your AMA status is current, an ID card will be mailed to you within a few days. *It's that easy.*

Fly-Ins

Activities are already in motion for this years Fly-Ins.

- The Billings "Bump and Run" Magic City Pylon race is scheduled for June 3-5, 2016.
- The Billings Fly-In is scheduled for June 25 & 26, 2016.
- The Altitude Limited Electric Soaring, Billings/Columbus begins April 9th and continues the second Saturday of the each Month through October, 2016



Board Highlights

September/October. We had a good summer and ended up with several new and returning members. The total membership was 75.

Pat Kelly was appointed to lead the grounds committee. This committee is responsible for the maintenance needs of the facilities and grounds at the field.

Scott Smith and Dave Brown was appointed to the media committee. This committee will be responsible for content (pictures etc.) on the web site as well as entries in the Newsletter.

Dave Brown gave an update on the committee's development of the safety procedures, which includes training for new members. There are four phases of the program: aircraft familiarization, general flight with Buddy Box, take offs and landings and solo certification. Each phase has a check list of items to be completed by the new member before certification is issued. There is a lot of work yet to be done to finalize the package, but implementation is expected in the first part of 2016.

The cracks in the runway have been sealed to maintain the pavement through the winter.

Scott Wilson, Professor of Aviation at Rocky Mountain College, gave an overview of the program and how their drone training will benefit by being members of Club. Scott became a new member and anticipates some students will also become members. Student members will be able to refine their skills by flying at the field and by gaining knowledge from associating with experienced members.

Saint Vincent emergency flight information is now registered. If a serious accident occurs at the field and a flight helicopter is necessary, call the emergency flight numbers posted and a flight can pick up patients.

There was an effort to determine the interest in maintaining the car track. We received interest from one member. At the October meeting it was decided to disband the car track and remove the facilities.

New members sign ups in the last quarter of 2015 were granted a full 2016 year membership.

November/December. Memberships older than 3 years can join the club as new members rather than renewing their prior membership. So, if your last membership in the club was over 3 years in the past (in 2016 that is 2012 & prior) then you may join the club as an new member at the Introductory rate.

January Meeting.

Election of Officers and Directors:

Nominations Committee Chair Scott Smith handed out ballots for a vote on Officers and one Director's seat. Don Jones and Pat Kelly collected the ballots and counted votes. The vote count resulted in the following:

Scott Cranston, President
Dave Brown, Vice -President
Larry Todd, Secretary
Rodney Broderson, Treasurer
Shane Elbert, Director



Membership. The Secretary reported as of December 31, 2015 that a total of 25 members including 5 new members signed up for 2016. The online signup is getting good use. There were several more signups in January that were not included in this figure.

By-Laws. A committee was formed to update the By-laws. The current By-laws passed some time in 2007 still has proposed marked on them and currently they contain several formatting and grammatical errors. The Committee was charged with considering not only correcting errors but also to consider any needed content changes and clarifications. Committee members are: Larry Todd, Don Jones, Pat Kelly and Scott Smith.

Director's Resolution. All remaining 11½ runway shares were bought back in December 2015. In the October meeting a motion was passed to buy back 3½ runway shares, which were bought out in December 2015.

Also, the Director's signed a resolution and loan contract to buy out the remaining Runway share contracts at zero percent interest and with a minimum payment of \$2,000 per year. Each of the remaining 8 runway share contracts were bought out in December 2015. The Director's believed this was the best option for the club financially and obtain a debt free club in the quickest way possible.