

Horse Feathers



April 2016



Official Newsletter
Billings Flying Mustangs
Volume 42 Issue 2

Board Highlights

The March and April meetings generally had light agendas. However, several important topics were brought forward and acted upon. Many of those are included in this newsletter with expanded articles.

A suggestion was made to construct a type of plastic orange snow fence parallel to the runway and in front of the existing fence to protect planes from running into the existing fence. After consideration the Board recommended not to construct the fence. Protection of planes was considered, but distraction for pilots was also considered.

The Grounds committee's proposal for hydro seeding the area that was occupied by the car track approved.

The final training and safety documents were approved.

Welcoming Visiting Pilots

Our club has historically welcomed pilots that visit from outside Yellowstone County to fly with out paying a fee. Visiting another club's field and flying is a great experience. Many pilots traveling to or through Billings would like to experience flying at the Billings Chamberlain Field.

So, on a nice day, you are flying at the field — you know minding your own business enjoying the day— when a person drives in and asks whether they can fly at the field. Not having been confronted with this before, you might be a little befuddled as to exactly how to answer the visitor. What do you do?

This article is to give you some brief but clear guidance as to what your role is as a member

of the club.

First, welcome the visitor. Be happy they stopped in and want to fly.

Second, explain that we welcome pilots to fly who live outside Yellowstone County. Within Yellowstone County, there was a \$10 fee instituted last year.

Third, tell them that in order to fly, they must be a current member of the AMA and ask for their AMA card. If they do not have a card, then say that we'll be glad for them to fly when they can verify their current AMA status.

Forth, show interest in their aircraft look it over with them. During the discussion explain that we want pilots to be safe and therefore



we fly from the runways out and no flying takes place over the buildings as well as no taxiing in the pit area.

We expect most pilots who bring aircraft on their travels to fly are going to be fairly experienced pilots. Otherwise they won't

Training/Safety

Pilot training and safety have become increasingly important for our Club. Certainly, crashes are part of the hobby and part of learning to fly. We all know that. Keeping the risk of safety and damage to a minimum is the goal so that flying continues to be fun.

Our club membership in 2015, consisted of 33 percent new pilots. The vast majority were beginning pilots. So far this year (2016), our membership consists of over 25 percent new & beginning pilots. With increased membership, it is imperative that our club assures that pilots are safe and have the ability to solo with minimum risk.

Last fall the club assigned a safety committee to develop a training process to assist new pilots gain solo certification and to certify experienced pilots that are new members. The process is now approved and is available on the web site under the [Training header](#).

The purpose is to:

- Make every new pilot aware of safety issues
- Help each pilot become familiar with their aircraft
- Teach the basics of flight

both with the trouble of hauling aircraft and equipment around.

Now, of course, if someone is making you nervous as to their skill or safety measures, then of course call one of the officers.

- Teach control of aircraft
- Teach battery safety and awareness
- Follow through with Solo Certification

The training has four phases:

- Aircraft familiarization
- General flight with Buddy Box
- Take offs and Landings
- Solo Certification

At the field, a current flying list is posted and updated regularly. The list displays current members and whether they are certified to fly solo. If a name has a green check ✓ mark next to it, they are certified. If no check mark, then they have not yet obtained certification.

Also, when members are certified, their Club ID card will also have the green check ✓ mark next to their name. However, new members who have been certified after being issued an ID card will have a green check mark the following year. The current flying list will be updated with current certifications regularly.

If you have questions or need an instructor pilot for your certification, contact bfmustangs@outlook.com. We'll make sure you get the process going.

By-Laws

Members should receive an email within a few days of this Newsletter that officially notifies them of proposed By-Laws. We have existing By-Laws, so why do we need changes? The email will have more details of the changes, but here we want to give you a general summary of why the By-Laws need modified.

There are a number of typographical errors and other errors in the existing By-Laws. This isn't insurmountable, except that there are quite a few and to some extent confuse what is being stated. For example, we have 2 section 5s and they misstate when meetings are held to name a few of the errors. At the January meeting a By-Law committee was appointed and they have been preparing the proposed By-Laws for membership approval.

Types of changes?

1. The Committee preserved the original format and most of the language in the existing By-Laws. Corrections were made to Typographical errors and renumbering duplicate sections.
2. Some details were moved from the By-Laws and will be contained in a companion document of policies that can be changed

Restoring the Car Track

Hydro turf has been applied to the track area. Watering to keep it damp will be difficult although we have a way to accomplish it. Also, the wooden grand stand was disassembled

by the Membership or Board, such as meetings times and places.

3. Additions to duties, such as the filing of non-profit status to the Secretary position. And clarified the transfer of records.
4. We moved the voting of officers from the month of January to December. This allows for the transition of new officers immediately in January rather than waiting on voting in January for the new officers to take over.
5. Several required paragraphs from the AMA were inserted.

The process for changing the By-Laws are unchanged. It is: 1. The proposed By-Laws are emailed to members for 30 days to review. After the 30 day period a vote on passage takes place by email. Members who do not respond with a vote are counted as a positive vote for the proposed By-Laws. Only current Members may vote.

We want all Members to be actively involved. Remember this is your club and these By-Laws set the rules by which we operate. Look for the email in a few days.

and taken away. When you come out to the field, things will look quite different. Thanks to Scotty Cranston and Art Mulkey.

Membership

The Flying weather has ben great already this year. Current Members are getting lots of flying time. Club Membership stands at 60 with 16 new members. However, over 30 prior members have yet to renew.

We encourage those prior members who have not yet renewed to renew soon to take advantage of the great weather.

The renew procedure is easy online. Go to the web site www.billingsflyingmustnags.us/bfm/membership and select renew, fill in your name & AMA number and scroll down to the end to pay. Easy as that.

We look forward to seeing you at the field.

Work Day

We have designated May 1, 2016 as a work day. Plan to come and help maintain the tables and then have fun flying. It's a great time to meet club members and enjoy the day. More

details will come out about the schedule. After the work is complete, we may have time for beginning pilot certifications.

Events

Magic City Pylon Race.

June 3-5, 2016. Shane Elbert is the Contest Director. This is a fabulous event of very fast planes and expert pilots. Volunteering is a great experience. See Shane if you're willing to volunteer.

Billings Fly-In. June 24-26, 2016, Carl Thuesen is



the Contest Director. We had a great event last year with over \$5,000 in raffle prizes. We hope to have a good turn out again this year. See Carl if you want to help out.





Online Signup. This year we have online signup for both the Magic City Pylon Race and the Billings Fly-In. Go to the web site: www.billingsflyingmustangs.us/bfm/events, then click on the Race or Fly-In event. Purchase a race class or the fly-In pilot fee. For the Fly-In you also can purchase shirts and raffle tickets with the Pilot fee.

Billings Flying Mustangs 2016 Fly-In
Open to the public

All ages and flying abilities welcome... come join the FUN!

Enter raffle for Spektrum DX9 Black Edition!

June 25 - 26 at Chamberlain Field, 8223 Grand Ave., Billings, MT 59106

- open flying Friday
- sanctioned event Saturday & Sunday
- pilots meeting 8:30 AM Saturday

Landing fee \$15 per pilot includes:

- pilots drawing entry
- over \$1,500 in prizes to be given away!

Dry camping and vault toilets on field

AMA sanction #161927 - AMA member ID required to fly
For more information call Carl 406.535.7644

Swap Meet. June 11, 2016. Free admission and free to sell you items. Bring your own table or sell from your tailgate. Field will be open for members to fly and demo products. Check out the [Flyer](#) on the events web page.

Billings Flying Mustangs

Swap Meet

Free admission and free to sell your items. Bring your own table or sell from your tailgate. Field will be open for members to fly and demo products. Must have current AMA to fly.

Location: BFM Field 8223 Grand Ave

Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Date: Saturday June 11th