

The PRANG



Monthly Publication of the Austin Radio Control Association

June 2003

Meeting Minutes

May meeting of the Austin Radio Control Association

President Keith Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Here were 27 members present.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and accepted as read.

The treasurer's report for April was read and accepted as read. Loyd reported that the club made \$2190 for the two events held so far this year.

Old business

The club should start seeing savings of field expenses soon. A smaller dumpster and a single Porta-Pottie in the winter months are the reasons for the decrease in price charged by BFI.

The new frequency board has been started and will be installed as soon as it is finished.

New business

Ken wants to get flyers printed for the Big Bird event by August 1st.

Mark Cice said that people are interested in returning for the helicopter event in October. He also would to see the \$30 entrance fee to include a pilot's lunch for one day.

Blue Max nominees

John Raymond won for taking off with the ailerons reversed and crashing his giant Cub on take off.

Door Prize

Ken Holloway won the gift certificate door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

Tom Sewell gave an interesting program on fiberglass mold and part making.

Safety Blotter

The following is a letter to Mike Kulczyk from his friend Choni. I have left it as received, so it is a bit of a tough read, but the point of his letter is clear.

MIKE:

HAVE TO TYPE IN 'CAPS' WITH ONLY ONE HAND.

HAD JUST RUN THE JET AND HAD PICKLED THE ENGINE UNTIL SEPT. HAD THE CURTISS ROBIN TIED DOWN TO TWO CONCRETE BLOCKS WITH A 1/2 INCH NYLON ROPE AROUND THE TAIL SECTION AND BACK THRU THE BLOCKS AND TIED WITH TWO SQ KNOTS. I WAS ON MY KNEES IN FRONT OF THE PLANE AND STARTED IT BY A GLOVED RIGHT HAND. IT STARTED AND I RAN IT UP. ALL WAS OK. BACK TO IDLE. I CHECKED RPM AT BOTH SETTINGS. I RAN IT UP AGAIN AND SUDDENLY IT MOVED FORWARD TOWARD ME! I SLAMMED THE THROTTLE TO OFF AND TRIED TO FALL OVER TO THE LEFT BUT MY SNEAKERS WOULD NOT ALLOW ME TO MOVE. IN THAT SPLIT SECOND I THOUGHT THE ROPE MAY HAVE BROKEN BUT KNEW THAT HAD NOT POSSIBLY HAPPENED; THROTTLE OFF; MOVE AND THEN IT SEEMED AS IF IT WAS STILL GOING TO GET ME. PROBABLY STARTING TO CUT AT MY KNEES TOWARD MY CROUCH. I KNEW THAT WOULD BE VERY BAD TO SAY THE LEAST. I PUT MY LEFT HAND OUT TOWARD THE PROP HUB TO

Next Meeting
Thursday Evening
June 26th
7:00 pm
at the Flying Field

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Upcoming Club Events:

July	
31st	Club Meeting
August	
28th	Club Meeting
September	
12th-14th	Fall Big Bird
25th	Club Meeting

2003 ARCA Officers

President	Keith Whitley
Vice President	Tom Sewell
Treasurer	Loyd Ligon
Secretary	Dick Maus

Members at Large

Jeff Piatt & Pat Fernandez
email addresses available online at
www.austinrc.org

download the prang at www.austinrc.org

Safety Blotter (cont'd)

PREVENT IT FROM GETTING ME. I DO NOT REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THE MOVEMENT OF MY HAND TO THE MOMENT I WAS STANDING ABOUT 5 FEET TO THE RIGHT AND REAR OF THE PLANE. MY MIDDLE FINGER WAS SMASHED BACK FLAT AGAINST MY PALM AND I COULD SEE THE BONES. MY INDEX AND RING FINGER WERE BADLY CUT AND MAYBE A LITTLE SMASHED. MY LITTLE FINGER WAS BADLY CUT. I GRABBED A TOWEL FROM A CLEAN STACK THAT I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE NEEDED WHEN I PICKLED THE JET (IT IS IN THE WORKSHOP, NOT HANGING AS I WAS GOING TO DO LATER THAT DAY). I PUT A TOWEL ON MY HAND AND SQUEEZED DOWN AS HARD AS I COULD FOR A MOMENT. THEN PUT IT UNDER MY RIGHT ARM PIT AND CLAMPED DOWN AS I WENT TO THE WORKROOM. I GOT THE TELEPHONE, CAME BACK OUT AND SAW A FINGER TIP ON THE GARAGE FLOOR. PUT ANOTHER TOWEL ON THE FLOOR, PICKED UP THE TIP AND CLOSED THE TOWEL AND PUT IT IN MY RIGHT ARMPIT. SAT DOWN ON THE FRONT ENTRANCE AND CALLED 911. I TOLD THE LADY THAT I WOULD GIVE HER ALL THE INFO AND THEN IF ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK. SHE SAID TO GET IN THE AMBULANCE OR THE SHERIFF'S CAR WHICH EVER CAME FIRST. SHE SAID FOR ME TO LISTEN TO THE LADY ON THE PHONE AS SHE MADE CALLS. IN 6 MINUTES AN AMBULANCE ARRIVED AND THE MEDICS STARTED A 'IV' DRIP AND MORPHINE. ONE MEDIC UNWRAPPED MY HAND AND THE FIRST MEDIC SAID I NEEDED A HAND DOCTOR. AT THIS POINT ANOTHER AMBULANCE ARRIVED AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER THREE MORE SHERIFFS! ONE MEDIC REQUESTED A SHERIFF TO CALL FOR AN AIR EVAC. HE DID AND ASKED WHERE TO LAND? I TOLD HIM WHERE AND THE MEDIC ASKED HOW LONG? HE SAID, 'SIX MINUTES'. THEY BUNDLED ME INTO AN AMBULANCE AND TOOK TO THE END OF THE TRAIL WHERE 3 SHERIFF CARS BLOCKED THE NORTH AND 2 BLOCKED THE SOUTH OF HAWES ROAD. THE CREW ASKED ME TO GET OFF THE GURNEY SO THEY COULD PUT A WOODEN BLOCK UNDER ME. TWO NURSES, EX ARMY AND USAF INTRODUCED THEMSELVES AND THE CREW HUSTLED ME ON BOARD. THEY STRAPPED ME DOWN AND AWAY WE WENT TO A HOSPITAL IN SCOTTSDALE. I ASKED THE PILOT IF HE FLEW IN V N? YES, HE SAID AND I ASKED IF IT WAS IN HUEYS, COBRAS OR MARINE/NAVY CHOPPERS? HE FLEW COBRAS WITH A W-4 RANK. I TOLD HIM I WAS AN EX FTR PILOT AND HAD FLOWN 37 COMBAT MISSIONS IN ARMY HUEYS. HE SAID I WAS CRAZY! ANYWAY I WATCHED THE GAUGES AND HAD CONVERSATION WITH THE NURSES AND I REALIZED WE WERE DESCENDING FOR LANDING. HUSTLED ME INTO A DIMLY LIT OPERATING ROOM WITH TWO DOCTORS AND MANY NURSES AND ONTO THE TABLE. OFF WITH CLOTHES, SHOES, SOCKS AND WATCH (HAD TO TELL THEM HOW TO TAKE THE STRAP APART), DIDN'T KNOW WHERE WEDDING RING WAS! AND INTO HOSPITAL GOWNS. MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICAL HISTORY, INSURANCE, WHAT HAPPENED, MORE MORPHINE, X-RAYS OF HAND AND CHEST, EKG, BLOOD DRAWN FOR INSPECTION AND A FEW MORE I CAN'T REMEMBER. ALL WERE GRACIOUS AND UNDERSTANDING. BY THE WAY MY ID CARD SUFFICED FOR 'TCL' AND MY MEDICARE CARD. I NOTICED THAT THE PERSONNEL THAT WERE NOT NEEDED SLOWLY FADED AWAY BUT A DOCTOR AND THREE NURSES REMAINED. THEY STARTED AN ANTI INFECTION DRIP INTO THE IV. THE DOCTOR TOLD ME A HAND DOCTOR WAS ON CALL AND WOULD CONTACT THEM WHEN HE COULD BE THERE. AFTER 30 MINUTES OR SO THEY MOVED ME TO A PRIVATE ROOM. I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE FLOOR NURSE AND WAS TOLD THE MOTTO OF THE HOSPITAL WAS, 'NO PATIENT WILL SUFFER PAIN' AND YOU KNOW I DID NOT. AT 1030 THAT NIGHT THE DOCTOR WAS READY TO OPERATE ON MY HAND. I WAS TAKEN TO THE OPERATING ROOM AND MET THE ANESTHETIST AND THE DOCTOR. I ASKED NOT TO KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND FOR HIM TO DO HIS BEST. AFTER ALL HE WAS THE SPECIALIST. HE SAID OK AND I WOKE UP ABOUT 0130 IN MY ROOM. AT 1400 THAT DAY LYNN CAME AND TOOK ME HOME. I HAD THE STITCHES OUT TWO WEEKS AGO AND I HAVE HAND THERAPY THREE TIMES WEEKLY AT 0900. WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 20 JUNE AND IF I NEED MORE WILL GET IT. X-RAYS ON 2 JULY AND DOCTORS APPOINTMENT ON 3 JULY. I HAVE NUMEROUS EXERCISES TO DO EVERY DAY AND USE MOSTLY 1 INCH, 3/4 INCH AND 1 HALF INCH PVC PIPE TO MAKE A FIST AROUND THEM. THIS IS TO EXERCISE THE TENDONS AND MUSCLES. TENDONS YES BUT THE MUSCLES ARE GOING TO POT IN THAT ARM. THERAPIST SAYS WE WILL GET THAT LATER, NOT TO WORRY.

MADE ONE ERROR---DON'T BE IN FRONT OF PROP WHEN RUNNING IT UP THE ENGINE EVEN IF IT THE PLANE IS TIED DOWN! ANYTHING IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN.

SO THIS IS WHERE I STAND AND WILL HAVE A USEFUL HAND AS IT RECOVERS FULLY. MY BRAIN MUST GET USED TO FINGER ENDS BEING IN DIFFERENT PLACES.

Addendum:

THE ROBIN HAD A 22 INCH PROP WITH A 5.2 HP GAS ENGINE. NEEDLESS TO SAY THERE WAS ONLY THE PROP STUB AT THE YOKE LEFT. SPLINTERS WENT EVERY WHICH WAY AND WERE LITTLE TINNY TO BIG 9 X 1/8 SPLINTERS. I COULD FEEL THEM HITTING ME BUT NO DAMAGE. STILL HAVE NOT FOUND THE OTHER FINGER TIP. ALSO GOT A CUT ON THE TOP OF MY THUMB BONE.