



April 2025 Edition

Field Marshall's Corner: Bobby Hurst



The 2025 Barnstormers mowing season has officially started in time for the Club's monthly Buddy Box day this Saturday and the Club Fun Day this Sunday, 13 April.



We are working on some minor changes to the Club's 2025 mowing schedule to reflect "life's changes" and we will have the update out shortly.

See Gordon's comments below.

Bobby

President's Pilot Box: Gordon Collyer

Lenn Airpark and Parks and Recreation.

Usually, I have the freedom to pursue topics of interest to the hobby for the newsletter. If it is about FAA news, at least it is about our hobby. This month while offering some potential good news there are several things that need to be addressed as we start the flying season. These topics, while some are comparatively boring, are important to the club's operations.

As titled, I am going to dig a little into history as it relates to the club and Culpeper Parks and Recreation (P&R). In addition, there may be a fair amount of activity around the Airpark this spring and P&R as asked me to be sure the entire club is up to speed.

- 1) Relative to history, I will not go back to the 2010 time frame but rather to 2019, when the yearly agreement with the county was modified to be open ended. However, while the terms of the agreement then became fixed without yearly attention required, the character of the agreement did not change. Our arrangement with the county is a "license" to use county property subject to the county's stipulations. It is not a lease which in some ways could provide a level of autonomy over the property depending on the terms of the lease. That is why our license to use the 3+/- acres of the Lenn Airpark has language in it that says in effect we will keep the floors clean (mow) but not move walls (alter the Airpark, pave the runway, etc.) without the county's permission. In the administrative chain of things, P&R has the responsibility for managing the parks, so they are our point of contact. Only 2, I believe, of the 10 county individuals that were involved in the 2019 license agreement are still with Culpeper County.

- 2) Shortly after/during the “COVID” period in a meeting with P&R, we discovered that the county, apparently via P&R’s budget situation, had ceased weed control and fertilization (W&F) for the runway. This was a surprise since prior P&R practice had been to treat the runway 2-3 times per season. Per the license, the county owns the land and maintains control of the land, and hence, I believe, if the roof leaks (land management – i.e., W&F) that this is the county’s role. Keep in mind however that our license can be terminated at the county’s discretion.
- 3) In 2023, with P&R’s blessing, (you should remember the club’s fund raising) the club spread lime and accomplished two W&F applications.
- 4) In the summer of 2024, P&R indicated that the county would resume W&F and other activities where material costs were not involved. The county did aerate the runway in the fall of 2024 but did not perform any W&F activities. It is my understanding that the latter was due to a scope issue with their contractor.
- 5) And here we are. In a meeting I had with the P&R director and P&R’s turf contractor on March 25th, I was told that P&R would resume W&F this season, level and roll the runway, and re-gravel the parking lot. Some of this work will be P&R activities and some will be P&R contractor efforts. P&R has asked that for W&F spraying days we close the airpark to activities for that day, and for the leveling, rolling and parking lot work we close the airpark to activities for 3-5 days. The club will be notified ahead of time so we are not on site and in the way of equipment, etc. Also note that sometime this summer P&R will be paving up to the fence from the park entrance and access to the Airpark will also be blocked for perhaps 2 days. Schedules, equipment, and weather being what they are, P&R has asked us not to bother work crews about what/how/when etc. they are doing. Any questions along these lines should be referred to the Club President.
- 6) P&R has gotten a complaint that a drone was “following” folks walking on the trails in the park. I have pointed out to P&R that a multicolor drone can be controlled from many locations nearby and that I have personally witnessed two instances of a drone being flown over the park, launched from areas other than the airpark. P&R staff did not retain any details about the event. I have given P&R a set of three questions for staff to ask in the event of future complaints to help identify if anyone was in fact at the Airpark or is a possible witness. I can easily see how a drone flying out to find a downed plane could be miss-identified as “following” someone, especially after the recent New Jersey drone hysteria. However, drone flyers (me included) must be extra cautious about hovering over, or seeming to fly along the trails opposite the runway. We know that the trails are closed when we fly, but any buzzing, hovering or other engagement with anyone on the trails with one of our aircraft is never safe or permitted. Drones in particular because of their flight characteristics can both perform maneuvers that might raise an issue, but also more easily avoid these maneuvers. If verified intentional or repeat events are attributed to a Barnstormer member, then some corrective action from the Board will be indicated.
- 7) P&R’s current gate policy has been in effect for about a year and a half. P&R requested I review some gate etiquette with the members, to which I’ll add some thought of my own. First and foremost, remember the policy is to lock the gate behind you coming and going. Except for pre-coordinated special events, the gate is not to be left open. I have arrived and found an open gate and in that case the policy is to lock it behind you. P&R has also asked we not feel the need to query anyone driving “inside” the gate regarding their access. The Boy Scouts, for example, can have a lot of folks coming and going, and we need not check on their access, or be responsible for insuring anyone with a car is not behind the locked gate when we leave. I have, and I know others have met folks at the gate coming or going who do not have the lock combination and are asking for access. Our response to this can simply be that the county has limited access due to safety, vandalism, and illicit activities at the north end of the park and that the Barnstormers are among those authorized access. Because of this you can point out that you are obligated to lock the gate. Should they insist on access. Please refer questions about the policy to P&R. Should the conversation escalate, do NOT impede access. When and If, it is possible and safe, lock the

gate; otherwise LEAVE the gate area and contact a club officer as soon as possible and P&R will be informed and then deal with the gate. As the paving up to the gate is completed, I will ask P&R to consider a “Do Not Block Gate” sign which is another concern about parking near the gate, but one that has not yet been an issue.

As I promised, not the usual topics. But I hope some good news regarding the last couple of year’s uncertainty about the turf maintenance for the runway.

Gordon

Vice President’s Pilot Box: Jim Restel

- No Club specific items this month.

Jim

Secretary’s Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- The CMB Board of Directors has chosen Jim Restel to fill the Club Vice President position for the rest of 2025 Club Year.

- CMB Club Calendar:

The updated 2025 Club calendar has been sent out to all Club members and posted on the Club website.

- Upcoming 2025 events:

April 13	Sunday	<u>CMB Club Meeting @ Lenn Model Airpark</u>	1:00 PM
		<i>Club Fly Day #1, Pilot Training, and Flight Checks all day</i>	
April 19	Sat	1st Church 5K Run	6am-Noon
		Lenn Model Airpark Will be Closed During the Run	
April 26-27	Sat-Sun	Kinston Aero Modelers Pattern Contest @ Kinston, NC CD: Carl Zavalney carlzavalney@bshg.com	All Day
May 3	Sat	15th Lenn Park Wicked Bottom 5K Run	6am-Noon
		Lenn Model Airpark Will be Closed During the Run	
May 9-16	Fri-Thur	Joe Nall @ Triple Tree Aerodrome @ Woodruff, SC https://tta.aero	All Day
May 17-18	Sat-Sun	Charlotte, NC Pattern @ Monroe, NC CD: Rick Harn Rharn47@gmail.com	All Day
May 31	Saturday	CMB Member Day @ Lenn Model Airpark	All Day
		CD: Jay Zompanti jay.zompanti@gmail.com	

Remember to Be SAFE

Nic

Treasurer's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- As of 10 April, the Barnstormers have 46 members. (17 Regular members, 27 Senior members, 1 Junior member, 1 Associate member, and No Life members).

- As of 10 April, the Club has a balance of \$4,319.54 in the general fund.

Be Safe

Nic

Safety Officer's Pilot Box: Ernie Padgette

- No Club specific items this month.

Ernie

Field Marshal's Pilot Box: Bobby Hurst

- See Above.

Bobby

Member at Large Pilot Box: Al Hampton

Well, it's finally happened. As I went to visit my parents for my Mother's Birthday my wife dear wife Karina was trying to discover the well-kept secret of my Mothers age. In the discussion, it turns out that I have lost an entire year of life LOL. I have been telling everyone that I'm 54 years old for about 2 years now when in fact, in December of this year I will be 56. LOL. Talk about time flying.. LOL.

I can say that even though that is the case I am thankful for the years as well as the many hard learned lessons that has come along with them. I would definably love be able to chance some past choices that I have made that did not bring the most positive results there is one choice that I have not yet had to regret.

I am again very happy to announce that Lake of the Woods Community RC is officially a Sanctioned Club of AMA (#5595) and we are now in the planning phase for our first event, our Open House. This will also be my first event as an AMA Event Manager. We are still working out the Date, time and activities for the event, but I am truly looking forward to it.

With that I would also like to open up the anyone who might be available to help putting on this event with the focus on introducing our Lake of the Woods Residents to the club. I will be working on dates that do not conflict with CMB and FARM club activities and events as much as possible. If you do think you like to assist in any way please let me know. Also, if you have ideas for activities, please also shoot them to me as well.

For those who have the ability and would like to participate I will be sure to keep you updated via e-mail on the hours and plans for the day.

I would be looking for Greeters and pilots with aircraft that can comfortably be flown in the area of a soccer field. The field sizes is about 500 X 250 ft. I do happen to have a few Volentex 4 channels and a bunch of 2 channel planes that can fly well in this small area if you would like to fly but just do not have anything small enough. This first event will mostly be Demonstration and discussion but really want to try to give a few visitors the opportunity to fly something relatively safe to control in the small space for a beginner.

I will be working on reserving indoor space as well in the event of rainy weather. So I have said it before and will say it again! Thanks so much for your continued support! I truly hope that this will do a small part in

growing the RC community as a whole as well as introduce any who might be interested in flying something just a little larger than a park flyer and becoming a member of CMB.

Look forward to our many events this year and hope to see more of you all out at the field.

- No Club specific items this month.

Al H

Member at Large Pilot Box: Bill Pratt

- Bill is recovering from surgery No Club specific items this month.

Bill P

Member at Large Pilot Box: Bill Towne

- No Club specific items this Month.

Bill T

Member at Large Pilot Box: Jay Zompanti

- No Club specific items this Month.

Jay Z

Training Officer's Pilot Box: Gordon Collyer

- No Club specific training items this month.

Gordon

Web Master's Pilot Box: Dick Sutton

- No Club specific website items this Month.

Dick

"CMB Tips and Projects Jar": All CMB Members

- No inputs this month.

Member "From the Field" Anything Input Box: All CMB Members

- No inputs this month.

CMB CLUB 2024 OFFICERS

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The CMB Newsletter is published monthly by the Culpeper Model Barnstormers, AMA charter #4894. It is forwarded to CMB members and to other clubs on an exchange basis. Articles related to all types of aviation are welcome. Opinions expressed in the newsletter articles are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect those of CMB Inc.

Publishing input deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please forward all inputs (Pictures in jpg format) to:
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