



*Your voice for private airports
throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia*

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Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2015

- I. Welcome and Introductions – the meeting was called to order by President David Robinson at 10:10AM at the Dinwiddie County Airport (KPTB)

Present at the meeting was Mike Potter (42VA), James McPherson (VA10), David Robinson (OVI1), Bo Mills, Randall Burdette (VA42), Richard Henshaw (VG42), and Daniel Arkin (92VA)

Welcome was provided by David Hahn of the Dinwiddie County Airport

- II. Invitation to Join the Association – A brief history of the Association was provided by Randall Burdette. He emphasized the need for private airstrips to be part of any security plans in the Commonwealth. In that there may be no new public use airports created, it is important to maintain and preserve all private use airstrips. In order to ensure that private airstrips survive the death of the current owner, he encouraged all airstrip owners to place their airstrips into a survivable name (e.g. an LLC).

Randall Burdette also suggested that the Association maintain a list of airstrips for sale in the Commonwealth. These will be added to the website.

- III. Old Business

- a. Treasurer's Report – David Robinson, on behalf of the Treasurer, reported that the organization's treasury has a balance of \$818.91
- b. Website and Membership Update – Daniel Arkin provided an update of the Association's website (<http://vaoa.us>). In a move to save paper, minutes of all meetings will now be stored on the website. He pointed out that our membership database now contains over 350 persons, including: airstrip owners (from the Virginia Department of Aviation), airstrip users, other

organizations, and Virginia Aviation Board members. Since membership is free, we are looking for members who can advocate for maintaining of private airstrips in Virginia.

- c. Liability Insurance Participation – Daniel Arkin reported that 8 airstrips have signed up for the available group liability insurance policy. Randall Burdette pointed out that it is in the interests of the organization to increase this participation as insurance companies may choose to not continue offering such insurance for so few participating airstrips.
- d. Virginia Department of Aviation Updates

IV. New Business

David Robinson called upon the Nominating Committee for their nominations report – Bo Mills made recommendation for those persons to be considered candidates for Directors of the Corporation. Additional nominations were sought from those in attendance. On a motion by Bo Mills, seconded by Randall Burdette, the following persons were elected as Directors:

Daniel Arkin
Randall Burdette
Rick Henshaw
Kevin Leahy
Art Lunney
Bo Mills
Mike Potter
David Robinson
Jack Rouzie
Tom Silbersiepe
Pat Weakland

Those Directors present were then asked to select Officers. Randall Burdette made a motion, seconded by Bo Mills, that the immediate Past-President serve on the Executive Committee. Motion was approved. On a motion by Bo Mills, seconded by Randall Burdette, the following were nominated and elected as Officers:

President - Daniel Arkin
Vice President - Kevin Leahy
Secretary - Bo Mills
Treasurer - Pat Weakland
Past President - David Robinson

- V. Planning for the Coming Year – David Robinson then turned the meeting over to Daniel Arkin for a discussion about the coming year. Arkin presented some of the ideas he had.

Survey of Membership – Arkin indicated that he felt it was time to reach out to the membership regarding a variety of issues. He said that we need to seek out ways to increase participation in the Association’s activities. Thus, he would be creating a survey for all interested parties to fill out (online), on such issues/topics as:

- The Next Evolution – What Do You Want?
- Organization Structure (Regional Reps)?
- Revised Mission Statement
- Meeting Locations
- Meeting Presentation Topics
- Interest in Airstrip Liability Insurance
- Interest in Virginia Volunteer Pilots Group (Already a Volunteer?)
- Possible Association Name Change to Reflect the Growth of the Association to Include Airstrip Owners and Flyers/Users of Those Airstrips

Meetings – Arkin felt that we should strive to have four meetings each year. It was suggested that in order to maximize attendance at these meetings, we should plan the meetings in conjunction with other aviation events, such as: Virginia Festival of Flight (Suffolk), Wings and Wheels (Hummel), Warbirds Over the Beach (Virginia Beach), Louisa Fly-in (Louisa), Culpeper Airshow (Culpeper), and the Recreational Aviation Foundation Meeting (Stafford). Members present at the meeting also offered their fields for a fly-in meeting, including: David Robinson (OV11), Randall Burdette (VA42), and Mike Potter (42VA). Arkin said he was looking for meetings to be held quarterly, but that coordinating with other aviation events was a very positive strategy that might affect scheduling.

Committees – Arkin indicated that he wanted to create three committees this year. His expectation was that each Director would serve on ONE of the committees, and that each committee would be expected to provide some portion of each meeting of the Association. The three committees are spelled out below.

Partnerships Committee – With Other Organizations (Bo Mills, Chair) – Partnerships with other organizations will serve to expand our pool of participants, plus increase the wealth of resources that would be available to our members. The Partnerships Committee will be charged with forging partnerships with other organizations at the following levels:

- National - EAA, AOPA
- Regional - Other Airstrip Orgs – Michigan, Idaho
- State – Aviation Clubs and User Groups
 - Virginia Volunteer Pilots Group
 - Virginia Aviation Business Association

Virginia Airport Operators Council

Advocacy Committee – Lobbying, Legal Issues (David Robinson, Chair) – In that we must continue to be vigilant in our efforts to protect private airstrips, Arkin wanted to continue the concept of the Legislative Committee, but under the new name of Advocacy. He charged the Committee with providing the Board a heads up on potential legislation of interest, and seeking other legislative opportunities. He encouraged members of this Committee to focus their efforts at various governmental levels.

Federal Level

State Level

Arkansas Legislation

Oklahoma Legislation

California Legislation

Georgia Legislation

Texas

Local Level

Randall Burdette suggested that the Association consider meeting four months prior to the General Assembly convening to become aware of upcoming legislative impacts.

Education Committee – Programs for Airstrip Owners and Users (Daniel Arkin, Chair) – Arkin stated that he felt educational programs were the key to bringing our members together. He wanted to have meetings in locations where not only an aviation event was already occurring, but also locations where a tour could be provided those in attendance. Topics for possible programs include:

Airstrip Security – Possibly Meet at the Virginia State Police Fusion Center, where threats germane to airstrips would be gathered, analyzed, and information disseminated.

Airstrip Security Briefing (in concert with the Virginia Department of Aviation)

Airstrip Operations – Zoning, Protect Your Strip, One Day Liability Insurance (EAA)

Safety

Public Service – Emergency Services Access, Public Relations

Private Airstrips Liability Insurance

Department of Aviation Services and Programs

Representatives – Arkin then led a discussion on appointments as representatives to other groups on behalf of the Association, including:

Virginia Aviation Security Advisory Council (Previously handled by Al Orgain), Bo Mills will explore with Douglas Winegardner his interested in continuing in this role

Virginia Volunteer Pilots Group – Art Lunney – The Virginia Volunteer Pilots Group (VVPG) was formed in 2012 to allow general aviation pilots who wish to volunteer their aircraft and/or piloting skills during times of emergency to do so effectively. Individual volunteer pilots are encouraged to join nonprofit aviation organizations that are members of the Virginia Volunteer Pilots Group in order to participate in the program and assist their fellow citizens.

Recreational Aviation Foundation - Randall Burdette. The national Recreational Aviation Foundation's mission is keeping the legacy of recreational aviation strong by preserving, maintaining and creating public use recreational and backcountry airstrips nationwide. Randall indicated that he would be very interested in someone else taking on this function. Arkin indicated that he would query the Board of Directors for an interested person to serve as representative.

Meetings Structure – Arkin indicated a number of goals for each meeting of the Association:

- Treasurer's Report
- Advocacy Committee Updates
- Partnership Committee Updates
- Education Committee Function
 - Tours (Fields, Hangers, ATC)
- Department of Aviation Updates
- Review of Website Components

VI. A motion was made by Randall Burdette, seconded by Richard Henshaw, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Daniel Arkin
Secretary