

HORSE FEATHERS

Official Newsletter of the Billings Flying Mustangs
Volume 34 Issue 1 January 2008 www.rcflyer.com



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December Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Lynda Hahn at 7:30 PM. Secretary Clay Ness read the minutes from the previous meeting and they were approved as read. Treasurer Matt Dahl read the treasurer's report and it too was approved as read.

Committee Reports

Tim McCullough gave the nomination committee report as follows: Lynda Hahn for President, Dennis Rollins for Vice President, Jim Sherman for Treasurer, Clay Ness for Secretary, and Ralph Howe, Todd Carlson, Carl Thuesen, Dick Jones and Delmer Schmidt for the three board positions, one Board position is for 1 year the second position is for 2 years and the third position is for 3 years.

Old Business

Pres Lynda asked the floor for additional nominations and there were none. Pres. Lynda closed the floor for nominations.

Lynda Hahn said that we still need some volunteers to step forward for the club banquet.

New Business

Award nominations are as follows; Dick Jones, Clay Ness and Ralph Howe for the Chamberlain award, Tim McCullough and John Hahn for the Lifetime Achievement award, A.J. Rohrer and Jim Lees for the Rookie of the Year award and Matt Dahl for Best Builder award. Clay Ness made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Josh Carlson, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

00:27:02

From the Secretary

Just a quick note regarding the election process, one ballot will be mailed to each member that is qualified to vote. Those ballots must be presented to a club officer at or before the meeting on January 7th

Odds & Ends

**Next Meeting will be January 7th, 7:30 pm at the
Moose Lodge 171 Calhoun Lane**

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Submitted by Jim Sherman

A B-17 War Story



Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he

could not believe his eyes. In his words, he 'had never seen a plane in such a bad state'. The tail and rear section was severely damaged, and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed, a propeller feathered and there were holes everywhere. Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained plane. Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to and slightly over the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe.

When Franz landed he told the C/O that the plane had been shot down over the

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sea, and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it. More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who had spared the lives of the crew. After years of research, Franz was found at last. He had never talked about the incident either, not even at post-war reunions. They met in the USA at a 379th. Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now – all because Franz never fired his guns that day. Research shows that Charlie Brown lived in Seattle and Franz Steigler had moved to Vancouver, BC after the war. When they finally met, they discovered they had lived less than 200 miles apart for the past 50 years !!!



For Sale

Post your items that are for sale here! Just send an e-mail with details and pictures to crashisclay@bresnan.net

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