

PREDDY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
Minutes of Biennial Meeting of the Membership
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Peddycord Foundation for Aircraft Conservation Museum
Asheboro Airport – Asheboro, NC

Minutes of the Preddy Memorial Meetings of May 8, 2001

The meeting was held in two parts: the Biennial Meeting of the Membership and the Board Meeting.

Preddy Memorial Foundation Biennial Meeting of the Membership.

The Biennial Meeting of the Membership was convened at 10:30 AM. A most knowledgeable Paul Stockman gave members a tour of the PFAC Museum. Paul is an F-84 pilot and the owner of the twin Beech aircraft housed at the Museum.

A catered lunch was served at 11:45 AM. During the meal, Senator Russell Walker introduced Bill Williams of the NC Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation. Mr. Williams explained the planning of the 2003 centennial celebration events and gave insight into the NC Aviation Hall of Fame proposals. He could not answer as to where the HoF may be eventually located but noted that Asheboro is still in the running as the site. He also noted that it would be better if the HoF were privately operated so as to minimize interference by political interests. There will be, he explained, proceeds donated to the HoF by a national organization that conducts aircraft auctions.

Bill Kurdian of the PFAC discussed his views on the HoF as well as what had already been done on the matter by the PFAC. He explained that they felt Asheboro, and particularly the PFAC site should be chosen for the HoF. A private corporation was formed under the Hall of Fame name and it will have 15 board members. Of note is the J-3 "Flitfire," the last surviving airworthy aircraft once piloted by one of the Wright Brothers. Craig Branson, owner of five of the aircraft housed at the PFAC Museum, then gave his views on the HoF, reinforcing those of Mr. Kurdian.

Bill Craft, Chairman of the Guilford County Veterans Memorial Committee, then spoke on the status of the Memorial. He encouraged all members to support the Memorial. He passed out a brochure with a sketch and location of the planned Memorial, as well as names of the other Memorial Committee Members. He noted that PMF members Bill Black, Louis Godwin and Curtis Laughlin, as well as himself, are on the Committee. A donation of \$200 secures a memorial brick at the Memorial while a \$1,000 donation makes one a Charter Member with one's name on the plaque at the Memorial. The cost of the project is estimated at \$400,000.

After the speakers had concluded and lunch was finished, the members moved outside to watch Jeff Foley fly his WWII Stearman that he had graciously brought for all to enjoy.

Jeff made several low passes for the group. Many thanks to Jeff for such a treat. While Jeff was refueling, Joe Noah flew his Comanche named "Cripes A'Mighty." Bob Reese and Marc Hamel went along with Joe; he made two high-speed low passes over the crowd.

After the flight displays, the Biennial Meeting was adjourned and all were invited back inside for the Board Meeting.

Preddy Memorial Foundation Board Meeting.

President Bill Black called the meeting to order. Board Members attending were Bill Black, Bill Craft, Otto Gaskins, Louis Godwin, Bruce Guard, Marc Hamel, Bob Huddleston, Morton Lester, Harold McCollum, Bill Moore, Joe Noah, Jim Rucker, Harding Shinn and Sam Sox.

The minutes of the last meeting had been mailed out earlier to all Board Members. Minutes were approved as written and received. Marc Hamel agreed to serve as Secretary in the absence of John Faircloth.

Joe Noah gave the Treasurer's report on the financial state of the PMF. A copy of his report is attached to these Minutes. In brief, the PMF has about \$18,000 in cash or in money market accounts, and another \$14,000 in stock. There are about \$73,000 in assets with no current liabilities.

President Black then called for Special Committee reports.

Otto Gaskins reported on the Preddy exhibit that PMF has at the Piedmont Triad International Airport. The bulbs are burning out sooner than expected. The models removed from the display were damaged. Otto brought the models to Sam Sox who will have them repaired.

John Oberholtzer reported that the new exhibit is in place in the Grimsley (formerly Greensboro Senior) High School. It records the names of the 99 veterans who were former students of GHS and who lost their lives in WWII. The next time John opens the exhibit, he will try to rearrange it so as to ease the crowded appearance. Walker Rucker has made some suggestions that John believes will improve the display.

Bill Mills was absent and no report was made on the PTI Airport renaming effort.

Morton Lester reported on the Aviation Hall of Fame. He noted that the Peddycord Foundation for Aircraft Conservation is a "can-do" group that is willing and has demonstrated that they perform.

Dolph Overton was absent and no report was received on the NC Aviation Centennial progress. Senator Walker, Chairman of the First Flight Centennial Committee, briefly discussed its efforts.

Harding Shinn delivered his report on the Carolinas Aviation Historical Museum located in Charlotte, NC. The Museum is now occupying its new building. The PMF donated a die-cast model of George Preddy's P-51 "Cripes A'Mighty 3rd." Harding also mentioned the exhibit in the terminal building of the Douglas International Airport in Charlotte. The PMF donated a bust of George Preddy and a painting by Troy White, both of which are on display there.

Harold McCollum reported on Publicity. He stated that 100 brochures are being sent to Houston, Texas.

President Black then called for Old Business.

Otto Gaskins noted that busts of both George and Bill Preddy are now in the display at the PTI Airport. He is planning to keep the busts there until the model aircraft that were damaged can be repaired, or until the Greensboro Historical Museum is ready to display the bust of Bill Preddy. The Museum has the original bust of George for display and is excited about having the bust of Bill as well. Bill Moore, Director of the GHM, expects the current construction and improvements going on there to be complete by August, 2001.

Jim Rucker is working towards getting the Preddy family home at 605 Park Avenue in Greensboro, NC designated on the National Register of Historic Places. The home was sold last year and the new owners have not been responsive to date.

Joe Noah reported on the sales of the Bluenosed Bastards of Bodney unit history book, and the profit it is creating for the PMF. The entire loan has been repaid plus \$1500 in profits.

It was approved that the next meeting of the PMF will be November 12, 2001. That is a Monday and was selected because Veterans Day falls on a Sunday this year.

Joe Noah reported on his trip to Europe to visit the sites where Bill and George Preddy crashed. He also visited their gravesites at St. Avold, France. Joe brought back part of the instrument panel and a rudder pedal from Bill's Mustang named "Rusty." Joe donated the instrument panel part to the Greensboro Historical Museum and the rudder pedal to the PFAC Museum. Sam Sox will provide the PFAC Museum with photos to help visitors interpret the significance of the part. The parts were donated by Frantisek Hokr, Trebotovice 2463, Ceske Budejovice, 37009, Czech Republic. Jaromir Kohout took Joe to visit Mr. Hokr and Jan Smejkal, the man who pulled Bill from his plane. Jaromir's address is: Jaromir Kohout, Tesinska 3, 312 00 Plzen, Czech Republic.

Sam Sox spoke on the efforts of researchers in Europe, on the location of "Cripes A'Mighty 2nd," and on locating photos of "Cripes A'Mighty 2nd."

It was noted that Morton Lester made a commitment to donate \$5,000 to the PFAC Museum if and when they create the NC Aviation Hall of Fame. Bill Kurdian reported that they have already incorporated a nonprofit organization with that name. Their next step is to select a slate of board members and get organized.

Following up on Bill Craft's earlier briefing on the Guilford County Veterans Memorial project, Bill Black took a vote on those who favored the PMF donating \$5,000 to that Memorial. The vote passed. Bill noted that such action will ensure that the Preddy brothers are remembered with their names on the plaque.

Joe Noah and Bob Reese discussed the status of "The Last Reunion," a TV program that Bob is producing from the tape shot at the last two 352nd Fighter Group reunions. Due to the desire to get the program on PBS, it would benefit Bob's plea for donations if he can use the PMF's 501C3 tax status. The PMF board members agreed that this was fine as long as there was no liability potential for the PMF. Harding Shinn made the motion, seconded by Sam Sox. It was unanimously approved. It was also suggested that a donation towards the Reunion film be considered by the PMF. No action was taken on this suggestion.

There being no other business, the Board Meeting was adjourned.