

Cleanup Day at AMPS – Saturday December 17, 2011

By VÍcar Hernández

It was determined that the field deserved a cleanup so a group of volunteers set out to take care of it. Thorough out the years we have been accumulating old startup stations, chair, pallets, and all sorts of other things behind and around the containers. It was time to get rid of it all.

By the time we got the field a dumpster had been delivered, Bob had purchased and transported the fertilizer and ant killer and of course Roly had gone shopping for food and drinks. To our surprise Pablo borrowed a backhoe from his company which expedited the cleaning of the area around the containers.

First thing was to remove all the debris and vegetation from around the containers. Pablo's machine made the job easy and fast. Around the containers, the guys organized the trash cans, fencing material and other items that can be left outside.

The next task was to remove everything from the containers and throw away anything that was broken, dried, unknown... We carefully, and I mean carefully, started putting the stuff back in and reclaimed enough room for another mower. Now we can easily find paper cups, oil, chairs, tables, etc.

While all the hard work was being done, Jim and Mike took on the task of spreading fertilizer on the runways. They carefully spread the material on both runways and beyond. Second pass was to spread ant killer material.

It was now around 11:00 AM and Abraham and Roly heard the cry for food. The grill was fired and some excellent BBQ chicken, sausage, rice, green salad, potato salad, coleslaw, sodas and water were served. Everyone was smiling, joking and having a good time. All the pain from the hard work was momentarily forgotten.

We had decided to postpone the installation of the pipe for the new hand water pump at the main shelter but given that we had access to the backhoe Chip gave the order to begin excavating while he went to the hardware store to get the pipe and cement needed for the job. Pablo knows how to drive this monster and in no time the trench was dug. Pipe was laid, trench covered, and cement poured for the pump foundation.

At some point during the day the post for the new charcoal grill was installed. We now have a third charcoal grill at the main shelter, courtesy of Roly.

The final task was to clean the main shelter which Roly, Jorge and Albert took on. We borrowed a pressure cleaner from Johnny and washed the dirt away from the back wall and the floor. Our new "CLUB HOUSE" is being born. We plan on painting the back wall and installing our club banner along with some memorabilia of past events.

My most sincere thanks to Christian Baradit, Jorge Barcarcel, Alex Carter, Chip Cipolato, Bob Cox, George DeMoya, Mauricio Figueroa, Rolando Hernandez, Ives Lalime, Abraham Marquez, Pablo Moscoso, Mike Nicholas, Albert Sanchez, Jim Stansell and a few others I cannot remember.

At the writing of this review I am still sore from all the hard work but am very proud to say that we have a great bunch of members that are willing to say present to continue improving our "little piece of heaven".