



NEWSLETTER



... an AMA Award of Excellence Club!

Proudly serving the Huntsville community at the Captain Trey Wilbourn Model Airplane Field..

P. O. Box 2163

Huntsville, AL

July 2011

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Prez Sez

The Field Committee has been extremely busy for this past month repairing most of the damage that was done in April by the tornadoes. The roof on the clubhouse has been replaced. The entrance sign has been rebuilt, thanks to a generous donation from member Richard McCain. John Williams tells me that the printed sign should be in place by the 15th. The spectator shed with the missing sheet metal roofing will be repaired by club members. We have one volunteer and need additional volunteers to help John replace that metal. Please call John if you are willing to help. This will cost significantly less than what the insurance contractors were going to charge us.

We have raised the wind speed meter and wind direction sensor to a higher level so that they should give us a more accurate wind speed and direction.

The contest season is well under way now. Please support the area clubs as well as our own. At the next club meeting the board will present the dates for our contest calendar for 2012. We need to have you attend and give us your input. In addition, there will be door prizes and a program. (I missed the program presented in June by Richard McCain, and I understand that it was excellent. I also missed the pylon race due to family obligations. I plan to attend the next one in November!)

See you at the field.

Peter

Minutes for the June RCRC General Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at about 1900 hours. The following board members were present: President, Vice president, Treasurer, and Newsletter editor.

The treasurer said he had received \$1640 in dues. The treasurer also received a check for \$2733 from our insurance company, and collected \$382.50 from the Coke machine. A motion was made to accept the report; the motion passed.

Committee reports:

The program for July will be provided by the Vice President. The program for August will be provided by Basil Cooper.

The field chairman reported that the price for the roof will be \$2140, paid by insurance. The price for the sign is \$1100, and not covered by insurance. We have a quote of \$700 to fix the tin on the North spectator stand. The field chairman wants to do it himself (the insurance pays in any case).

The publicity chairman was not present.

The safety chairman complained about the group of "flyers", many of whom cannot fly. I figure that will be a self-correcting problem.

Business from the floor:

Bill (last name not remembered) proposed that we provide a Facebook page for RCRC. He agreed to support it.

Program:

Richard McCain gave a lecture on "Flying commercial airlines as a pilot". In my opinion, this was a superb lecture.

Minutes for the July 2011 RCRC Board of Directors Meeting

The main order of business was deciding on the list of events for 2012. The list is as follows:

Club day	James Fowler	May 19 th
Warbird	Jim Minninger	June 9 th , 10 th
Pylon race	Alan Berard	June 23 rd
Big bird	Alan Berard	July 20 th , 21 st
BPA Pattern	Gary Courtney	August 11 th , 12 th
AMA Pattern	Tony Coberly	Sept 7 th , 8 th , 9 th
Toys for Tots	Bob Walls	Nov 3 rd , 4 th

In addition, we decided that the membership will replace the North spectator shed roof.

*At the June meeting, a member gave me an article for the newsletter. It described the first successful transatlantic flight by an RC model, giving the name of the pilot and the duration of the flight. Unfortunately, it was from the Wall Street Journal. There was also a picture in the article from **The Washington Post/Getty Images**. I am sure the Wall Street Journal paid the Washington Post to run the picture.*

I just do not feel like fighting a well-known newspaper that costs several hundred dollars a year for a subscription. I am sorry. I am forced to use the AMA Insider text to fill out the newsletter.

**From Angelo RC Inc., San Angelo, Texas
Cecil Walston**

A member's perspective: the importance of being an ambassador to the RC hobby

Like many of you in the RC club, you probably have had a love of models, aviation, or both for most of your life. Some members in our club were actually pioneers in the field of model aviation and have seen numerous advances in technology turn this hobby from one of a minority of elite craftsman, who spent

untold hours developing ideas and hardware, to an industry filled with ARF and RTF out-of-the-box products that almost anyone can master!

My first attempt at model aviation flight was when I managed to talk my very frugal father into buying me a Cox .049-powered CL P-40 Warhawk when I was seven years old. I was head-over-heels in love with the P-40, with its Flying Tiger decals, and I couldn't wait to get it home and start flying!

Well, neither dad nor I had any experience with airplanes, model or otherwise, and we studied the instructions front to back. Hey, the ads on TV and the brochure made it look and sound so simple! Needless to say, the airplane never even ran for me, much less flew, so we sadly returned it to the local store and traded it for a Fokker Dr. I Triplane. The Triplane actually ran great, but our lack of experience and knowledge saw the Red Baron's legacy in a heap pretty quickly right alongside my dreams and aspirations of being a master of the skies. Unfortunately, my dad saw the entire hobby as a complete waste of money, and he hasn't had anything but disgust for it since.

The saddest part of this whole story is that this is actually the *normal* outcome rather than the exception. My first serious attempt to fly RC airplanes was when I lived in Frisco, Texas, and was very close to the North Dallas RC Club field. I met several folks who were what I would consider to be "True Ambassadors" to the hobby. Among them were Laverne Chandler and US National Aerobatic team member Bradley Lang. Laverne let me fly his Ugly Stick, and Bradley let me fly his Super Chipmunk. Unfortunately for me, my work schedule and salary did not permit me to join a club of this caliber, so I did a lot of observation and spectating ... and wishing!

After a couple of other false starts, I have finally persevered and will soon be flying a plane that my "Ambassador" and mentor, Don Berner, helped me build from pieces and parts of airplanes crashed by other folks. I am a member of the AMA, and Angelo RC Inc., our local flying club, and have even recently taken over as secretary/treasurer too. The moral of this story is this: without ambassadors who are willing to put forth the effort to bring in new members, promote the hobby, and guide new members through the pitfalls that would otherwise make them walk away in disgust, our hobby will ultimately stagnate or be relegated back

to those elite, diehard few who are going to do it no matter what! If we promote our club and our hobby in a responsible way, everybody wins! Being a good ambassador is more than being a proponent for the hobby; it also means being a good neighbor and member of the community.

Let's face it, not everybody likes airplane noise, be it models or full scale! I know it's hard to believe, but it is true! As far away from homes as our field is located, we still get an occasional complaint. Being in West Texas, sometimes the only time we can fly without strong winds is early in the morning. Be considerate, especially if you fly a make or model of airplane that is particularly loud. One persistent complainant can shut down a flying club site forever. We also need to be super attentive to our safety rules, regulations and record.

Remember, it only takes one highly publicized injury or incident to permanently ruin the reputation of a club or hobby. I know personally of three RC fliers who have lost fingers to propeller strikes!

Another perfect example of this is the "Live Steam" large-scale, ride-on model train groups. I was a member of a large group that ultimately had to disband because of several high-profile accidents that happened to other clubs in other states. The latest one involved a 10-yearold boy who was killed when the miniature train he was a passenger on derailed because of the engineer operating at an unsafe speed. Now, that engineer and the boy's family will have to live with his death on their consciences for the rest of their lives. The "Live Steam" Train clubs can no longer get affordable insurance because of this and several other high-profile accidents!

I guess what I'm trying to say is this: please be aware of how you represent the club and our hobby. Several of our members have gone well above and beyond in their role as ambassador for me, and I fully intend to do the same for others that I meet. Sometimes it's easy to forget how hard it was when we first started out in this hobby. Hopefully we can look back and see how some well-timed and friendly advice can save a new member a whole lot of money and misery, and will hopefully ensure that they become lifelong RC fliers and club members.

Brand Up!

**Rusty Kennedy, Chairman Leader Member Program
Development Committee
Contact Rusty at rustylm@verizon.net**

You're out for a weekend drive and you see a model airplane in the sky. You manage to find your way to an open field and there it is, a model airplane field. You sit and watch for a while. Maybe someone spoke to you, maybe not. After a short visit you drive off. Did you know that you had just visited an Academy of Model Aeronautics Chartered Club? Probably not.

You have just experienced what many visitors experience. Will they be back? Maybe.

I have visited several flying fields in recent weeks and other than the AMA Safety Code posted, you see nothing that tells the visitor they visited an AMA Club flying field. Why is this important? Well we are AMA members and we fly under the AMA guidelines and we did build an AMA chartered club and field. It may be old fashion, but we as AMA members should be proud we belong to the largest model aviation organization in the world that is celebrating 75 years of serving modelers. We should show it off.

We all need to do what we can to encourage new people to learn more about model flying, clubs, and the AMA. Most visitors will seek information by going to the Internet. The Academy of Model Aeronautics and your club logos and website addresses need to be clearly visible at your flying field. This sounds so simple, but few do it well. The AMA is initiating a branding strategy. Simply put, branding is everything you do to create and deliver value for a customer. One part of branding is the consistent use of the name and logo. Our clubs are part of the AMA branding, too. In fact, clubs and members are the most important part of AMA branding as it is the positive interaction from club members and the flying site that will leave the first impression of value to new

people. Just like good service and a meal at restaurant, you will tell six people about it. If you have a bad experience, you'll tell more than 10 people. Branding your club flying site is important, too. It means letting people know we are the AMA by use of a flag, wind

sock, sign, and/or an AMA information sheet. How about a new club sign that reads something like:

Club Name

Club website address and phone

Academy of Model Aeronautics Charter 123

www.modelaircraft.org

The AMA store has all sorts of AMA-related items that are just right for our use. You can buy precut 18-inch logos and for less than \$15 (\$7 precut vinyl; \$6 blank sign) make a nice AMA weather-resistant sign. Oh, and that visitor. Go say hello and invite him or her to a meeting.

Now, about that website. What does the homepage tell the cyber visitor? The homepage is like meeting someone for the first time. First impressions are lasting impressions. Colorful, club name, AMA logo, and it is better to spell out AMA. Not everyone knows what AMA means. Write something about the 75th Anniversary. Also enable easy-to-find contact information and a link to AMA on the homepage.

Okay, AMA Leader Members, "Brand Up." At your next meeting make a few suggestions.

**UPPER CUMBERLAND RADIO CONTROL SOCIETY
COOKEVILLE, TN**

ELECTRIC FLY-IN



SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2011

FLYING ALL DAY (or until we get tired)



**LOCATION: UCRCS Flying Field – Check UCRCS web site
for directions to the field:**

<http://www.ucrcs.com/ourfield.htm>

**OPEN ELECTRIC FLYING of any size to all AMA
Members. Visitors & spectators welcome**

LANDING FEE: \$10.00 (includes lunch & raffle ticket)

PILOTS' REGISTRATION & MEETING: 9:00 a.m.

**ELECTRIC FLYING BEGINS after Pilot's Meeting
Electric Flying only until 1:00 p.m.**

**OPEN FLYING - Fly anything (gas/nitro or electric)
Beginning at 1:00 p.m.**

RAFFLE & PRIZES of RC Electric items

FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE

BRING RC ITEMS TO SELL

**COME JOIN WITH UCRCS FOR A FUN DAY OF FLYING
In Cookeville, TN**



Rocket City Radio Controllers, Inc.
P. O. Box 2163
Huntsville, AL 35804

To:

AMA chartered
club since 1964
Number 715

July, 2011

<u>2011 RCRC Event Schedule</u>					
RCRC membership meeting July 19th at 7:00 PM					
Board meeting – August 2nd at 6:00 PM					
†‡	August 13 th & 14 th	All day	BPA Pattern	Gary Courtney	256.881.7009
†‡	Sept 9 th thru 11 th	All day	AMA Pattern	Tony Coberly	256.882.7193
†	November 5 th & 6 th	All day	Toys for tots	Bob walls	256.830.2352
†	November 19 th	All day	Pylon race, Chili cookoff	Alan Berard	256.776.9509
Events held at Wilbourn Field unless noted otherwise					
† Field closed to non-participants during this event					
‡ Field closed to non-participants from noon onward on the Friday before the event					