



NEWS AT THE TOP

November, 2017

Editor's Comments – from the AMA:

Third Quarter Government Relations Update 2017

Over the past few months, the AMA Government Relations team has been hard at work representing – and protecting – the model aircraft hobby in Washington, D.C. and across the country. We wanted to share with you some of our work and progress during the third quarter of 2017.

Federal Government Relations

As you may be aware, the team worked for many months with federal lawmakers to ensure the Special Rule for Model Aircraft was protected in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization legislation. On September 28, the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives passed a six-month extension of the FAA's current authorization, which provides continuity for those in the model aviation community. This extension means members can continue to fly safely under AMA's set of community-based guidelines.

Still, we believe a longer-term extension of the FAA is needed. We will continue our work with Congress to strengthen the Special Rule for Model Aircraft in the new legislation, and may call on our members for support in this effort. Please keep an eye on the AMA Government Relations blog for the latest information on this bill.

Also in the past few months:

- The team continued to work with the FAA toward a possible VIP NOTAM/Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) waiver for those flying during President Donald Trump's travels in the Bedminster, New Jersey area and around the country. Michael Wong, president of the North Jersey Soaring Society, spoke with the Bernardsville, NJ *Patch* about the implications of VIP TFRs on local hobbyists during Trump's visits. Read the full piece [here](#).
- AMA attended Drone Advisory Committee (DAC) meetings to discuss the appropriate role of state and local governments in regulating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into our nation's airspace.
- The team also continued to work with the Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) on remote identification and tracking of UAS. We hope for this committee's recommendations to be made public soon.

State and Local Government Relations

October 2017 Meeting Minutes

Secretary's Report:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Mike Shauger ran the meeting. Pat was absent.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurers Report:

The old balance was \$10,857.96. The new balance is \$10,795.80. A more detailed report is in the newsletter.

Field Reports:

Both fields are in good flying shape.

Membership:

One applicant was present. Next month we will be voting in all of the applicants. A notice will be sent to all of them to be present if they can.

Safety:

Follow the established safety procedure if a plane goes down on the farmer's property near Hardyston. It is hunting season. Deer stands were seen near Reynolds field; be careful there also.

Old Business:

There were no new nominations for club officers. The present officers are the only nominees.

It looks like we can have the District II Fly In. We can have it the same time as we had it in the past.

New Business: Mike brought up the work to be done at Reynolds field now that we have the

LMR approved. The work needed was brought up - widening the runway and cutting trees.

This was a slight modification from the original plan. Scott Geller brought up the original plan of widening the runway and cutting trees along with grading the pit and parking area.

Discussions followed. Money is the issue here. A good amount was spent on repairing the road. The end result was that we will do the original plan and come up with the money from donations or perhaps a loan from some of the members.

Anthony brought in his Craze Wing and talked in length about its construction and flying.

The AMA Government Relations team also continued to track many state and local bills with an eye for legislation that could negatively affect the model aircraft hobby. We're glad to share that in the past few months, we've worked with AMA members throughout the country to combat several problematic state and local bills in California, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Colorado and Nebraska through direct outreach and education.

Also in the past few months:

- AMA worked with the New York Parks Department regarding a flying site relocation of the Suffolk Aero Modelers.
- The team worked with a local AMA club in California to ensure ongoing success to a 23-year-old flying site managed by the Army Corp of Engineers.
- AMA continues to work with local lawmakers in Raleigh, North Carolina to amend a problematic UAS Park policy. AMA also worked with local leaders in Holly Springs, North Carolina regarding the development of flying sites.
- AMA members have successfully published opinion articles in newspapers in *The Sale Lake Tribune* in Utah, *The Jackson Free Press* in Mississippi and *The Lincoln Journal Star* in Nebraska focusing on the impact model aircraft has had on their lives.
- In September, AMA President Rich Hanson spoke at Aviation Safety Week events across Virginia with other industry stakeholders. He discussed the importance of integrating UAS into the skies surrounding airports. Read more [here](#).

Members of the AMA team also attended the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, where AMA discussed the development of new flying sites. In addition, Chad Budreau, AMA's Director of Government Affairs, was a guest on NRPA's [OpenSpace podcast](#), where he shared information on flying model aircraft safely.

Lastly, this quarter AMA participated in the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale meeting in Switzerland, as well as InterDrone in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Members like you continue to be an important part of our work at the local, state and federal level. Thank you for your continued support in 2017. We are successful because of you and your dedication to our longstanding hobby!

AMA Government Relations Team

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Event Schedule for 2017

Monthly Meeting	
January 19, 2017	
February 16, 2017	
March 16, 2017	
April 20, 2017	
May 18, 2017	
June 15, 2017	
July 20, 2017 Hardyston	
August 17, 2017 Reynolds	
September 21, 2017	
October 19, 2017	
November 16, 2017	
December 21, 2017	

***The next club meeting will be
on November 16th at
Andover Senior Center***

Treasurer's Report: November, 2017

September's opening balance was \$10,857.96. Collections for the month totaled \$18 from the 50/50. Expenses for the month totaled \$80.16 for Reynolds Field work. The result of the above is an ending balance of \$10,795.80.

Reserves are as follows:

Encumbered for Operations	\$ 3,220
General Reserve	2,000
Event Reserve	2,000
Reynolds Field Reserve	<u>3,576</u>
Total	\$10,796

Next month is budget and dues. Before we present we need to talk about Reynolds field and what we intend to do next year. There is \$3,576 left in the reserve. We will be adding to it with any excess funds from this year's operations but there are still a lot of expenses outstanding and I can't estimate how much at this time.

Dues should stay at \$70 but depending on what we want to do with the field an assessment of \$20 - \$30 may be in order. Figure \$1,000 to the reserve for every \$10 assessed.