



NEWS AT THE TOP

September, 2019

President's Comments

September, 2019

As we move into some of the best flying weather of the year, I would encourage all of our members to try and take advantage of fall flying. Both fields are in great shape, the result of the care given over the spring and summer.

Our last meeting was by our By-Laws the first meeting where officers were nominated and the current slate of officers was put forward by the nominating committee. We look forward to serving as your officers for this coming year. But once again we need to work together to try and improve meeting attendance and this is where we need help from the membership. What do you want to see at our monthly meetings in the way of activities or discussions? Please make sure you write to you congressman per Tony's email, only through significant political pressure can we get the FAA to modify its position relative to R/C flying. That is going to require us to explain the hobby to our elected representatives and what goes into R/C flying including altitude restrictions.

FAA to Impose Restrictions on the Hobby

AMA needs your assistance in an urgent matter. The FAA unexpectedly informed us that, contrary to earlier commitments to AMA, the agency plans to limit all recreational model aircraft operations to 400 feet in controlled airspace and there will be no exceptions. We urge you to send a letter to your elected representatives in Congress and ask them to contact the FAA concerning this critical issue. Please visit www.modelaircraft.org/higher-flight to contact your representative. You can [learn more in this video](#) and [check out our podcast](#) for more information.

Secretary's Report – August 2019 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM at the Andover Senior Center. There were 11 members at the meeting. Mike and Pat were absent; Tony and Craig ran the meeting. The minutes from the previous two meetings were read and approved without corrections.

Treasurers Report:

The old balance was \$10,662.57. The new balance after debits and credits was \$9,302.57. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed. A more detailed report is in the newsletter.

Field Reports:

Reynolds Field: is in good shape. The road needs some work. Some of the road issues will be dealt with this year; more work will be done next year.

Hardyston Field: is in good shape.

Field Report Safety: no issues.

Membership:

Only one of the applicants were present.

Old Business:

Gate left unlocked – possibly the Port-a-John cleaner. Have Craig give them a call.

Tony should file ASAP for our late August fly-in before that date gets taken. This can't be done until January, and has to be done by the CD – not Secretary.

Additionally, if two clubs want to have an event on a particular date, the club that had it in the past has priority for that date. The event coordinator decides!

Tony should see if we could get permission to search for lost planes at Reynolds Field using drones for location purposes only. DEP made it very clear no drones on state property.

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A feel-good story

I met Dave Bell and his wife, Cindy, at the club's flying site in June 2015. They had a new-in-the-box Apprentice RC airplane with them. Dave was 55 years old, in a wheelchair, and with poor dexterity in his right hand. His throat was paralyzed, making it difficult for others to understand him. He was able to communicate further with a tablet.

I asked Dave if he wanted to fly his airplane and he excitedly responded with a sound that we soon learned to recognize as "Oh yeah!" With that kind of enthusiasm, we all wanted to help him.

Dave didn't have the physical dexterity to put his airplane together, so some of the club members and I built the model and programmed the radio along with a buddy box. Dave had only one battery, but club members provided spares, which allowed him to try flying on the buddy box until he was tired.

It became clear that he wasn't going to be able to control both sticks to fully navigate the airplane but he had a great time with what he was able to do with the controls. Everyone that day went home with huge smiles and a lot of pride.

Later on, in discussions on ways to help Dave, club members suggested that possibly a mode 1 radio setup might be easier for him to control the airplane. While I was away on vacation, Dave went to another club equipped with a mode 1 radio. Unfortunately, while on a buddy box, the airplane crashed and was totaled.

Dave returned to SNHFE with another Apprentice and again the club members built it. It was decided that a mode 3 setup might be best because the primary flight controls of aileron and elevator would be on the left stick, allowing him to navigate the airplane with his good hand. With this setup, he was also able to practice at home on a simulator and soon he could control the flight path of his model airplane at the club's flying site.

Eventually Dave had his DX9 radio modified to include a foot pedal for throttle control and a knob mounted on the top of the left stick that could be turned for controlling the airplane's rudder. Despite his disability, Dave could now finally control all of the channels needed to fully navigate an RC airplane.

Dave and I flew and built a friendship over the months that followed. It was great to see his confidence and excitement grow as his skills improved. He and I started to practice takeoffs and landings. In late 2016, Dave's health turned for the worse and he passed away on February 3, 2017.

(Secretary's Report - Continued from page 2)

Paperwork put in in April for non-profit, tax exempt status. No word from the IRS as of yet.

New Business:

The current officers were nominated for the respective positions; the floor was then opened for nominations. None were made.

A lot of members need to pay their AMA dues before the end of the year. Eric Williams is running for AMA President. Please show him your support by voting for him.

At the close of the meeting, Tony talked about some hobby related products.

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Event Schedule for 2019

Monthly Meeting	
January 17, 2019	
February 21, 2019	
March 21, 2019	
April 18, 2019	
May 16, 2019	
June 20, 2019	
July 15, 2019	
August 15, 2019 Hardyston	
September 19, 2019	
October 17, 2019	
November 21, 2019	
December 21, 2019	

***The next club meeting will be
on October 17 at 7:30pm
At Andover Senior Center***

Treasurer's Report – September, 2019

August's opening balance was \$10,662.57. Expenses for the month totaled \$1,360.00, represented by Mowing. The result of the above is an August-ending balance of \$9,302.57.

Reserves are as follows:

Encumbered for Operations	\$ 1,462
General Reserve	\$ 2,500
Event Reserve	\$ 2,000
Reynolds Field Reserve	<u>\$ 3,341</u>
Total	<u>\$ 9,303</u>