



# NEWS AT THE TOP

January, 2020

## President's Comments - January 2020

Our meeting was very enjoyable until we heard from our member Jon Ace that Bob Grodeska was injured on the way to the meeting. I spoke with Bob recently and he is under excellent care and plans to be at our next meeting. Our thanks go out Jon Ace for helping Bob and providing assistance until medical care arrived. Well done Jon. Perhaps members might want to send Bob a card or give him a call. I am sure he would appreciate hearing from you.

**Bob Grodeska  
55 Corn Hollow Rd  
Succasunna, NJ 07876**

**Telephone 973879-6462**

During the meeting I advised the membership that the weekend of 8/21-8/23 was reserved for Top of New Jersey for an event should the membership choose to make that commitment. A vote was taken and sponsoring the annual AMA fun fly picnic was approved. I advised Eric Williams of this decision, and he was very pleased and, as in the past, offered his total support. A sanction for the event has been received, and an application for the field has been submitted and is awaiting township approval. We will be discussing the details of the event at the next meeting, so please give it some thought. We can only be successful when we all pull together as we have done in the past.

A big shout out to John Wayne on his presentation on converting a gas-powered model to electric power and to Tony for setting it up. This was John's second presentation, and I am sure we all appreciate his efforts to inform us. By the way, we are always looking for someone to give us a presentation on any aspect of building and flying. If you are interested give Tony or me a call.

## **Secretary's Report – November 2019 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was call to order at 7:35 PM. There were 21 members present. Craig was absent. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved without correction.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Anthony Curcuruto read the treasurers report in Craig's absence. The year ended with \$7,140.91 in the Treasury. A more detailed report is in the newsletter.

### **Field Reports:**

Both fields are in good shape. The top part of the road to Reynolds field has a couple of muddy spots.

### **Membership:**

We have two applicants so far for 2020.

### **Old Business:**

We reserved the date for the District II Fly In for August 22nd and 23rd. It has been sanctioned. Motion was made and passed for the event. Next is to secure the venue. Landing fee is \$20 with Lunch. AMA is paying for the Lunch. Food is the big money maker for the event. We plan on serving breakfast and lunch. RV's allowed but no hook-ups.

There is no AMA East Event this year (WRAM Show). The Lebanon Flea Market is on March 14th. Hamburg is the 28th.

### **New Business:**

There is a problem with the website, indicated by a message saying that there is malicious content on the site and is not secure etc. It is being looked into. Also, sending out mass emails has an issue also. They may be related.

John Wayne made a presentation on converting a glow plane to electric. He spoke in detail on the subject and brought in a plane he converted. He used Motor Calc to get the specifications for the size motor etc.

Next month we will have another speaker. Details to follow.

## A letter to New Jersey and New York AMA members from Eric Williams - Vice President District II

This is the most challenging time in the history of model aviation and your help is needed now to defend our hobby! With its recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is proposing "Remote Identification of Unmanned Aircraft Systems" that will put draconian limits on your hobby.

Among the FAA's proposals is a requirement for you to register all of your aircraft at a cost of \$5 each. Assuming a \$5 registration cost per aircraft is not increased over time, AMA's 180,000 members would be forced to register approximately 1.62 million aircraft at a cost of \$8.1 million.

Although the proposed rules include an exclusion for amateur-built model aircraft, the NPRM's definition of what constitutes "amateur-built" is unacceptable. If the FAA applies the same amateur-built policy that is used for manned aircraft, there will be significant limitations for modelers. Although ARF model aircraft require skill, knowledge, and technical ability to properly construct, the NPRM rule does not consider ARF model aircraft as amateur-built. The amateur-built "exclusion" would be extremely narrow and not apply to the vast majority of what modelers fly today.

The NPRM includes FAA-Recognized Identification Areas (FRIAs), such as the club sites you fly at today, that would be limited to sites that apply for FAA FRIA recognition during the first year of the proposed rule. After the first 12 months, no additional FRIA sites could be added. As you know, clubs regularly need to find new sites because of construction encroachment, zoning, and other reasons. The FRIA proposal will systematically close all but a handful of club flying sites, and eventually, it will close virtually all club flying sites.

One proposal in the NPRM, Standard Remote Identification would require you to purchase and install systems onboard your aircraft that will broadcast identification and location information directly from your model aircraft to the FAA through an internet connection. Another NPRM proposal, Limited Remote Identification, would require you to transmit flight information through the internet via your cellphone. However, your model aircraft could not operate more than 400 feet from your transmitter – either vertically, laterally, or horizontally. This rule would ground all but the smallest model aircraft!

These are just some of the unreasonable requirements proposed in the FAA's NPRM. The permanent damage will be not to just our hobby and how you fly, but also the contributions model aviation makes to education and aviation, as well as cultivating America's future aviation professionals. If allowed to be enacted, the proposals will halt model aviation as we know it.

While this is bleak, we have an opportunity to change this proposed rule before it becomes a final rule and is implemented, but we need your help!

The NPRM process allows citizens to respond to the FAA with their individual concerns about the proposed rules. To help AMA members respond to the FAA's NPRM, AMA has created [several response templates](#). These templates can be used as is or modified, or you may choose to write your own response. Although it is best to write your own comments or to modify and edit the templates to your choosing, even using a template as it is, is important. If you find new information you'd like to express, or present a new or different idea, you can submit multiple NPRM comments multiple times. Members, friends, and family can certainly submit comments too. Every comment counts!

Electronic comments can be submitted via the Federal Register website at: [www.regulations.gov/comment?D=FAA-2019-1100-0001](http://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=FAA-2019-1100-0001).

There is strength in numbers only if you respond and comment to the NPRM. All comments must be received by March 2, 2020. Time is of the essence!

I thank you in advance for helping to defend our hobby. If you need assistance, please contact me, any AMA Leader Member, or an AMA Associate Vice President. AMA members have always rallied to support each other and our hobby. We certainly need to do so now.

Thank you for being an involved AMA member!



**John Wayne talking about how he modified one of his planes from glow to electric using Motor Calc.**

**Notice: We will be presenting Frank Fanelli an Award at the meeting. Please make an effort to come.**

## CONTACT THE TOP O' NEW JERSEY

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## Event Schedule for 2019

Monthly Meeting	
January 17, 2020	
<b>February 20, 2020</b>	
March 19, 2020	
April 16, 2020	
May 21, 2020	
June 18, 2020	
July 23, 2020	
August 20, 2020 Hardyston	
September 17, 2020	
October 22, 2020	
November 19, 2020	
December 17, 2020	

***The next club meeting will be  
on February 20<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:30pm***

## Treasurer's Report – January, 2020

We ended the year with \$7,140.91 in the Treasury, down \$1,698 from our opening balance. The reduction is broken down into \$1,339 from the Reynolds Field Reserve and \$359 from Operations.

We collected \$6,596 which is \$1,054 less than budgeted and spent \$6,955 on club operations, thereby reducing the General Reserve by \$359 to \$2,141.

This year will be a tight budget for sure. However, barring any substantial loss to membership and if we are to keep spending to last year's level, we should be ok.

Moving into 2020, the club reserves have been repositioned as follows:

General Reserve	\$2,141
Event Reserve	\$2,000
Reynolds Field Reserve	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,141</b>