



Tri-State Modelers Newsletter



December 2009

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Latest News & Upcoming Events

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2009 7:00 **at Mt. Pleasant Home.**

Greetings to all! I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving holiday. This has been a fairly nice November, and some of us even got to go flying a few times. I do think that the serious flying is over for a while now though. That means it is building and dreaming time. Be certain that Santa knows what you want in your stocking, because I just KNOW that you have been nice, not naughty!

Anyway, there is not a lot of news to report, but I was asked to remind everyone that dues for 2010 are payable any time now. Per the form at the bottom of the newsletter, please tell us if you have changed addresses, frequencies, etc. Dues remain at \$50 ... and trust me ... that is a real bargain.

Contacts

President:	Carl Heidesch (563) 582-9187
Vice President:	Mike Anderson (563) 584-2384
Secretary:	Jerry Anderson (563) 583-6754
Treasurer:	Bob Merrick (563) 556-5486
Safety:	Blake McKahin (563) 582-5855
Instructors:	Fred Foldenauer (815) 776-0093 Merlin Green (563) 583-9017
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A Club in Need ...

by Dave Mathewson, AMA President

“Help! We’re losing our flying site.”

AMA gets calls that start like this almost every week. Most of the AMA vice presidents will tell you that this is the type of call and request for help that they receive most. When I was a district VP, the very first thing I would ask of the person making the contact was, “Tell me what your club has done over the years to become an asset in your community.” If the answer was, “Well, we haven’t done much, but we’re thinking about doing XXX ...,” it’s almost always too late.

The very best way to protect your flying site is to be proactive in preparing for the day when losing your site might become a possibility. Site loss can be attributed to several factors; losing a site to things like soccer fields account for some. Other times it’s an unhappy neighbor who, for whatever reason, is opposed to your field being where it is.

In all of these cases having the support of the local community, especially when local town boards become involved, is invaluable. Most local boards will listen to its constituents, especially when they express their feelings strongly in one direction or another. A club standing before a town board pleading its case is one thing. That same club standing before that same board, but having members of the community standing right alongside, is something entirely different.

So, how do clubs become a welcome asset in its community? They become involved. There are a

number of simple things that each of our clubs can do that have the potential to pay large dividends. Things like collecting canned goods at events or meetings and then donating the collection to the local food pantry. Hosting an event and donating a portion of the proceeds to a local charity. With the holiday season fast approaching, maybe this would be a good time to collect toys for the Toys for Tots program that almost all communities have.

Parents appreciate groups, like model aircraft clubs, that run outreach programs that their children can participate in. Getting involved with local Scout groups, community recreational programs, or running an after-class program at the local school for kids interested in modeling can be extremely effective.

On the other end of the spectrum, consider contacting your local senior center and ask if they would be interested in someone coming to the center to speak about model aviation. Those of us who have done this will tell you that this can be an extremely rewarding experience.

And, finally, a very simple program your club can become involved in that takes very little effort is the Adopt-A-Road program that most communities have. Participating in a program like this most often results in a roadside sign, indicating that your club is participating in the program and is responsible for this section of road. This is like having a billboard along the road, promoting your club to motorists who travel this stretch of highway.

Nearly all of these ideas, if approached by the club as a group, can be fun activities. At the same time, you'll be building strong relationships with those in your community whose help you may someday need. Being proactive has the potential to pay off down the road when you just may need it most.

See you next time. →

Indoor Flying in the Quad Cities

I had asked Mike Anderson to inquire about the Quad Cities indoor flying requirements, etc. I have not had opportunity to explore possible sites in the area. If you have contacts or ideas, please explore the possibilities and let us know your findings. Here is what Mike learned:

The QC SkyRaiders fly the GWS Slow Poke planes for their indoor combat contests. Following is a link the this plane on the Tower Hobbies web-site –

<http://www3.towerhobbies.com/cgi-bin/wti0001p?&l=LXHCJ2&P=0>

In addition, following is a list of "rules" their club must follow at their indoor flying site, the Orthopedic Specialists Sports Complex in Davenport.

- AMA Valid Membership card
- Plane size less than 16oz. flying weight
- Must use AMA card to get frequency pin
- Must have frequency pin to turn on TX
- No bare prop shafts (should have some sort of spinner)
- No carbon props
- All planes should be fully checked out, and deemed flight worthy before taking off.
- Aircraft motor(s) only started at the flight line, not in the prep area
- Announce take offs and landings
- Must have regard for other flyers
- Fly in a safe manner
- No flying behind the flight line
- Helicopters: Blade CX or smaller (no 3D helis)

We might be able to employ some or all of these rules as we pursue a nearby indoor flying site.

Tri-State Modelers

Minutes of the November 11, 2009 Club Meeting

Meeting Location: Mt. Pleasant Home

President: Carl Heidesch brought the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. There were 11 members present & 2 guests: Clark Merkel & Om Gurung. Clark is an instructor at Loras & Om is one of his students. The minutes of the September 2009 meeting were read by Mike Anderson & approved subject to correction of the cost of new lock & keys for the small shed (\$229.41 should have been \$21.12). There was no formal meeting in October.

Treasurer's Report: (Bob Merrick) As of September 4, 2009 the balance was:

Cash	\$ 29.00
Checking	\$ 143.14
Savings	\$ 854.75
Total	\$ 1,026.89

Discussion Items

1. Clark Merkel told the club that he has a small fuel powered radio controlled aircraft & that there are a few in a class that he teaches at Loras that would like to learn to fly RC. Clark does not want to try to fly this plane without someone assisting that knows how to fly. Several have noted interest in assisting Clark & asked him to bring his plane to the December meeting along with any students interested in learning to fly.
2. Carl Heidesch brought pictures of his newest project which is a 6' wingspan flying wing built primarily of foam. The plans came from an internet site. It is powered by a 61 engine & controlled by elevons (no rudder). It flies quite well & is fast. Looking forward to seeing it in action at the field.
3. **Elections of 2 members to a 3 year term on the Board of Directors will take place at the December meeting.** Members elected to the board will then be appointed to the various officers' positions at a special board meeting following the regular meeting. Members whose terms are up this year are Fred Foldenauer & Jerry Anderson. Bill Gibson, Fred Foldenauer & Jerry Anderson have been nominated for the 2 open board positions for the years of 2010, 2011, 2012. Additional nominations will be accepted at the December meeting. If you are interested in being on the board, please have someone nominate you or nominate yourself.
4. Bill Gibson reported that he has joined the Civil Air Patrol. He would like to arrange for a showing of some of our radio controlled aircraft & a simulator at one of the future meetings. Our club now owns a "Real Flight Simulator release 3.5" donated by Bob Merrick. (It was noted that release 5.0 is now available & an upgrade would cost \$75.00.)
5. Mice have inhabited our field sheds & the tractor seat now has a large hole chewed by the mice. Merlin will be setting out some poison.
6. John Hauptert has operated his Brush Hog all around the field cutting the tall weeds down. Thanks John. We appreciate your assistance.
7. Merlin asked if anyone would be interested in indoor flying through out the winter. Several indicated they would. Merlin will be investigating the possibilities at University of Dubuque, Peosta & other locations, times & costs of renting the various spaces.
8. Iowa City Aero Hawks Swap Meet will be in the big hangar at the Iowa City Airport on the last Sunday in January (31st), 2010. (Only \$2 admission & only \$11 for selling tables. They had 120+ tables last year. Open at 8 am with Auction at noon. This is a very good swap meet.

Next meeting: December 11, 2009 at 7 PM at Mt. Pleasant Home

Bring a friend

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m. to random discussions about RC flying

Secretary: Jerry Anderson

Tri-State Modelers 2009 Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____ **Address*:** _____

City*: _____ **State*:** _____ **Zip*:** _____

Phone Number*: () _____ **Transmitter(s) Frequency No(s).*:** _____

I have renewed my AMA membership for 2009 – _____
Member Signature

AMA No. _____ **(required for all flying members)**

Remember AMA membership is required to fly at our club's flight field.

E-mail Address*: _____

Adult Member Dues **\$50.00** **Youth (< 19) Member Dues** **\$25.00**

Make Checks Payable to: Tri-State Modelers **Total Amount Enclosed** _____

Mail to: *Bob Merrick*
 14273 Green Hill Dr.
 Dubuque, IA 52003

***Note: Please provide additional membership information only if different from last year.**