

AMA Charter 1983 - Founded March 30,  
1938 - Cleveland, Ohio

**- The Plane Facts -**

October 2001

**NEXT CLUB MEETING**

Will be on Friday, Oct. 5th, 8:00 p.m., in the  
North Community Room of the Busch Funer.  
Home at 7501 Ridge Rd, Parma, OH.

The **American Airlines Gas Model Club**  
meets here on the 1st Friday of each month  
during the winter. The **AAGMC** welcomes  
visitors at all regular meetings.

**2001 AAGMC OFFICERS**

President Paul Bianco  
(440) 845-5954  
V.Pres. Dick Matejka  
Secretary Jim Knodel  
Treasurer Henry Horn  
Sgt. at Arms Mike Labosky  
Club Photog. Adam Snelly  
Elec. Media Coord. Don King

**2001 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Open Members \$50.00/yr.  
Senior (17-18) 8.00  
Junior (<17) 5.00  
*Initiation Fee \$25.00 (New Members)*

**PLEASE NOTE:** We revert back to our  
Fall/Winter schedule **at Busch's and Fridays at  
8:00pm. Also, an E Board meeting will be  
held at 7:15 at Busch's prior to the regular  
business meeting...**

Whew! Writing one of these during these times  
is more than a bit of a challenge: After all that's  
happened to our country this past month! With  
all due apologies for straying off topic, another  
perspective and not one which will receive a lot  
of "press" for some time to come.. Aviation sure  
took it on the chin as the saying goes.. No one  
will look at a Boeing 757 without seeing those  
images on CNN - over and over again. Gone are  
the golden days of airplanes and the people in  
that world! Gone are the days of a Charles  
Lindbergh, or those who followed him - and the  
fascination they sparked in the nation's young  
minds... Hardly a soul notices anymore the work  
going on way up in the Space Station, or the

Shuttle, or the aero-science done in Nevada  
desert.. This writer is hoping that something **positive**  
happens soon in which aviation plays a truly  
significant part in behalf of humanity - something  
which captures the imagination of our young folks  
like the magic and pinache of the golden days!!

**Methinks that the 2001 contest season has drawn  
to a close! However, read Prexy Paul's dissertation  
below for what's in store for the return to indoor  
meetings, EBoards, and tech discussions...**

**- FROM THE BOARD -**

**From the Pres...**

I found a new way to get samples of home cooked  
goodies; just hide an empty cooler in uncle Marvin's  
van. When he returns it, you will find home made  
applesauce from aunt Rita! Yippee! I know, I need to  
get a life. Anyway, as this newsletter reflects, our  
monthly club meetings return to Busch starting  
October 5th. The success of this meeting is dependant  
upon EVERYONE bringing an airplane or hobby  
related item. This will be an open forum meeting  
with our discussions focusing on the item(s) you  
bring and your R/C experiences this past summer.  
Most importantly, have there been any safety related  
experiences that we can learn from, etc.  
ATTENTION LADIES (or guys to cheap to turn up  
the heat during the cold months...that would be  
me)... I checked with Rose Matejka about her hand  
made afghan she has donated to the club. This  
gorgeous raffle item (color = off white) is large  
enough to cover a DOUBLE BED! Raffle tickets will  
be available at our meetings and we will raffle off  
this "warm" item at the December club meeting.  
Awesome Xmas gift! Another thank you must go out  
to **PARMA HOBBY** for their continuing support of  
our club. This time, they passed the word that our  
club is involved in R/C ELECTRICS. During the  
Sept. 16th electric contest / fun fly, a gentleman  
named Tony (from Shaker Heights!) stopped by for a  
few hours to watch the electrics. Hey Phil...word is  
getting around! As we welcome more folks to our  
electric events, we may have to start flying  
earlier...say 7 AM !!! (Hey, that's not fair - Only us  
weirdo's get out there at that hour!! - ed.) For those  
who don't know, we kid with Phil because he has  
trouble making it to the field at 10 AM! On the other  
hand...he does bring donuts.

Finally, to all those who said "maybe next year"  
when I asked you about serving on the board ...well,  
HELLO!! The time has come! I know who you are  
and we need folks for all positions on the board. One  
other issue, we need a new NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR!!!!!! Larry will NOT be the newsletter editor  
next year. THE MAN DESERVES A REST AFTER  
ELEVEN STRAIGHT YEARS AS NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR! Many more issues to discuss, so see you at  
the meeting. **\*\*Watch out for children as you  
drive back to the field\*\***

**PAUL'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Ees Kaput!!

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**FOR YOUR INFO**

I thought you might find the following notes of interest.. I read very recently that Tom Herr (Herr's Models - a producer of fine 1/2A airplanes that Norvel carries, among others) has sold his business to Sig!! Not sure if that includes his superb rubber power line as well.. Tom will be signing on to Sig's design team! Not kewl...

One other point of interest: The **Suburban Aero Club** of Chicago will be holding their annual electric Fun Fly on Oct. 7th. Their field is near I80 and I57. **AMA** membership is required. For more see <<http://www.jit.edu/~kalland/sac.html>>

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**INFO FILE..**

From out on the Web again - an interesting dialogue regarding the *infamous* 'black-wire disease'...

Q. What is "blackwire" on the negative leads of nicad battery packs?

A. (Red Scholefield, redscho@afn.org)

I thought no one would ever ask!

**The Black Wire Syndrome**

The black wire syndrome is an occurrence in battery packs (Ni-Cds) where the negative wire becomes corroded (turns from shiny copper to blue-black). This is the result of either a shorted cell in the pack, the normal wearout failure mode of Ni-Cds, or cell reversal when a pack is left under load for an extended period. The sealing mechanism of a Ni-Cd cell depends to some degree on maintaining a potential across the seal interface. Once this potential goes to zero the cell undergoes what is called creep leakage. With other cells in a pack at some potential above zero, the leakage (electrolyte) is "driven" along the negative lead. It can travel for some distance making the wire impossible to solder and at the same time greatly reducing its ability to carry current and even worse, makes the wire somewhat brittle.

A switch left on in a plane or transmitter for several months can cause this creepage to go all the way to the switch itself, destroying the

battery lead as well as the switch harness. There is no cure. The effected lead, connector, switch harness must be replaced. This leakage creep takes time so periodic inspection of the packs, making sure that there are no shorted cells insures against the problem.

The cells should also be inspected for any evidence of white powder (electrolyte mixed with carbondioxide in the air to form potassium carbonate). In humid conditions this can revert back to mobile electrolyte free to creep along the negative lead. Some "salting" as this white powder is referred to, does not necessarily mean that the cell has leaked. There may have been some slight amount of residual electrolyte left on the cell during the manufacturing process. This can be removed with simple household vinegar and then washed with water after which it is dried by applying a little warmth from your heat gun..

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*BE CAREFUL* when driving back to the field!! OK. Cool and batteries aren't a good mix - capacity goes down below about 50F... Our best to our members who are stuck inside for now... And Happy Halloween..

This landing's for **America...** See ya. **8^}**