
American Airlines Gas Model Club

- The Plane Facts -

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

January 2006

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Will be on Friday, January 6th, at 8:00 p.m. in the North Community Room of the Busch Funeral Home at 7501 Ridge Rd, Parma, OH.

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

2006 AAGMC OFFICERS

President	Paul Bianco (440) 845-5954
V.Pres.	Dick Matejka
Secretary	Ken Stroud
Treasurer	Jim Knodel
Sgt. at Arms	Mike Gantner

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| Elec. Media Coord. | Don King     |
| Webmaster          | Ed Pomnitz   |
| Club Photog.       | Ed Muckley   |
| Newsletter Editor  | Phil Hilbert |

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2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Open Members	\$55.00/yr.
Senior (17-18)	8.00
Junior (<17)	5.00

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Web site > <http://www.aa-gmc.org/> <

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Best wishes for a very happy New Year to all! If this year's weather is half as good as last year's, we should have another great season at the field. With a bit more time on my hands, I would have had some stick time in this last week of December – and I still may before the new year rings in.

It may not have been “The Night Before Christmas” but, the reading by Cal Weiss at the December meeting worked for me. It was quite interesting to hear about the real life adventures of a test pilot during the fifties trying out the F7U Cutlass. I have often wished that I had been talented enough to do that for a profession. Now that I know just how dangerous, if not downright crazy a job it is, I'm not so sure. Thanks for the night's entertainment, Cal.

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## - FROM THE BOARD -

### From the Pres.....

A very Happy New Year to all! We will begin the 2006 season with two excellent programs. The January meeting will feature a presentation by Parma Hobby on

Electric Motors. There has been a lot going on with motors lately so this should be quite informative. Tom Siegel of HobbyTown USA will be the program speaker in February. He will be sharing information on the latest in electric models both large and small.

If you haven't already renewed your AMA membership, please do so you can submit your Club dues before April. Don't forget that we now impose a penalty for dues paid after the March meeting.

### Minutes Of Meeting December 2, 2005

Meeting called to order by President Paul Bianco on December 2, 2006 at the Busch Funeral Home at 8:12 p.m. with 27 members present including one new member, Steve Hughell and one visitor.

The Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer made his monthly report which was accepted.

### *Notices and Communications:*

There were no new notices and communications

### *Old Business:*

The new tarp to cover the trailer was installed. Thanks to Phil Hilbert for the purchase and installation of the tarp with the assistance of Joe Toth.

### *New Business:*

- The restroom / trailer at the field will require a new foundation. A work party for the installation of the foundation will be required in the spring.
- Don King is kitting a slope glider for anyone who is interested. He has 2 models available and ready for flight.
- Cal Weiss provided a presentation and a reading of a commentary covering the Vaught F7U Cutlass.

### *Comedy Corner:*

Gender specific Instructions were provided for the use of an ATM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectively submitted,  
Ken Stroud, Secretary

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Club raffle:

Raffle items courtesy of HobbyTown USA as well as Ed Pomnitz who donated a Mini Power Panel and two Master Airscrew propellers. The winners were:
Space Walker 40 ARF Kit – Dave Schuster
Power Panel – Dave Schuster
CA Glue – Roy Abbott Jr., Marv King, Ed Pomnitz, Dave Domin, Joe Toth

Accelerator – Jorden Bial
Canopy Glue – Roy Abbott Jr.
Hot Sock – Keith Vanover
After Run Oil – Richard Jacobs
Prop – Dave Domin, Ed Pomnitz

Safety First

Beginning in this issue, I'm going to include this new column in the newsletter. I may not always find noteworthy advise, so it would be helpful if some of the membership sends me safety tips acquired from their own personal mishaps. I'm not shy and will be sharing a few of my own blunders, stitches, and close calls I've had throughout the years.

This has been a much talked about topic and I can't help but include the picture that was in the January issue of MA. You may have already seen this, but read on anyway.



Never charge a helicopter on your wife's new plastic picnic table, warns Bill Westphal. He sent this photo of the remains.

The print in the picture may be a tad small but, but here are the details. This is a picture of what once was an electric helicopter powered by a Lithium battery pack. The cell was in the model and charging when the mishap occurred. Check out the damage to the plastic table! The owner is sixty something and a 45 year veteran of RC - certainly not a novice and he had the sound of a safe and prudent hobbyist. It was unclear if he had incorrectly programmed the charger or if the charger simply failed to cut-off. He did mention something about leaving the charger out in the rain so that may have been a contributing factor. Regardless of the reason this is what can happen when a Lithium pack is overcharged. Actually any of the batteries we use can go up in flames or explode. However, Lithium packs are especially difficult to detect 'peak' charge, making them more prone to overcharging. Also, Lithium cells do not like to be force fed as we have been accustomed to doing with NiCads and NiMH cells.

So, as you begin to use these new wonder cells please be careful and observe the following advise:

- Use a charger that is specifically for the Lithium cells you are using.
- Do not exceed the manufacturer's recommended charge rate of the pack you are charging.

- Remove the pack from the model and never leave a pack charging unattended.
- Preferably, do your charging outdoors or in the garage away from any flammable items. If you must charge the packs in the house, place the cells within an explosive and flame proof container such as a large can filled with sand or heavy porcelain container.

I have only one Lithium pack presently and I use a charger that is specifically for Lithium cells. The charge rate is controlled by jumpers so I do not have to worry about bumping a knob or switch thereby inadvertently changing the settings. I have followed the advise given but admit having been lax about removing the pack from the model or placing it inside a suitable container. I normally remove the pack and place it on a large cookie can cover. Then, I connect the charger to my field box in the garage. However, when at the field, I have sometimes charged the pack while still strapped to the model on the front seat of my car no less! After seeing the picture of what can happen, I sure won't do that anymore. I intend to follow the advise given to the letter and am already looking for a suitable crock. I will probably make this a permanent electric accessory and use the charging pot for all my flight packs in the future. I certainly don't want the front seat of my Escape or my air compressor (where I lay the cookie can cover) to end up like that poor lady's table. My wife would not be understanding at all!

Electric news

2006 rules meeting immediately following the regular meeting. Bring your ideas.

Your comments are welcome. Send them or any news that may be used in the newsletter to:

Phil Hilbert email: > igli@verizon.net <
phone: (330) 273-3792