
American Airlines Gas Model Club

- The Plane Facts -

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

March 2007

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Will be on Friday, March 2nd, 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.

2007 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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2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Open Members	\$65.00/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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Three important notices to begin this month's letter.

- Our secretary, Jim Knodel wants to remind everyone that the March meeting is your last opportunity before having to pay the \$10 late fee when renewing your membership.
- Our postmaster, Henry Horn is requesting that anyone that does not need to have a newsletter mailed to their home, contact Jim Knodel or Phil Hilbert. We will remove their name from the 'hard' mailing list and insure that they are on the emailing list.
- There will be no meeting in April due to the observance of Good Friday.

The program for last month's meeting was put on by Lazertoyz R/C. Lazertoyz is a small R/C company run by Dan and Diane out of their home on the East side. They specialize in Park Flyer size electric aircraft, motors, batteries and accessories. Their website has just about

everything you need to get started in a small electric. They brought a huge assortment of the products they offer. What's interesting is that the enterprise began when Dan began selling some of his original design foam aircraft as kits and has evolved into a full blown R/C store. While the company is still new and not quite ready to be the regular 'day' job, they do have a very interesting assortment of products at some very good prices. Shopping is strictly online at this time and payment is via certified check or PayPal. Check their site out at <http://lazertoyz.com/>.

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## - FROM THE BOARD -

### From the Pres.....

Please note that Parma Hobby will be hosting our March club meeting program. They always bring some R/C goodies and lead an interesting discussion about our hobby. To date, our club By-laws review meetings have not generated much participation from the membership. Understandable in one regard, but this is YOUR CLUB and the By-laws touch on all club rules and operations. You don't have to attend the meetings, just contact an E-Board member with your thoughts. One hot topic is our decibel limit (95 db @ 9 feet). Surely the (flying) members of our club have an opinion on this subject? Anyway, the By-laws review will be a slow process in general, so whatever progress is made this year, that information will be presented to the next Executive Board for their review. I'd like to pass along an early THANK YOU to Phil Hilbert who will be retiring as our Electric Contest Director at the end of this year. This event has had its challenges, both above and below ground (below the water too), but overall, it has been a stabilizing force in our club. What started as a small group of flyers has grown into the double digits this year and electric flying has grown right along with it. If we are lucky, Phil might continue as our Club Newsletter Editor in 2008, but in general, it's getting close to the time that other folks in this club step up and take over some positions. Yeah, that's a pretty bold statement, but we really should be cycling folks through the club & E-Board positions more frequently than we do. In addition to Phil's tenure, this is year number 7 for most of the E-Board members and I know Henry would welcome a change. See you at the meeting.....

## Minutes Of Meeting February, 2007

Meeting was called to order by President Paul Bianco on February 2, 2007 at the Busch Funeral Home at 8:04 p.m. with 24 members present. No new members were present. The visitors in attendance were Dan and Diana of Lazertoyz R/C and Steve Hughell.

The Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer made his monthly report which was accepted.

### *Notices and Communications:*

- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Ravenna Swap Shop sponsored by the Ravenna Thunderbirds RC Club will be held Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Maplewood Career Center, 7075 State Rt. 88.
- Dennis Kedziora provided basic information on the handling and safety practices for LiPo batteries.

### *Executive Board Meeting in the month of February.*

- The second meeting for the rewriting of the club By laws was held. Additional meetings are scheduled at 7 PM before the regular club meetings in March and May.
  1. The need to add more authority to the Executive Board
  2. Suggestions for the Wings program for Electrics are needed.
  3. Safety is always number 1 – any opinions are welcome from any member on any issues. Issues like sound levels, field operations, slope soaring and the like.

### *Old Business:*

- April club meeting will be cancelled due to the observance of Good Friday.

### *New Business*

- The Annual Buzzard Fly In has been moved to August 25th.

Respectively submitted,  
Ken Stroud, Secretary

### *Club raffle:*

A fifty/fifty Raffle was held along with a second place prize of a Fik 80 Foam Glider kit from Lazertoyz . All proceeds from the raffle go toward the Club's tractor fund.

## Safety First

It is that time of the year again where you can almost smell Spring in the air. OK, almost may be a stretch this year, but the old groundhog said it's right around the corner. And, it is time for me to make my yearly pitch on the most important piece of equipment in our hobby – the battery. Agree or not, unless you are doing freeflight with a sailplane, you will need to have batteries that are in good condition. If you are doing RC (and that is what our club is all about) you need batteries that are in very good condition. It is the one component that upon failure guarantees a crash once you are off the ground. And, it is relatively one of the least expensive, most dependable, and long lasting devices that make up an RC system.

That said, this is just about the right time to start getting those transmitters and aircraft off the shelf, dust them off and cycle the battery packs. If you don't have a battery cycler or a charger that includes one, that is one of the best investments you can make. When I first started the hobby, I used to turn the RX or TX on and periodically check to see how long it took to run the packs down. The transmitters have a meter built in so that was easy, but I still needed an expanded scale voltmeter to monitor the RX and provide a minimum load. That was not too bad with only one transmitter and a couple of planes, but as the planes and transmitters multiplied, it became a real pain. That's when I decided that \$50 was not a bad price for a tool to do a job several times a week for the better part of a year. But more important than making the job easier, was the information that the cycler gave me about the condition of the pack. Just the confidence I have had since I began cycling my packs made the cost worth it. But, never having a pack failure at the field, on or off the ground is .... Priceless. The other good reason to start cycling those packs in March is that you should have time to evaluate all the packs before the Toledo show. Toledo has to be one of the best places to get a bargain on batteries or complete packs. So, do yourself, and the guy that will be flying next to you a favor and check those batteries out before the first flight this year, not after the first crash.



Mike Gantner shows us how to do it in the cold !

## Electric news

I am including the schedule and rules for the AAGMC 2007 Electric Competition in this mailing. We made quite a few changes to the rules this year with the hope of enticing some new participants. Most important, the rules now allow LiPo batteries and gearboxes. The competition is still a 2 meter event based loosely around F5J rules. If you enjoy competition or just hanging with a bunch of guys having fun, check out the rules and get that glider ready. We will be looking for you in May.

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

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