

---

# American Airlines Gas Model Club

*- The Plane Facts -*

---

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

May 2007

---

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

Will be on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

~~~~~

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

~~~~~

## 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Open Members	\$65.00/yr.
Senior (17-18)	8.00
Junior (<17)	5.00

~~~~~

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

~~~~~

Spring is here to stay? Well, two Sundays in a row with temperatures in the 70's is a first and I am going to declare that the 2007 season officially began last Sunday at the field. There was a pretty good crowd that day for that early in the season. Seven pilots by my count and no spectators. Except for Marv and Don King, Electric were the order of the day and except for Joe Toth and I, those electrics were tearing up the sky. Most ships would have shamed a mediocre gas powered ship. So this makes for a good intro to the rest of the newsletter.

Special thanks to Parma Hobby who hosted the program at the March meeting. They did an exceptional job with their annual show and tell presentation. Remarkable, considering we were in one of the first floor viewing rooms due to the regular meeting rooms being renovated.

This will be the last regular newsletter until the Club meetings resume in October. I will try to publish a mid-Summer issue giving the dates for the Pasta Fun Fly and Mentor Meet as well as anything newsworthy by that time. Have a great and safe season. See you at the field.

~~~~~

## - FROM THE BOARD -

### From the Pres......

Our May Club meeting will have a very special presentation! After numerous hours of research, Dennis Kedziora and Larry McFarland are ready to present the History of AAGMC! Although this 45 minute presentation can't possibly cover every aspect of the past 69 years, it will include numerous facts, pictures, articles and display items. Dennis and Larry also need OUR support, so PLEASE bring in any old R/C planes, pictures, patches, gadgets, etc., etc., to add to our "history class". (Stop shaking Henry, there will be no test in this History class and we won't tell anyone about your 1.1 GPA from 7th grade).

Since this will be our last club meeting until next October, lets celebrate the warm weather by raffling off another ARF airplane!

**Club Membership:** As announced at our club meeting in March, the Executive Board voted 3 to 1 to place a cap on the membership until further notice. In other words, as of the March club meeting, we are not accepting any new club members. Since this decision has generated a few questions, I thought I would review why this vote came about. Simply stated, it is a safety issue. We all have a commitment to the property owners Mr. & Mrs. Brown to operate our vehicles (on the driveway back to the field) and fly our airplanes in a safe manner EVERY TIME WE GO OUT. We have enjoyed a PERFECT SAFETY RECORD for the past 10 years (yes, this is our 10th anniversary at the field!) and the majority of the Board believes a smaller membership allows greater control over safety issues and less risk of an accident. Although safety is always number one, this was still a very difficult decision for the Board and one that has been discussed numerous times over the past couple years. Your Executive Board is being proactive, that's what safety is all about.

A few serious issues to review before flying season kicks off:

(1) You need to ensure your airplane(s) are in compliance with our sound level limit, 95 decibels at 9 feet. (4-stroke engines: please report your decibel readings to the Board. We want to give these engines "more room" on the sound meter since they are neighbor friendly). The club has a Radio Shack Sound Meter, so just ask if you need to use it. All sound measurements are to be done at the frequency pole, INSIDE the pit area.

(2) LiPo batteries will be out in force this year. If you plan on charging them at the field, we strongly suggest that you utilize a **balancing charger**. These chargers increase safety levels by monitoring each cell and charging the pack more evenly. We also strongly suggest that you do NOT charge LiPo batteries inside your car or place them on the fender and charge off your car battery. We suggest that you bring a separate charging source (lawn tractor battery or car battery) and set up a charging station inside the pit area, so it's away from visitors, etc. Lastly, we are budgeting for some club / family events this summer, so come on out and enjoy our new grill and get in some stick time. I wish everyone a safe summer. See you at the meeting.

### Minutes Of Meeting March, 2007

Meeting was called to order by President Paul Bianco on March 2, 2007 at the Busch Funeral Home at 8:06 p.m. with 27 members present. The visitors in attendance were Ernie Breda, George Wiley and Gary Harloff. The Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer made his monthly report which was accepted.

#### *Notices and Communications:*

- DBF competition team from Case Western University was looking for a place to test fly a 10' span, electric powered model at the field during the weekend of March 4th.
- Gary Harloff is looking for help in building a giant scale model with a prototype propulsion system. Please contact Paul if you are interested in assisting Gary.
- Mon Valley RC Club has their 4<sup>th</sup> electric fun fly fest on June 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Central Penn Aero Modelers Association is holding their 27<sup>th</sup> annual RC flea market in Lebanon, PA on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- WMAA model show and swap shop will be held on March 24 in Worthington, Ohio
- Parma Hobby has a bulletin available with their current class schedule.

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

- The third meeting for rewriting the club Bylaws was held. The next meeting will be at 7pm before the regular Club meeting in May.
  1. Temporary freeze on new members was enacted until screening process is determined.
  2. One year probation for any new members joining the club
  3. Visitors who come to fly at the field are the responsibility of the person who sponsors the visitor.

#### *Old Business:*

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

- The revised date for the Buzzard Air Force Fun Fly is Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Pilots lunch is provided with a paid landing fee. AAGMC members are welcome to fly any size model. The sound level of 95dB at nine feet will be enforced for two stroke engines. Four stroke engines may be able to exceed the 95dB limit. The actual limit will need to be determined.

#### *New Business*

- New Spectrum radios are required to use frequency pins with the members name and state Spectrum in place of the channel number. Transmitter flags should identify the 2.4 GHz frequency. Any model that is using the new radio system should be using the appropriate receiver for the type of model being flown.
- The Bylaws rewrite continues with thanks going to all those voicing their opinions. This process will take some time and will not be rushed. The goals of the Bylaw rewrite is to be proactive and not bring unwanted attention to the club with loud models or disruptive activities.
- A cap on the membership has been enacted until further notice.
- Traffic on the driveway through the stable area continues to be a concern of the property owners Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

Respectively submitted,  
Ken Stroud, Secretary

#### *Club raffle:*

Joe Gross was the winner of a really good looking CAP 232 - ARF Electric Park Flyer courtesy of Parma Hobby.

#### For Sale

I recently got an email from a former member, Al Dunasky who said, "HI ALL

I Need to Sell all my planes And All my RC Stuff. I have one plane listed on Ebay now and Many More to Come. If you would like to see or buy before I list the rest, give me a call at (216) 215-3295.

Thanks ALAN"

You can email Al at [Mailto:wildalan@ameritech.net](mailto:wildalan@ameritech.net)

Al was a pretty good pilot in his day and he should have some excellent equipment for sale.

#### Lost ..... and found

Last Sunday, Joe Toth was in great form trying out his new 'high performance' setup for his electric competition plane. He got a little over enthusiastic and a minute or so into his flight, I heard the now familiar "Where is my plane? I lost the ##!\* of a #!\*###." Since I had my hands full trying to see my own plane, the best I could do was call for another set of eyes to help Joe. Mike Gantner came to the rescue and eagle eye Mike, squinted a bit and found the plane which was now a dot in the distance. Mike did his best to get the bird turned around and headed back to the field, but it was hopeless. We figured that the plane may have been as far out as Neff Rd. Neff Road is approximately 1.1 mile due north of our field. That seemed kind of far but we all drove over to Neff Rd.

on the way home and parked in the now abandoned Belden Boy Scout Camp and tromped around looking for Joe's plane. Joe made two more trips out to the area in the following days, but a square mile of farm land made the chance of finding the model all but impossible and Joe finally gave up. Friday night, Joe got a call from someone in Grafton township wanting to know if he had lost an airplane recently. To Joe's delight, someone on Law Road (the next road north of Neff) had found his plane in their back yard after it had landed in a tree and fell to the ground. Law Road is 2.2 miles north of the field which goes to show just how bad things can get when your plane simply flies away. Joe said the wing was pretty much trashed by the crash, but the fuse and equipment was fine. Considering Joe had almost \$300 in new stuff, he was extremely lucky to get everything back in good shape. Not to mention, he will not start the competition season off in the hole. Let Joe's lesson be a lesson for all. Make sure that you have your name, address, and telephone number inside your aircraft. Someone may want to call you someday too.

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

~~~~~  
**Safety First**

Quite a lot of debate occurred discussing the use of Lithium batteries in the Club sanctioned Electric competition. In the end, the yea's overcame the nay's and Lithium packs will be permitted. Lithium (LiPo) packs have become the gold standard for electric flight and it was reasonable that this technology be approved. But, I can not say enough about the inherent safety liabilities with these batteries. A casual glance at the construction of these cells is all it takes. The cells are not surrounded by a metal housing as the NiCad and NiMH we have used for years. LiPo cells are delicate by any comparison. This means that when using LiPo pack the delicate nature needs to be taken into account. Extra measures should be applied to protect the pack from the inevitable crash or hard landing to prevent the cells from damage. Likewise, when charging, old habits should be abandoned. Do not charge your pack on the front seat or anywhere else in the vehicle! If you do not have a suitable container that will contain a fire, get one. Whether the club initiates a charging station or not, each and everyone should have their own protection available, since we all charge packs at home for testing the equipment before time. I have already heard of one incident where a damaged pack caught fire on a basement floor. I do not want to be writing in the future about the member who's house went up in flames. The garage is the place for tinkering with dangerous equipment and outside is even better. If everyone takes a little extra caution, we will all have a great time with these marvelous power sources – safely.

~~~~~  
**Electric news**

The first competition will be on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive a copy of the 2007 rules with the last newsletter, I will have copies at the May meeting. With the new rules in place, it will be an interesting season.

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