



THE AMA DISTRICT 1 NEWSLETTER

April, May, June, 2005

E-mail: andyargenio@amadistrict1.com

DISTRICT 1 NEWS:

1st DISTRICT 1 OFFICER MEETING

The first meeting of District 1 officers in more than a decade will be taking place Saturday, June 25, 2005 at 2:30pm until 6:30pm in Marlboro, MA at the Best Western Hotel.

Meetings are one of the steps in the process of identifying the challenges and opportunities that we face to accomplish our mission. The officers will discuss, formulate and evaluate plans for the revitalization of district 1. A written report of the meeting will be e-mailed to each District 1 club.

The AMA Vice President, Associate Vice Presidents, Frequency Coordinator, Webmaster, Contest Coordinator, District Safety Coordinator and District Event Directors for the 1st AMA District 1 Fun-Fly & Air-Show will be attending.

We delayed scheduling this meeting because of a problem being addressed with the district 1 budget. Once this problem was resolved and we were assured additional funds were going to be available to cover the meeting cost, the meeting was scheduled. We had

little time to invite other district dignitaries and would hope that anyone wanting to discuss AMA matters with the District Officers would attend The New England Scale Championships & Scale Masters Qualifier on Sunday June 26, 2004 at the Gardner Airport in Gardner, MA. The district officers will be attending the event the day after the district meeting to meet and talk with those in attendance.

1ST AMA DISTRICT 1 FUN-FLY & AIR SHOW



**SEPT. 16, 17 & 18, 2005
GARDNER AIRPORT
MASSACHUSETTS**

RV/Camping No Hookups
Food & Refreshments
2,700' Runway, Night Flying
All Types Aircraft
Vendors & Public Welcome
Awards, Raffles, Surprises
For Info: Glenn Corless
(978) 345-4295 or

andyargenio@amadistrict1.com
www.amadistrict1.com

1st AMA DISTRICT 1 FUN-FLY & AIR-SHOW

The 1st AMA District 1 Fun-Fly & Air-Show is planned for September 16, 17 & 18, 2005 at the Gardner Airport in Gardner, MA. This is a district

sponsored event that is being co-hosted by three area AMA clubs.

These clubs were chosen to host our first event because of the site location, parking, available dates and the experience of the host directors in conducting large events. RV and Camping are available without hookups. Food, refreshments, 2,700' runway, night flying under lights, all types of aircraft welcome, vendors, spectators, awards, raffles, surprises, air-show demonstration flights (turbines, helies, warbirds, aerobatic, etc).

The event will allow for public attendance and an area will be set up to introduce young people to model aviation by participating in the construction and flying of delta darts and experiencing R/C flying on flight simulators.

We had planned on having two district sponsored events – a land event and the other a float –fly – however, because of time constraints we will be having only the one event this year.

District officers will make themselves available to answer questions from those present.

DISTRICT BUDGET ISSUE

The most significant news has to do with the District 1 Budget Account. In January when I took office the dollar amount allocated for use for the district 1 budget for 2005 was \$7,200. After examining records from last year, I learned that my predecessor had started off with \$14,400 in 2004.

To make a long story short, in several months of investigation and negotiations, it was revealed that in October, 2004, Don Krafft decided to have \$7,200 of district funds transferred to another AMA district budget for National Education use.

I argued that this was done for political reasons and that this money had always been “carried over” from one Vice President to the next to be used for and to benefit the district.

There are no provisions, statements or implications within the AMA bylaws that give the District Vice President the authority to authorize the transfer of district funds from or to other AMA Budget accounts.

It was also discovered that this had never been done before and was inconsistent with AMA accounting practices.

The motivation for this transfer was acknowledged as being wrong and as a result of support from the AMA EC members and staff; I am pleased to report that the \$7,200 was refunded back into the district 1 account, in May, giving us \$14,400 for district use in 2005 and if not used will be carried over into 2006.

DISTRICT WEBSITE REPORT

From December 2004 until April 2005 we had the campaign website converted into a temporary district website that provided limited information and event listings.

The site was closed down in May to switch servers and do some testing before opening the new site.

Unfortunately, the district webmaster took sick and was hospitalized so progress has come to a halt. I have been advised that he will be able to start testing the new site soon and shortly thereafter the site will be up and running.

Fortunately, we have sent and will continue to send this District Newsletter via e-mail to the clubs to keep many AMA members informed of what is going on.

ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS & CLUB MEETINGS

As you read MA district 1 columns you will see the events or activities that I have attended.

In the last few months I have spoken at several club meetings, attended two picnics and three flying events. I have activities planned for nearly every weekend of June, July and part of August and September. I will be attending the NATS in Muncie in July so as to get a better understanding of how the competitions are handled. I will also be at the July AMA EC meeting.

If I have disappointed any clubs by not being able to attend their events or meetings please accept my apology. I have had to spend considerable time resolving AMA problems and issues, and planning for the district meetings and events. We will get caught up and one of the AVP's or I will address all those in need.

DISTRICT ISSUES BEING WORKED ON & DISCUSSED

There are many district issues and concerns that are being discussed and addressed including membership decline, park flyer issues, tiered dues structure, improving member attitudes, loss of flying sites, UAV issues, safety coordinator liability concerns, safety code violations, accident or incident reports, requirement for fail safe devices, problems with flying site grants, sanctioning issues, district budget issues and allocation, and more.....

These topics will be written about and shared with you as they unfold so you may have the opportunity to make comments and express your ideas.

AMA NATIONAL NEWS:

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING FEBRUARY, 2005

In the May issue of Model Aviation I talked about the February AMA Strategic Planning Meeting and said that this was only the beginning of a process to identify AMA areas of focus for short and long-term goals.

The goals and objectives discussed are still being evaluated by the executive committee and staff and some of the results of our efforts will be ready for presentation at the July 9, 2005 meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL, 2005 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

President Dave Brown gave overview of the FAI meeting in Switzerland in March. He noted that there was a substantial increase in the formality of presentations for bids to host world championships. The U.S. did win the bid to host the 2007 R/C Pylon championship. Dave Brown was elected VP of the FAI Bureau. Subcommittee Chairmen were given voting rights on the Bureau and this is significant for the US because it will increase the U.S. voting power.

AMA member George Buso donated \$53,000 to AMA for FAI Scale use. This will be controlled by the AMA President and FAI committee and been earmarked expressly for promotion of FAI Scale in the USA.

AMA Marketing Director Tom Schwyn reported on the success of the TN DVD promotion and the revenue this is generating for the AMA general fund. He also discussed the Credit Card promotion which has just begun, and also gave info on future marketing plans and programs.

AMA Publications Director Rob Kurik reported on the progress being made by the Publications Committee on the re-design of the Model Aviation magazine. The new layout will actually increase the amount of space made available to the Vice-Presidents to report District as well as National

activity. The target date for this first re-design issue is the September 2005 issue, which should arrive in member's mailboxes around the middle to end of August.

The committee is also looking at the fact that, due to timing requirements of magazines, this year, the committee plans to create a daily newsletter that will be available to anyone on a request basis only. This newsletter will be an E-mail version and will give detailed, same day coverage of every event that is going on during the US Nationals. Reports will be turned in from the field and put into a newsletter format and sent out to anyone that registers with AMA to receive it. Look for information on this in upcoming issues of Model Aviation with details on how to sign up to receive the NATS newsletter.

Also, Rob announced that a new Associate Editor, Mr. Michael Ramsey, formally of Flying Models magazine, has been added to the Model Aviation Staff.

The Safety Committee announced that the new Safety Video will hopefully be ready for release late summer. This will be a effort to improve safety at our flying fields, and serve to assist the new club Safety Coordinators by providing information and examples of how to more safely enjoy our hobby.

The Flying Field Grant committee reported that their work has been completed, and all funds for the 2005 program have been dispersed to AMA

clubs. This year, we had more requests than funding, so the committee was unable to award grants to all applicants.

A total of twenty-nine AMA clubs applied, and twenty were awarded with a grant. A list of clubs that have been awarded grants will be available once they have been contacted by Jay Mealy, Program Director.

Joe Beshar (Flying Site Assistance Chairman) reported on the success of AMA partnering with the EPA to create a document to recommend the use of EPA Superfund sites for model aircraft flying sites. This document was signed by the Director of the EPA, Mr. Michael Cook.

The EC approved a procedure whereby Universities can obtain a waiver from the AMA to conduct testing of autonomous flight models at AMA Chartered Club Fields, with the club's approval. This waiver will be granted by the FAI Committee who will review the requests for waiver from the School. The request for the waiver must come from the school, not from an individual.

It was approved that the FAI Committee and Steve Kaluf will establish waivers for educational UAV activities on AMA charter club sites, subject to club approval and a certificate of indemnification signed by the school to indemnify AMA of having to provide insurance.

End of meeting.

The next AMA Executive Council meeting will be July 9, 2005. The agenda for this meeting will be posted to the AMA web site.