



**President's
 Plugs**

by
 Wally Crichton

Wow, seven pages in this month's newsletter. I was concerned about having enough to fill four pages, but it just kept rolling in. As you know, we posted a survey on our web page. Responses came in like crazy for the first week or so then tapered off. I figured that was the last of it, so I compiled the data and started laying out an article (see page 3). Then, more responses came in which added more comments and more

length to the article. This cycle continued right up through publishing time. If you didn't get your survey in before Monday the 8th you missed the deadline for the newsletter, but it doesn't mean your input isn't going to count. I'll tabulate data as long as it continues to come in.

Where are all of AMP'S pilots? I've been flying more regularly lately and I'm continually surprised at how few members are using the field. That includes weekends and weekdays! On at least one Sunday I was the only pilot on the field. A couple of guys were there to watch and shoot the bull, but I was the only one with a plane to fly. Many members have commented about this, so I'm not the only one who's noticed. Some have speculated that our more active members have left the

Club and moved to the new Club down by Homestead General Airport. I've heard they have a nice facility with two paved runways. Although, I can't say for sure since I've never been there. However, many members complain to me about us not having a paved runway, so maybe there's some truth to the speculation.

Switching hats to that of Web Master, there's a new feature on our web site under the Photo Album link. It's a slide show, with background music, that lets you watch pictures of our flying field rotate onto your screen at 8 second intervals. There are lots of technical things that may or may not work on every PC. So, I'm interested in knowing how it works for you and what you think. Also, would you like to see more? Check it out and let me know.



**Secretary's
 Servos**

by
 Rick Pellecchia

MINUTES August 2003

- Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM
- The minutes were accepted as printed in the Club Newsletter.
- Treasurer's report for July '03 was read and accepted

OLD BUSINESS

FIELD REPORT: Reseeding: Frank Drowniany updated the members on the current re-seeding program. There was some discussion regarding the type of Bermuda grass currently being grown vs. the use of another type of Bermuda (Bermuda 419) grass. Frank will research and advise.

MAIN SHELTER: Chip's design for a new roof is available in the newsletter on-line. We all agreed this is the way we want to proceed. Stay tuned

for a workday to get this project completed.

NEW BUSINESS

8.5 SQUARE MILE AREA: Please refer to Wally's in-depth article in August's Printed Circuit. Short version, we just sit tight. Options range from status quo to the State purchasing our property, and leasing back the land to us on an annual basis.

NEW MEETING LOCATION: Some members expressed their views regarding our new meeting location as inconvenient. Discussion followed regarding some possible alternatives. We also discussed ways to increase meeting participation. Please check the web site for a survey regarding these issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Let's extend a warm AMP's welcome to the following new member(s): Juan Carlos Vallejo

The following Associate Member(s) were scheduled to be voted in, but failed to show up for the meeting: Marvin Findler

The following Associate Members are due to be voted into the club at our next meeting on September 11, 2003:

R. Borbolla Jr., J. DeJesus, C. Kline, J. E. Koch, J. M. Koch, R. A. Koch, D. Markowitz, and L. Townley.

Associate Members being voted into the club are expected to remit their annual dues at that time. Annual dues are prorated for the month an Associate Member is being voted into the club. The prorated dues for associates being voted into the club on **September 11, 2003** will be: **\$33.00**. Dues not received by the last day of the month in which vote in date occurred will result in the immediate revocation of membership, and loss of all flying privileges.

REMINDER: YOUR SPONSOR IS REQUIRED TO BE AT THIS MEETING IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE VOTED INTO THE CLUB. SPONSORS THAT ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND MUST CONTACT ANY CLUB OFFICER WITH A RECOMMENDATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Any Associate Member, scheduled to be voted into the club on their designated meeting date, but is unable to attend that meeting, must call their sponsor, and the Secretary/Treasurer at (305) 232-4827. The Associate Member will be represented for the purpose

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Thursday Night is Club Meeting Night at Cutler Ridge Mall – New Starting Time... 7PM!

Secretary's Servos

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of being voted into the Club. Failure to contact the Secretary/Treasurer, sponsor, or any other club officer will terminate the Associate Members affiliation with AMP's, and will also result in an immediate revocation of all flying privileges at the field.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

FREQUENCY PINS: Rick Pellecchia has taken over the responsibility in the administration of the Club's frequency pin program. If you have ordered a frequency pin(s), and have not received it, please contact Rick at (305) 232-4827.

Please be reminded that Club Rule #6 was amended to require that all members use the **AMPS STANDARD APPROVED CLUB PIN**.

Guest Pilots: All members are encouraged to brief their guests to familiarize them with the Club's posted field rules, and to have their AMA card displayed **prior** to any flying activities. Reminder: The member sponsoring the guest **must** be present at the field when the guest is flying.

AMPS First Monthly Club Meeting At Cutler Ridge Mall

by Wally Crichton

Last month's Club meeting was held in the Community Meeting Room at Cutler Ridge Mall. As most of you have heard by now, John Wanamaker of ProScale Models closed his manufacturing facilities near Tamiami Airport, so we're not meeting there anymore. John is not closing his business, just moving it and we are thankful for being allowed to use his shop for so long. We wish him every success in his future

endeavors.

The new meeting room is very nice with plenty of room, air conditioning, lots of parking and best of all, because we're a non profit organization, it's free. In addition, they furnish all the tables and chairs, so we no longer have to schlep them ourselves before and after every meeting. And, for me, there's no governmental reports to fill out like I had to do at Palmetto High School. Another advantage is, if you want to come early and have a bite to eat, there're restaurants and fast food places right in the Mall.

Speaking of coming early, the meetings are now starting at 7PM because the mall closes its doors at 9PM... on the dot! You can get out after that, but you can't get back in. I know seven is a little early for some of you, but it insures we're finished by nine. Maybe, if we find we're finishing up consistently early, we can slip it to seven thirty. We'll just have to wait and see.

I found it really nice not having to use the PA system while conducting the meeting. Everyone could hear, even in the back row, and members speaking

from the floor could be heard by everyone. That's a welcome change from Pro-Scale where the shop fans made it very noisy. I have to admit though, now that I don't have to hold the microphone, I'm not sure what to do with my left hand. I guess I'll just start waving it around a lot while I talk... Not!

At the meeting, some members expressed concern that the meeting room is too far south and is causing many members not to attend. This may be true, but I hope you'll keep an open mind, try it and see what you think.

There was also discussion about why a club with almost 250 members has such low meeting attendance. Several suggestions were made for improving turnout and all had merit, but no action was taken.

In an effort to gather more information about both location and attendance, a survey was placed on our web page asking members for their opinions and comments. Forty six members took the time to respond and the results are very interesting. The data are presented in an article starting on page three.



Club Management

President — **Wally Crichton**
 Vice President — **Bill Bishop**
 Secretary Treasurer — **Rick Pellecchia**
 Safety Committee Chairman — **John Mitchell**
 Field Engineer — **Frank Drewniany**
 Event Committee Chairman — **Vicar Hernandez**
 Chief Instructor — **Bill Bishop**
 Newsletter Editor & Web Master — **Wally Crichton**

Club Flight Instructors and Check Pilots

Chief Instructor, **Bill Bishop** — (305) 221-7291
 Instructor, **Scott Driesse** — (305) 254-3517
 Instructor, **Mike Laughlin** — (305) 234-8200
 Instructor, **Carlos Zuniga** — (305) 856-4157
 Check Pilot, **John Mitchell** — (305) 388-2763
 Check Pilot, **Tony Fandino** — (305) 693-1374
 Check Pilot, **Mike Cipolato** — (305) 274-3835
 Check Pilot, **Abraham Horta** — (305) 205-2906

Club Sponsors

Crown Hobbies 7439 Coral Way (305) 264-3964	Hobby Nut 12679 Dixie Hwy (305) 235-9584
Pro-Scale Models 13912 SW 139th Ct (305) 234-9939	Warrick Hobbies 7676 Peters Road Ft Lauderdale (954) 424-0604

Annual dues are \$100 for Open Members, \$25 for Non Resident Members and \$1 for Juniors — Club Approved Frequency Pins are required and cost \$2.50 for each channel used. Meetings are held at 8:00 PM every Second Thursday of each month at **Cutler Ridge Mall, 20505 South Dixie Hwy.**

Please address inquiries about the club to: **Aero-Modelers of Perrine, 15425 SW 84th Ave, Palmetto Bay FL 33157-2113, Or Call (305) 232-4827**

AMPS Web Survey

Forty Six Members Responded to The Questionnaire Shown Below With The Tabulated Results

About Meeting Location	Yes	No
1. Do you regularly attend Club meetings?	15	31
2. Do you consider Cutler Ridge Mall too far to drive to?	16	30
3. Would you be more inclined to attend if the meeting room was further north?	25	21
About Meeting Content		
4. Are the meeting agendas interesting to you?	24	19
5. Are the meeting agendas boring?	14	31
6. Would you like to have less business discussions at the meetings?	22	21
7. Would you be more likely to attend if there were less business discussions at the meetings?	18	25
8. Would you like to have "How To" seminars at the meetings?	38	5
9. Would you like model related videos shown at the meetings?	38	7
10. Would you be more likely to attend if there were more "How To" seminars and/or model videos presented?	37	6
11. I have an idea (see my comments below).	11	14
I Do Not Attend Meetings Because!		
12. I work nights.	9	15
13. Meeting room is too far away.	15	12
14. I don't like the way the meetings are run.	5	18
15. Conflicts with my home life.	14	15
16. Meeting time is too early.	4	19
17. Just not interested.	5	16

Discussion

At the last meeting, as a result of changing our meeting location, there was a spontaneous discussion about meeting attendance and meeting content. There was lots of speculation, but no hard data was available to help answer our question. To find answers, the questionnaire above was assembled and placed on our web site. Then, a bulk E-mail was sent out requesting members to fill out the survey and submit it. Each response was E-mailed to me, by our web server, making them completely anonymous. Only in those cases where members included their names in the comments did I know who sent the message.

In hindsight, the questions should have been better thought out, but all in all, I think they worked pretty good. A special thanks goes to those members who took the time to respond. They obviously understood the importance of the survey and did a great job of "Telling it like it is"!

Several facts jump out when looking at "Meeting Location". More than twice as many respondents, in question 1, said they don't regularly attend meetings, but, in question 2, almost the same number said they don't consider the meeting room to be too far away. Then in question 3, more than half said they would be more inclined to attend if the meeting room was farther north .

This says to me, most members are willing to drive to where ever the meeting room is, but, if it was "further north", it would be nice.

The results from "Meeting Content" was a complete surprise to me. More than half thought the agendas were interesting and not boring. Although, a little more than half would like to see less business discussions, but apparently not do away with them entirely. I really thought there would be a resounding "do away with the business sessions". On the other hand, it's clear (by a landslide) that "How To" and "Videos" should be part of our meeting agendas. By doing so, 37 of the 46 respondents said they would be more inclined to attend meetings. Consider, 31 of the 46 said they don't regularly attend, but 37 indicated they might if the meeting agenda changed. This looks like a clear mandate to me!

As they say, liars figure and figures lie, so here's the data see what conclusions you reach.

The **Member's Comments** are printed below and are numbered 1) through 21). They all contain good ideas and some give specific constructive criticisms. I have to admit, it's hard not to take some of them personally. (Some of us "old retired guys" do get a little vocal at times, but we have good ideas once in a while.) But, we need this kind of input if we're going to make informed decisions.

In conclusion, this survey clearly shows our web page is an invaluable tool for gathering hard data from a greater cross section of the membership. We should continue to refine it as a resource for making continuing improvements within the Club.

Member's Comments

1) *The club needs to have small monthly events of some type that appeals to the different types of modelers in the club on a monthly rotational basis. Small events, with something significant every quarter, semi-annual, and annual. We have only a very few annual events as it is now. The monthly/quarterly events could be events not requiring a meeting room...maybe at someone's house...or at the field.*

2) *Conflict with work schedule (I get up at 2:00 AM weekdays)*

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3) I live in the Keys and it is hard to get to many of the meetings. However when I do I enjoy the friendship that is displayed by most of the members. When we get a chance to go to the field it seems to be busy, I wonder if we haven't reached the point where we need to raise the dues and limit membership.

4) Video presentations are an excellent idea. I've got the "Crasher", "OOPS" and "Son of Oops" videos, which are always entertaining, if interested.

5) GLAD: NO SMOKING. My main reason for membership (and perhaps only reason), is to have a flying site. I would like some "FUN FLY" contests, and I don't think they should be cancelled at the last minute. I really would much rather see money spent on access road and field maintenance, than on July 4th food. Perhaps contests would make an interesting subject to discuss. The flying site is not attended much more than meetings, but for selfish me, that's a plus.

6) Another possible meeting site is our own flying field. We need a generator to get lights and bug spray, but before the meeting we could fly our planes. The reason I don't attend is that I started playing softball in a Thursday night league, but we are switching to Tuesdays.

7) I think that some of the people that participate in the discussions when an issue is open for input, are very petty and then the meetings become boring for me. Some of the members just belabor a point and kill any interest for me. I know that everyone has an opinion and they are certainly entitled to their beliefs, but there comes a time when the pettiness needs to be addressed and the meetings should continue in a constructive manner. I am not trying to be disrespectful in any way. My comments are meant to be used constructively and not in an insulting manner. I hope that you are able to understand what I am trying to say. I do like the club and all that a minority of people has accomplished. I appreciate and respect the people that

do the majority of the work. I myself need to be a better member. Thank you for your time.

8) We should have one business meeting per quarter. We should have a raffle (gift certificate) for each quarter. We can set up some kind of a point system that will allow a members name to be entered more than once; i.e. points for each member that attends a meeting. Each time a member builds a new aircraft that will also earn him points. We can assign a point value for meetings attended; models built; number of days at the field engaged in flight activities; fun fly participation... you get my drift? We need to obtain videos; full scale and r/c that we can show at the meetings. I would be willing to contribute, I have the complete collectors set of "Victory at Sea", and the complete set of "Hunters in the Sky" (WWII war bird extravaganza).

9) Videos and "How to's" and demonstrations (covering, painting, repairing damaged aircraft" I work 2PM-10PM with Tuesday and Wednesday off

10) A) It seems everything that comes up in the meeting becomes an argument.

B) Every time an opinion is asked of the membership present, none are accepted, (for improvements or what have you) but instead a committee is form of the same people, and no one finds out anything more about the project.

C) Way too much time is wasted running the meet like it was city hall, financial statements can be email to the membership once a month, last meeting I attended it took over an hour an 15 min discussing old business, running the meeting less formal, would make it more attractive to some members, some of us spent the day in the same kind of formal government type of meetings. This is a hobby for some of us, I want to go to the meetings to relax and enjoy other's company, not to listen to the old retired guys argue.

11) "Show and tell" with member's new planes would be interesting to me. The owner could tell oth-

ers about his or her new plane such as engines, radio setup, how it was built, etc. and then answer questions.

12) My husband doesn't like the idea of me driving the 18-mile stretch late at night! Go figure!

13) A certain amount of business is necessary to keep the club functioning properly and to maintain a democratic environment where members' votes on important issues are duly counted. Beyond that we just bore everybody.

Further, I do not believe in our club sponsoring contests and events. It takes away from field availability for the members who want to just fly and complicate meeting agendas. Let's just keep it simple. A nice field to fly, sensible safety rules properly enforced, how to's so that interested members can learn from others and good fellowship from likely minded members.

I would be remiss if I did not give enough credit to the field engineer, for all the runway improvements and to the club instructors and safety for having a verifiable training program.

Safety is GOAL # 1. The rest is just FUN. Thank you for asking and for listening.

14) The presenters should make an attempt to make the material content more interesting. Women would probably attend more frequently at the meeting if they were addressed. When the meetings begin, they always begin with "gentlemen" and not all of the people addressed are men. I think it would be a fantastic idea if "How To" meetings were held. Everything seems to revolve around money and grass and plans that should have been addressed previously but have yet to be accomplished. Let the truth be told and the force be with you!

15) I think that most people don't attend because of today's busy schedules. The majority of households includes both husband and wives that work, not to mention if there are children involved. Then there is the issue of when do we build our models and when do we fly our models. I don't think that the

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members don't want to attend; I think they just don't have enough time. I really wish I had the time to attend, but with the few members that are attending, the decisions that are being made have been right on target. Of all the flying fields that I have flown at I think AMPS is the BEST!! I really like the new shrubs that have been planted.

16) I live in Citrus County. I guess I do not really count. Tom Cornell

17) Unfortunate for me, my home "program" after work affords me little time to participate or attend the meets. I actually have not used the field in several months. I will continue with my membership. This club is just about the best in both counties and is in walking distance from my house. How lucky can a guy get? I've known the Amps club since 1984, thanks for keeping it going.

18) Meetings sometimes conflict with my evening schedule, However I am such an infrequent flyer that I feel I need to leave the business of running the club and field to the members who are the most active and know what's happening, etc. I depend on the newsletters to stay current on things I need to know. When I become more active I will have more input.

19) Meetings are too long. Discussions should be straight to the point and decisions made right away. If there is an argument about something, a board member should mediate and inform that the board will make the decision in the best interest of the club. Sometimes, discussions go on for too long and that discourages people from attending the meetings.

20) Perhaps it would be a good idea to have a separate BUSINESS meeting with just club officers and the results of these meetings could be QUICKLY presented to the members. Or, have business discussions only quarterly. Have members speak about their newest construction projects. If kits, they could tell what they like about the kit, what they didn't like. Give others some insight before they buy the same kit. Have IMAC

flyers speak about the various formations & maneuvers. Just because we fly & build doesn't mean we instinctively KNOW everything. What the heck is a CUBAN 8? WHY is it Cuban?

Members should be encouraged to bring photo albums of shows they've attended (or SHORT videos). How about teaching about engine

tuning? Maybe get some vendor reps out to show their stuff. Business meetings are BORING. You can put all that stuff into the newsletter just to keep everyone honest. Try some different stuff and take a head count, see what brings them in!!

21) I like the new meeting room at the mall. Lets not change the location for a couple of members.



Do you remember Herb Chutter (above)? He was an active member of the Club up until last year. Then, he and his wife, Dottie, moved to Spring Hill in northern Florida. He's still a member of AMPS, but does his flying up there now. Before he left he started this Stinson Reliant and he used to bring various parts (as he completed them) to the meetings for us to see. Now, here it is, all finished. There's no word as to whether it's been flown or how well it flew if it did.

* * NOTICE * *

To AMPS Members Who Are Also IMAA Chapter 574 Members!

Nick Capone attempted to have our AeroFest '03 event published in High Flight Magazine, but the Editor listed us as an inactive Charter. This is odd because we are carried as a Sanctioned Club with Nick as AMP'S IMAA Sanction Representative. IMAA Headquarters, would like an update of our current IMAA membership roster.

If you're a current member of IMAA, please contact Nick Capone at NickRC3@aol.com with your name and IMAA number, so we can build an accurate roster.



AMA Sanction #03-1821

**The Broward County
Radio Control Association**

Proudly Announces



THE SECOND ANNUAL "CELEBRATION OF FLIGHT"

*In recognition of the Wright Brothers
first powered flight on December 17, 1903.*

**The event will take place at Markham Park
1600 W. State Road 84, Sunrise, FL 33326
Sunday, October 12th, 2003 from 9:00am to 3:00pm**

*The event will be open to all types of model aircraft
giant scale, jet, helicopter, warbirds, etc.*

Landing Fee \$10.00 • Park Entrance Fee \$1.00

- AMA and Park rules will be in effect.
- 4 aircraft in flight at a time.
- Each pilot will use a spotter. (Club members will be available.)
- Transmitters will be impounded when not in use.
- Entrance to pit area limited to pilots, crews, & officials with current AMA cards.
- General Flying throughout the day

MANY PILOT RAFFLES AND GENERAL RAFFLE FOR EVERYONE

**SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS BY VARIOUS TYPES OF AIRCRAFT
THROUGHOUT THE DAY!**

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for youngsters.*

Special Contributors:
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Great Planes
The Zap Gang



*Food & Refreshments
available all day*

THERE WILL BE A \$10.00 LANDING FEE TO FLY AT MARKHAM PARK DURING THIS EVENT.



Above, is the latest addition to Bill Bishop's fleet. This is a Ryan STA-M scale military ARF from Great Planes. It has an 82 inch wingspan and weighs around 12 to 14 pounds. All the covering is MonoKote, and Bill said it needed a little ironing to make it look like this. (What looks like wrinkles in the bottom picture are reflections as you can see by comparing it to the top picture.) This beauty is powered by an OS 1.08 engine and Bill says it flies very, very well.



The new windsock is now flying proudly over our flying field. The old one had gotten pretty ratty and was overdue for a change. Our thanks to AMPS Member Mike Piotrowski for bringing a bucket truck and putting it up for us.

FOR SALE

This Information Arrived Too Late For The Last Newsletter, So The Items May or May Not Still Be Available.

Getting out of the hobby - Selling everything!

- 5 planes ready to fly with receivers and servos:
- Great Planes Learjet with retracts and .45
- Balsa USA Enforcer with retracts and .75
- F5E Tiger with retracts and .45
- Tiger 40 with .45
- Composite Wild Thing with .15
- One Kit: Piper Twin Comanche
- Lots of extras:
- Engines
- Chargers
- Conditioners
- Testers
- Starters
- Flight Box
- Fuel Pumps
- Covering Materials & Tools
- Spare Parts

First \$1000 takes it all!

Email: rcstuff@nitrographix.com

FOR SALE

Club Tee Shirts & Hats

Tee Shirts

Small to Extra Extra Large! \$15

Hats

One Size Fits All! \$5 & \$6



Contact: Loretta Westphal

LWestp5576@aol.com

(305) 451-3332