



# THE CONNECTOR

Newsletter of the Aero Guidance Society, Inc.

AMA Chartered Club No. 441

[www.agsny.org](http://www.agsny.org)

Volume #58.....Issue #3... March...2012

Recipient of the AMA President's Award for 50 years  
of service to AMA and Aeromodeling

**The Following Channels Must Not Be Used At The AGS Field: 02, 04, 13, 27, 36, 42, and 49**

## THE NEXT AGS MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY, APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> AT 6:45 PM AT THE ENDICOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Changes to time or location will be noted in this newsletter

### *The Prez Sez....*

Jeff Hatton

It is the time of year again to start up flight training. Depending on the number of students I hope to offer both basic and advanced flight training on the same night. I plan on being an instructor this year and for the flight school to meet once a week at the field starting after field opening. We will finalize a night of the week during the meeting as well as signing up for either instruction or to be an instructor.

As discussed at the last meeting the board spent some time discussing getting a tractor for mowing the grass at the field. I visited many of the local tractor and lawn care places in town to get an idea of what was available and the price ranges.

For around \$1500 we can get a basic lawn tractor that we could use as a secondary mower when the field is too soft for the current tractor. This would be the typical tractor that you would use at a house, it was not recommended to this type use as a primary mower by the dealers due to the area we are mowing, but should hold up fine for using it when needed.

For around \$2500-3500 we can get a mower that could be the primary grass mower. A used commercial

mower, either a zero turn or front mower similar to what you see many of the lawn care places or parks using. One of these units is designed to only cut grass and we would use the current tractor for brush hog and other uses as we do currently. One of these units should run less gas and be able to cut the runways and pit areas faster than the current tractor.

For \$5000+ we can get a new unit similar to the unit above

All of these prices are generalities and once we have a firmer idea on what direction we want to go and how to pay for it we will get quotes on specific pieces of equipment.

The board has voted and decided that we will expand the garage area in the upper pavilion to give us more storage and to accommodate any equipment if we decide to purchase it.

Now for the last and most important aspect of this project, how to pay for it. Rather than taking any money out of the treasury or having a special assessment we are asking for pledges to support purchasing the equipment. Once all the pledges are given we can then decide how much is available to support the project. If there is not enough to support it than no money is owed and no equipment is purchased.

Subscriptions to  
**"THE CONNECTOR"**  
may be obtained free via e-mail  
or at a minimal cost of \$8.00  
annually.  
Contact the Editor

### Coming Events

**AGS Meeting**  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:45 PM  
ENDICOTT LIBRARY

**Annual Mall Show**  
April 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
OAKDALE MALL

**First Pylon Race**  
May 8<sup>th</sup>  
AGS FIELD

**Second Pylon Race**  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
AGS FIELD

### **Cancellation of AGS Meetings:**

In the event of poor weather,  
call the Library at 757-5350.  
If the library is closed, you will  
receive only the hours of  
operation.

**The Aero Guidance  
Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 39  
Vestal, NY, 13850-0039**

**President:** Jeff Hatton  
(A-C)

**Vice President:** Ed Lancki  
(D-H)

**Secretary:** John Carril  
(I-L)

**Treasurer:** Bob Johnson  
(M-R)

**Board Members at Large:**

Vern Ziegler (S-Z)

Don Shugard

**Committee Chairmen**

**Membership:** Paul Slocum

**Program:** Jim Quinn

**Activities:** Bob Balsie

**Field:** John Carril

**Historian:** Bob Noll

**Public Relations:** Open

**Sound:** Ed Lancki

**Safety:** Don Shugard

**Librarian:** Open

**Editor:** Bob Balsie

e-mail: RC\_flyer@stny.rr.com

## **The Annual Oakdale Mall Show**

by Bob Balsie – Event Chairman

Well, the year is really rolling along and it's almost time for the annual model show at the Oakdale Mall. This year the show is scheduled for April 28 and 29. Set-up for the show will be on Friday night, April 27. I'll be circulating a sign-up sheet at the April meeting.

At the January meeting, Jeff Hatton suggested that we should present models that depict the various activities that we have in the AGS such as Pylon Racing, Float Fly, Aerobatics, etc. I think that this is a great idea so if you have a special interest plane, please plan on bringing it to the show. Of course, all other types of models are welcome, too.

Attendance by club members at the Mall Show has been kind of sparse the last couple of years, so please plan on attending and helping out. It's a great opportunity to socialize, check out each other planes, and maybe get some modeling ideas for the new season.

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## **Pylon Racing to Start in May**

by Don Shugard

The pylon racing season is just around the corner. Our first race is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the AGS field. I will be circulating a sign up for help and selling booklets to the pilots at the May meeting.

Contact me at [dshugard@stny.rr.com](mailto:dshugard@stny.rr.com) with e-mail and phone number if you are interested in racing or helping out and cannot attend the meeting.

I am proposing a racing class of any trainer with a forty on the nose for pilots to get a feel for racing. Planes will be raced two at a time. The class will not be open to our Sprint Cup and Nationwide pilots. Sprint Cup and Nationwide Pilots will work the race course for the new class. Let me know if you are interested in being a pilot in the new class.

**The Activities Calendar has the full schedule of race dates.**

## **Spring Fling Report**

by Jim Quinn

Thanks to every one who came out to enjoy a great day of flying and fellowship on one of the first days of spring 2012. There were over 20 people in attendance with countless flights. We even had a little flight instruction with Todd Kopl and his son Matthew. Tom was there as well making it a three generation event. Once again it seemed electric power dominated the day, but there were at least three glow pilots as well. Milk and cookies along with some soft drinks and brownies rounded out the day. Again, thanks to all who made the day so much fun.

## **April Program**

by Jim Quinn

In March, thanks to Terry Terrenoire, we demonstrated how to cut foam wings. Terry did everything from cutting the basic outline form of the wing to marking centerlines, attaching formers and actually cutting a wing core for a Whiplash. This wing will go into a flying electric powered model for Derek Gioffredo.

The April program will follow along with the construction of Derek's Whiplash. This month Derek and Frank will show how to make sheeting for a foam wing and what it takes to actually apply the balsa sheeting to make one of these very strong and accurate wings. Frank and Derek will start off with some raw sheeting and prepare the edges for joining, and actually make a working wing skin that will be used in Derek's flying model.

## **2012 Aerobatics Primer**

by Jim Quinn

Once again this year the Aero Guidance Society will host a primer for aerobatic flying. These primers begin with some discussion of competition flying, the maneuvers flown, and what the judges are looking for. There will be three competition classes flown; Sportsman, Intermediate, and Advanced. Set aside June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 for a fun day of learning about precision aerobatics and actually flying in a Sanctioned contest.

The Deadline for Connector articles is two Fridays before the meeting. Please have submissions to the Editor before then.  
Electronic Submissions are preferred.  
E-mail them to RC\_flyer@stny.rr.com  
**Deadline for the next Connector is 4/28/2012**

## AGS General Meeting Minutes February 6, 2012

Meeting No. 773, called to order by Jeff Hatton at 6:49PM.

Guest Present: Dave Vose – Librarian at BU.

New Members – Frank and Benjamin Cease.

Tom Kopl made a motion to accept minutes for February meeting as published in Connector; seconded by Tony Cammarata. Motion carried.

Bob Johnson gave the Treasurer's monthly financial report. Tony Cammarata moved to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Don Green. Motion carried.

Jim Quinn requested that the Treasurer include income vs. expenses by category as part of the monthly report. Bob Johnson agreed to include the information in future reports.

### Old Business:

Terry Terrenoire gave an update on the status of the planning for the (1<sup>st</sup> Annual) AGS Swap Shop on March 24. Pretty good start - 10 tables have been sold so far. Has plenty of volunteers for set-up the day before; could use a couple more for helping at the event. Terry and Jim Quinn reminded all of the Spring Fling Fly in the afternoon after the Swap n Shop at the BC soccer field. If conditions are not good at the field the fly will be moved to the area behind the storage sheds on Glendale road.

Terry reported that he received email reminder for the Golden Club Status renewal.

**ACTION:** Jeff Hatton to complete application.

Mall Show - Bob Balsie reported that this year he would like to focus on the different Club activities (i.e., pattern flying, pylon racing, training, etc.) to try to generate more interest. Tony Cammarata asked where we would be setting up. Bob stated that it should be in the center area, but we would have to confirm it with the Mall.

**ACTION:** Jeff Hatton

Jim Quinn reminded all about the Aerobics Primer scheduled for June 9. It will be a sanctioned event. More information to come later.

Bob Noll stated that the status of the Builders and Pattern groups was as reported in the Connector.

Small tractor for field mowing: Jeff Hatton reported that there have been several suggestions for tractors. The Board is concerned about funding methods. It was suggested that we could withdraw some money market funds (since the interest rate is so low it wouldn't really matter). Another consideration is the need to develop a storage space for the new tractor. This could be accomplished by enclosing

another bay in the upper pavilion. A ROM material cost for that is \$300. Jeff Hatton stated that if there were a significant impact of cash flow – another option would be to consider a special assessment. Jim Quinn moved that we peruse the matter; Tony Cammarata seconded and also recommended that we do not get to cheap a tractor – as it would be less likely to stand up well.

**ACTION:** The Board will research the issue and determine the best course of action.

Frequency Sharing Agreement – Bob Jennings needs three signed (by the secretary) copies of the agreement to obtain signatures from Gregg Hoffman and John Pike.

**ACTION:** John Carril will provide the three copies to Bob Jennings.

Bob Noll discussed the need to encourage more participation in pattern contests. He reported that Frank Gioffredo is working the possibility of more prizes. Also Bob would like to get away from relying on contestants to do judging by getting more Club trained judges to improve efficiency. Bob offered to train new judges, but would need willing students. He would train judges for three classes: Sportsman, Intermediate and Advanced. Bob passed out a sign-up sheet for volunteers to be trained. The Pattern competition is scheduled for July 7 & 8.

### SHOW & TELL

Bob Noll – Showed building group's Live Wire Yankee – in phase 2 – covered with polyspan and four coats of 50/50 nitrate & clear coat (dope).

Terry Terrenoire – Showed a copy of the Susquehanna newspaper from 1977 which contains a spread on the AGS –Bill Evans Sierra trainer.

Bob Balsie – Showed some large electric motors, including a .60 size CT4030, 500Kv which produces 10.5 pounds of thrust.

Tony Cammarata was selling chocolate bars to benefit Mom's House.

### PROGRAM

Terry Terrenoire and Jim Quinn presented a program, including live demonstrations on cutting foam wings using the hot wire technique.

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff Hatton at 8:33PM.

John Carril  
AGS Secretary

## It's Time to Open the Field Again...!!!

by John Carril – Field Chairman

Field Opening this year is Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00AM. (Rain date will be Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>). Work will start at 9:30AM, but come earlier (9:00 AM) and have breakfast first.

We'll need general hand tools (including cordless drill/drivers), some mechanics tools, an extension ladder and a pick-up truck as well as some rakes and shovels.

This year we'll be putting up a new windsock and mounting bracket. The old one was damaged beyond repair last season. We'll also be doing some repairs to the frequency center mounting posts that got damaged when it was moved during the fence project.

Since March 31<sup>st</sup> is before the next general meeting, please contact me (642-3579 or [jcarril@stny.rr.com](mailto:jcarril@stny.rr.com)) to let me know if you can help.

## DID YOU KNOW...???

by Bob Noll - Historian

Chapter 4 of our 50th anniversary history book (published in 2005) starts out as follows; *"Pattern flying has been a part of the fabric of the Aeroguidance Society since the club was formed. So much so that the club By-Laws states that the club "shall hold an annual AMA sanctioned contest". This item was put into the first By-Laws and has remained there after fifty years."*



**1/4-Scale J-3 Cub ARF by Hangar 9**

# Club Activities for 2012

by Bob Balsie – Activities Chairman

Well, our first annual Swap Shop event was a success, and the Spring Fling that followed it was also well attended. Our next activity will be the annual model show at the Oakdale Mall. Check out the article about this event on page 2 of this newsletter and get your models ready to take to the Mall on Friday night, April 27<sup>th</sup> for the show setup.

Be sure to review the activities calendar below so that you can become familiar with the types of things that will be available for you to participate in this year.

<b>* ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR 2012 *</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
New Year's Day Fly	January 1, 2012	Frank Gioffredo
Winter Fly	February 11, 2012	Scott Wallace
Swap Shop	March 24, 2012 (AM)	Terry Terrenoire
Spring Fling	March 24, 2012 (PM)	Jim Quinn
<b>Oakdale Mall Show</b>	<b>April 28 &amp; 29, 2012</b>	<b>Bob Balsie</b>
Pylon Race	May 8, 2012	Don Shugard
Pylon Race	May 22, 2012	Don Shugard
Aerobatics Primer	June 9, 2012	Jim Quinn (CD)
Pylon Race	June 12, 2012	Don Shugard
Pylon Race	June 26, 2012	Don Shugard
AGS Pattern Contest	July 7 & 8, 2012	Frank Gioffredo (CD)
Pylon Race	July 10, 2012	Don Shugard
Pylon Race	July 24, 2012	Don Shugard
Pylon Race	August 7, 2012	Don Shugard
Family Cookout (?)	August 11, 2012	Bob Balsie
Pylon Race	August 21, 2012	Don Shugard
VR/CS Reunion	September 1 & 2, 2012	Bob Noll (CD)
Pylon Race	September 9, 2012	Don Shugard
Fall Float Fly	September 15 & 16, 2012	Bob Balsie (CD)
Pylon Race	September 16, 2012	Don Shugard
Annual Holiday Party	December 3, 2012	Bob Balsie



# Safe Flying and the AMA Safety Code

by Don Shugard – Safety Chairman

It is that time of year to get the planes out and get flying. We will be going over the AMA safety code at the May meeting. **Please take the time to review the current AMA safety code re-printed below before you head out to the field.**

## Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Aircraft Safety Code

Effective January 1, 2011

- A. GENERAL: A model aircraft is a non-human-carrying aircraft capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere. It may not exceed limitations of this code and is intended exclusively for sport, recreation and/or competition. All model flights must be conducted in accordance with this safety code and any additional rules specific to the flying site.
- 1.) Model aircraft will not be flown:
    - (a) In a careless or reckless manner.
    - (b) At a location where model aircraft activities are prohibited.
  2. Model aircraft pilots will:
    - (a) Yield the right of way to all man carrying aircraft.
    - (b) See and avoid all aircraft and a spotter must be used when appropriate. (AMA Document #540-D-See and Avoid Guidance.)
    - (c) Not fly higher than approximately 400 feet above ground level within three (3) miles of an airport, without notifying the airport operator.
    - (d) Not interfere with operations and traffic patterns at any airport, heliport or seaplane base except where there is a mixed use agreement.
    - (e) Not exceed a takeoff weight, including fuel, of 55 pounds unless in compliance with the AMA Large Model Aircraft program. (AMA Document 520-A)
    - (f) Ensure the aircraft is identified with the name and address or AMA number of the owner on the inside or affixed to the outside of the model aircraft. (This does not apply to model aircraft flown indoors).
    - (g) Not operate aircraft with metal-blade propellers or with gaseous boosts except for helicopters operated under the provisions of AMA Document #555.
    - (h) Not operate model aircraft while under the influence of alcohol or while using any drug which could adversely affect the pilot's ability to safely control the model.
    - (i) Not operate model aircraft carrying pyrotechnic devices which explode or burn, or any device which propels a projectile or drops any object that creates a hazard to persons or property.

Exceptions:

Free Flight fuses or devices that burn producing smoke and are securely attached to the model aircraft during flight.

Rocket motors (using solid propellant) up to a G-series size may be used provided they remain attached to the model during flight. Model rockets may be flown in accordance with the National Model Rocketry Safety Code but may not be launched from model aircraft.

Officially designated AMA Air Show Teams (AST) are authorized to use devices

and practices as defined within the Team AMA Program Document (AMA Document #718).

- (j) Not operate a turbine-powered aircraft, unless in compliance with the AMA turbine regulations. (AMA Document #510-A).
- 3. Model aircraft will not be flown in AMA sanctioned events, air shows or model demonstrations unless:
  - (a) The aircraft, control system and pilot skills have successfully demonstrated all maneuvers intended or anticipated prior to the specific event.
  - (b) An inexperienced pilot is assisted by an experienced pilot.
- 4. When and where required by rule, helmets must be properly worn and fastened. They must be OSHA, DOT, ANSI, SNELL or NOCSAE approved or comply with comparable standards.

## B. RADIO CONTROL (RC)

- 1. All pilots shall avoid flying directly over unprotected people, vessels, vehicles or structures and shall avoid endangerment of life and property of others.
- 2. A successful radio equipment ground-range check in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations will be completed before the first flight of a new or repaired model aircraft.
- 3. At all flying sites a safety line(s) must be established in front of which all flying takes place (AMA Document #706-Recommended Field Layout):
  - (a) Only personnel associated with flying the model aircraft are allowed at or in front of the safety line.
  - (b) At air shows or demonstrations, a straight safety line must be established.
  - (c) An area away from the safety line must be maintained for spectators.
  - (d) Intentional flying behind the safety line is prohibited.
- 4. RC model aircraft must use the radio-control frequencies currently allowed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Only individuals properly licensed by the FCC are authorized to operate equipment on Amateur Band frequencies.
- 5. RC model aircraft will not operate within three (3) miles of any pre-existing flying site without a frequency-management agreement (AMA Documents #922- Testing for RF Interference; #923- Frequency Management Agreement)
- 6. With the exception of events flown under official AMA Competition Regulations, excluding takeoff and landing, no powered model may be flown outdoors closer than 25 feet to any individual, except for the pilot and the pilot's helper(s) located at the flight line.
- 7. Under no circumstances may a pilot or other person touch a model aircraft in flight while it is still under power, except to divert it from striking an individual. This does not apply to model aircraft flown indoors.
- 8. RC night flying requires a lighting system providing the pilot with a clear view of the model's attitude and orientation at all times.
- 9. The pilot of a RC model aircraft shall:
  - (a) Maintain control during the entire flight, maintaining visual contact without enhancement other than by corrective lenses prescribed for the pilot.
  - (b) Fly using the assistance of a camera or First-Person View (FPV) only in accordance with the procedures outlined in AMA Document #550.



### C. FREE FLIGHT

1. Must be at least 100 feet downwind of spectators and automobile parking when the model aircraft is launched.
2. Launch area must be clear of all individuals except mechanics, officials, and other fliers.
3. An effective device will be used to extinguish any fuse on the model aircraft after the fuse has completed its function.

### D. CONTROL LINE

1. The complete control system (including the safety thong where applicable) must have an inspection and pull test prior to flying.
2. The pull test will be in accordance with the current Competition Regulations for the applicable model aircraft category.
3. Model aircraft not fitting a specific category shall use those pull-test requirements as indicated for Control Line Precision Aerobatics.
4. The flying area must be clear of all utility wires or poles and a model aircraft will not be flown closer than 50 feet to any above-ground electric utility lines.
5. The flying area must be clear of all nonessential participants and spectators before the engine is started.



**Electri-Fly G-44 Widgeon by Great Planes**

## The AMA Park Pilot Program

by Don Shugard

I'd like to welcome Matt Hobert to the AGS. Matt is a graduate student at BU and a member of the AMA Park Pilots. For those club members unfamiliar with the Park Pilot program a Park Pilot must only fly a Park Flier model. The AMA currently defines a park flier as a model weighing less than 2 pounds that is incapable of reaching speeds faster than 60 mph. The Park Flier must use electric power or rubber power, or any similar quiet means of propulsion. Models must be remotely controlled or flown with a control line, and remain within the pilot's line of sight at all times. A Park Pilot is not allowed to fly any other type of model aircraft.

The following table provided by the AMA compares the AMA Open Membership to The Park Pilot Membership.

Comparison of Open vs. Park Pilot membership	
Open membership	Park Pilot membership
\$58/year.	\$29.95/year.
\$2.5 million liability insurance.	\$500,000 liability insurance.
Accident/Medical insurance.	No Accident/Medical insurance.
Fire, theft, and vandalism insurance.	No fire, theft, or vandalism insurance.
\$2.5 Million Flying Site Owner's Insurance.*	\$2.5 Million Flying Site Owner's Insurance.*
Monthly subscription to <i>Model Aviation</i> magazine.	Quarterly subscription to <i>Park Pilot</i> magazine.
Flying at all AMA sanctioned contests.	Can only fly at non-rule book sanctioned events.
Open Members have access to the Contest Calendar when they receive <i>Model Aviation</i> .	Park Pilot members will receive no such notice on any events other than Park Pilot Class C events.
AMA cards will remain the same format as in years past.	Park Pilot card will be different from the standard AMA card.
No restrictions on type of aircraft that you fly other than established by the Official AMA National Safety Code.	Can only fly park fliers or quiet-powered models that meet the class definition. Internal-combustion-powered models cannot be flown with this membership.
Voting privileges in AMA officer elections.	No voting privileges in AMA officer elections.
Open Members can remain members of existing clubs.	If an Open member chooses a Park Pilot membership, you may or may not remain a member of that local club depending on how that club views park fliers.
Open Members can still fly at the local club field.	As a Park Pilot Member, flying may or may not be restricted to just the NEW fields approved only for Park Pilot members (that decision is left to existing Open clubs).

\*Available to AMA Chartered Clubs upon request

At the time of this writing the AMA only had 2011 images of AMA cards available. These images are representative of the different 2012 AMA cards you may see at the field.



The AMA provides the following FAQ on the park pilot program.  
<http://www.modelaircraft.org/parkflyer/pp-faq.aspx>



**Waco YMF-5 Biplane by Dumas**

# March Program

## ***COVERING YOUR FOAM WINGS***