



# The CONNECTOR

Newsletter of the Aeroguidance Society, Inc.  
AMA Chartered Club No. 441

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

Volume #61 ..... Issue # 12 December 2015

Recipient of the AMA Presidents Award for  
50 years of Service to AMA and Aeromodeling

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**THE NEXT AGS MEETING WILL BE ON  
MONDAY Jan 4th 6:45 P.M at the Endicott Municipal Library**

Changes to time or location will be noted in this newsletter

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*The Prez Sez*

Submitted by Frank Gioffredo

Well, here we are Christmas time and 65 degrees outside, hopefully a little snow for NYD fly would love to put my skis on. This nice weather has kept me very busy at work leaving little time for flying or working on my projects, but was forced into a bathroom water leak repair a couple weeks ago (not fun).

Hopefully everyone is planning to come out for the NYD fly, Rick now has everything in order and needs us to eat up the chili he's making. So plan on coming out even just to watch but flying is more fun.

On a very sad note, the loss of member Charlie Lecher recently makes us all realize how precious our time is here. Please take time to send thoughts and prayer to the Lecher family. Mark Lecher has asked that someone consider taking on the job of Webmaster as he is trying to settle his father's affairs and doesn't feel he can dedicate appropriate time to this task right now. If you are interested please contact myself or one of the other board members.

The board has been busy trying to define the best way to approach the new FAA ruling of registering our aircraft. I will defer any questions to Ray Phillips as he has spent many hours following the processes and attempting to make sense of it all. I believe eventually we are going to be stuck with this process but we can wait until Feb. 19 before we absolutely have to register.

I hope Mr. Claus delivered everyone's goodies for Christmas so you will all have lots of show and tell items in the upcoming meetings. I also wish you all a Happy New Year.

See you on 01-01-2016. Frank

## Cancellation of AGS Meetings:

In the event of poor weather, listen to the radio or television for local closings and cancellations. If the Library is closed the meeting is cancelled and a notice will be sent via the AGS mailing list.

## Coming Events

### AGS New Year's Day Fly

January 1<sup>st</sup> 11:00 AM  
BC United Soccer Fields

### AGS January Meeting

January 4<sup>th</sup> 6:45 PM  
Endicott Muni Library

### AGS February Meeting

February 1<sup>st</sup> 6:45 PM  
Endicott Muni Library

### AGS Winter Fly

February 7<sup>th</sup>  
BC United Soccer Fields

The Aeroguidance  
Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 39  
Vestal, NY 13850-0039

**AGS Officers:**

**President:** Frank Gioffredo (A-C)

**Vice President:** Charlie Brown (D-H)

**Secretary:** Ray Phillips (I-L)

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

**Board Members at Large:**

Tom Kopl (S-Z)

Stan Driggs

**Past President:** Rick Allabaugh

---

**Committee Chairmen:**

**Membership:** Charlie Brown

**Program:** Tom Kopl

**Activities:** Open

**Field:** Todd Kopl

**Historian:** Don Green

**Public Relations:** Open

**Sound:** Scott Wallace

**Safety:** Frank Gioffredo

**Librarian:** Frank Gioffredo

**Webmaster:** Open (Mark Lecher)

**Newsletter Editor:** Scott Wallace

**Editorial – submitted by Scott Wallace**

This has been such a mild fall that yesterday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>; I was able to fly a glow & electric models at the AGS field and didn't even need a jacket. This is probably the first time my 15 years in the AGS that I flew at our field this late in the year.

Another year has come and gone, here's hoping everyone had a fine Holiday season. The New Year kicks off with the AGS New Year's Day Fun Fly, look for details below but suffice it to say it's a good time for all and a chance for the hearty souls to get a few outdoor flights in. Up until a day or so before the 1<sup>st</sup> you never know for sure if you need wheels, skis, or even floats!

If you're a model builder, this is a fun time of year when new projects begin to take shape and older projects are revisited. Right now I'm putting all my efforts into an Ace RC Bingo for our AGS President, this is a 1990's design which is similar to the much more popular Sig 4-Star 40. The Ace kit is long out of production but Frank acquired a laser cut short kit and plans so I've been busy framing away. I'm not a huge fan of laser cut parts. I rate them as better than the old school die cut (die crushed) parts but I prefer a quality machine cut kit over the charred/burnt edges of laser cut parts.

Be sure to read the information posted (starting on page 3) regarding the FAA registration requirements and the AMA's stance.

**New Year's Day Fun Fly – hosted by Rick Allabaugh**

All - We'll be having our Annual New Year's Day Fun Fly on Friday, January 1st from 11 am to 1 pm at the BC United Soccer Fields. If you're not familiar with the site, it's located by the Ann G. McGuinness Intermediate School on Route 26 in Endicott. Just down the road from Phil's Chicken House.

There will be a \$5 landing fee for pilots and I'll be providing chili, chili fixins, coffee, hot chocolate, and water.

**NOTE: 72 MHz Channel #42 Must Not Be Used at the AGS Field**

The CONNECTOR is prepared on a Personal Computer. Submissions are happily accepted via email to: wallaceaero1@aol.com

**YOU CAN WIN THIS  
LATEST \$170 FLIGHT SIMULATOR**



**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL  
CLUB MEETINGS**

### **AGS General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Aeroguidance Society Meeting # 817  
Date: Dec 7, 2015  
Place: Endicott Municipal Library  
Guests: None

President Frank Gioffredo called the meeting to order.

This meeting was the AGS annual Holiday party. Approximately 30 people were in attendance to enjoy some good food and fellowship. Thank you to Bill Green and Debby Green for hosting the event this year. The table cloths and decorations made the event more festive and enjoyable. The selection of food dishes by AGS members to compliment the pizza was outstanding. Don Green's slide presentation of 2015 activity highlighted a good flying season. Frank presided over a game of bingo. I think Frank's bingo set is missing some chips; he never called "N Free" all night.

**Respectfully submitted - Ray Phillips AGS Secretary**

### **Early RC Systems – submitted by Bob Noll**

It was a time of great RC development. In the 50's and 60's RC systems were being advanced at an extremely rapid rate. Those pioneers were mostly amateur radio operators who had the skill to create improved receivers and transmitters. Actuators were also being developed at a fast pace by the more mechanically inclined.

I have constructed a few mock-ups of some of those early actuators when super-regenerative receivers operating on only one frequency were available. Many modelers were continually trying to get more controls from their single channel radios.

Last April I gave a presentation at the Toledo RC Exposition on Early RC. I would like to share that presentation with you at our January meeting.

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### **AMA and the FAA Registration Process**

The following is a statement from the AMA regarding the FAA registration plans announced on Dec 14, 2015 which affect ALL of us - PLEASE read this.

### **Hold Off On Registering Model Aircraft**

On Wednesday, December 16 the AMA Executive Council unanimously approved an action plan to relieve and further protect our members from unnecessary and burdensome regulations. This plan addresses the recently announced interim rule requiring federal registration of all model aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) weighing between 0.55 and 55 pounds.

AMA has long used a similar registration system with our members, which we pointed out during the task force deliberations and in private conversations with the FAA. As you are aware, AMA's safety program instructs all members to place his or her AMA number or name and address on or within their model aircraft, effectively accomplishing the safety and accountability objectives of the interim rule. AMA has also argued that the new registration rule runs counter to Congress' intent in Section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, otherwise known as the "Special Rule for Model Aircraft."

The Council is considering all legal and political remedies to address this issue. We believe that resolution to the unnecessary federal registration rule for our members rests with AMA's petition before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. This petition, filed in August 2014, asks the court to review the FAA's interpretation of the "Special Rule for Model Aircraft."

The central issue is whether the FAA has the authority to expand the definition of aircraft to include model aircraft; thus, allowing the agency to establish new standards and operating criteria to which model aircraft operators have never been subject to in the past.

In promulgating its interim rule for registration earlier this week, the FAA repeatedly stated that model aircraft are aircraft, despite the fact that litigation is pending on this very question. The Council believes the FAA's reliance on its interpretation of Section 336 for legal authority to compel our members to register warrants the Court's immediate attention to AMA's petition.

While we continue to believe that registration makes sense at some threshold and for flyers operating outside of a community-based organization or flying for commercial purposes, we also strongly believe our members are not the problem and should not have to bear the burden of additional regulations. Safety has been the cornerstone of our organization for 80 years and AMA's members strive to be a part of the solution.

As we proceed with this process, we suggest AMA members hold off on registering their model aircraft with the FAA until advised by the AMA or until February 19, the FAA's legal deadline for registering existing model aircraft.

Holding off on registration will allow AMA time to fully consider all possible options. On a parallel track, it also allows AMA to complete ongoing conversations with the FAA about how best to streamline the registration process for our members.

In the near future, we will also be asking our members to make their voices heard by submitting comments to the FAA's interim rule on registration. We will follow-up soon with more detailed information on how to do this.

Thank you for your continued support of AMA. We will provide you with more updates as they become available.

Kind regards,  
The AMA Executive Council

## **WingInIt with Warbird – submitted by Charlie Brown**

Hello fellow pilots and please allow me to first apologize for not contributing to November's edition of the club's Connector as I had some family issues that distracted me from my responsibility as your VP. Being that this is the December issue and the holiday season is here and Christmas was just 2 days ago as I write, as the years move forward, the family connection becomes more of an importance to me. I like to think of the members of this club as sort of an extended family by virtue of our unique interest of this enjoyable sport of RC aeronautics. We unfortunately lost a member of the family shortly before Christmas and my condolences go out to Mark for the loss of his father Charlie Lecher.

So I have been working pretty steady in my workshop finishing up the cabinet work for the bathroom expansion/remodel that started 2 years ago so that my sweetie will be overjoyed and which will also free up space in the shop (without sawdust) to do my winter fleet expansion. I hope that Santa recognized that you all were deserving pilots of a new airframe and in the coming months at future meetings we all will get to see these new additions via the show-n-tells. I am going to hold off on telling you what's up my sleeve on my fleet expansion but rest assured it is unique and can't wait to let you all see the results in the near future.

With all the recent publicity of UAS's in the news and the FAA coming down in a draconian manner on the fixed wing aspect of the sport, I want you to know that your board of directors is actively involved with staying abreast of the issues for the vested interests of our membership. We are very fortunate to have a member on the board that is very savvy to what is going on and I thank Ray Phillips for his dedicated efforts on keeping all of us informed. I have my own feelings about this but I won't 'drone' on about it other than to say each and every one of us will have responsibility on how you will respond to the mandates coming down from the FAA. The AMA website is your best reference source with regard to information and recommended advised direction.

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Recently I have had some members picking my brain about how to apply the power mechanics of electric propulsion on our airframes. If anyone has an interest of converting from engine to motor powered models and has questions, please feel free to reach out to me for assistance because I really do enjoy that part of the modeling comradery too.

Just a little reminder, the New Year's Day fun fly is being hosted by Rick Allabaugh and he'll have chili, hot coffee and I think possibly some type of sweet goodies. Unfortunately the forecast for that day is not going to be the balmy 50's that we've been spoiled with but more seasonal with snow showers projected. So dress warm and bring an ol' faithful that you can dust the cob webs off your thumbs with and kick off the New Year of 2016 with a little AGS spirit.

Best regards,

Warbird

### **Li-Po glow driver – submitted by Scott Wallace**

Being primarily a glow flier, for many years I relied on NiCad batteries. NiCad packs in my transmitters, NiCad's for receiver batteries, NiCad glow starter batteries, and NiCad packs for my starter (I quit lugging 12V motorcycle batteries a long time ago). NiCads had some limitations but were generally OK and by being diligent I never crashed a model due to a battery failure.

Battery technology has evolved though and in the last two years I have converted over almost everything I use for RC to Li-Fe (A123) batteries. My JR transmitters come with Li-Fe batteries, and all of my receiver packs have now been replaced with Li-Fe packs. I've replaced my NiCad starter battery pack with a Li-Fe pack which, though expensive, works great and holds a charge a long time.

My last piece of equipment that still used NiCads has been a source of frustration for years, the glow driver or Ni-starter. No matter what brand, they are all similar and use a single sub-c cell NiCad. They need to be charged before every flying session and fail constantly...lost track of how many I've purchased in past 15 years. Looking for something "better", I've found this Dynamite® Li-Po equipped glow driver. It is big and clunky compared to what I'm used to, but it holds a charge a long time and really makes the plug glow brightly. So far so good, we'll see how well it holds up.



It uses a 1S 1200mAh Li-Po battery, regulated to 1.5V output. It comes with its own dedicated charger and at \$27 is about the same as a comparable conventional glow driver & charger. It is available from Horizon Hobbys.

## **AGS CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR 2016**

<b>ACTIVITY / LOCATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN</b>
New Year's Day Fun Fly BC United Soccer Fields	Fri day, Jan 1st 11AM – 1PM	Rick Allabaugh
Annual Winter Fly BC United Soccer Fields	Saturday, Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Neil Hunt
Annual Spring Fly BC United Soccer Fields	Saturday, Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Quinn

### ***Other RC events of interest***

<b>Event / Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact</b>
WRAMs RC Trade Show Meadowlands Expo Center, Secaucus, NJ	Feb 26-28, 2016	<a href="http://www.wram.org/wram-show">http://www.wram.org/wram-show</a>

**Editor's Note: If you know of an event in the area that would be of interest to the general membership please forward that information to me at [wallaceaero1@aol.com](mailto:wallaceaero1@aol.com) for inclusion in the next edition of The Connector.**

# JANUARY PROGRAM



## *Early RC Systems*



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