



The CONNECTOR

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

www.agsny.org

Volume #71 Issue #04 April 2025

**The Next AGS Club Meeting will be held on
Monday May 5th at 6:30 P.M at The Tri Cities Airport!**

In case of inclement weather, look for a meeting update or cancelation via the club email list

Upcoming Club Events

AGS January Meeting

Mon May 5th
6:30 PM
Tri Cities Airport

Aero Guidance Society Meeting #921

Attendees:

Ray Phillips, Mike Mauersberg, Charlie Hatton, Bob Jennings, Herb Spicer, Todd Kopl, Dave Smith, Joe Semcho, David Dewey-Wright, Kieran Sweeney, Tom Fargo, Brent Bryson, Edward Bennett Kevin Stopinski
Guests: Ron Dufford

Brent Bryson called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasure's report was not presented.

Previous Minutes:

Edward Bennett read aloud the minutes from the previous general meeting.

All Board meetings have been postponed until this month.

Old Business:

Todd mentioned the Ford tractor and its current status. Ray said that Bill had been working on it the previous season before winter. The carburetor and parts are already purchased and waiting for installation. When Bill installs the new parts Ray and Todd will help Bill get the tractor fixed. David said the charter has been officially updated with the AMA.

New Business:

Todd stated that he would start working on a new mowing list for the upcoming season. David said he would get Todd an updated member list so that the new list would be accurate. Todd said he was going to schedule the field opening soon depending on weather. He will give members ample notice when the date is set. Ray

mentioned the need to revisit the AGS website. Ray said that we should look at a company called Club Express. This website offers an all-in-one centralized solution for the clubs website. Ray stated to check out VRCS ClubExpress to get an idea of what the service might have to offer. The members agreed that we should check into the website and the cost of the service for the AGS website.

Upcoming Events:

Event	Date	Location
AGS Board Meetings Resume	April 21 st at 6:30 PM	Tri-Cities Airport
AGS Spring Field Opening	TBD	AGS Field
Sprint Float Fly	May 17 th and 18 th	Cole Park
Hot Dog Nights	TBD	AGS Field
AGS Pattern Contest	August 9 th and 10 th	AGs Field

Members Projects:

Kevin brought in a 3D-printed bracket used to mount planes for storage and is willing to share the plans.

Combination Lock Etiquette

With a couple new members joining us, here's a quick reminder about using the combination locks.

Set the combination to open it, then press the lock down, as though you were locking it, and it should release. Scramble the combination before leaving the opened lock on the gate.

For the driveway gate and the porta-john, when you go lock them up, please put the lock through the hasp from left to right. Otherwise, the numbers are upside down for the next person who goes to use it.

Thanks!

Dave D-W

Meet Kevin Stopinsky!

Kevin has been up flying with us since sometime last summer as part of the Learn To Fly Hotdog nights. He's made a number of flights with our Apprentices, and is ready to start learning on his own plane now, and turned in his application at the April general meeting.

Having been involved with rock crawling R/C work, he'd already gone through what many consider a challenge to learn, that "left and right" are reversed when your plane/vehicle is coming toward you.

He wants to improve his flying skills, and enjoy the community we have here. If you haven't seen Kevin up at the field, he's the guy standing next to Jeff in the picture.

Welcome Kevin!



Fig 1-1: Kevin Learning To Fly From Jeff Hatton!

--
Dave Dewey-Wright

Flying Sites in Class G Airspace Granted Higher Altitudes

Courtesy of Ray Phillips

On April 15, 2025, the AMA made the following announcement.

“AMA is excited to announce that we have been granted a National Authorization allowing our members at AMA club sites in Class G airspace to operate above 400 feet above ground level (AGL) for routine, day-to-day activities. Based on your location in Class G airspace, your site will have a new altitude limit of up to 700 feet or 1,200 feet AGL (Above Ground Level).”

This is great news for AGS members that fly at our field. This is a result of many years of hard work on the part of the AMA; this authorization is in the form of a waiver to FAR 107.51 that limited flights to 400 feet AGL. FAA Advisory Circular AC 91-57C, dated 10/20/2022, provides overall guidance for the limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft. Everyone that flies a radio controlled aircraft should become familiar with AC 91-57C.

This wavier has several restrictions, just to highlight a few:

1. Only available at an FAA authorized AMA fix flying site.
2. Flying site must be located in Class G Airspace and only during daylight hours.
3. All operations must be VLOS.
4. Operations within 2 miles of an airport must have a letter of agreement with the airport owner/operator.
5. NOTAM required for AMA-aviation event.
6. The wavier is effective from April 11, 2025 to April 30, 2017 and can be canceled at any time.

What does all of this mean for operations at the AGS flying field?

We are located in Class G (uncontrolled) airspace with a upper limit of 700 feet AGL. So, we are no longer limited to 400 feet, we can go as high as 700 ft. We still must remain clear and give right away to all manned aircraft operating anywhere near AGS, at all costs.

We do have some challenges. AGS is located 3.1 nm from Tri Cities airport. Our elevation is 1650 feet. This is over 800 feet higher than Tri Cities at 832 feet. 700 feet over the AGS field would be near 2400 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL) the normal traffic pattern at the airport is 1000 feet AGL or 1850 MSL. This is just 200 feet above our field elevation. Aircraft that are descending into Tri Cities could fly within 700 feet above our field. There are other operations near our field that are conducted below 2400 feet MSL. It is important that we remain vigilante at all times, especially now when operating within the higher altitude authorization of this wavier.

I plan to have more information available at the club meeting. Are you aware there is a minimum weather required for radio control aircraft operations? How close can you fly to a cloud? Do you know how to get the current weather conditions? You are Pilot In Command (PIC) of your radio-controlled aircraft. You can be held responsible by the FAA for actions pertaining to the flight operations of your toy airplane. The FAA expects you to be an informed PIC.

Make sure you attend our meeting and we will have some fun going over the details together.

AGS 2025 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

ACTIVITY / LOCATION (AGS Field unless specified)	DATE	CHAIRMAN
AGS Club Meeting Tri Cities Airport	May 5th 6:30 PM	Brent Bryson
AGS Pattern Contest	August 9 th & 10 th	Jeff Hatton

**The Aeroguidance
Society, Inc.
147 Warrick Rd.
Endicott, NY 13760**

AGS Officers:

President: Brent Bryson (A-C)

Vice President: Bill Green (D-H)

Secretary: Ed Bennett (I-L)

Treasurer: Jeff Hatton (M-R)

Board Members at Large:

1) Charlie Hatton (S-Z) [year 2 of 2-year term]

2) Todd Kopl [year 1 of 2-year term]

Past President: David Dewey-Wright

Committee Chairmen:

Membership: David Dewey-Wright

Field: Todd Kopl

Safety: Chris Goffa

Webmaster: Don Shugard

Newsletter Editor: Kieran Sweeney

**For AGS field current weather info contact: BGM
Automated Terminal Information System (ATIS)
607-729-8335**



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION AREA

A FRIA IS A DEFINED GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE DRONES CAN BE FLOWN WITHOUT REMOTE ID EQUIPMENT.

**The AGS Field is an approved FRIA flying
site – no Remote ID required**