



Glitch Busters

November 2014



Freeze Fly

January 1, 2015

NEXT MEETING

November 4

7:00 PM

Newark Senior Center

AMA #197 / IMAA #687

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This coming election day, Tuesday, November 4th, is also my last meeting as your Club President. Our general membership meeting is also this Tuesday evening where we will nominate and elect our new President and Secretary. I would sincerely appreciate your taking the next several minutes to read what follows.

We continue to have a terrific newsletter with the best photos you will see anywhere. I know the McClurg's have had to come up with a lot of their own materials as they were not given a lot by the club. The newsletter is a lot of work.

Overall, I am very pleased and proud of the club's activities over the past two years. We took on some major issues and came through every one of them. Like other hobby clubs, we faced two issues out of our control that certainly had an impact on membership: a struggling economy and an aging membership population. We also faced decisions that required careful consideration regarding their financial impact on our organization.

We had the "guts" to modify our dues structure to make sure we could operate regardless of the financial outcome of our Warbirds events. We bought a new mower while investing in the future of our runways through a lawn care company. We repainted our pavilion and removed the unsightly and unnecessary old grills and dilapidated wood structures. We hosted two IMAC Contests, two auctions/swap shops, two Heli's Over Delaware, and two Warbirds over Delaware. We initiated a Spring Open House and found new members in the process. We had two very well attended Freeze Fly's. We did all these things very well.



We maintained a terrific relationship with the State Parks folks as well as our immediate neighbors who were invited to attend our Open House. The Boy Scouts continued to earn significant revenue from WOD and we strengthened our ties to the local community as they came in droves to see us fly.

We had more volunteers this year than in any previous to my recollection as was evidenced in field cleaning activities and WOD setup and operations.

We also had some struggles. Our membership declined and we are not sure of the exact reasons. I have spoken to many folks who told me it had nothing to do with the raising of dues but rather a change in their life styles. Some former members just cannot fly anymore due to the age and medical conditions.

We had a couple of meltdowns at the 2013 Warbirds that are well behind us and unfortunately had to watch this year as a huge B29 flew out of control in front of a lot of people. And that led to some of us being slandered by all the idiots over the various social media sites. Well, we have even endured that.

I have personally been very encouraged by the attendance at our monthly club meetings and the great interaction between members both before the meetings begin and during the breaks.

We have had some real good programs and the inclusion of raffle items has become a popular ritual as well as a nice source of supplemental income to our club.

We have had some heated debates regarding various activities and that in itself is certainly not a bad thing. When individual desires and direction become more important than the club itself, then that is a problem.

As Club President, I believe it is the role of the President to listen to all suggestions and with the support of the Board and the general membership, move the club forward. It is easy to not do anything and just let the time pass. That was not my style. I am also not a fan of those who seem dedicated to find issues to try and divide club membership on important issues.

So, where do we go from here. Here is my two cents:

Warbirds Over Delaware is very important to our future with the Park. We cannot however forget what took place last year and put our heads in the sand. The Board and I have agreed to make both physical and administrative improvements to increase the safety margin for all attendees.

I said it before and I will say it again: reshuffle the Board of Directors to get some new members. That would be a very enlightening and constructive move.

Eliminate the Senior Club Dues rate for all new members while grandfathering all current senior members. The average age of our club members continues to increase and this will create a budget shortfall. Several club members and members of the Board brought this idea to my attention and I think it is very solid.

Nominate a club member to be the official Club Information Officer. We all agree to this at the last club meeting. Mike Roenig was nice enough to suggest I be nominated for that post next year but after careful consideration, I am not going to accept any nomination. I have a lot of commitments next year that I have put off for the past two years as Club President. I can only stretch so far.

Finally and maybe most importantly is this: Delaware RC Club is all about having a good flying facility where those members who fly or enjoy watching others fly can enjoy themselves. The Club is all about having a strong financial base so we can react to pressing needs to keep our field and our club in excellent condition. The Club is about supporting a hobby that continues to struggle to find new and younger participants. The Club is about maintaining a great relationship with our landlord and Delawareans. Too many people have worked too many years to screw up this formula.

The very worst thing we can do is push people away and make folks uncomfortable by two bit bickering with too many personal interests at heart. I for one am tired of hearing things like "the guys at the field" said this and that about you." I am tired of personality clashes that get out of hand. And I am very tired of hearing that we can't get along with one another.

The truth of the matter is that there is not one single club member who is trying to mess up our club. Not one. There is not one club member trying to sabotage anything related to the club. We do have some folks (as does every organization) who see things much more clearly through their own eyes than those of others.

Let differences of opinion continue but only to a point. Once a decision is made, we all follow that path and stop acting like cry babies.

We will all be much better off if we all recognize improvement opportunities and come up with solid suggestions as to how their idea could benefit the club. Telling folks what's wrong without a path of correction is a waste of time and breath.

The Club is all about sponsoring and maintaining a field and atmosphere conducive to fun, friendship, and growth. The runways should be our "Field of Dreams" where we can leave the true problems that life presents and arrive at a place where only nice people are present and where model airplanes rule.

I believe we do a great job working on that direction. It is a small minority of folks who seem to add chaos from time to time. And even those folks are also interested in having a great club.

I want to thank all of you who supported our club for the past two years and were even nice enough to offer a kind word of encouragement from time to time. A simple "thank you" goes a long way with my mother's only son.

Thank you to the club officers with whom I have served and the Board Members who kept all in balance.

We are financially very strong and our club has a reputation that is admired world wide. It has been my honor to help steer this ship for the past two years and I hope to see you at the meeting and at the field.

Respectfully,

Mark Weiss
President
Delaware RC Club

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The one thing I have to talk about this month is the weather. Either the wind blew, or it rained, or threatened to rain. The hardy souls in the club would go out to the field regardless of the wind, figuring it might slow down enough to fly. On some days it did. On other days the forecast wind didn't develop, but most people make plans based on the weather forecast, and so don't go fly on those days that turned out to be a lot better than forecast. The upshot of all this was that not many people were ever at the field at one time. It's too bad really, because the field is in good shape. We have bare spots, but the grass is low and even the small foamies can taxi in it. Maybe the November weather will improve.

Speaking of weather, the Foam 400 race scheduled for Sunday, November 2 has been postponed because of the forecast wind. That was good thinking, because we got wind with a vengeance. Our first "Foam 400" race is now scheduled for Sunday November 9 @ 10 am. Any foamy carrying 4 cells or fewer can enter this all fun event.

CLUB SWAP MEET - by Dick Stewart

Turnout was great despite rainy weather. The modelers started to gather after 7am. There were many deals and the money did flow. A full report with many "thank you"s will be offered at the Club Meeting this Tuesday.





We'd like to thank G-Force Hobbies for their generous support of our club:



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Glitch Busters

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