
THE *FLY-PAPER*

Volume 20, Issue 5

September 2026

- Greater Pittsburgh ARCS -

A group of plane people with a special air about them.

Academy of Model Aeronautics Charter 551☺☺

www.gparcs.org

2026 GPARCS Officers

President:	Bob Coppa, Jr. Coppakr@yahoo.com (740) 317-0704	ADVISORY BOARD:	Mark Constantine kimarkc@comcast.net (740) 264-3836
Vice President: (304) 670-5050	Rich Paterra rcflyer7@comcast.com		Tom Dunn pdimaging@verizon.net (412) 221-8667
Secretary:	Mark Palmer mvp614@comcast.net (740) 317-7221		
Treasurer:	Rick Grimes rrgrimes@outlook.com (724) 331-4592		
Director of Public Relations:	John Phillis		

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at the [Eat'n Park Restaurant Meeting Room, 100 Park Manor Drive, Robinson Town Centre.](#)

Prior Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2026, Meeting

Submitted by Mark Palmer

President's Report

President Bob Coppa called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance was light, with several members sending regrets. Members in attendance were Bob Coppa, Thad Ritter, Rick Grimes, Stephen Fyitch, John Daily, Venjo Tormis and Mark Palmer.

Vice President's Report

No report

Secretary's Report

No Report.

Treasurer's Report/ Membership Report

Rick Grimes reported revenue of \$5,696.00 in dues and donations and expenses of \$4,349.52, resulting in a positive cash flow of

\$1,346.48. Donations include the AMA reimbursement. Current membership stands at 55, with three new members joining since the last meeting: Joseph McGee, Keith Wagner, and Steve Cunningham. Rick advised the club that after 13 years he does not intend to stand for another term and will resign the office at the end of the current term. Nominations will be taken with the officer elections in November, and he will assist the incoming Treasurer with the handover while continuing to maintain the website, membership listing, renewals, and membership cards.

To renew your GPARCS membership for 2025, please do the following:

1. Complete the GPARCS Membership Application form (available on line at www.gparcs.org or in the Fly-Paper Newsletter).
2. Submit and pay on-line at www.gparcs.org using PayPal, **IF** your Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) membership is current; **OR** mail your check and membership application to: **Rick Grimes, 25 Johnson Street, Crafton, PA 15205.**
3. An AMA membership card copy is **NOT REQUIRED** with your application. You will receive your GPARCS Membership Card with the new gate lock combination **after** our system verifies that you have a current AMA membership.

Raccoon Creek State Park requires **NON - GPARCS members** to present a current AMA membership card and FAA Registration to fly at the K. Leroy Irvis model airport. The Raccoon Creek State Park Office is located at 3000 State Rt. 18, Hookstown, PA 15050. Telephone: 724-899-2200. After AMA membership verification, visiting pilots will be given the gate lock combination code.

The gate lock combination is noted on the back of your GPARCS membership card.

Safety Report

Discussion centered on safety practice at the field becoming lax as membership has shrunk, and on newer members not having received the same club indoctrination as longtime members. A written set of club safety rules will be sent to the full membership with acknowledgment required, either folded into the member survey now in preparation or added to the application and renewal packet. Rules discussed included no walking on the runway, flying from behind the safety fence, calling out intentions when taking off, landing, and entering or leaving the field, using a spotter, kill and color switches on all aircraft, not arming electric aircraft on the flight table, restraining large gas aircraft when starting, and speaking up when something unsafe is observed. Concerns can be reported to any officer by email, phone, or in person, or through the Flypaper mailing list.

Field Report

Work at the pilot stations is approximately 95% complete, with a few boards remaining. The stations have been filled and leveled so pilots now stand behind the railing at runway height rather than sighting uphill from below, and a lean post will be added behind the railing to keep everyone off the runway and taxiway. Safety netting is up except for one curb section and the back section. A new center line will be rolled down the runway using the five gallons of paint on hand — one roller width, with a second line and repainting of the X's if paint allows — targeted for Friday afternoon or the weekend, and help is welcome. The shelter house roof has 15 to 20 holes and is leaking; the plan is to patch with peel-and-stick membrane and tar before the interior begins to rot, and the park intends to submit the damage as a hail claim.

AMA Report

The club received approximately \$2,200 back from the AMA on money put into field improvements, roughly 22% of a possible 25%.

Old Business

New Business

Park and Game Commission Relations: The club has met with the new Game Commission manager now responsible for Hillman State Park — the first working relationship the club has had with a park contact in decades. The existing agreement dates to 1978, and the insurance carrier's request for a current contract brought the matter to a head. A new agreement is being drafted using the old contract as a starting point for negotiation; under the old terms, restroom facilities are the park's responsibility. Hillman is an unusual property, being game lands carrying park-style amenities, so the applicable rules are new territory for both sides. Additional tree removal may be possible through the Game Commission rather than the park. The club received approximately \$2,200 back from the AMA on money put into field improvements, roughly 22% of a possible 25%. A licensed handicapped hunter has been granted permission to hunt from the road inside the gate; he must stay 150 yards off the shelter house and may not shoot toward it, and the club will monitor compliance.

Director of Public Relations (John Phillis) Report: A roughly 400-word article on the field improvement project has been submitted to AMA District III for publication in *Model Aviation*, with photos and a video link to follow; publication is expected within the next couple of months. The article covers the club's history as an AMA charter club since 1956, the two paved runways at the K. Leroy Irvis Radio Control Model Airport, and last year's clearing of approximately 7.5 acres of invasive growth and deadfall using a donated excavator and a member's dozer over roughly seven days, followed by seeding to hold the disturbed soil. Separately, our District III contact stopped at the field recently and found the gate locked; members are reminded that any officer can provide the gate code.

A member proposed a public open house at the field, promoted as a Facebook event and shared to neighboring clubs, featuring static displays, buddy-box and gyro-stabilized trainer flights for visitors, flight simulators on a large screen, and laser-cut gliders to give away to children. The park has hired a new education coordinator who runs school programs, and the club will approach her about including the field in park education outreach as a separate effort. Club cards and flyers will be placed at area hobby shops, including the shop in Uniontown and Hobby Express in Cranberry. Mall displays were investigated and found not viable at roughly \$2,300 for a 30-day kiosk rental. The Jefferson County Fair in August was suggested as a high-traffic venue with a large youth audience. A jet rally at the field remains under discussion, though several weekends are already committed to the Indiana, Titusville, and Erie rallies. The proposing member will circulate a written plan and event page to the officers, coordinating the date with the President before publishing.

Adjournment: With no further old or new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Show and Tell

[This could be you showing off your beautiful stuff!!](#)



2026 Calendar of Up-Coming Events

- **Club Meeting**

9/24/2026 7:00pm

Eatn`Park 100 Park Manor Dr Robinson Twp

[Directions](#)

** enjoy a desert, it's on us **

- **Club Meeting**

10/22/2026 7:00pm

Eatn`Park 100 Park Manor Dr Robinson Twp

[Directions](#)

** enjoy a desert, it's on us **

- **Club Meeting**

11/19/2026 7:00pm

Eatn`Park 100 Park Manor Dr Robinson Twp

[Directions](#)

** enjoy a desert, it's on us **

Membership Application

Greater Pittsburgh Aero Radio Control Society (GPARCS)

AMA Charter # 551

Dues Information: Mark the membership type, payment (check or money order) should accompany this form.

☐	• Regular	\$50	Full voting rights and privileges.
☐	• Junior	No Fee	Under 18, no voting rights.
☐	• Associate	\$15	No voting rights. Must reside OVER 50 miles from the flying field.

AMA # _____

Please PRINT Information Below

Name:								
Address:								
City:				State:		Zip:		
Home Phone:			Cell:			Work:		
Birth Date:			Spouse's 1st Name:					
Emergency Contact Info:								
Name:					Phone:			
FAA UAC Number:								
Email Address:								

I hereby apply for ☐=>New ☐=>Renewal GPARCS Membership. I agree to abide by all GPARCS Flying Site Rules, Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Aircraft Safety Code and other restrictions as posted at the flying field.

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Make Checks Payable to Greater Pittsburgh ARCS (Do Not Send Cash)	Mail this form, a copy of your AMA membership card, and payment to:	Rick Grimes 25 Johnston St. Crafton, PA 15205
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For New Members

What airplanes are you flying?	How did you hear about the GPARCS?

- Applications for new membership must be approved by membership vote during next scheduled club meeting.
- Club membership issued after current AMA Membership has been verified by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).
- Online and downloadable AMA membership application is available at: [www. ModelAircraft.org](http://www.ModelAircraft.org).
- Online GPARCS membership application w/ payment via PayPal or Credit card is available at: www.Gparcs.org

	<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>GPARCS Card</u> <u>#</u>	<u>Date Voted</u>	

Visit us on the web: www.gparcs.org

The Fly-Paper

Meeting Notice -Greater Pittsburgh ARCS-

Inside this issue:

- July 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes.
- Next meeting: **7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 24, 2026 @ the [Eat'n Park Meeting Room, 100 Park Manor Dr., Robinson Town Centre.](#)**
- Meeting room available at 6:15 p.m.; come early, order something off the menu (your treat), and socialize before the meeting.
- Come to the meeting to show your support for GPARCS.
- Bring your ideas and enthusiasm for things to do and ways to involve new people in our sport of RC model airplane flying.
- Be our Show and Tell: share a story; show a model; relive a hobby memory.
- **[FREE DESSERTS](#)** for all members at our club meetings!!

REMINDER
DO NOT LEAVE TRASH OR GARBAGE AT
THE FIELD!
TAKE IT HOME FOR DISPOSAL!

THE LAST PERSON TO LEAVE THE FIELD
SHOULD CLOSE AND LOCK THE GATE!!

NOTICE:

The club is asking members to submit any new and old photos or documents pertaining to the ARCS so that they can be included in the aviation history web site of the Heinz History Center.

Frequently Used Abbreviations/Acronyms (from AMA's *Model Aviation*)

AMA	Academy of Model Aeronautics	ARC	Almost Ready to Cover	ARF	Almost Ready to Fly		
	BNF	Bind-and-Fly	CBO	Community Based Organization			
EAA	Experimental Aircraft Assn.	ESC	Electronic Speed Control	FAA	Federal Aviation Administration		
	FRIA	FAA-Recognized Identification Area	NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rule Making	RC	Radio Control	
RID	Remote Identification	RTF	Ready to Fly	SIGs	AMA Special Interest Groups	STEM	Science,
	Technology, Engineering, and Math	sUAS	Small Unmanned Aircraft System	OAL	Overall (Model) Length		
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System	UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	WS	Wingspan		