



Machines
In Motion

Flying High

Penn Ohio Radio Kontrol Society

By Ed Gantz



from top: A young RC enthusiast enjoys an airplane made of balsa wood; a display of RC planes and automobiles

The Penn Ohio Radio Kontrol Society, commonly known as PORKS, is a group of enthusiasts who participate in the remote control (RC) vehicle sport and hobby. Established in 1964, PORKS has been an active club in the Shenango Valley ever since. The group is also affiliated with the national Academy of Model Aeronautics (known as AMA), a world class organization for the promotion, development, education and advancement of radio controlled sport and hobby.

PORKS' commitment to members and potential members is to have fun while supporting RC modeling, friendly competition, social activities, education of the science of flying and new RC technologies, as well as public and non-public scheduled events. The goal is to engage the public in two or three events a year to excite potential new members and share our love of RC activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a

problem for members to engage the public the past year, but the hope is to continue such exposure this year and beyond.

A fun-loving group of 31 members, PORKS is currently made up of kids as young as age 6, men and women of all ages, including a retired airline pilot. There are also members that build aircraft from scratch and fly them at the club. Airplanes of all types are flown, as well as helicopters, gliders and drones at PORKS' large airfield. There are also two RC tracks to race trucks and cars. With new technologies available for RC flying, we have members that can fly at night, and we also have the ability to fly indoors during winter months. Membership reaches into eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

As an organization, PORKS' biggest challenge is attracting members to the sport/hobby due to the large number of activities that kids and adults can

participate in today. Throughout the year, interested parties can visit and participate at the facility three times without obligation. What we have found as a club is that once an individual races those trucks around the tracks and gets a chance to fly an aircraft with a trainer using the "buddy box system," they are generally "hooked" to the RC hobby. A "buddy box system" is a way to hook airplane transmitters in series so that the trainee who might lose control of an aircraft can be rescued in flight by the trainer. It allows a brand new member to enjoy flying on day one, and provides safe training practices.

My personal journey with RC hobby occurred at my retirement in 2014 when my three sons bought me my first aircraft and transmitter, an Apprentice. I now own multiple aircraft including large scale, night flyers, jets, helicopters, glider, drone, an assortment of indoor aircraft, and two racing trucks.

I love the hobby. I learn something new almost every time I fly (since I have crashed a few over the years) and the social aspects of our tremendous club keep me engaged and happy. It is a fantastic group of people to share the RC experience with throughout the year.

PORKS is open to anyone interested in the RC sport/hobby. The club will provide all the necessary training, including computer simulation, training aircraft and individual trainers to supervisor your RC journey. We do not require an initiation fee, and annual dues for adults is only \$60, kids 6 to 18 is \$12, and young adults 18 to 25 is \$24. Members are required to have an active Academy of Model Aeronautics membership which is \$75 for adults, \$65 for seniors and free for kids under 18. The AMA provides insurance for our club, as well as training programs and grants for site improvements to mention a few benefits. **V**

Information: visit PORKS564.org or contact Ed Gantz via email at AugiePip@yahoo.com.

Photography by Harold Bailey, PORKS Officer

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