



III

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## District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

In 2019, I was pleased that several District III clubs took advantage of an AMA grant program called Take off And Grow (TAG). The TAG program is designed to introduce and promote model aviation in your local community. Clubs can receive up to \$1,000 to purchase trainers, host an open house, etc. For more information, visit [www.amaflightschool.org/programs/take-off-and-grow](http://www.amaflightschool.org/programs/take-off-and-grow).

One District III club that received a 2019 grant was the Penn Ohio Radio Kontrol Society (PORKS; <http://porks564.org>). I received an invitation to attend this event held September 14, 2019, in Pulaski, Pennsylvania, from club program coordinator Ed Gantz. Upon arrival, I was greeted by several club members and officers including club president, Colin Reese.

After becoming acclimated to the clubs beautiful flying site, I noted that this TAG event's main focus was not just buddy-box flying with newcomers but was an open house to invite the public to the club field.



PORKS members celebrate after their successful TAG event.



A view down the flightline of the PORKS TAG event.

Ed indicated that he invited 63 guests, which included 17 kids. Invited guests included owners of area businesses, public service organizations, etc. Guests were given packets of information about AMA and the PORKS; a chance to drive

trucks on our RC tracks; a chance to use a flight simulator and to fly RC on a buddy box; a great lunch; the chance to win an RC truck or Timber RC airplane; and watch flight demonstrations.

I helped buddy box several adults and I heard comments from attendees say they had no idea that this club existed and that it was such a positive asset to the community. At the end of the day, I was impressed with the professionalism of this TAG event.



The hospitality area set up for the PORKS open house.



The RC racetrack is an added attraction for prospective new club members.



The club's sign welcomed visitors and guests to the open house.

In an email follow-up, Ed indicated the club had received terrific feedback from the attendees and it appears that they will be getting at least five new adult and three new kid members. Ed also indicated that the club's RC tracks have contributed to increased membership and many of these individuals eventually trying RC flying.

Congratulations to PORKS on hosting a great TAG event. By doing so you are ensuring that your club will continue to grow.

**Until next month, fly safely, fly AMA.**