

District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

When I was a teenager in the 1960s, every spring, my dad would load up the family station wagon and we would head out to attend the annual Wright Brothers Memorial Contest, held on the hallowed grounds of Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. The Wright Memorial was the largest Pattern, Scale, and Pylon Racing event held in the Midwest.

For several years, I watched and learned about competition flying in Pattern and Scale at this event. In the 1970s I began to compete in the Wright Memorial and in 1975 I won first-place in Class D Expert Pattern. The Wright Memorial was put on by the Western Ohio Radio Kontrol Society (WORKS) club. Sadly, the Wright Brothers event is no longer, however the WORKS club is still going strong.

Last fall, I noted in the AMA contest calendar that the WORKS club was holding a Super Scale Sunday event on November 19, 2020, so I made plans to attend. A few days before the event, I was notified that club president, John Buechler, suddenly passed away. The club decided to carry on the event in John's honor, so I continued with my plans to attend. The club's current field is a private, full-scale airstrip named Hummel and is a great to fly.

There were several beautiful Scale models in attendance and plenty of good food, flying, and fellowship. I enjoyed visiting with the current club members, which brought back many great memories of past club members, such as Don Lowe, Chuck Shade, Dave Scully, Jim Cline, and many more.

I had never met club president John Buechler before he passed away so I asked if the club would send me information about John. Club secretary, Kim Birdseye, sent the following:

"The WORKS is sad to announce the passing of our club president, John A. Buechler.

"As president for the last five years, John led the club to its highest membership in more than 10 years. John promoted the AMA Take off And Grow (TAG) program several years ago, which made the community better aware of the club and its mission.

"John also filled the role of club chef as he grilled weekly during the season for the membership at our Tuesday night fly-ins. John's steadfast loyalty and endless support made the

club a place of great camaraderie and friendship. John's smile and unique personality will be deeply missed."

Thank you, Kim, for this tribute to John. I am sure John is looking down and smiling on the members of the WORKS club and is happy this great club will carry on into the future.



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friendship. John's smile and unique personality will be deeply missed.



A few of the beautiful Scale aircraft and modelers who flew in the WORKS Club Super Scale Sunday.



A view down the flightline of the WORKS event. Notice the Geotex runway, which is great for smaller electric-powered models.

Until next month, stay safe and fly safely.



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