

District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

On June 15, 2019, I attended the Clinton Model Aviators' Father's Day RC Fly In held at the club field, a beautiful, full-scale, private airstrip in Wilmington, Ohio (www.clintonmodelaviators.com). The event began with club president and contest director (CD) Mike Winkleman holding a brief but thorough pilots' meeting. There was a nice mixture of aircraft from warbirds, 3D, International Miniature Aerobatic Club, electric, and more. The weather was a challenge, with forecasts calling for severe storms and flooding in the area. Despite the wind and area storms, the event continued with everyone getting in plenty of flying.

One of the highlights for me was watching a young man, Jacob McGowan, fly an Apprentice model. The Clinton Aviators club had applied for and received a Take off And Grow (TAG) grant from AMA and used the money to purchase the Apprentice to teach new RC pilots. Jacob flew several flights with an instructor in the gusty wind and made many steady landing approaches.

I talked with Jacob after his flights and he had not yet soloed, however I praised him and his instructor for encouraging Jacob to fly in such windy conditions. Thank you, Clinton Model Aviators, for putting your TAG grant to good use. It appears you have groomed at least one new member from your efforts and you have the tools to grow your club and model aviation into the future.

On June 22, 2019 I loaded my Piper Cherokee with RC models and flew into the Ona Airpark in West Virginia, to attend the annual Ona RC Club Community Fly In & Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner (www.onarcclub.com). The Ona Airpark is owned and operated by Bill and Lynn Bauer and features a 3,100-foot paved runway, a grass RC flying field, and a stock car dirt track.

The club's beautiful grass runway is alongside the paved, full-scale runway and all full-scale activities are monitored by the club, utilizing spotters and an aviation band radio. No RC flying is allowed behind the pit area to avoid the full-scale flight activities.

The event was well attended and featured aircraft from a Giant Scale 55% Pitts Special to 3D and foamie models. Everyone got in plenty of flying. Of course, the highlight of the day was the fantastic pulled pork barbecue provided by a local food vendor. Thanks to the Ona RC Club

for hosting such a great event and I look forward to attending and eating more great pork barbecue in the future!

Both of the events I attended that were held at full-scale airports illustrate the fact that model and full-scale aviation can coexist and operate safely together now and into the future.

Until next month, fly safely, fly AMA. 



Club president Mike Winkleman and new RC pilot Jacob McGowan display the Apprentice purchased with the AMA TAG grant. The smiles say it all!



The Clinton Model Aviators' sign at the field.



A view of the pit area at the Clinton Model Aviators' Father's Day RC Fly In.



(L-R) Ona club president Bobbie Payton, treasurer Ron Earnest, airport owner Bill Bauer, and club vice president Henry Link.



Ona club member John Tabaretti with his 55% scale Pitts Special.



All of the pilots and Ona club members posed for a photo after everyone's bellies were full of pulled pork barbecue.



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