

District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia



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Summer is over and fall is winding down. I attended many events this year and am trying to get event reports caught up.

On June 2, 2018, I attended the Lehigh Valley Radio Control Society (LVRCS) Ellis Grumer Electric Fly and EDF Meet in Easton, Pennsylvania. This is roughly a 6-hour drive for me, so I arrived on Friday and had weather concerns because the news media was reporting there could be record flooding in the area for the weekend. Could this be like Joe Nall and be canceled due to weather?

I arrived at the field Saturday morning and was greeted by Contest Director (CD) Dale Hart. The flying field was in excellent condition, and it turned out that the weatherman was wrong because it was a beautiful, calm, sunny day.

After signing in and doing some flying, I asked a group of club members why the event was named after an individual. It turns out that club member Ellis Grumer was flying electric airplanes long before it was mainstream as it is today. Ellis experimented with making all of his models of all sizes electric powered, utilizing the latest battery technology, which was nickel-cadmium then.

Unfortunately, I never met Ellis before he passed away, but if he were with us now, I am sure he would be amazed at where electric RC flight is today and I would be willing to bet he would be experimenting with the next generation



LVRCS CD Dale Hart with his electric Phoenix 7.



The LVRCS Youngest Pilot award went to Kipton Hardcastle with some help from his dad, Rob.



Stan Rauktis built and displayed Dark Star, a new pattern aircraft designed by Dean Pappas.

of electric motors, batteries, ESCs, and more. Thank you Lehigh Valley RC Society for keeping Ellis' legacy of electric RC flight alive now and into the future.

On June 15, 2018, I attended the Ohio Waterfront Vintage Gathering hosted by the Westerville Model Aeronautics Association (WMAA) in Galena, Ohio. This event celebrates the pioneers of RC flight and is a Vintage RC Society (VRCS) event.

In the 1960s, I grew up admiring RC leaders such as Ed Kazmerski and Phil Kraft and aircraft including the Kwick Fli and the Taurus. VRCS events are designed to celebrate these RC pioneers and their aircraft. This was the first-ever VRCS event in the Ohio area, and CD Jean-Marie Piednoir did a fine job of running it.

If you want to see the roots of RC, you need to build and fly one of these early RC models and try performing loops and rolls with rudder and throttle only. It took great skill to fly these aircraft, let alone perform aerobatics with radio systems that were unreliable at best. Today we can fly these aircraft with modern radio and engines in a safe and reliable manner. Thanks to WMAA and the VRCS for reminding us how RC got to where it is today.



Some of the models at the Ohio Waterfront Vintage Gathering. Seeing these aircraft fly makes you appreciate current model design and technology.



Jeff Troy displays his vintage aircraft at the Ohio Waterfront Vintage Gathering.

Until next month, fly safely—fly AMA.

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