DISTRICT NEWS





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District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

Model aviation is growing! Yes, you read that correctly. With more time at home people are rediscovering hobbies. One club I belong to signed up at least two new members and re-signed several lapsed members. This is great news, right?

Let me share with you some not-so-great news. I received a call from a new club president in the district. He was excited that his club was seeing growth; however, much to his dismay, a few of the club members were griping that the club was getting too large and causing delays in their flying and safety concerns. Really?

Another person called me and indicated that he had recently moved into the district and was looking for a place to fly and found the local club field. The gate was locked so he called the phone number listed on the gate; however, the number was disconnected!

Here is my point: I am asking all District III club officers to look at everything you're doing to promote your club and the hobby. Are you welcoming new members? Are you making it easy for prospective members to find you on your club website, social media, etc.? When was the last time your club website was updated with current relevant information?

Review club safety rules and concerns. Put yourself in the shoes of an interested individual who wants to try model aviation. If you make it difficult to obtain information and the atmosphere is unfriendly at the field, would you come back or even knock on your club's door?

Although COVID-19 has temporally altered our lives, there is a positive side effect for our hobby. Make lemonade from lemons! Do your part to help others discover and enjoy our great hobby now and into the future.

Speaking of the future of model aviation, here is an event report from West Virginia Associate Vice President James Butler.

"June 20 is West Virginia Day, celebrating the state's creation in 1863. The Mountaineer RC Flying Club celebrated West Virginia Day by hosting young up-and-coming leaders—members of the Charleston Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

"Officially the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, these young men and women are afforded opportunities to participate in a variety of learning experience ranging from search-and-rescue

techniques to obtaining a private pilot's license.

"During the cadets' visit, club members explained basic transmitter functions, control-surface movement, and resulting movement of the aircraft. The teens each had opportunities to fly club-owned trainers using buddy-box systems. Several CAP Cadets successfully landed after a couple of buddy-box sessions.

"The club members were extremely impressed with the CAP Cadets' eagerness to try RC flying and the courtesy and professionalism exhibited by these young people."

Thank you to Mountaineer RC club for promoting the future of model aviation.

Until next month, fly safely, fly AMA.



A CAP Cadet experiences a virtual cockpit view of club member Steve Legge's FPV-equipped aircraft.





Members of the Charleston Composite Squadron of the CAP had a great day flying with the Mountaineer RC Club.