



Touch & Go

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ARIZONA MODEL AVIATORS, INC. MESA, ARIZONA

February 2008

2008 Club Officers

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President's Corner

John Mangino, President
Arizona Model Aviators

As promised here is the first of a series of short write ups in which our Club Officers giving details of their model flying background and experience. First up is our President John Mangino.



I have been flying model airplanes since 1949, when I was given a J Walker Firebaby, and a Wasp 049 for my 7th birthday. I flew control line on and off until I joined the Navy in 1960. While I was in the Navy I flew a Demo in Africa in 1963. I got out of the Navy in 1967 and moved to Mesa. That is when I first met Lewie Kear and a few other people who eventually started the "Arizona Model Aviators".

Back then {1973/1974} we flew at Mesa Community College and on Recker Rd behind a Church which was a farmer's field. At about that time we decided to start a club. Joe Bailey, Ray Olson, Paul Scudder, Jim Deming and others laid out the footwork, bylaws and club rules. The first field was located north of Brown Rd and south of the old field, just off McKellips. We were at the McKellips field for about 14 years when we had to move to our present field.

I have been on the Board for about 4 terms, each running 2yrs, Vice President for 1 year, and now President. Overall I have been flying models for 58 years and radio control for 34 years.

Note from Dave Balch (Secretary/Newsletter Editor):

As most of you know one of our members, Jeff Rice passed away earlier this month after a short illness. There was a Memorial Service for him at Red Mountain Park on Saturday February 23rd, after which everyone went over to the flying site as this was one of Jeff's last wishes.

Now I also have to report that a popular ex-member has also passed away. Paul Lorenz died on Sunday March 2nd. As Bob Franklin said when he passed on the sad news "There will be no services or visitation. Paul and his quick wit and sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him." For those that cannot put a face to the name I have included a photo of Paul on page 4. I would like to do the same for Jeff but I do not have a photo, so if anyone has one I can include it in next month's Newsletter.

I am sure all of you are aware that one of the requirements of our recent agreement with the Parks Department was for a fence to be built on the south side of the road into the field from the Y to the parking lot. Well I am happy to report that the fence is now in place

Next Club Meetings

Mar 4 and Apr 1, 2008
Tuesday 7:00 pm
Viewpoint Golf Resort
8700 E. University Rd. Mesa, AZ.
Meetings in Room by the Ball Field

To view map visit our website:
www.azmodelaviators.com



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and the Flood Control people, who were the ones requiring it, are very pleased with the job. The guys really did a great job, lead by Paul Goldsmith. Paul has given me list of who worked and they are:

Fence construction: Joe Bailey, Lewie Kear, Larry Wende, Bob Franklin, John Mangino, Don Manchester, Stu Richmond, Mike Flannigan, and Paul Goldsmith

Road upgrades: Larry Wende

Now you know who you can thank personally for a great job. On top of that, their effort saved the Club over \$4000 compared to what it would have cost if we had it put in by a fencing company.

The weekend of Feb 10 saw the first 25 size race of 2008. After the poor turn out from the last two races, partly caused by some unfortunate mid air collisions, the entries jumped back up to a healthy 14 and even then there were a few regulars missing. The day was close to perfect weather-wise and there was some great racing. All models made it through this time although there was one mid air but a new prop and some CA had both models back by the next round. Bill Adams came across the line first in all of his races and picked up the maximum of 20 points for first. Lewie Lear bounced back from his mid air to take second with 16 points and Terri Mangino (back racing after her surgeries) held on for third with 15 points. Even I got my feet wet with the racing and finished all of my heats. I even came away with the model in one piece and the same prop I started with. There will be three more races before the season ends, so there is plenty of time to show up and have some fun. Kenny Kear is still providing kits for the Superstition which is still the model of choice.

Don Manchester just contacted me to let me know that we have just registered 6 new members plus had 13 previous members renew. I would like to welcome the following to the Club as new or returning members.

New:

Roland Dayton - Student Pilot

James McCall - Offered to instruct

Phillip Todd - Offered to instruct

Roy Holladay - Corp pilot from Colorado here on weekends

Edmund Shepherd - A Maricopa County Deputy Sheriff

David Smith - From Snowflake, AZ

Renewals:

David and Ingrid Croteau, Richard Corrado, Kevin Davis, Bob Brackney and family members Rachel and Quinn, Brad Johnson, Anthony Matera, Orlis Howe, Jason Lambert, Mark Metzger and son Paul

The next in our series of "Shows" for the March 4th meeting, will involve our own George Joy (of Peak Electronics) who will present a 30 minute (or less) program called "Battery Maintenance" on rechargeable batteries. For the April 1st meeting we have got an agreement from Joe Miele to give a 20 minute presentation on the items made by his company, Madison Products.

As always we are still interested in receiving any material you would like to provide to help fill the pages of this Newsletter. If you have any news of interest please send it to me at david.t.balch@boeing.com. See you at the field and don't forget to check out our Web site at www.azmodelaviators.com for all the latest news.

Feb 5 Club Meeting Minutes

John Mangino called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. When John asked if there were any visitors or new members, Ahren Benziger (a junior) indicated that he had just joined the club and was an Arizona native. Aaron Lavender of Viper Hobbies said he was a visitor and would like to present a new cost saving plan to the members.

Dave Balch then read the minutes of the last Members meeting and Dave Dunn moved that the minutes be accepted and Gene Ortega seconded the motion, which was then approved.

As our new Treasurer Mike Currier was sick, John gave details of the current financial situation. John also reported on the current membership numbers which were 202 full members, 22 family members, and 4 youth members for a total of 236. This is 32 more than was reported at the January meeting and 22 less than at this time last year. A total of 74 of last year's members have not renewed as of Feb 5th.

Paul McDevitt reported that the larger Club events had been added to the CAMAC (Central Arizona Modelers Advisory Council) calendar for 2008. The most recent CAMAC events coming up are the Desert Storm Jet Rally at Speed World on Feb 8th, 9th and 10th, the Southwest Classic Soaring Contest at Schnepf Farms on Feb 16th and 17th, SVF Pattern Championship at Cave Buttes on Feb 23rd and 24th, the President's Cup (for free flight) in Eloy on Feb 24th and our own Gun Smoke/Scale Masters Qualifier on Mar 7th, 8th and 9th. We will be holding a 25 size race on Sunday Feb 10th.

Paul Goldsmith indicated there was nothing special to report on safety. Dave Dunn reported that the instruction activities have picked up and there have been a few additional enquiries. One new instructor is supporting the mid week students.

Terri Mangino reported that 97 of the 100 members who paid, turned up and had a good time at the Banquet. Although the Caterers turned up late, Jim Luby kept the crowd from getting too antsy. The gift exchange went well as usual and everyone had a good time. If anyone has any suggestions for improvements Terri would like to hear from you.

Aaron Lichtenwalner then reported on the Electric Festival. The events had great weather for 3 of the 4 days and although Sunday was rather a wash out, the event overall was a great success. There were 198 registered pilots with 20 vendor pilots who performed

during the noon show. 71 shirts were ordered and 70 were sold giving a nice profit there. 1501 cars were recorded as having come through the gate (this did not include any that came on Sunday as with the rain, no fees were collected), so a check for \$1501 will be sent to the Parks Department. A special thanks was extended to Roxanne Cottrell who redid the club logo art work and arranged for the T-shirts to be made, Austin Goodwin who did the pilot's registration, Gary Bailey who looked after the generators, fuel and batteries, Gary Porter who ran the impound, John Mangino who ran the flight line, Lewie Kear who ran security, and last but not least Bob Ruff and Aaron who were the CD and Assistant CD respectively.

For information, John Mangino announced that the Club had got in a new batch of caps (\$10) and straw hats (\$15) which were available to anyone who wanted one. He also again emphasized that the speed limit on the road coming into the field is 10 mph and is there because excess speeds are kicking up the stones and we will need to resurface the road to fix the problem.

John then had to announce the unfortunate death of the son of one of our colleagues from Tucson. Ryan Sherrow attended the Electric Festival and died suddenly about a week later due to complications from pneumonia. He was only 13 years old. A foundation at the U of A is being set up in his name. As his father and mother were due to hold a Jet Rally in Tucson next month it has been cancelled but a Jet Fly in will be held on March 14th through 16th.

At that point John introduced Jack Burnside who is one of the organizers of the Electric Flight Expo to be held in and around the Cardinal's Football stadium in Glendale April 25th, 26th and 27th. Jack gave a run down on the events to be held which include educational displays, vendor booths, competition flying plus general flying, inside and outside the stadium. There will also be displays, demonstrations, a raffle and even a flight school for anyone who is interested with the models being provided by Hitec. Entry will be \$7.50 per adult \$5.00 for kids. If anyone is interested in helping out please see John Mangino and if additional information is needed, go to the event's web site at www.efexpo.com.

Next up Aaron Lavender of Viper Hobbies introduced himself and announced that Nick Hynes, one of our members had been made the new manager at the store and he will be working every day except Wednesday. Aaron indicated he has owned the store for 5 years but has been flying since he was 6 years old. He plans to introduce a new concept at Viper where customers can sign up to be members of a web based membership set up that will offer discounts on purchases. The details are available at www.clubhobbies.com and a simple log in will allow anyone to become a Gold member for \$49.99 or a Platinum member for \$199.50 per year which will entitle you to up to a 30% discount. He reported that he has hooked up with

Horizon Hobbies and is trying to do the same thing with Great Planes. The heart of the process is the membership set up and it is even planned that there will be an E-mail chat service. To show his willingness to work with the Club, he donated a Platinum Membership to the raffle which was later won by Paul McDevitt.

The last item before the raffle was an announcement by Paul Goldsmith that because the number of pilots registering for GunSmoke would not be very high and the minimum order was GunSmoke shirts would likely to be greater, the shirts will be offered to any interested Club Members. The shirts will have the usual silk screening artistic display plus embroidery. Regular shirt sizes will be \$20 and 2X and 3X sizes \$25 and pre-orders will be needed by Feb 15th.

During the raffle it was noted that 6 or 7 of the prizes were won with tickets given out to members volunteering at our events. This is a good payback for helping. John closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

Feb 19 Board Meeting Minutes

John Mangino called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm. Mike Currier gave a run down on the various budget activities. The Electric Festival was a financial success and helped cover the payments that needed to be made to the Parks Department. These included \$1301 from parking at the Electric Festival, \$750 for the Club Admin fee plus \$1206 to cover the Club Members on the books at the end of January (201 full members x \$6 per member). Aaron Lichtenwalner gave a final run down on the Electric Festival. There were 128 pre-registered pilots (8 of which did not turn up) plus 78 on the field registrations for a total of 198 who flew. There were 71 shirts made and 70 of these were sold. It turned out that the open flying which started after 4:00 pm, was pretty crazy and we will have to set some limits on it next year. The overnight security worked out well this year but we need to come up with a more formal arrangement next time. Also the seed money that each of the various Chairmen need to run their element of the event need to be identified better. Plus we can still improve the way the receipts get handed over to the Treasurer in the frenzy of the event going on. Gary Porter proposed to accept the report by Aaron which was seconded by Paul McDevitt and accepted by the vote of the Board.

The upcoming GunSmoke and Giant Scale events were then discussed.

The Board agreed that the experience of the Electric Festival again reinforced the idea that a comprehensive and updated CD (Contest Director) instruction booklet is needed as soon as possible. Paul McDevitt and Roxanne Cottrell agreed to pull together what we already have and using the AMA CD Guide as a template, develop our own document that can aid anyone who would want to become a CD and does not know what

is required. The use of the Volunteer cards (for tracking who helped out and for how long) during the Electric Festival was only partly successful and has identified a number of areas where improvements can be made. Ideas for improvement include making the cards event specific with one card for each day and person with the Department where the support was provided, written in (like maintenance).

Roxanne also announced that she had been appointed as the new District X Contest Coordinator replacing Dave Litt who seems to have dropped out of sight.

Paul Goldsmith then reported on the preparations for GunSmoke. Everything is going well except there do not appear to be many entrants yet but this is not unusual. The scale flyers seem to feel that entering early will ensure they will crash their masterpiece the day before the event.

The flier for the Giant Scale event in May was also approved with one minor change. A proposed draft budget was also approved with other minor changes. As proposed, the budget could just about cover the costs of the event with the hope that the event next year would be better attended and could made a profit.

Dave Dunn reporting on the Instruction program reported that there was a mishap that happened when a student was landing. The engine powered up without any apparent input from the pilot and also veered toward the pits. It is not know if the problem was interference but it illustrates that we must all be careful. As there is no evidence of someone turning on a transmitter, so there will not be a move to enforce transmitter impounding.

The topic of Club Accessories then came up. It was agreed that the topic of selling Club shirts, jackets, caps and hats should be raised at the next Members Meeting to see if anyone might be interested. The plan could include using the Club logo which has recently been updated by Roxanne. She showed 5 versions of the logo each with minor differences. One of the choices was selected for use in future activities.

Everyone was pleased with the new sign that Larry Wende had made for the field. The Board agreed to compensate Larry for the costs involved but emphasized that any future work of this type needs to be approved by the Board before the any work is started.

John Mangino brought up the topic of the AMA Park Flyer license. Due to the reduced level of insurance coverage involved with this license, the Board agreed that anyone flying at our field must have a full AMA license.

John then announced that one of our Club Members Jeff Rice has passed away late last week. He indicated that it was planned to have a memorial for him at the field. The Board approved the use of the field to hold a memorial with the understanding that the field will not be closed and flying will not be stopped. However the final arrangements

had the memorial at Red Mountain Park but the guests did travel over to the field after.

It was reported that there is a possibility that Club Members could be set up to get a “back room pass” at the Commemorative Air Force Museum where the work on repairing their aircraft take place.

Paul Goldsmith reported that the work setting up the fence along the side of the road into the field (as required by the Parks Department) will be started Friday and should take up to two weeks to complete. He also plans to drag the other side of the runway to clear the weeds and put some Preen down to keep them away.

John closed the meeting at 8:55 pm.

Events

- **25 Size Race Feb 10th**
- **GunSmoke March 7th, 8th and 9th**
- **25 Size Race Mar 16th**
- **Electric Expo Apr 25th, 26th and 27th**

All upcoming events are also listed on our website.

2007 Membership, as of March 3 was as follows:

Members:	204
New Members:	62
Total Members:	266

In memory of Paul Lorenz



Some Photos from the field





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