



AMA Charter #341



HCRC FLIER

August 2016

AMA Charter #341

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Gordie Lauder's B-25 in a low pass over the runway.
Gordie has agreed to display this beautiful model at the scale fly-in
in August. This is a real crowd-pleaser.

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Hampshire County Radio Controllers, Inc. • Business Meeting, July 7, 2016

MINUTES:

Pres. Tyler chaired the meeting at the flying field tonight. He brought the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with a call for attendance to be taken. Sixteen members reported present to include the four club officers. Jim Bustos was a guest along with two canines – Molly and Julie. The prior meetings minutes were waived on voice vote and then we had Treas. Ron's financial report for the month of June. All items of income and expense were detailed and the report was accepted as read.

Committee Reports – Gordie reported on the By-Laws project and asked for more time to complete and have another, and hopefully last, meeting in the fall. He indicated the project was almost ready for recommendation to the Executive Committee, however, other issues have caused its delay.

Old Business – Tyler gave an upbeat report on the new regulations that the FAA has been aiming at our hobby. As he said, “the vast majority of the new rules have been excluded from clubs supported by a community based organization (AMA) with things trending in the right direction”. Mike Shaw reported on the Open House held in June. He said the attendance was pretty good but of the prospects for training and possible new members the results were minimal. Discussion of ideas to make the event more appealing to our members and the public included: Having more instructors available at this years Open House would have helped as three of our members put in a total of eight hours in the sun each day. Also, it was pointed out, that most interested folks today are doing multiple activities and want to just buy and fly so they can have maximum fun with limited time. The Scale Fly-In was next for discussion. Tyler and Mike have arranged for a food truck and an ice cream vendor. Flyers are being distributed to hobby shops, local clubs, last years pilots from other clubs and electronically to various clubs in New England. More flyers are available and the secretary has the supply. Tyler mentioned that the field looks good right now, however, there will be a work party to be formed a few days before the event to attend to all the set up details, final mowing, clean-up, erecting the tent, putting up the safety fence and signage on the highways in town. Volunteers will be needed for the registration desk, meet & greet at the entrance and parking. Maintaining control of the flight line and other safety issues were discussed along with the 50/50 raffle, announcing, air show music, a possible noon time demonstration and end of event clean-up. It was decided to open the field to general flying after 3 p.m. Sunday for members and visitors who are AMA licensed.

Other items of business: From Andre—please contact Eddie Kopec or himself if interested in helping with flight instruction. It's fun and rewarding to help someone learn the sport, he said. He also reminded the members that learning to fly r/c will take place only on Tuesday (late afternoon and evening) each week. Tyler asked the secretary about the number of members involved in field mowing and was told there were at least nine fully qualified members involved at various times but what is needed now is someone to oversee the effort. Tyler set up a meeting on Saturday 7/16 at 9 a.m for a few members to reassemble the large tent that got blown down recently. Spare parts would be available if needed.

Meeting adjourned in one hour and nine minutes.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordie Lauder, Secretary

GONE WEST

Ruth-Ann Fogg, wife of Dave Fogg, one of our former presidents passed away on June 1. Ruth-Ann handled the computer scheduling for the NEPRO races for many years and was a frequent visitor to the field. There will be an internment ceremony on Saturday, August 6 at 11am. The service will be at Saint John Cemetery on Lockhouse Road, Westfield, MA. Lockhouse Road is off Route 202 just south of the MA Pike interchange.

HCRC CLUB NEWS

FIELD SECURITY

Please remember that if you are the last person to leave the field, **LOCK THE GATE!** Even if it is in the middle of the day, lock the gate! We keep getting reports that members are arriving at the field, nobody is there and the gate is open. Sometimes this is early in the morning which means the gate has been left open all night.

We spent a lot of money and time to secure the field. Let's try to preserve the facilities by maintaining our security.

SCALE MEET PARTICIPATION

The scale meet is scheduled for August 20 and 21, 2016. This is fast approaching and the planning is progressing. What we need is members of our own club to enter and fly at the event. We have a lot of guests from other clubs who participate. Not enough of our own members actually participate. This is a non-competitive fun event for all scale model planes. Show support for our club and join in the fun.

WORK PARTIES FOR THE SCALE FLY-IN SETUP

We will hold an official work party on Friday, August 19 at about 9 AM to get things set up for the Scale Fly-in. This usually includes weed-whacking, some mowing, setting up the safety fence, marking parking areas and attending to all the little details for the event.

We need people to show up with weed whackers, hammers or sledge hammers and some muscle to set up the security fence. We will put the cover on the shelter so a few step ladders may come in handy.

Some of the actual work begins on the Wednesday of that week. Several of us spread the work over a three day period and do as much work as possible in those extra two days.

So, if you can show up on Friday at 9 AM and give us a hand with the setup it will be appreciated.

HCRC T-SHIRTS ETC.

Contact Andre at (413) 786-9735 or see him at a meeting or at the field, often on Tuesday or Thursday evenings.



NEW DRONE ORGANIZATIONS

Recently we have been approached by some new drone racing organizations seeking facilities to hold organized drone races. It is my understanding that AMA is sanctioning these organizations and the events.

We have discussed the idea of drones or FPV (First Person View aircraft i.e. DRONES) at our field. At this time the officers and directors have decided to officially exclude FPV's (drones) from using our facilities until such time as the US Government rules for their use are made clear.

We have several major concerns.

First is the close proximity of the Northampton airport flight pattern. We are directly under one of the regular approach patterns. A drone flying on FPV could easily be picked up by an approaching pilot and report an unannounced drone in the area.

Second is our close neighbors. Drones are becoming a very sensitive subject. People are concerned about their privacy. All we need is to have an FPV "peeping" at someone sunbathing. Even if the drones aren't filming, their presence is a very legitimate concern with residents.

Third is the fact that someone is very likely to decide to fly their FPV under or around the Coolidge Bridge or the Route 9 area. That is bound to bring panicked phone calls to the local authorities.

I was reminded that this is very much like the gun control issue. Should all drones be banned because someone MIGHT break the law?

The issue of the drone racing should be discussed by the general membership at the August business meeting.

— Dave Sherman, Editor

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These hobby shops have been big supporters of our club and help supply our events with items for the raffles. Thanks for the help.

HCRC Flier
c/o Dave Sherman
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AUGUST 2016

TO:



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 4TH @ 7 P.M.
BUSINESS MEETING at our Field

Scale Fly-In August 20th & 21st
9am at our Flying Field

THURSDAY, SEPT 1ST @ 7 P.M.
BUSINESS MEETING at our Field

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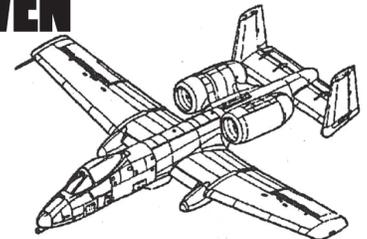
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