



# HCRC FLIER

## February 2016

AMA Charter #341

[www.hampshirecountyrca.org](http://www.hampshirecountyrca.org)

Newsletter published 10 times per year

## New Years Day Fly In



### FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING — FREE PIZZA...

and a chance at a great door prize for all who attend.

February 4th —m 7PM at the VFW

Door prize is two tickets to the New England Air Museum at Bradley Field worth \$25.00

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## **Hampshire County Radio Controllers, Inc. Business Meeting, January 7, 2016 — MINUTES:**

Pres. Mark brought the meeting to order at 7:15p.m. and asked for the roll to be called. Sixteen members reported present including three of the club officers. The secretary declared a non-quorum meeting whereby no formal votes could be taken.

Treas. Ron Paul gave two detailed financial reports tonight: he led with the monthly report for December 2015 and the HCRC Annual Report for 2015 detailing all of the expense items and income for that year. (Note – copies of the report are always available to those not attending the meetings.) Ron also thanked all those who supported the Christmas Social by attending or contributing in some way to its success. Attendance was good and everyone seemed to enjoy the music and good cheer, he said.

Mark asked for any committee reports. Gordie L. mentioned that he suspended the By-Laws Committee meetings until the New Year and asked for approval to continue with the same four members in 2016. The consensus was to continue with the same group. The secretary also got into a discussion of dues collections and, even though it was early in that process, he thought collections were about as they should be at this time.

Under Old Business Bobby O. reported on the New Years Day fly-in with comments on the amount of flying (in the cold), friendly conversations and renewed acquaintances. He said about twenty-one turned out with most standing around the food or warming up in the shed.

Under New Business questions came quickly about the new rules coming down from the FAA and the Academy of Model Aeronautics regarding all model aircraft flying. Mark stepped in and delayed discussion at this time until the issues are decided. He did suggest that member Dan Sheehan take some time after the meeting to explain his points of view (as a former police officer and current full scale pilot) to any of the members willing to listen.

Elections were discussed next by Mark. He again asked for nominations for the open positions of President, Vice-President and one Director. Mike Shaw had been nominated at the November meeting for Vice President. Mark expressed hope that all of these positions would be spoken for and voted upon by the next meeting (Feb) but the membership will need to come out and participate in the election process.

Before the meeting was adjourned the secretary talked about two well liked members who very recently passed away. Doug Gray and Art Fisher.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully, Gordie Lauder, Secretary

Hello All,

It is with great sadness that I report that Art Fisher rose aloft for the last time this morning in Naples, Florida. Art will be interred with Military Honors in the United States Veterans Cemetery in Agawam. I'll post the date and time, but I suspect it will not be until Spring.

Art fought the valiant battle with intestinal cancer for the past four and a half years. He knew five years ago that his disease had a two to four year, 80% mortality rate and he did everything possible (as he said) "to maximize the probability of success." He ate right and did everything he possibly could to beat his disease but in the end he lost his battle.

His wife Irene's job was to manage his food & appointments, was to help him get to the Massachusetts and Florida flying fields, and to tell lies and war stories. We were both in the Army about the same time. Art was an AOS 31J20 (teletype repairman) and I was a 31M20 (radio repairman) and we both did our basic and advanced training at Ft. Gordon, GA during Vietnam so we had a lot of "war stories" to share. Being quite bright, Art went on to become part of a secret group of computer repairmen who serviced a bank of "spooky"

computers in Berlin. He spent his entire service career there.

Art's civilian career at IBM took him to Houston where he was the top rated IBM tech at the Houston Space Center during the height of the Space Race. He was what the computer world called, "The Pro from Dover," the guy to call when no one else could figure out how to solve a nasty mainframe computer glitch (even at the Space Center).

He had a very special set of skills, was my best friend and I am crushed to lose him. Please remember Art flying into the sunset with fondness.

*—Keith Bettencourt*

### **GONE WEST**

Another of our old friends, Doug Gray has also flown into the setting sun. Doug was 87 years old. He served in the US Air Force from 1948 to 1952. Doug owned Mack's Super Service gas station for several years before pursuing his degree in education. He worked in the Chicopee school system as a vocational teacher and later as vocational director until retiring in 1995. Doug was an avid modeler and a longtime member of HCRC.

# HCRC CLUB NEWS

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Christmas Party was held on Thursday, December 3 and we had a modest turnout. About 23 members attended. The food was plentiful and very good. It was a nice social gathering of members and their families. We presented several members with their flight wings. These people worked hard over the summer to earn their wings and we welcome them to the hobby.

Again, we want to thank all those members who helped with this event and provided the food. Ron and Linda Paul did a great job in organizing this party.

The New Years' day fly-in took place on, amazingly enough, New Years day. The weather was clear, very chilly and blustery but the hardy souls turned out to make the best of it. There were several ice sheets on the field but they were navigated well by the pilots. Several members managed to fly and all went well. The food was great and the warm-up shed was cozy. Thanks to those members who contributed to make this day a success.

For the 2016 season we will need more people to step up and help out. We need organizers and people with fresh ideas to keep us motivated and moving forward. Let's keep this a fun club to belong to.

## DRONES

I haven't received any new information about the "drone" issue. We are still on a hold as far as allowing them at the field. Dave Lampron has met with management at the Northampton airport and it is reported that Dave has

managed to come to an agreement that allows us to continue our flight operations. More to report as information becomes available. Some of our members have registered with the FAA. The AMA suggested that we 'hold off' doing this but it looks like it is going to be a fact of life that we must eventually register.

## TEE SHIRT SALES

Andre B. has a good deal on club tee shirts, sweatshirts and hats. He can even order custom designs. Contact Andre at (413) 786-9735 or see him at the club meeting.

## SUGGESTED WISH LIST

It has been suggested that we publish a "WISH LIST" of items that we may need at the field. This can be anything from a new shed to electric wiring to a new golf cart. In the past we have found that members had items that they were not using and were willing to donate. We have found items for a very low cost. We should further develop this idea.

## HCRC DUES AND AMA RENEWAL

Secretary Gordie and Treas. Ron Paul report that dues collection for 2016 is progressing well. As of January 5, 64% of the 101 members eligible to pay dues have already paid their HCRC dues. Of the 87 active flying members, only 10 have not yet paid their AMA dues.

So, remember that your dues are now due and if you want to fly you have to pay your AMA dues.

— Dave S., Ed.



*Earning their wings*



*A festive table at this year's Christmas Party.*



**FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING — FREE PIZZA...**

Feb. 4th — 7pm at the VFW — See you there!

HCRC Flier  
c/o Dave Sherman  
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FEBRUARY 2016

TO:



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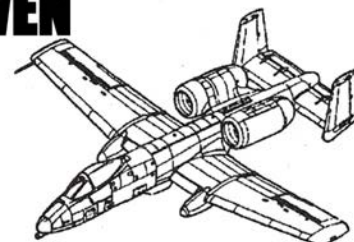
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