



The CONNECTOR

Newsletter of the Aeroguidance Society, Inc.
AMA Chartered Club No. 441

www.agsny.org

Volume #64 Issue # 3 March 2018

Recipient of the AMA Presidents Award for
50 years of Service to AMA and Aeromodeling

THE NEXT AGS MEETING WILL BE ON
Monday Apr 2nd 6:45 P.M at the Endicott Library

Changes to time or location will be noted in this newsletter

The Prez Sez - Submitted by Rick Allabaugh

Next Club Meeting

Monday, April 2nd at the George F. Johnson Library in Endicott

Project Night

Just a reminder, that this month's program will be Project Night. So bring in your winter projects, whether 100% complete or not, and share with other members what you've been working on this winter. Remember you don't have to bring in just a plane, quad or other flying object. Some of our club members have developed their own style of charging system or flight box that others in the club would be interested in seeing.

Central Penn Aeromodelers Association 38th Annual Radio Control Flea Market

I made my second trip down to the annual RC flea market in Lebanon, PA. This year I found everything I was looking for within the first 30 minutes of getting there. I wasn't really looking to purchase a plane or "big" item, but I was able to find a lot of the miscellaneous building items like servo extensions, servo extension safety clips, and a few micro servos that I've needed. If you have never gone down before, I'd recommend you at least try it just once. It's a 3-hr drive from Binghamton, but it's easy on/off from I-81.

Finally

By the time you read this, it will officially be Spring! If you decide to drive up to the field, please be careful as the ground may be soft and we want to avoid tearing up our parking area. You should see elsewhere in the newsletter the day/time for our official field opening.

As always, I hope to see ya at the next meeting!

Cancellation of AGS Meetings:

In the event of poor weather, listen to the radio or television for local closings and cancellations. If the Library is closed the meeting is cancelled and a notice will be sent via the AGS mailing list.

Coming Events

AGS Ground School Session #1

Mon April 2
5:30-6:30 PM Endicott
Library

AGS April Meeting

Mon April 2
6:45 PM Endicott Library

AGS Field Opening

Sat April 28
9:30 AM

AGS Pylon Race #1

Tues May 8
6:00 PM

For AGS field current weather info contact:

BGM Automated
Terminal Information
System (ATIS)
607- 729-8335

**The Aeroguidance
Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 39
Vestal, NY 13850-0039**

AGS Officers:

President: Rick Allabaugh (A-C)

Vice President: Bill Green (D-H)

Secretary: Rick Allabaugh (Acting
Secretary) (I-L)

Treasurer: Brent Bryson (M-R)

Board Members at Large:

Bob Jennings (S-Z)

Jim Monaco

Past President: Frank Gioffredo

Committee Chairmen:

Membership: Bill Green

Program: Tom Kopl

Activities: Open

Field: Todd Kopl

Historian: Open

Public Relations: Open

Sound: Scott Wallace

Safety: Open

Librarian: Brent Bryson

Webmaster: Don Shugard

Editorial – submitted by Scott Wallace

I've been around this hobby a very long time. I flew in several NATS as a kid; I've been to RC trade shows in Los Angeles California, Atlanta Georgia and of course the WRAMs show many times. I have been to some of the biggest RC flying events such as the old Byron Exposition in Iowa and several times to the huge Joe Nall Giant Scale meets in SC. None of this prepared me for the Lebanon, PA RC swap meet, after attending for the first time this past Saturday all I can say is WOW!

The experience is overwhelming, it took me several tours of all the large rooms to appreciate just how many folks were there selling all manner of everything RC. I finally woke up and made a concerted effort to find the items on my wish list I was most interested in. I did score a new JR DMSS receiver and lot of new in package JR accessories all at bargain prices. Although there were hundreds of kits, only a few were of real interest and their owners had them priced so high I didn't even try to barter. I sold a few NIB engines I didn't plan to use so I took home more cash than I came with which was OK.

Thank you to Ray Phillips for securing a couple extra vendor tickets for me and Rick Allabaugh. By allowing us access during the vendor set up time we were able to browse before the crowds were let in at 8:30.

One takeaway from the experience is that this hobby has a lot of guys in it with hoarding problems; I cannot fathom the massive amount of 'stuff' so many folks had! A lot of it was true junk, I remarked to Ray that over the years I had thrown away a lot of stuff that was in better shape than much of what was being offered here. Of course one man's junk is another's treasure so who am I to say.

To get there for vendor opening at 7AM I left home at 4AM, not much traffic at that time on I-81 so that was a plus...easy drive really.

I will most likely go again next year and would encourage everyone to attend at least once as words cannot adequately describe it.

**NOTE: 72 MHz Channel #42 Must
Not Be Used at the AGS Field**

The CONNECTOR is prepared on a Personal Computer. Submissions are happily accepted via email to: s.j.wallace13@gmail.com

AGS General Membership Meeting Minutes

Aeroguidance Society Meeting #843

Date: Mar 5, 2018

Place: George F. Johnson Library, Endicott, NY

President Rick Allabaugh called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Guests: Doug Breneman

The minutes of the last general meeting were approved as published in The Connector.

Treasurer Brent Bryson gave a detailed financial report to those in attendance. If any member has any questions regarding our account, they can contact Brent for additional information.

President Allabaugh gave a summary of the February Board of Director Meeting. A couple of important items:

- Focus of the Feb Board meeting was to make a decision regarding the X-Mark mower
- Todd Kopl and Bill Green attended the Board meeting gave an assessment of the X-Mark's condition. Also, a detailed study of a potential new zero turn mower was presented and discussed
- Ray Phillips also attended the meeting and provided insight into the mower selection
- AGS Board voted on and approved the purchase of a new Husqvarna 51" zero turn mower.
- Purchase has been executed, new mower added to our insurance policy. Plan is to bring mower to Dan's for storage until our road is passable.
- Bill Green and Ray Phillips will conduct mower operation training, beginning at Field Opening.

Committee Reports:

Membership: The Board reported we have two delinquent members, one is most likely resigning. The other member will be sent a letter from the Board.

The Spring Fun Fly was held, hosted by Bill Green and Neil Hunt. Despite less than ideal weather a good time was had by all that attended.

Field: Field Chairman was not present; the Board presumes field opening will occur in April. Stay tuned.

Pylon Racing: Bob Noll gave a pitch for the upcoming racing season which will kick off on April 24. A sign-up sheet was passed around to recruit racers and helpers. As meeting attendance was light, Bob will be calling members to recruit additional support. Bob can use a volunteer to man the grille for the traditional post-race hot dogs.

Classic Pattern: Bob Noll also spoke about the club hosting a Classic Pattern event scheduled for July 21st. The initial Classic Pattern meet last year was a success and a lot of fun. Maneuver schedules/call sheets were passed out to several members interested in participating.

Program: Tom Kopl reminded the members that the April meeting is project night. Everyone is encouraged to bring their latest creations for show and tell.

Old Business:

Discussion concerning the new mower was held, the membership thanked the Board and those mentioned above for their work in making this happen.

The club will bring the X-Mark to auction on April 28; Bill Green indicated he will tune the beast up best he can in order for it to be sold for what we can get. Almost anything is better than the salvage/scrap price.

New Business:

Bob Noll requested the club return the off-site winter flying events to Saturdays instead of Sundays. Most all of the members in attendance were in favor of returning to Saturdays.

President Allabaugh discussed the upcoming RC swap meet in Lebanon, PA Mar 10. Several AGS members are attending so look for a report next month.

Program:

Bob Noll gave a demonstration of early (1960's era) RC single channel proportional systems. Bob demonstrated the operation of several different types of equipment and related how RC flying was done in those early days.

Some of the demonstrated equipment included an early Futaba transmitter controlling a motorized escapement

system. Electronic pulse output transmitters such as the Ace Pulse Commander and Min-X Pulsemite used Adams magnetic actuators to move the control surfaces.

Controlaire Galloping Ghost transmitters from 1967 were demonstrated. One of these Bob has had converted to 2.4 GHZ by Jay Mendoza from California. The conversion allows the original ‘galloping’ style of rudder and elevator control but now using a modern FrSky RF deck for reliability.

It was an extremely interesting demonstration. Bob will continue the discussion in May, covering reed and early proportional RC systems.

If you would like more information on older radio systems, this website is the best resource your editor has ever found: <http://www.rchalloffame.org/index.html>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

AGS Field Report Mar 2018 – submitted by Todd Kopl

Only 1 month to go until we ‘open’ the field back up! **Field opening is planned for Saturday April 28th beginning at 9:30 am.** I am looking for a volunteer to cook breakfast; otherwise it will be coffee & donuts.

Please plan to attend since this will be your best opportunity to see the new mower and seek assistance with operation.

No major projects planned since we had a major expense with new mower this year.

First rotation of mowing list below...I tried to accommodate all requests and if I missed anything please let me know.

MOWING LIST 2018				
Dates				
5/3-5/5	Ray	Phillips	Scott	Wallace
5/10-5/12	Bill	Green	Jim	Monaco
5/17-5/19	Todd	Kopl	Matt	Kopl
5/24-5/26	Tom	Kopl	Ron	Sprague
5/31-6/2	Rick	Allabaugh	Neil	Hunt
6/7-6/9	Brent	Bryson	Nick	Orwan
6/14-6/16	Charlie	Hatton	Jeff	Hatton
6/21-6/23	John	Carril	Chris	Goffa
6/28-6/30	Harold	Peeling	Stan	Driggs

7/5-7/7	Jim	Quinn	Bob	Hoag
7/12-7/14	Scott	Sinnett	Dave	Smith

Flight School 2018 – submitted by Bob Noll

Rick Allabaugh has accepted my offer to head up a flight training program for this year. The school will be for new pilots as well as for those who have already soloed but would like some advanced training. To start things off, I will be holding two ground school sessions prior to our next two monthly meetings.

We will meet from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM at the Endicott library “Study Room #1” prior to our general meeting at 6:45 pm. That room is on the same floor that we hold our meetings.

The purpose of these ground schools is to cover a few things prior to flight schools at the field. I plan to cover some transmitter basics as well as plane setup methodologies which will cover the following;

- Holding the Transmitter
- Transmitter Stick Length and Tension
- Balancing
- Engine/Motor Thrust
- Control Surface Travel
- Balanced Controls
- Handling Adverse Yaw
- Use of Dual Rate and Exponential

Please bring your transmitters. I will bring my “balancer” so you can bring your plane to check out your CG.

Pylon Racing Update – submitted by Bob Noll

The sign-up list I circulated at our last meeting resulted in a very good list of pilots and helpers. I will circulate the list again at our next meeting in case you were not at the March meeting. I will be collecting \$35 from each pilot to cover the cost of the food and drink we have after each race and for the awards at seasons end. My thanks to Brent Bryson for volunteering to be our hot dog cook.

This season we will have our first electric powered racers joining the “nitro” planes. Scott Ashcraft purchased a plane from Todd Kopl that was built by Bill Markowitz and I electrified. Also, Bill Green purchased a Sonic 500 kit and will be racing it with an electric motor.

In order to make the electric planes equally competitive with the “nitro” planes, the rpm of the motors, using the prescribed APC 9”x6” prop, will be limited to 13,000 rpm. This RPM was selected since the best nitro engines run very close to that RPM. Therefore the “high throttle” control must be limited to that RPM using the transmitter travel adjustment. This may be revised as we gain more experience with the electric racers.

Because Mother Nature is giving us an unseasonable Spring, I have decided to delay the start of our racing season two weeks. Also, in order to minimize the evening dusk problem that impacted our last 2017 race, there will only be one week between our 7th and 8th race.

Our first race is Tuesday May 8. Please be at the field as close to 6 PM so we can set up the race course and be ready to flag off the first heat at 6:30 PM.

2018 AGS Hilltop Challenge – submitted by Jim Monaco

Most of you have already heard of the fun we had last year and wanted to have a “fun fly” day of pilot accuracy and challenges again.

At this time the special events and program format will be very similar to last year. No special talent is needed to participate other than good sport flying skills. Laughing that day is mandatory! Ron Sprague and Tom Kopl will be helping to sponsor the “Challenge” for this year. We are hopeful to have another great day to have fun.

It is my personal hope is to know that everyone reads this invitation to participate, and for each to REPLY so that I can prepare for the day. The number attending is important so that we can provide a flight time of 4 to 6 hour that day. Please contact me by email at jimmonaco0901@gmail.com

or 607 239-9536 with a yes, no, maybe, or questions, and we hope you're coming.

See ya at the next club meeting – Jim

RIP Japan Remote (JR) – submitted by Scott Wallace

The inevitable has happened to JR, 18 months ago came word from Japan that they were restructuring and would focus their engineering resources on the commercial drone market. Their facility in Japan was shut down, employees let go and their subcontractor in Malaysia was going to handle all remaining manufacturing. The RC hobby part of the business would not see any new product introduction for a while, but existing RC products would be supported.

As of Dec 27, 2017 JR has filed for bankruptcy, bringing an end to a proud and industry leading manufacturer after 40 years in business. JR brought us the first computer radios in the 1980s and for many years was a favorite among discriminating modelers.

Adding insult to injury, JR’s biggest customer in Japan, RC Depot, had hired several former JR engineers and technicians with a final effort to keep the brand alive but one of the stipulations from the bankruptcy proceedings is that no JR intellectual property may be transferred and going forward even the brand name “JR” cannot be used.

The US importer, JR Americas, is no doubt facing a crisis sooner than later. They currently have very little remaining inventory of transmitters, receivers, servos and accessories to support JR fliers. If they also fold, then service becomes an issue going forward.

My dad lamented the passing of Kraft radios back in the day, and although he owned a couple of Futaba and JR radios he still flew with his trusty Kraft Signature Series radios right up until he passed away. I have used JR equipment since 1982 and have never had so much as a single glitch or hardware failure.

When JR released their proprietary DMSS protocol in 2013 I made the expensive switch and replaced all my JR/Spektrum DSMX based transmitters and receivers.

As reliable as my JR equipment has been over the years, I expect I'll still be flying JR for many years to come.

Hobbico/Tower Hobbies update – submitted by Scott Wallace

Word on the street is that Horizon Hobbys have made a bid of just less than 18M to buy Hobbico. This is expected to be officially announced at the Toledo trade show in early April.

We'll have to wait for further details on what this will truly mean. I'm skeptical, for one I'm afraid it's the loss of a great many jobs for Hobbico/Tower Hobbies employees. Two, not sure how well or if at all Horizon will treat Futaba, after all they are the Spektrum folks...just ask JR how well it worked out being paired with Horizon. All we can do is wait and see...

AGS Field Report Part II – submitted by Todd Kopl

This is also a great time of year to review the field rules which were revised in 2017. This info can also be found on the AGS website under the “members only” section.

Aero Guidance Society Field Rules

(Revision Date: March 27, 2017)

These rules have been developed to ensure the safe and enjoyable use of the AGS flying field and to preserve good relationships with neighbors. They will be enforced as stated in the AGS Bylaws. Note: These rules shall be reviewed with all persons who have not previously flown at the AGS field. The host member shall ensure that the new pilot understands these rules and agrees to abide by them.

AGS Field Rules

General:

1. All persons flying at the AGS field shall observe the Official AMA National Model Aircraft Safety Code which is posted on the Frequency Control Center.
2. All persons who fly at the AGS field shall be members of the AMA or MAAC, and shall have in their possession a current AMA/MAAC membership card. Non-AMA/ MAAC members shall be permitted to fly on

a one-time basis. These persons shall be under the supervision of a current AMA member and shall fly using AMA member's equipment with a buddy cord.

3. Only pilots and their helpers shall be allowed in front of the chain link fence. Spectators shall remain behind the chain link fences at all times.

4. All aircraft engines or motors shall have no exposed threaded shafts.

5. The maximum sound level emitted by any model shall be limited to 96 dB on the A weighted scale measured at 9'. New aircraft shall be tested and, if necessary, corrected promptly.

6. Any aircraft may be operated between the hours of 9 AM and 9 PM.

7. Any aircraft, able to operate below 72 dB may be flown at any time.

8. Motors or engines shall be energized or started only on the flight line side of the safety fence.

9. Only aircraft being readied for flight shall have a battery connected to the electric motor(s).

10. Aircraft in the pit area shall be restrained as follows:

a. Aircraft powered by glow engines shall be restrained when the starting battery is attached.

b. Aircraft powered by electric motors shall be restrained when the batteries are connected. Note: Electric aircraft must have a visible means (able to see without touching) of showing the motor is disconnected when not physically restrained.

11. Take all trash with you when you leave the field.

12. All persons using the AGS field shall be courteous and considerate to others at all times.

13. It is strongly recommended at least two persons be present while operating the tractor or other power equipment.

14. Any member under the age of 18 may not run any power equipment at the AGS field. This includes, but is not limited to, tractors, mowers, weed trimmers, or chainsaws.

15. When driving on the access road, speed shall be limited to a maximum of 10 miles per hour.

16. When driving near the houses on Warrick Road, it is desirable to limit speed to 5 miles per hour.

17. The last person to leave the field shall ensure that all of the club's facilities, property and equipment, which have locks, are properly secured and locked.

Frequency Control:

1. Pilots flying on non 2.4 GHz frequencies shall display their operating frequency on their transmitters.

2. Channel 42 cannot be used at the AGS Field.

3. As applicable, transmitter antennas shall be retracted when not in use.

4. When the Frequency Control Center is open, frequency pins must be used by pilots flying on non 2.4 GHz frequencies.

5. Try to maintain a distance of at least 20 feet from other active transmitters when operating your transmitter, particularly if you have the antenna extended.

6. If more than one pilot present is on the same frequency channel, the pilots shall share the frequency pin by flying on an alternating basis. No one pilot shall monopolize the frequency channel.

Runway Designation and Usage:

1. Runways are designated according to conventional airport design and are numbered according to their compass heading. The runways are 6 - 24 (six, two-four) and 12 - 30 (one-two, three-zero).

2. A majority of pilots present at the field shall at all times designate which runway is "active" and which is the "alternate" in an ongoing manner dependent upon wind direction. The active runway is the runway that is in current use for takeoffs and landings. Since takeoffs and landings are usually done as close as "into the wind" as possible, wind direction generally determines the active runway.

3. A majority of those pilots using the active runway shall designate the direction for takeoffs and landings in accordance with the direction of the wind. Suspension of the wind direction rules on the active runway shall only occur when there is a unanimous consent from all other pilots present prior to each flight.

4. The wind direction rule shall not apply to the alternate runway. This means that cross-wind takeoffs shall be allowed on the alternate runway only.

5. When the active runway is in use by multiple pilots, it shall be limited to normal takeoff and landing type maneuvers. This rule may be waived if all pilots agree before the flight to allow low-level maneuvers as close as the runway centerline.

6. Announcement of intention to use the alternate runway shall be made prior to each takeoff and "end of flight" landing.

7. The alternate runway should primarily be used for those models that perform maneuvers such as, but not limited to, 3-D maneuvers and hovering.

8. Pilots shall not fly or taxi across the active runway when using the alternate runway.

Communications when taking off and landing:

1. When entering a runway, taking off or landing, pilots must first make a loud and clear announcement of their intention to proceed and then wait for any objections before doing so.

2. Before walking onto a runway, a pilot or the pilot's helper shall carry the model to the edge of the runway and call out "On the runway".

3. The pilot or the pilot's helper may carry the model to the center line of the runway, set it down, and walk back to the pit area.

4. When the pilot or the pilot's helper reaches the pit area, the pilot or the pilot's helper shall call out "Runway Clear". The pilot shall then commence the takeoff sequence.

5. Before taking off, the pilot shall call out "Taking Off" or "Takeoff on Runway X" (where X indicates the runway designation described above).

6. Before landing, the pilot shall call out "Landing" or "Landing on Runway X" (where X indicates the runway designation described above).

7. If a pilot experiences an engine failure and must land immediately, the pilot shall call out "Dead Stick". Other pilots shall immediately make way for the pilot to land.

General Rules for Flying:

1. It is strongly recommended that members do not fly alone.
2. Taxi only on the taxiway and the runway.
3. All persons shall refrain from standing in the arc of a rotating propeller.
4. All flying shall take place over unpopulated areas. Flying in the vicinity of neighbors' homes shall be avoided.
5. A runway is closed to flying if maintenance is being performed anywhere on the runway side of the of the spectator line for that runway. Note: that restriction may allow flying on the other runway, but only on the runway side of the safety line.
6. The number of aircraft that may be flown at the same time shall be limited to four.
7. A plane shall be pointed toward the runway when started.

8. Hand launched models shall be thrown in a direction away from the pit area and other persons present.

9. All hovering and flying maneuvers shall be done no closer to the pit area than the center of the runway.

10. A pilot may request that he/she be allowed to fly a model without other models being in the air. Reasons for the request may include, but are not limited to:

- The first flight of a new or repaired model.
- Practice of an aerobatics routine.
- A pilot's first solo flight.

Rules for Control Line Flying:

1. If a member is flying control line models and another member wishes to fly an R/C model, the control line pilot shall relinquish the field to the R/C pilot as soon as possible.

2. After takeoff, the person(s) assisting the control line pilot shall ensure that no persons enter the circle where the control line model is being flown.

3. A safety thong shall be attached to the control handle and the pilot's wrist.

AGS Merchandise – available from Bill Green

Item	Price ea.	Item	Price ea.
AGS Decals (white base)		AGS Patches	
Small	\$0.75	Small (2.25" x 1.75")	\$0.75
Medium	\$1.75	Medium (3" x 2")	\$1.75
Large	\$2.75	Large (4.25" x 3.25")	\$2.75
X-Large	\$3.75	X-Large (5.75" x 4.5")	\$3.75
AGS Decals (clear base)		Embroidered Coat Patches	
Small	\$0.50	Medium (9" x 7")	\$10.00
Medium	\$1.00	Large (12" x 10")	\$15.00
Large	\$1.25		
X-Large	\$1.50	AGS Coffee Mugs	\$10.00
		AMA ID Labels	\$0.25

AGS CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR 2018

ACTIVITY / LOCATION (AGS Field unless specified)	DATE	CHAIRMAN
Field Opening	April 28	Todd Kopl
AGS Pylon Race #1	May 8	Bob Noll
AGS Pylon Race #2	May 22	Bob Noll
AGS Pylon Race #3	June 12	Bob Noll
Hilltop Challenge	June 23	Jim Monaco
AGS Pylon Race #4	June 26	Bob Noll
AGS Pylon Race #5	July 10	Bob Noll
AGS Classic Pattern Meet	July 21	Bob Noll
AGS Pylon Race #6	July 24	Bob Noll
AGS Pylon Race #7	Aug 7	Bob Noll
AGS Pylon Race #8	Aug 14	Bob Noll
Aerobatics Contest	Aug 25-26	Jeff Hatton
VRCS Reunion	Sept 1-2	Bob Noll
Family Picnic	TBD	Bob Noll
AGS Float Fly Location TBD	TBD	Don Shugard

Other nearby RC events of interest

Event / Location	Date	Contact / Info
Valley RC Fun Fly Athens, PA	July 21-22	Steve Luchaco (607) 857-3244 funflysteve@hotmail.com
Wings Over Piper Fun Fly Lock Haven, PA	Aug 3-5	www.wingsoverpiper.com Kevin Ziegmann ziggysr71@gmail.com

Editor's Note: If you know of an event in the area that would be of interest to the general membership please forward that information to me at s.j.wallace13@gmail.com for inclusion in the next edition of The Connector.

Reminder to all AGS members...Keep your AMA membership current.

AMA membership is an AGS requirement to remain a member in good standing.

AGS Shirts and Hats are available again!

**Get your from Zappia Athletic
133 Front St.
Vestal, NY 13850**

**Contact person is Dan Cordi,
reference Ray Phillips**

APRIL PROGRAM



PROJECT NIGHT



AEROGUIDANCE SOCIETY, INC.
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