



A Monthly Publication of Collins Model Aviators.

December 2004

President's Corner

Dave Shema

The December 2004 meeting is now history, and after a hotly contested race, the new 2005 CMA officers are:

President: Dave Shema
Vice President: Dave Hoban
Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Gorman

Thank you for your continued support in the coming year. Let's see if we can set and attain a goal of having more than one candidate for each office in 2006!

Also, I'd like to thank John Michael for his service this past year as Vice President. John had a pretty tough year on a personal basis, but hung in there as Veep. Thanks also to Tom Gorman for volunteering to stay on as Secretary/Treasurer. That's the ONE job that really requires work each year. Welcome aboard Dave Hoban as the new Veep.

A whopping eight members were present for the December meeting. Not too shabby, considering past months. Let's see if we can actually grow attendance at meetings to the point where we can actually do something fun and exciting again. If nothing else, the discussion that follows a meeting sometimes gets to be pretty interesting.

We decided that the least we can do for Larry Martinson, flying site owner, is to spring for some gift certificates to local eating establishments, as a way of thanking him for allowing us to use his sod farm this past year. Let's keep those fingers crossed and hope he will allow us to use it again next year.

AMA membership renewal time is here. Renew

by December 15 to keep you magazine and other stuff coming. You can now renew for one or two years, ONLINE. It's fast, easy, and painless.

Club membership renewal time is also here. Dues are still only \$20. Download and fill out the current membership application from the CMA website then send it and your dues to Tom Gorman, MS 108-227. You will be handsomely rewarded with a hand crafted CMA membership card.

IMPORTANT CHANGES for CMA: Speaking of membership forms and such – there are some changes that we probably need to make in light of the fact that we are Collins Model Aviators in name only these days (that is interpreted as not getting any monetary support from the company). First, I think we should modify the membership form – after all, it's based on the Rockwell Recreation Center format, and assumes the Recreation Center is still our guiding light in all things Club related. 'Taint so, any more. Second, I believe the restriction on WHO can be an active flying member has changed. I don't believe we are limited to just Rockwell employees, spouses, retirees, and contractors any more. Should we consider opening membership up to anyone who wishes to join, company related or not? Third, I think we need to review the club bylaws with respect to our new "freedom" and make appropriate changes. I'd like to hear your thoughts and ideas along these lines. This could be our chance to grow and have some good, active membership, and cross-pollinate us better amongst other clubs in the area. How would this affect our relationship with Larry Martinson, the flying site owner?

Can we discuss this at the January 2005 meeting? It's important to us as a club, and we

really need to join the realities of the 21st century.

Possible CMA sponsorship of a Pattern Contest for 2005?

Mark Woytassek brought up the idea of the CMA running a pattern contest this year. He and Steve Plantenberg have been making the rounds of the pattern flying circuits this past year, and have been getting request from other contestants for us to put on a contest. This is an intriguing idea, it will take a lot of work on the CLUB's part – participation that is. Not necessarily as competitors, but as logistics support to pull off a pattern contest. We'd need people to act as scribes for the judges, someone to run transmitter impound, to supply leg work...etc. Mark also suggested that we approach the Cedar Rapids Skyhawks to see if they would be interested in making this a joint effort. If they were to accept the idea, it would go a long way towards possibly reuniting the clubs in the CR area in a cooperative mode. That would only be good for the hobby in the local area. It has been many years since I used my Contest Director "status" with the AMA. I would be more than happy to brush up on what it takes to be a CD these days, and CD the contest. Again – I'd like some feedback on this idea. Mark told us at the December meeting that at one time, one of the premier Midwest Pattern events was the annual "Cornfrontation", a regional pattern event. This could be a first step to reviving that tradition.

Other things in the works:

2005 could be the year that CMA starts having monthly fun-fly events. With ACTUAL FLYING happening. That would be great. Just show up and fly with the rest of the CMA members on a regular basis. This could be a great way to build membership and participation.

Anyone want to throw a Helicopter Fun Fly this year? I fly them, Daryl Burns does, Tom Clark is in the early stages of flying with an electric "Dragonfly", and there has been an inquiry by yet one more person interested in things with rotors. We could invite flyers from around the local area to participate. Don't know if there would be prizes, but just do something to let the CMA start becoming known for more than occasionally showing up at the sod farm during the summer months.

CR Skyhawks. I'd like to take this opportunity

to encourage all CMA members to take advantage of the Skyhawks new field by joining the CR Skyhawks this year. I realize it's some extra dollars and effort to do so, but if we were to increase "our" presence in that club as well, it might help foster much needed cooperation between local area flyers. If you do join – be courteous, helpful, and friendly. I found my initial reception in the Skyhawks to be a bit stand-offish, especially since I always show up at their site with a boatload of --- oh no!, GASPI, Helicopters! By the end of this season, however, just by being friendly, helpful, and willing to assist others with suggestions, parts out of the flight box, or in the pits – I've felt welcomed by the Skyhawks. Put forth the effort, it will be returned to you.

Thinking big picture stuff here – if local clubs were to come together with the common goal of building the sport in the CR area, with regular, well-known and attended fun fly events, pattern competitions, scale, electric, and warbird type events, the future of RC and modeling in the CR area could change for the better. Bringing in a somewhat steady flow of modelers from outside the CR area would make us look much more desirable to the business community (visitors spend \$\$\$ while here on restaurants, hotels, shopping...etc). It might also stimulate some much needed growth and "modernization" of local hobby related retailers. We would ALL benefit from our hard work. Being able to prove that the sport brings dollars into the community is great when it comes to field acquisition, improvement, and our standing in the eyes of the city and county governing bodies.

Is there any opportunity in the CR area to put on some scheduled indoor Electric Fly events? How would this best be pulled off? Are there any good local venues that could be used?

OK – enough of that for now. But these are things that can be done to improve our lot in life as far as the sport is concerned.

SHOW and TELL at the December meeting.:

Geoff Barrance brought in a new Sig Fazer. As I recall, it has an OS Max 46FX on it for power. Beautiful building and finishing job, as is usual for Geoff.

I brought in the framed and sheeted wing for the Joe Bridi "Dirty Birdy" that I'm scratch building

from RC Modeler plans. This was a popular pattern plane in the middle to late 1970's. I had one back then, when I was "just a kid", and enjoyed it. I'll be putting a Super Tiger S61K in it for power. That's a new in the box, 15 year-old-plus engine that is still all shiny and new.

BUILD Session news:

The next scheduled build session is Thursday, December 9. It will be at the Main Plant Cafeteria, starts at 6:00 PM and goes until 9:00 PM. Steve Plantenberg has suggested an additional twist, weather permitting. He's suggested that if you own a small electric powered plane or helicopter, and if you feel up to it – bring it along. After some of the cars clear out of the parking lot, we'll turn the build session into an impromptu E-Fun Fly under the lights in the parking lot. Sounds like fun.

COLLINS CMA NEWSGROUP – use it. It's been out there on the intranet languishing for two, maybe three years.

That's about all for this month. IF ANY OF YOU wish to submit pictures, articles, hints, editorials...whatever for publication in the FlightLine newsletter, send it to Steve Plantenberg or me. Otherwise, you're going to be stuck with MY ramblings month-by-month. We'll find a way to get you published!

See you again next month. Till then, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and would like to express my wishes to all of you and your families for a happy and bountiful New Year.

Dave

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HEADS UP, CMA ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2004

9 DECEMBER, 6 - 9 PM BUILD SESSION AND E-FLY

JANUARY 2005

6 JANUARY, 5 - 6 PM MEETING

13 JANUARY, 6 - 9 PM BUILD SESSION AND E-FLY

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