

District II Report

New Jersey/ New York/
Europe

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WE'RE RIGHT in the middle of the building season here in District II, so I thought I'd use this month's column to get some non-flying items out of the way.

We have a new Contest Coordinator for Free Flight and Control Line (CL). Dave King has agreed to take over the job from Rich Sobrino.

I want to personally thank Rich, who initially accepted this job on a temporary basis. Almost 25 years later, having served under several district vice presidents, Rich has earned a well-deserved rest. If you happen to run into him, please thank him for the job he's done on your behalf during the last quarter-century.

Dave King is well-known in CL circles within the district. He's an active modeler who has a good grasp of the sanctioning process. His address can be found in the competition directory in the back of this magazine, and you can reach him by E-mail at clmodelpilot1@aol.com.

It seems that every so often those of us who write these columns are burdened with having to write of the passing of a friend and fellow modeler. Such is the case for me this month.

Former AMA District II Vice President John Byrne passed away on January 15, 2001. John served as the District II Vice

President from 1974-1978 and then again from 1981-1988.

An active modeler from the New York City/Long Island area, John was a charter member and past president of the Long Island Air Drone Society. Sadly, illness over the last few years prevented him from being as active as I'm sure he would have liked.

As an AMA Vice President, John's opinion was valued and respected by his fellow officers. His work as a corporate lawyer often gave him the ability to offer a valid and different perspective on the issues that faced the Executive Council (EC), although his strongest suit may have been his ability to see and help avoid the pitfalls potential EC actions may have had on the membership.

I, along with his many friends, will miss him, and, on behalf of those friends, offer condolences to John's family.

If anyone has visited the District II Web site lately, you're probably aware that the district is in need of a Webmaster. Since becoming the district's vice president, my time available to devote to the site has virtually disappeared. The site was created and is maintained using Microsoft® FrontPage®.

I've mentioned this in the district newsletter and I've passed the word via E-mail, so hopefully by now the position has been filled. On the chance that it has not been, if you have an interest in handling this project, please let me know.

I've just returned from the February EC meeting. Although the agenda this time around was a little light, there were a couple of items of interest that I want to tell you about.

The EC voted to submit a bid to host the 2004 Control Line World Championships in Muncie IN. Winning this bid would give us an opportunity to witness some of the most spectator-intense events available in modeling.

From Precision Aerobatics to Combat, the best in the world could be demonstrating their skills in Muncie. This would be an event modelers of all disciplines would want to attend.

Some AMA members are apparently unhappy with the suggestion of making the president of our chartered clubs also the club contact. This plan was considered because AMA was trying to find a way to improve the system of exchanging information between AMA Headquarters and our clubs.

There has been an increasing number of instances where charter renewals, for instance, have been sent to those listed as club contacts and the renewals do not get completed and submitted to Headquarters.

We thought the president would most likely be as involved in the day-to-day operations of the club as any member and, as such, would either handle the charter package himself or herself or delegate the job to a responsible club member, ensuring that the job would be done.

Since this isn't as appealing a suggestion to some clubs as we thought it would be, the original system of assigning a club contact for the purpose of acting as a conduit between AMA and our clubs will be retained.

I am asking club presidents to follow up with their club contacts to make sure that charter renewals are being returned in a timely manner. This will guarantee that your club's insurance and site owners' insurance remain intact and will help our membership department process your charter renewals as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Some of you may know from reading the minutes of the November EC meeting that a motion was made at that meeting to eliminate the senior citizen membership discount while grandfathering those who were already eligible for it.

The motion was tabled at that meeting so the officers could have more time to study the issue. The motion was presented again at this meeting and was defeated, three in favor and nine against. This means there will be no change in the membership discount offered to senior citizens.

I received a letter from an AMA member in Pennsylvania asking for some help in locating A2 kits. He's looking for names and addresses of any source, and he also would be interested in buying used or damaged models.

If you can help, contact John Pfeifer, 6608 Marsden Street, Philadelphia PA 19135-2726. I'm sure he'd appreciate hearing from you.

Finally this month, I'd like to revisit an issue I brought up last month: park flyers. Since I first mentioned this in my April column, sales of these models continue to grow. I've heard that two major model distributors are even preparing television advertisements pitching these models to the general public.

Look in any of the major modeling magazines. Each month, more ads are focusing on models suitable for park flying. The era of the successful, under-\$100 Radio Control model is here.

For many who are buying these models, this is their first Radio Control modeling experience. AMA is looking into ways to bring these new modelers into our organization and I'd like to hear your ideas.

How can we reach these people and make them aware that we exist? How do we let them know that we'd like to invite them into our clubs, and that we will even help them learn how to build and fly their next model?

Remember, we also have a selfish reason for reaching out to these new modelers. Many of these park flyers are using the same frequencies we use. We don't have exclusive rights to them. We need to be able to go to our established fields knowing there won't be somebody in the park down the street flying on the same frequency.

The only way to do this is to make them aware of us and invite them to join our clubs.

See you at the field. ✈