

District II Report

New Jersey/ New York/
Europe

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Note: For a listing of all district volunteer workers please see a previous issue of *Model Aviation* or the above Web address.

DISTRICT II Contest Coordinator, Dave King, wrote to say that there is now another good facility in the northern New Jersey area for indoor RC. The inaugural flying session took place in the Westfield Armory on April 6, 2004 and was attended by a large group of enthusiastic modelers.

The Armory is available every Tuesday barring any other commitments. If you're interested, swing by and check it out or drop Dave an E-mail at clmodelpilot@comcast.net for more information.



These are some of the modelers who participated in the inaugural flying session at the Westfield Armory.

We all know the lifeblood of our hobby is our ability to find and keep good flying sites. Nick Maggio, president of the Washington's Crossing Radio Control Flyer's Association, sent the following:

"Relationships between flying-field landlords and clubs must be nurtured and enhanced to assure a positive experience. All too often, when conversation turns to aeromodeling, the dwindling number of flying fields is the leading topic. The Washington's Crossing RC Flyer's Association (WCRC) in Titusville, New Jersey, is pleased to reverse the trend.

"On April 17, 2004, The State of New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry held a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at McGuire Air Force Base. In attendance were officials of the division throughout the state. Invited were the volunteer groups whose commitment and service to the park system form a foundation for success.

"Nick Maggio, president, and John Kukon, secretary/treasurer represented WCRC. Dave Donnelly, superintendent of Washington Crossing State Park, presented a

certificate to our club. The award represents recognition of outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of the New Jersey State Park Service.

"We are very grateful and proud of this acknowledgment. WCRC intends to further our efforts to help the Washington Crossing State Park and become an integral part of this beautiful, historical, multiuse facility."

You should be proud of this, Nick. Efforts such as this will help ensure our ability to continue the hobby we all enjoy.



Certificate presented to the WCRC Association in recognition of its efforts on behalf of the New Jersey State Parks Service.

For those who subscribe to *Plane & Pilot*, did you catch the Aeroshell advertisement on page 37 of the June 2004 issue?

The ad depicts a young boy holding a neat looking FF model, circa 1945. The model appears to be a Banshee designed in 1942 by Model Aviation Hall of Fame and AMA District II member, Leon Shulman.

Leon has several designs to his credit and is the patriarch of the well-known Shulman family that includes son Don and grandsons Jason and David.



Congratulations to the Middlesex Modelers, recipients of one of several AMA Flying Site Assistance (FSA) Grants for 2004. AMA created the FSA program several years ago to aid our clubs in developing and improving their flying sites. The grant will provide up to 10% of the costs of the cost of a club project with a limit of \$5,000.

More information about this program can be found on the AMA Web site at www.modelaircraft.org.

Most of our clubs are fortunate to have members who step up to help teach new members to fly. There are probably as many styles of instructing as there are instructors. For many years Clarence Ragland has been promoting his method of flight instruction

which he simply refers to as the "Ragland Technique."

What's unique about Clarence's method is that he instructs without the use of a buddy box. I've had several members of our District II team who have flown with Clarence tell me his method works, but frankly I was still a bit skeptical, so when Clarence offered to come to my club's field and give a demonstration, I took him up on his offer.

What I saw was rather impressive. Whether it was his technique, his demeanor, his flying ability, or a combination of all these, I was impressed with what I saw. In less than a tank of fuel he had one of our members hovering a helicopter.

One of our newer students, who had only one flight under his belt, was shooting landings in his first flight with Clarence. This member's young son, after just a few minutes with Clarence's help, flew the remainder of the flight up to the landing by himself.



Clarence Ragland (L) helps Aero Radio Club of Syracuse member Ed Cooper line up for a successful landing approach.

I was most impressed with the success my wife had. She's flown a little on a simulator and probably has roughly two minutes of actual stick time on a RC model. Clarence took the trainer to altitude and handed her the box. After several minutes of instruction he backed away and she flew the remainder of the flight without any assistance then shot a successful landing with minimal help from Clarence.

I'm certainly not saying this technique is for everyone, nor do I even know if it will work for someone other than an instructor with Clarence's mild mannered approach, but if you're interested in learning more, you can E-mail him at fliers1@aol.com.



Clarence Ragland (L) and Aero Radio Club of Syracuse president Herb Ziegler (R) look on as Ginger Mathewson flies.

See you next time. ✈