

Club Members,

Will the rain ever quit so we can start flying again? I know several of you have been waiting to maiden some new birds but just can't seem to get the weather you need. Wind and rain seems to sum up the Spring weather.

**Please note that this months meeting is at the flying field (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30pm. Please come out early and fly and attend the meeting.**

Speaking of Spring we just completed the Spring FlyIn this month which had so so attendance. I'd say we have roughly 30 pilots, somewhat less than last year. We hit the weather right though with nice sun and minimal wind conditions. I want to thank all of you who volunteered to prep the field, organize the concessions and helped control the crowd. Also a special thanks to the guys that put down the road base under the shelter prior to this event.

Our next event is the Club Fun Fly which will take place on July 25<sup>th</sup>. This event is for club members only with a few simple contests such as timed flight, spot landing and a dice game. Very simple contests that really have nothing to do with skill and more to do with luck. There will be prizes and all of you that participate will come home with something. I'd encourage you to participate. John Lormand will be the CD of this event and he is looking for volunteers to do the concessions. Please contact John or myself if you can help us out.

Please check the web site for additional pictures of the various events captured by Chester.

Speaking of the web site I want to let you guys know that we have a new web master. Mike Maloney. Mike replaces the long standing LAMA web master Mike Gulizia, I want to thank Mike Gulizia for his many years of technical support he has provided the club as the web master. Mike Maloney and I have discussed some possible new features for the web site which we will discuss at future club meetings. Look forward to a new look and feel as Mike's creative juices begin to flow.

I hate to bring it up again this month but we need to talk safety. I'm getting a bunch of complaints each month and I want to clarify several safety points.

### **Foamy 3-D Flying**

We designated a 3-D flying area for the foamies on the South West corner of the property. This would be the area South and West of the pit area. You must stay within that area and not venture towards the runway or fly over the pit area or parking lot.

Flying from the back of your car in the pit area is not allowed. You must also use the frequency board when flying at the site regardless of aircraft type. If you are flying the bigger foam birds and need more airspace you need to use the normal runway area.

### **Taxiing, Engine Start Up**

This generates the most call volume to me so I want to make sure we are all clear about the rules. You **MUST** have your aircraft restrained during startup and you **MUST** have your plane restrained while moving the aircraft within the pit area. You should physically be holding the rudder or something on that aircraft when you move from the pit area to the taxiway. I need you guys to police this rule and help everyone remember the importance of having the aircraft restrained.

When you land and come back on the taxiway shut your plane down. The less motors we have turning we'll minimize the risk. Unfortunately we have had several near misses and one arm get cut bad enough for stitches just in the last month. With more pilots in the pit area we have to be more diligent about these safety issues.

### **Pilot Stations**

Guys, please stand in one of the designated pilot stations. The expectation from everyone is that the pilot is at the pilot stations and all communications regarding landings and takeoffs is directed at the pilot stations. When pilots begin to wander outside the pilot station it makes communications between the pilots difficult.

There was a regional meeting of the AMA clubs in our area to discuss various issues and to kick around some ideas. One of the ideas being formalized is an agreement to share club fields within the region. This is in response to several clubs in the area losing flying sites and being unable to relocate quickly enough to provide its members access to a field. There is also issues with club events causing the field to be restricted to just those pilots attending the event while leaving other members unable to fly.

We'll have to see how the proposal is written before we place a formal response back to the regional director. My comments to the regional representatives was that we were ok with helping other clubs out when requested but am somewhat hesitant to create a formal agreement to share facilities with another club. Several clubs have indicated to me that they would like to share facilities with us. My initial gut feel is that this may benefit other clubs more than it benefits us. After I get something in writing from the regional director I'll present it to the club so we can discuss and provide our response.

That's all I can think of for this month. We'll see you guys at the field once it dries out. Oh and let me personally thank Dan for having the IMAC contest on Mothers Day. I'm now scheduled to attend a craft show with my wife on Fathers Day!

Take care, Jerry.





Photos courtesy of Diane Knappenberger