

This is our proposal to the Harriman City Council.

The Tennessee Eagles R/C Club is an AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) Chartered Club, and we currently have 55 members, with ages ranging from 15 years to 84 years old. The AMA is the national governing body for model aviation. The AMA works with the United States government and specific entities of the government, such as the FAA, the FCC, Homeland Security and others. The AMA has been recognized by the EPA as a recommend use of EPA Superfund lands for model airplane flying sites. There are more than 2500 AMA Clubs nationwide, with 150,000 members. The AMA provides to its members \$2.5 Million Dollars in insurance coverage. They also provide to the City of Harriman, through the club, a \$2.5 Million Dollar PRIMARY insurance policy to cover the operation of the flying site on City property.

There are 32 AMA Clubs within 100 mile radius of Harriman. The closest one to Harriman is 40 miles away. These Clubs support each other as far as attending and flying at air shows at each other's flying fields, they are set up almost identical under AMA, as far as safety, flying rules and insurance requirements for each member. They have club officers with distinctive duties, much like the city council, such as President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Safety Officers and Park Coordinator. All club issues are brought before the club to be decided by a majority vote.

I feel that it is a necessity to enlighten this city council on the past history of Mr. Webb. He has been associated with 2 previous clubs, is which both failed to succeed, utilizing much of the same ideas that he is proposing to this city council, in addition, Mr. Webb has for the past 15 years consistently wrote articles in the local news paper condemning our club and members about various things, this is clearly a personal vendetta against the Tenn. Eagles R/C Club and its members.

Mr. Webb has been invited numerous times by different club members to join our club and take advantage of the flying field that he helped to start some 15+ years ago and that the Tenn. Eagles R/C club has continued to improve and maintain for well over 10 years. (All improvements have been with labor and funds provided solely by the Tenn. Eagles R/C Club for over 10 years.) Mr. Webb has declined each time.

I feel at this time the issues that Mr. Webb has, must be put to rest. As it is hurting this hobby, our club, his business, the city of Harriman and undo expenditure of time for this City Council.

Mr. Webb's Declaration to say the least, is misleading, we have in fact been a big benefit to Roane Co. and the City of Harriman, and we have raised over \$6,000.00 for the Shiner's Children's hospital. We have 3 to 5 air shows each year. We never charge admission, we advertise our air shows, on our website (www.tneagles.com), RC universe website, radio stations, banners, flyers, newspaper and nationally in the Model Aviation Magazine. [Our events already attract more attendance than Mr. Webb claims he can draw in a year.](#)

Anyone is allowed to utilize the field as long as they are insured by the Academy of Model Aeronautics. All R/C Clubs require their members to carry AMA insurance. I do not know of any clubs anywhere that don't require AMA insurance. This relationship with between the Club and the City is a very common one throughout the USA. The club provides the insurance for the city,

and the city has a single responsible group to take care of managing the facility and insuring that all activities are done in a safe manor. The club's lack of insurance claims is a tribute to the safe operations that they enjoy and require.

Other clubs are not going to drive long distances to daily utilize the field here in Harriman, when they have their own. However, they will come and support the club during special events and fly-ins. As stated earlier, the club events are supported by the surrounding clubs and modelers, and have resulted in many dollars spent in the local area for hotels and restaurants. We constantly strive to promote this hobby. One of our members has taught summer classes about building and flying R/C planes at Roane State College to middle school age kids. At the end of their class we would put on a flight demo for the class and provide some R/C flight instruction at the Harriman R/C Park.

This hobby sometimes leads to careers in aviation. For instance former astronaut, Shuttle Pilot, and Reno Air Race competitor Hoot Gibson got his start flying R/C aircraft. One of our club members that started out flying R/C is now a Captain in the Tenn. National Guard and he now flies an OH-58 Helicopter Gunship and has defended our country in Iraq.

This Club has no objection to R/C car tracks or racing courses being built near the Air field as long as strict frequency control is maintained and the R/C cars used only frequencies approved for ground control. These race courses would need to be built away from the flight path of the aircraft at the airfield.

We have people from all professions in our club. A lot of our members work full time and many are retired. Some of the members fly though out the week and some only have an opportunity to fly on weekends, due to their work schedule. Therefore we need an air field that is available to us whenever we have an opportunity to fly. Scheduling would not work.

I ask that the City Council to please vote to renew the Tenn. Eagles R/C lease. Our lease allows the City or our club to break the lease at any time. The only reason the lease was ever put in place, is because Terry Webb has been trying to take control of the field for years, yet he still refuses to become a member of our club where he could then utilize the field, just as everyone else does.

Tennessee Eagles R/C Club