

Dave Mathewson, AMA President
AMA & EAA Model Aviation Exhibit Dedication
July 25, 2010

It's great to see so many here this afternoon to help dedicate the EAA's new model aviation exhibit. I hope you've had a chance to walk through the exhibit. It contains a spectacular collection of model aviation artifacts and does a great job telling the story about the history of model aviation.

One of the things that caught my eye as I looked at the models was that most, if not all, of the models in the exhibit are on loan from EAA members. I also noticed that many of those models on loan from EAA members are on loan from EAA members who either are, or at one time were, AMA members. I think this helps to underscore the similarities between our two memberships.

Shortly after AirVenture last year EAA and AMA opened a dialogue to try to identify opportunities where we could work together, not only to support our respective missions, but to build public awareness and general interest in aviation. Those discussions culminated in late May when Tom and I signed a Memorandum of Agreement pledging to work together on programs to do just that. Our primary interest – initially - will be to find ways to attract younger folks to aviation.

EAA has a tremendous youth outreach program with their Young Eagles program. Through Young Eagles over 1.5 million kids have been given an opportunity to take a flight in an aircraft. AMA has been successful with our AeroLab program which uses model aviation as a tool in the classroom to teach the STEM courses in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. In addition, AMA's club outreach efforts have helped introduce model aviation to thousands of kids in hundreds of communities.

Working together, we think we can build on the successes that we have individually had and create new opportunities with the goal of not just sparking an interest in aviation in kids, but sparking an interest in aviation that will last a lifetime.

I want to thank Tom and all the EAA staff for their hospitality this weekend. And I hope you all enjoy the week ahead. I read a comment recently where someone said that AirVenture is like the Disneyworld of aviation. AirVenture is a great place to be no matter what your aviation interest.

Thank you