

2011

Imperial Radio Control Club, Inc.



www.imperialrcclub.com

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INTRODUCTION

IMPERIAL RC CLUB is an Academy of Model Aeronautics, chartered, non-profit club dedicated to the radio controlled model aircraft hobby and is open to anyone interested in model aviation. We are currently located on Highway 60 in Mulberry Florida.

IMPERIAL RC CLUB is a recreational, community oriented, radio controlled aircraft flying club that provides members and visiting AMA registered individuals with a local, secure radio controlled flying site. Our current membership includes residents throughout Polk County and surrounding communities.

IMPERIAL RC CLUB was started in 1969. At that time the club was located at the Old Bartow Airbase. Around the early 1980's, the club flying site was moved to our current location on Highway 60 in Mulberry Florida. The clubs main purposes

are promoting, education, advancement and safeguarding of remote control modeling activities.

IMPERIAL RC CLUB invites visitors to our club to watch and partake in flying activities. We have AMA approved instructors to train new pilots. **IMPERIAL RC CLUB** hosts several events at our field each year to promote flying activities and support local business through assistance with International Flying events and bringing outside visitors to the greater Lakeland/Polk County area.

WHAT MODEL AVIATION MEANS TO THE COMMUNITY

The accessibility of a local RC Flying Site is an important, component of the sports and outdoor recreational opportunities available to the local community. A radio controlled aircraft flying site requires wide, open land spaces in order to safely operate and perform flying activities. With the growth of our local communities, the availability of these open land resources are becoming increasingly scarce and there have been a number of clubs in our area that have lost their flying site to building development around or near the facilities.

Traditionally, these flying sites have been obtained and provided by self supporting, non-profit local flying clubs like The Imperial Radio Control Club, we currently rent 27 acres from a local land owner, provide liability insurance through the AMA, build, provide and maintain the necessary site improvements and facilities, and invite anyone in the community that is interested in model aviation to come and join our organizations.

Model Aviation is a good clean sport that encourages family participation and support. It challenges young people to explore, learn to be creative, competitive and invent new things while they develop real self confidence in their abilities and learn about math, aviation, engineering and science. Model Aviation is an investment in the future for our country.

The AMA is the official national body for model aviation in the United States. AMA sanctions more than 2,000 model competitions throughout the country each year, and certifies official model flying records on a national and international level. The AMA is the organizer of the annual National Aeromodeling Championships, the world's largest model airplane competition.

Membership in the AMA provides educational opportunity available to the community through scholarships, grants and the support of the local schools, scouting, Boy and Girls clubs and through competitions, demonstrations and other learning experiences.

Academy of Model Aeronautics, chartered clubs have a proven history of successful, safe operation and maintenance of local radio controlled aircraft flying sites. In our local area and nationally this is demonstrated by the AMA/Local Club partnerships with the Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Sites, along with numerous State and Municipal sites that are located within parks, recreation areas and closed landfills. We know how to operate, comply with and enforce the rules and regulations necessary to protect and care for the lands that we utilize.

All AMA clubs are open for membership to anyone interested in model aviation. We encourage and support the prospective "soon-to-be pilot", who is interested in flying airplanes, sailplanes, helicopters or any other types of flying machines to explore the opportunities available as an AMA Member. We have introductory pilots, instructors as well as some competition pilots who will be more than happy to assist in anyway they can to make sure that we all reach our goal, to fly and safely enjoy our hobby to the fullest.

Many famous people got their start because of model aviation including Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Hoot Gibson and Frank Borman. A quote from a letter by Mr. Burt Rutan designer of SpaceShipOne the first private space flight that won the Ansari X prize, sums it up:

“Today, we see numerous fields for sports like baseball, football and basketball, but few for model aircraft flying. This is wrong, since there will always be more opportunities for jobs in aviation, engineering and science than careers in sports. A few sports heroes make a lot of money, but they are not the ones that will change our lives for the better.”

In the back of this document is the full text of this letter along with others from Neil Armstrong, Hoot Gibson, James Wetherbee and Frank Borman. They are quite informative, please take a moment to read them.

CURRENT FLYING SITE

Looking east from the air 2 miles East of Mulberry Florida. Highway 60 is to the right (South), Lane Construction is at the top of the picture and Badcock Warehouse is at the bottom of the picture (not shown).



WHAT IS THE AMA?

World's largest model aviation association, representing a membership of more than 150,000 from every walk of life, income level and age group.

Self-supporting, non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote development of model aviation as a recognized sport and worthwhile recreation activity.

Organization open to anyone interested in model aviation.

Official national body for model aviation in the United States. AMA sanctions more than 2,000 model competitions throughout the country each year, and certifies official model flying records on a national and international level.

Organizer of the annual National Aeromodeling Championships, the world's largest model airplane competition.

Chartering organization for more than 2,500 model airplane clubs across the country. AMA offers its chartered clubs official contest sanction, insurance, and assistance in getting and keeping flying sites.

The voice of its membership, providing liaison with the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and other government agencies through our national headquarters in Muncie, Indiana. AMA also works with local governments, zoning boards, and parks departments to promote the interests of local chartered clubs.

An associate member of the National Aeronautic Association. Through NAA, AMA is recognized by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), the world governing body of all aviation activity, as the only organization which may direct U.S. participation in international aeromodeling activities.

AMA VISION

We, the members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, are the pathway to the future of modeling and are committed to making modeling the foremost sport/hobby in the world. This vision is accomplished through:

- Affiliation with its valued associates, the modeling industry and governments.
- A process of continuous improvement.
- A commitment to leadership, quality, education and scientific/technical development.
- A safe, secure, enjoyable modeling environment.

AMA MISSION

The Academy of Model Aeronautics is a world-class association of modelers organized for the purpose of promotion, development, education, advancement, and safeguarding of modeling activities.

The Academy provides leadership, organization, competition, communication, protection, representation, recognition, education, and scientific/technical development to modelers.

AMA And Related Websites:

AMA: www.modelaircraft.org

Education: www.modelaircraft.org/education.aspx

Model Aviation's Sport Aviator: www.masportaviator.com

Park Pilot Program: www.theparkpilot.org

EPA Superfund Video:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/info/skies.html>

EPA/AMA Partnership:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/info/amapartners.html>

INSURANCE

Many landowners and Government entities require liability coverage for the use property by people or groups. Such coverage is provided by means of an "Additional Insured" Certificate issued under the AMA liability insurance policy. Such certificates are valid so long as the club is chartered and serve to provide \$2,500,000 of primary liability insurance coverage to non-AMA persons or organizations (flying site owners, sponsors, governments or organizations).

SITE MAINTENANCE



IMPERIAL RC CLUB current resides on approximately 25 acres on Highway 60 in Mulberry Florida. We operate our flying site in an environmentally responsible manner by providing portable toilet facilities and trash service as well as providing solar powered battery charging station complete with proper disposal containers.

We maintain safety and security by providing access limited to club members, guests, and visitors. The site is kept in a neat and presentable condition with our own mowing equipment.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Besides flying of model Aircraft, **IMPERIAL RC CLUB** also participates is several local flying activities sponsored by a local business, Frank Tiano Enterprises, www.franktiano.com.

Each year these events bring World Class Pilots and spectators from all over the world to compete at the Lakeland Linder Airport. An example of these events are:

Florida Jets



Top Gun



During these events, our club provides several important functions to ensure the AMA Safety Code is followed for the protection of the spectators, pilots and their planes. The Club Members provide flight line control, pit line access, assistance to pilots and coordination of flight activities between the FAA and Airport Flight Control. Below are several pictures from these events along with a special note we received from one pilot from Mexico.



Flight line control is similar to air traffic control at the full size airport. Controllers are responsible for safe take offs and landing of all aircraft. We give the pilots permission to take the runway or to land when air traffic is clear of other planes. We also provide communication between all pilots that are in the air. Controllers wear headsets and are in communication with each other by voice and hand signals. Controllers can be seen in the pictures with yellow shirts and radio headsets.





This is a picture from Mr. Luis Ceja from Mexico City, Mexico along with a note that was attached to the picture:

From: Cejajets <Cejajets@aol.com>
To: Benz425
Sent: Wed, Mar 11, 2009 10:38 pm
Subject: Hello David

Like every year since 2006 my father and I have had a wonderful time in Lakeland. We like and enjoy very much the communication we have with you the flight controllers in the flight line and the way you take care of us and the aircraft, despite a few moments of tension when the traffic gets heavy.

I am sending you a picture that for me is a treasure. Thank you very much for everything and look forward to see you next year.

Regards.
Luis Ceja

F3C USA TEAM TRIALS

In addition to the events listed above, the IMPERIAL RC CLUB also hosts several events at our local field. One of the events was the USA F3C Team Trials. This event was a pylon racing event which was used to pick the 2011 USA Pylon Team which will compete in the World Pylon Racing Championships in Australia in October 2011.



This event was attended by competitors from all over the US along with several pilots from Mexico and Guatemala. These foreign pilots used this event to practice for the upcoming World Competition.



ANNUAL HELI SPECTACULAR

Each November, the IMPERIAL RC CLUB hosts a Helicopter Fly In. This event brings in sport helicopter pilots from all over the US. Approximately 70+ pilots come to warm sunny Florida for a weekend of fun, flying, and networking with fellow pilots.



GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN:

This year the club participated in the Great American Teach In held at the Medulla Elementary School. We talked to elementary school kids about flying remote controlled aircraft and the science behind it. We emphasized the importance of Math and Science required even in this hobby.



Appendix A - Letter from Neil Armstrong



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
MANNED SPACECRAFT CENTER
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058

IN REPLY REFER TO: CB

Executive Director
Academy of Model Aeronautics
1810 Samuel Morse Drive
Reston, VA 22090

The following are the answers to the questions in your letter of 10 April:

1. I flew in model aircraft competitions during the years of 1946-1950
2. I was a member of the U.S. Navy team at the 1949 Nationals (control-line, speed), but was not a winner.
3. I was an AMA member for a number of years in the '40s, but do not have the dates.
4. My model building and flying activities significantly contributed to my interest in aeronautics and was a primary force in directing my education toward aeronautical engineering.

I was honorary control director at the 1964 Nationals at Dallas and also 3 or 4 years earlier at the Glenview while I was in the X-15 program.

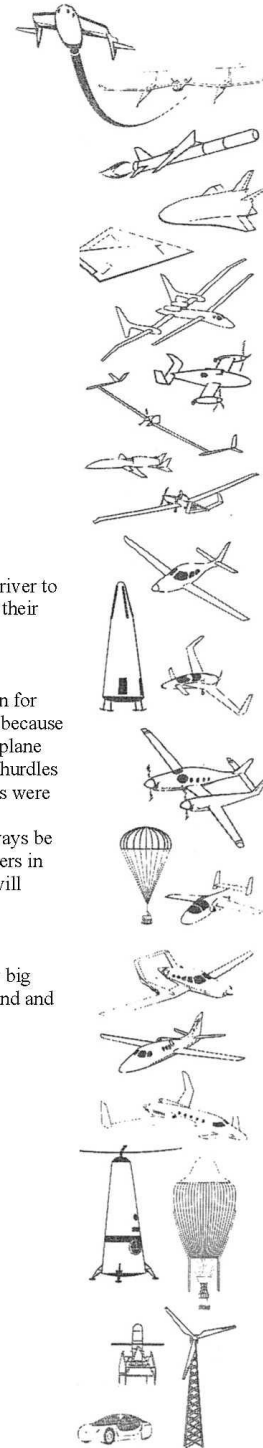
I look forward to seeing you at the Collier event.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil A. Armstrong". The signature is written over the printed name below it.

Neil A. Armstrong

Appendix B - Letter from Burt Rutan



Academy of Model Aeronautics
198 Merritt Drive
Oradell, NJ 07649

April 11, 2006

To: Director, Academy of Model Aeronautics

From: Burt Rutan

Subject: Lake of flying fields for model flight activities

I can personally attest that the exposure to model aviation activities is a strong driver to encourage young people to consider Science and engineering as they later make their career choices.

I am often asked to give motivational talks and my favorite subject is 'inspiration for innovation'. This deals with the premise that our top science leaders stand out because of what they see as 4 to 14 year-old children. For me, the exposure to model airplane flying and model competition was critical. Then (in the 1950's) there were few hurdles in setting up a flying field - environmental issues were few and the opportunities were limitless. Today, we see numerous fields for sports like baseball, football and basketball but few for model aircraft flying. This is wrong, since there were always be more opportunities for future jobs in aviation, engineering and science than careers in sports. A few sports heroes make a lot of money but they are not the ones that will change our lives for the better.

An investment in providing model clubs, competitions and flying fields will pay big dividends in inspiring our future leaders. I strongly endorse your efforts to expand and promote those opportunities.

Lookin up.....way up,

Burt Rutan

SCALED COMPOSITES: ADVANCE LINK TO EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT
1624 FLIGHT LINE • MOJAVE, CA 93501-1663 • (661) 824-4541 • FAX (661) 824-4174
www.scaled.com

Appendix C - Letter from Robert "Hoot" Gibson

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas
77058



CB

Reply to Attn of:

Mr. Geoffrey Styles
Academy of Model Aeronautics
1810 Samuel Morse Drive
Reston, VA 22090

Dear Geoffrey:

When I landed the Space Shuttle "Columbia" in the pre-dawn darkness at Edwards Air Force Base on January 18th this year, I was performing a piloting task similar to one I first learned many years ago with smaller model airplanes. I've built and flown model airplanes all my life, starting with gliders, free-flight, U-control and up through radio control. It's taught me problem solving, aerodynamics, stability and control, structures, and many other things that have served me very well in engineering, in aviation, and in my career as an astronaut. I'm still active as a modeler (when I'm not orbiting) and continue to enjoy the camaraderie, the satisfaction, and the continuing education that aircraft modeling provides. I'd recommend it for any aspiring aviator or future astronaut!

Sincerely,

Hoot
Robert L. Gibson

Robert "Hoot" Gibson
Commander, U.S. Navy
Pilot, Shuttle Mission 41-B
Commander, Shuttle Mission 51-C

Appendix D - Letter from James Wetherbee

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Road 1
Houston, Texas 77058-3696

Reply to Attn of: AP2-99-041

Mr. Joe Beshar
Flying Sites Coordinator
Past AMA Vice President District 2
198 Merritt Drive
Oradell, NJ 07649

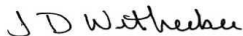
Dear Mr. Beshar:

This is in response to your letter of December 31, 1998, regarding the value and importance of model aviation. I can tell you love aviation and that flying has been in your blood from an early age. I can identify with the feeling. At a very young age, I too was smitten with the flying bug and model aviation. I have been fortunate in that I have been able to follow this dream throughout my career, logging over 5,000 hours as a Navy pilot before becoming a NASA astronaut.

I share your enthusiasm for model aviation and wholeheartedly recommend it for all ages. It is a very exciting sport, as well as an educational and inspirational one. It is an ideal pastime in which to involve today's youth. The sport can continue, however, only as long as flying sites are available to local chapters around the country. As sites are lost to residential and industrial expansion, new ones must be located. I would encourage all organizations to assess their facilities as potential flying sites to share with these model aviation chapters.

Good luck in your quest for additional flying sites. Indeed, they are crucial in maintaining the sport for future generations.

Sincerely,



James D. Wetherbee, Captain USN
Deputy Director

Appendix E - Letter from Frank Borman

FRANK BORMAN
250 Cotorro Court • Suite A
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
(505) 524-4050

August 12, 1197

Mr. Jay Mealy
Flying Site/Marketing Center
Academy of Model Aeronautics
5151 East Memorial Drive
Muncie, Indiana 47302

Dear Mr. Mealy:

I would like to add my voice to the hundreds of thousands of people who support the hobby of model aviation. In my own case, building model airplanes started me on a long career in aviation and space. Some of the fondest memories of my youth are those of my Dad and I building and flying Zippers, Playboys, etc in the late thirties and early forties.

The thrill of witnessing the takeoff, flight and successful return of a personally constructed model is second only to the actual experience of flying. It is no wonder, therefore, that almost all aviators actually begin their career with the interest sparked from the hobby of model aviation. It is an interest that once pursued, intensifies and always remains.

I urge the community governments and particularly the park department to preserve and develop recreational sites and land areas suitable for model aircraft activity. This is certainly of the finest commitments we can make toward installing the challenges of youth—and ensuring the leisure enjoyment of many old times like myself.

Sincerely,



Frank Borman

FB/pfg