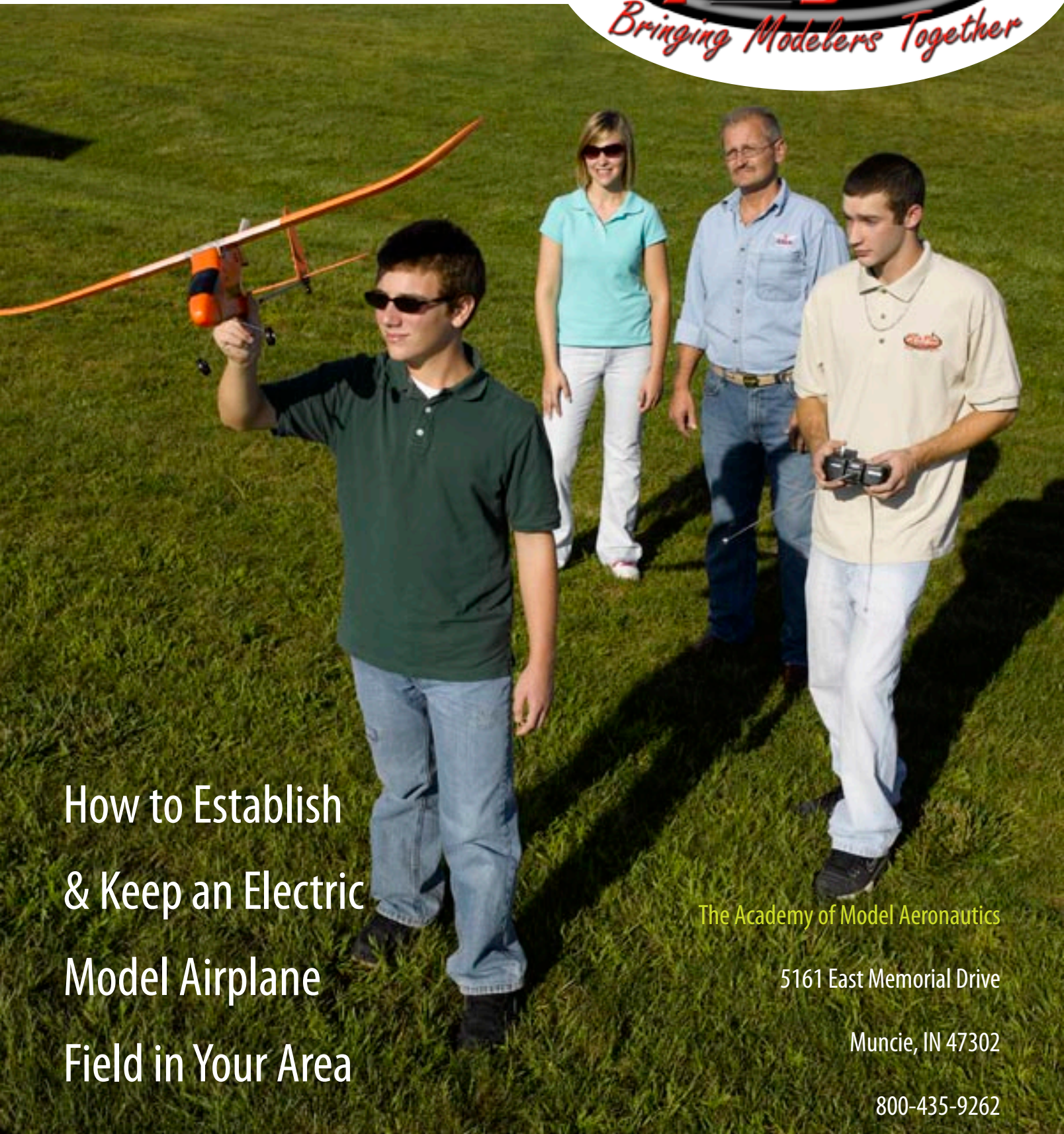


# Park Pilot Booklet



How to Establish  
& Keep an Electric  
Model Airplane  
Field in Your Area

The Academy of Model Aeronautics

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# Types of Aircraft & Where They Can Fly

Model airplane pilots have been flying and enjoying the sport of radio-controlled (RC) model airplanes for more than 60 years. As with all electronic components, the hardware used to control RC airplanes has gotten increasingly smaller as technology and innovation have allowed. More recently—in the last five to ten years—the RC equipment, electric motors, speed controllers, and batteries have been miniaturized and perfected to the point that a new class of model aircraft has emerged. These new airplanes are exclusively electric-motor powered, very quiet, have wingspans that range from roughly 8 to 36 inches, weigh less than 2 pounds, and fly at airspeeds from 20 to 60 mph. Modelers tend to fly these new airplanes from parks, playgrounds, and backyards. The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and modelers everywhere call these new models park flyers.





As a facilities supervisor, you're always looking for partners that fit well with your needs. Park flyers are perfect! While people of all ages are joining this segment of the sport, it is very popular with a younger group of participants.

Some things to look for when selecting park flyer venues include:

- No obstacles in the flying area
- A designated pilot area or flightline
- Enough space to comfortably fly the aircraft
- Schedule availability



# Indoor Sites

Park flyers are easily flown within the space limitations of indoor and outdoor facilities. Whether your facilities are indoors (gymnasiums, sports arenas, golf domes, enclosed tennis courts) or outdoors (soccer fields or practice fields), you have an opportunity to add a great activity to your facilities' agenda and to generate revenue for your organization or business.

You may also be able to get some limited funding from AMA through the Flying Site Development/Improvement Grant Program. Visit the AMA Web site for details of the program and to download the application forms.

([www.parkflyer.org](http://www.parkflyer.org)) or

([www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org))





# Parks & Schools

Modeling promotes patience, persistence, and creativity—all great attributes to acquire at a young age.

Aeromodeling is very educational and lots of fun! The type of aircraft that is flown determines what type of facility should be used. Since park flyers are slow and maneuverable, they can operate in a variety of facilities.



# Indoor Models &



Generally speaking, any large building with an open floor plan can be used for indoor flight. However, some structures are obviously better than others.

Some things to look for when selecting an indoor flying venue include:

- Well-lit areas that promote visibility and improve visual orientation while flying the aircraft
- Enough open area to comfortably accommodate the average aircraft's speed and maneuverability
- Schedule availability



## Park Flyers

As the name implies, park flyer models can be flown in parks or any other outdoor setting that offers enough obstruction-free space. While somewhat larger than indoor models, they can operate comfortably in areas the size of soccer fields or doubled baseball fields.



# Micro Models



Indoor models tend to be small, quiet, extremely lightweight, and slow flying. The slow flying speeds of these models make them easy to fly in confined spaces, such as gymnasiums, arenas, tennis courts, and similar venues.

Some of the small, lightweight, three-dimensional-flying type airplane (3D) models can also be flown indoors.

This category may also include small, or mini, electric helicopters. These tiny models can fly in small spaces. Indeed, some are sold explicitly for flying in areas as small as a living room.



# 3-D Models

This category of model airplanes is typically made from lightweight foam or balsa. Models in this category are often flown in small indoor spaces, but many are sized such that they demand slightly larger accommodations, such as parks or large gymnasiums. Most of these airplanes are aerobatic. Other models, however, are more conventional and larger, with a full fuselage. These require an arena, large gymnasium, or large tennis/golf enclosure for best flying.



# Working With the Site Supervisor / Owner

Obviously, whenever activities take place on your site, it is vital that you, the landowner or superintendent, know that your procedures and regulations are being followed. Aeromodeling clubs and AMA have been working with site owners for decades. Their safety record is superb. This new generation of aircraft—park flyers—will only enhance that record.

The clubs have a well-thought-out set of guidelines and operating procedures from the AMA that will assure that the use of your facilities will be trouble free. AMA has what is called its Flying Site Assistance package to help get everyone off to a trouble-free start.

Some items included in this package are:

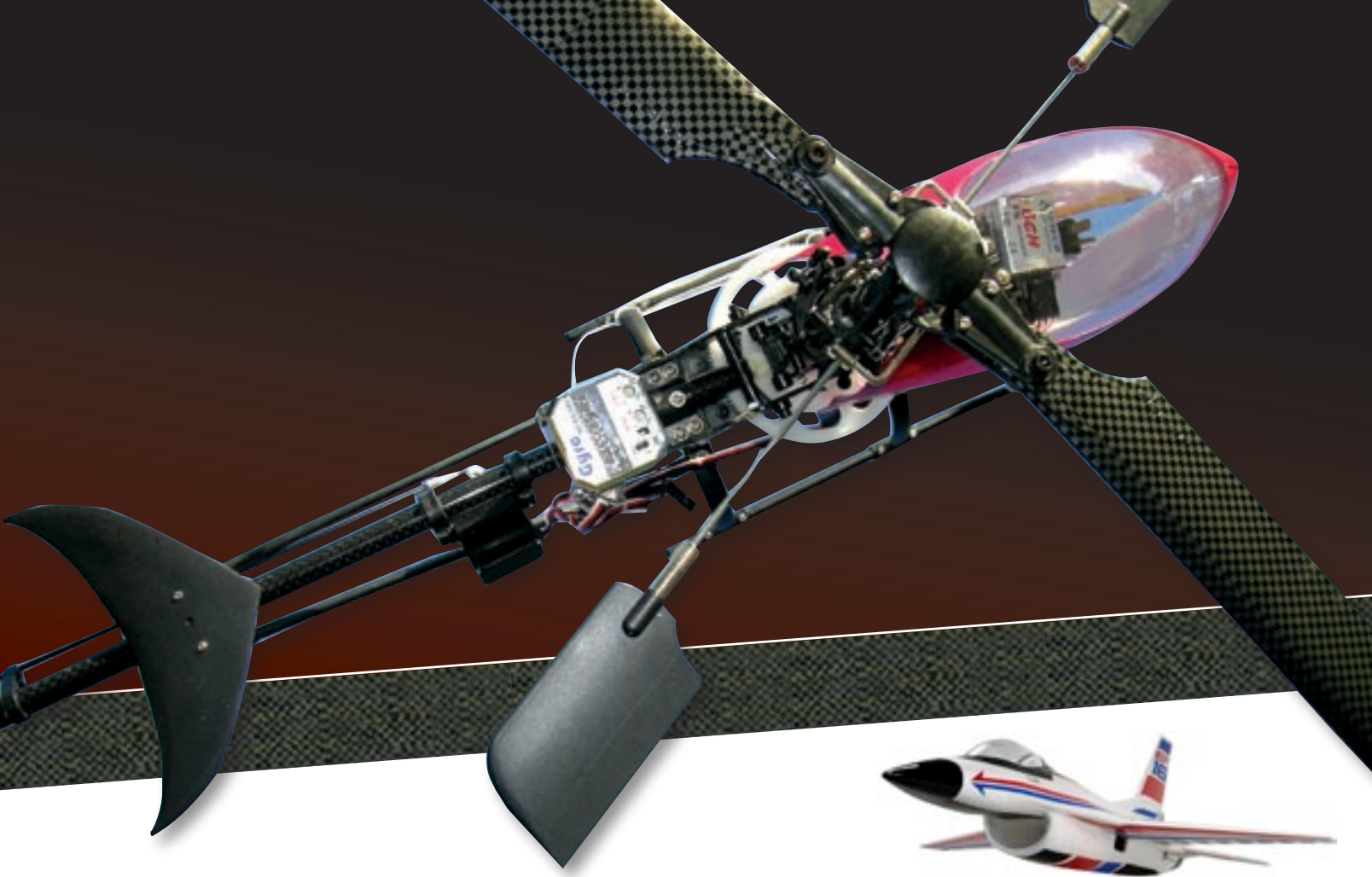
- \$2.5 Million AMA Insurance Summary
- Application for Insuring Flying Site Owners
- AMA Safety Code
- AMA Benefits
- Application for AMA Chartered Club Status

AMA is unique in offering \$2.5 million of primary insurance coverage for landowners and currently covers thousands of model flying sites nationwide! An AMA club will be glad to show you actual demonstrations of the aircraft to let you see firsthand how well they will fit within your facility.

There is a considerable amount of information and help available from the AMA to help answer any additional questions you might have.







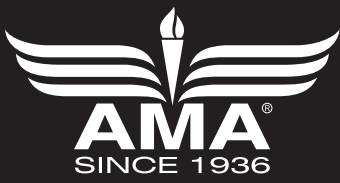
## Remember that AMA can provide the following:

- Liability coverage for the operation of model aircraft, boats, cars, and rockets. Each AMA member has additional insurance from the AMA, providing a backup for the member's individual insurance and helping to indemnify and protect both the member and the flying-site owner.

- Primary Site Owner Insurance of at least \$2,500,000 at each location. Again, AMA works to indemnify and protect the flying-site owner.

- \$500,000 comprehensive general liability protection for model activities for members. The AMA's Comprehensive General Liability Coverage provides yet one more layer of protection.

So if you're looking for a great new activity for your facility—one that is quiet, clean, educational, and fun—contact us today at [www.parkflyer.org](http://www.parkflyer.org) or call 800-I-FLY-AMA and we'll be glad to direct you to an AMA club in your area!



## Who is the AMA and Where Are We Going?

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is the world's largest sport aviation organization. Chartered in 1936 as a self-supporting, non-profit organization, its purpose is to promote the development of model aviation as a recognized sport and recreation activity.

The AMA now represents the interests of more than 155,000 members from all walks of life, income levels, age, and gender. It is the national governing body for model aviation within the United States and is also a member of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), which is the international governing body for all sporting aviation activities, full-scale and model. One of the major functions of the AMA is to represent

its members by providing liaison between such organizations as the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and other government agencies by way of its Executive Council, which is headquartered in Muncie, Indiana.

The AMA charters more than 2,500 model-airplane clubs throughout the US. It provides its members with official contest sanctions, represents members' interests at FAI council meetings, and provides assistance in getting and keeping flying sites and facilities. More importantly, chartered clubs, members, and landowners are provided with insurance to protect them against liability in the very unlikely event that an incident occurs with a model aircraft.





# Park Flyer Definition



**Park flyer models** will weigh 2 pounds or less and be incapable of reaching speeds greater than 60 mph. They must be electric or rubber powered, or of any similar *quiet* means of propulsion. Models should be remotely controlled or flown with a control line, remain within the pilot's line of sight at all times, and always be flown safely by the operator.

**A Park Flyer site** can be either an outdoor or an indoor venue. When

flying at sites specifically designed for Park Flyers, the pilot will keep the model within the established flight boundaries of the field. Members need to take into consideration several factors, including piloting ability, weight, size, and speed of the Park Flyer model, to determine if a Park Flyer site is an appropriate venue for flying a particular model. The test should be, "Can I fly this model safely and quietly at this flying site?"





The Academy of Model Aeronautics

[www.parkflyer.org](http://www.parkflyer.org)

[www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org)

[www.masportaviator.com](http://www.masportaviator.com)