



Tuesday, February 02, 2016

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AMA leaders advocate for model aviation

A dozen AMA members, staffers, and Executive Council members descended upon Washington, D.C., on January 27 and 28 to advocate for the protection and enhancement of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft. While there, AMA representatives had the opportunity to meet with members of Congress and their staffs. Read about the visit and how AMA is working to protect the hobby from overbearing regulations.

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Club reminder: It's time to renew your charter

Thank you to the more than 900 clubs that took advantage of the early club renewal option! We are currently in the process of mailing the club charter documentation to your designated contact officer. We just completed mailing the standard renewal documents to all other clubs, and your designated contact officer should have received them by now.

Please note that the insurance certificates issued for your flying site owner(s) in 2015 are in effect until March 31, 2016. We will begin issuing certificates for the 2016/2017 policy period in mid-February 2016. Insurance certificates will automatically be emailed to your designated contact officer and mailed to the certificate holder listed on the certificate. If you provide us with an email address for the certificate holder/flying site owner, we can email the certificate directly to him or her.

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Watch AMA Expo video coverage

Each January, modelers travel to Ontario, California, to participate in one of AMA's primary celebrations of model aviation: AMA Expo. Approximately 6,000 attendees and more than 100 exhibitors gathered in the Ontario Convention Center January 8-10, 2016, to see some of the newest products, reminisce about past events, and meet other hobbyists from across the country. For those who were unable to attend this year's AMA Expo, Model Aviation staff members have put together several recap videos.

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AMA upgrades rules proposal process

AMA's Competition department has finished upgrading the rules proposal process online. Members can now submit new rules proposals quicker and easier. The new online process allows you to attach additional documents such as graphs, charts, or extra text if needed. The paper form is still available for download if preferred. All questions should be directed to [Tony Stillman](#).

[learn more >](#)



NE Ohio Electric Festival hosts contest and US F3P Team Trials

If you live in the Midwest, don't miss this year's NE Ohio Electric Festival in Akron, OH, March 18-20. This year's event will be held at the University of Akron and will include indoor flying, vendors, and special entertainment. Part of the proceeds from the event will go to Wounded Warrior Project. This year, an Indoor Pattern contest will be held along with the US F3P Team Trials.

[check it out >](#)



'MA Construction Series' closes with author interview

Model Aviation's live podcast, "MA Construction Series," concludes with an interview with author Paul Kohlman. Listen to the interview and revisit the series for building tips and tricks.

[check it out >](#)



Register now to participate in 2016 National Model Aviation Day

Every year, National Model Aviation Day grows. We invite all clubs to host an event on August 13 to celebrate the hobby and raise public awareness for your club and our national organization. AMA has developed several resources to help make your event a great success. Visit nationalmodelaviationday.org to register, read stories from past events, and to learn more about the history of our national celebration.

[Register Now >](#)



Sign up now to receive the latest issue of Ground Control

In the next issue of Ground Control, scheduled to be released later this week, AMA staff will report on recent changes to the organization's bylaws, as well as address some club-related questions pertaining to FAA registration. Club officers, Contest Directors, Leader Members, and Associate Vice Presidents will automatically receive this electronic newsletter. If you hold one of these leadership positions, and you are not receiving any of our communications, [please contact us](#). If you do not hold one of these positions, you can still subscribe on our website.

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AMA remembers Mike Gretz

A man known for bringing Sig Manufacturing into the modern age of laser-cut kits and ARFs has passed away. Mike Gretz, lead designer for Sig Manufacturing, was also a modeler, former world champion, and AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame member. He had worked for Sig Manufacturing since January of 1972. Mike was a seven-time member of US Scale world championship teams, as well as a serving as team manager. He is the only person to place first at the AMA Nats in Control Line Scale and Radio Control Scale. His articles and photographs about model aircraft appeared in Model Aviation, Model Airplane News, Scale R/C Modeler, Hobby Merchandiser, and R/C Report. Mike's honors include receiving the AMA's FAI Distinguished Performance Award; distinguished performance awards at the FAI Scale World Championships in 1976, 1984, 1986, and 1988; the High Point Award; and several National Association of Scale Aeromodelers Flight Achievement Awards. Mike was inducted into the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 2007, received an AMA Fellowship Award in 2010, and was honored with the Distinguished Service Award in January 2016, the day before his death.

[read more >](#)



AMA ID labels available in the AMA online store

AMA encourages all members to include pilot information on model aircraft. For many years, an ID label has been available for this purpose. If you are looking to add contact information to your models, please consider purchasing one of these labels. This fuel-proof, adhesive-backed label has space on the bottom for your name and address. A clear plastic protects the label. Adding one of these stickers on or in your model complies with the AMA Safety Code requirements for identification and will help recover the model if it is lost. Each pack includes 10 labels.

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New crash T-shirt on sale

This newly introduced T-shirt will be sure to turn some heads. Our new shirt is made of 100% preshrunk cotton and is available in Vegas gold or white. The print on the back of the shirt reads "Crash Test Don't Blink." The front left crest image on the T-shirt reads "Crash Test." Get yours while they are on sale for only \$8.99 through February.

[buy now >](#)

