

# Rio Grande



# R/C Flyers

# The Fly Paper

**August 2009**  
**A.M.A. Chapter # 3723**

**News Letter**  
**I.M.A.A. Chapter # 480**

**Editor: Bill Robinson: [bill@rgflyers.org](mailto:bill@rgflyers.org)**

The August 2009 meeting of the Rio Grande Flyers was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by club President Bill Robinson. There were approximately 18 people present at Rudy's BBQ in Pharr.

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the July meeting as published in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Roger Bell passed out tickets for the Grand Raffle and reported a balance of \$1552 in the treasury.

No safety issues were reported in the past month.

Art Brock passed away on July 29, 2009, and some of the local flyers got together at the Tejas field in San Juan on Saturday, August 1 for a remembrance. Many stories were shared about Art. He will be missed.

Old Business:

Collecting the 2010 membership fee will begin in October. A motion was made and approved to have two different membership fees. Flying members would be \$50 and Non-Flying members, who wish to have voting rights and attend club activities, would be \$30. Non-flying members would not be able to be on the board.

A motion was made and approved to increase the budget for the Annual raffle from \$500 to \$600. This would allow the club to purchase three \$200 gift certificates from Tower Hobby. This was winners could purchase whatever they wanted. Also discussed was, if a club member's name was picked from the pool of names more than once, they would be allowed to receive a gift more than once.

## September Meeting Notice

The September meeting will be held on Wednesday September 5th at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be at Rudy's restaurant, located at 209 W. Nolana In Pharr. The club usually arrives at 6 PM for dinner with the meeting beginning at 7 PM.



A Fun Fly is scheduled for Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of August. It will begin at 10:00 am due to the heat and high winds that occur in the afternoon. The activities will be the Loop & Roll, Touch & Go, and the Dead Stick Spot Landing.

#### New Business:

The Tri-Club event is schedule for October 4<sup>th</sup>. Rick Martinez, Bob Berry and Phil Johnson will be planning the activity events. Different events were share and discussed. Donations for the food mentioned. Once again, the funds collected could be donated to the food bank. More information will be given at the September meeting.

Gary Dye led a discussion on the Horizon Seminars for the club. Some of the seminars would involve 2.4 stuff, electric planes, helicopter, electric 340 etc. A good discussion was held on the benefits of these Seminars. They could be very informative and helpful. A mini-seminar will be held at the next meeting by Gary Dye.

There were not guests or visitors.

Next meeting will be held September 5th at Rudy's BBQ in Pharr.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M. without opposition.

#### **PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT**

#### **AMA Embraces Online Future**

*by Dave Mathewson, AMA President*

AMA launched its Members Only online forum early in June in a notice to our Leader Members. Our intent was to start slowly to try to identify any bugs in the system that may have been overlooked during the internal testing phase. The launch went almost flawlessly and we're now beginning to promote the forum and encourage member participation.

I've written in the past that communication is the key to success in any membership organization and AMA is no different. Our new forum will give us the ability to communicate in a quick and cost effective way with our members, and vice versa.

This forum is not intended to compete with the other popular, more traditional model aviation related forums. These forums play an important role in the modeling community and are a good resource for model aviation-related information. Our AMA forum will be dedicated to an exchange of AMA-related information. If you haven't had a chance to visit yet you can get to the forum from a link on AMA's

## Calendar of Events



- \* Sept 2 Club Meeting Rudy's
- \* Oct 4 Tri Club Competition
- \* Oct 7 Club Meeting Rudy's

Web site at [www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org). Over the next several months new topics and sections will be added based on member input. Posting is limited to members but the ability to read posts is open to all.

AMA plans to take greater advantage of the Internet and the resources and opportunities it provides. By the time this issue of the *AMA Insider* reaches you, AMA should be accepting PayPal as a method of payment to join or renew a membership. As we get farther into the year, this option will also be made available for purchases from our Plans Department and Merchandising.

Club charter renewals and applying for event sanctions are areas that take significant time and effort for club officers and contest directors to manage. Beginning in 2010 our plans are to have in place the option to process both club charters and sanction applications online. There are several advantages in doing this. First, of course, the ability to submit an electronic charter online will eliminate the tedious task of entering all of this information manually. For club charters, officers will have the ability not only to submit their initial yearly charter online but they will also be able to manage club rosters and other club information throughout the year.

The time needed to process a sanction application today includes a significant amount of time when the paperwork is "in transit." Applications are first sent to the district contest coordinator then, if approved, forwarded onto AMA Headquarters for processing and then mailed back to the CD.

Being able to submit an application online will virtually eliminate nearly all of the transit time. Contest coordinators will still authorize and approve sanction requests but will do so electronically. The "system" will take the information provided in the sanction application and automatically process it once the contest coordinator gives his or her okay.

Finally, the option will be available to return the processed sanction certificate to the CD in electronic form instead of sending hard copies though the mail. What now takes several weeks to accomplish could realistically be done in a matter of days. Supporting paperwork would still be sent through the postal system.

These are just a couple of the new electronic options that we hope to be implementing in the next year or so. However, for those who wish to handle these tasks as we have in the past, that option will still be available as well.

See you next time...

