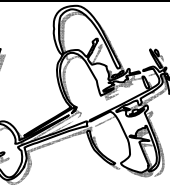




The Springfield R.C. Flying Club

Airmail



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Newsletter



AMA Charter #394
IMAA Charter #292

This is an addendum to the January Newsletter. The editor apologizes to the President and the Club for omitting this from the Newsletter.

Letter from the President

by David Campbell, President

Greetings fellow fliers! We are starting a new year and our first Club meeting is just around the corner on January the 3rd. What is the New Year going to bring for the Springfield RC Club?

Well I guess that is up to you. As a member of the club, what do you want to see happen in your club? For the past few years it seems most of us have sat back and let 15 to 20 members of our 80+ member club pretty much set all the activities/events and even do most of the work. I think if we are going to continue in any beneficial way as a flying club we need to rethink about why we have a club in the first place and why we are a member of such a club.

My platform as president is a simple one. Put the fun back in flying! I was asked by the club if I would be president and if I had any thoughts on what might help make this be a better club. When asked that question I had to ask myself why I joined this RC club in the first place. My answer may not be that different from some of yours. I wanted to fly my airplanes and have fun! For me it is just that simple. I wanted to do something to get my mind off of my regular work and all the other daily problems that go with life

Personally I don't care what kind of plane you fly, whether it is gas or electric, helicopter, jet, glider or some other design, I assume that you fly that plane because that is what you like to fly. I assume that you fly a certain "style" of flying because it is fun. If it isn't fun then why are you doing it?

Now for the tough part! Some of our members have quit flying because they are not getting the fun out of it that they once did. Some members have stopped coming to the club meeting because the meetings have become too contentious. On whom do we place the blame for this? Well honestly it lies with all of us because it is our club and we have let this happen! Some of us let it happen by not attending the meeting and not helping establish what is good for the majority of the club. Some of us have chosen to not like certain types of planes or certain types of flying and by doing so have contributed to strained relationships between fellow fliers that have lead us to some of the tension that we have today.

So what is the answer? For those of you who know me you know that I like to get to the point and move on and I think that's what is needed to solve this problem. Try not to take offense to my suggestions but examine your own thoughts and actions and see if any of this applies to you. After all, the only person that you can change is yourself!

Suggestion #1: As my son in the Army likes to say, "Man up". That means if you made a mistake or offended someone then "man up" and take responsibility for it. If it means telling someone you're sorry and shaking their hand then do it.

Suggestion #2: Grow up and use some common sense. We should be setting examples for the younger fliers and the public in general. Do we act like "sportsmen/women" or do we act like little kids or are you the playground bully?

Suggestion #3: Try to get to know someone who does not fly the same thing that you fly. Of course it is easy to just sit and talk with the friends we know and when we fly the same style we have more in common to talk about. But guess what! This isn't about you. This is about helping someone else in the club and sharing your knowledge and experience so another person can enjoy the sport.

Suggestion #4: Try and remember that you were once a beginner too and someone had to teach you and be patient with you while you struggled all over the sky.

Suggestion #5 Have fun or go home so the rest of us can enjoy the sport!

I know this article is going to draw some criticism but if we keep sweeping these issues under the table we are headed for a permanent split in this club that may never be repaired.

As your new club President I am asking this of all members. No matter what has happened in the past we need to draw a line in the sand and all move past that line. No going back and bringing up all baggage or old hurts. Granted there are some apologies that need to be made and wounds that need to be healed.

It is time to "man up" grow up and repair our reputation as a flying club. So I am personally asking each one of you as a member of this RC club. Will you help put the fun back in flying?

