



Flightlines

Newsletter of the Aurora Model Aircraft Club Inc
December 2006

Newsletter Editor: Max Perez

Hello everyone. This newsletter is a big one, but there are a lot of things to discuss.

Well, the 2006 AGM is now over and a new executive has been elected. Your new Executive is comprised of:

Position:	Name	Phone	Email
President:	Max Perez	(416) 899-6291	max_from_toronto@yahoo.ca
Vice President:	Pete Maxwell	(905) 727-6637	pmaxwell@allstream.net
Secretary:	Murray Berman	(905) 764-3490	berman@bromarsystems.com
Treasurer:	Matthew Stikeman	(905) 953-1256	stikeman@sympatcio.ca
Membership:	Frank Panacci.	(905)-853-0944	fitpanacci@look.ca

Firstly, I would like to thank the last year's executive for the work that they have done last year. They faced many challenges and tried their best to do what was right for the club. The fire at the field is now a thing of the past and now we must move on. Bruce and Clair did a lot of work investigating new locations for a future field if a new one becomes necessary. I know when the time comes I will rely on their experience to help us with this issue. I would also like to thank Clair for organizing the November Swap Meet. I'm not sure of the exact numbers but all the vendor tables were sold out.

The grand Prize winner of an RC aircraft was none other than our very own former President Mr. Bruce Dealhoy! For pictures and the names of the other winners, they should be posted on our website very soon.

For this month's newsletter, I asked each of the club executive to share with you some information regarding their particular position.

Our Vice President, Pete Maxwell, has a few things to say about the field. Murray Berman, the club secretary, also has a few things to say about the field. Matthew Stikeman has something to say about what needs to be done regarding club assets, and finally, our membership secretary, Frank Panacci has a few things to say about renewing your membership for the 2007 flying season.

We'll start with the Presidents message:

Presidents Message:

This year, I would like to see the level of participation at the club increase from last year or even the year before. This club is only as good as its membership. I am calling on you, the members, to make this the best year of AMAC by coming out a little more often than perhaps you did last year. I know I personally hate flying alone, and welcome the chance to meet other members who also share a passion for aircraft and model aircraft. We need YOU to come out and participate. We are getting



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new members who are interested in the hobby, and what can be more inspiring than seeing a variety of aircraft being flown by club members?

I would like this club to be a place where things are happening, where people look forward to the weekend so they can spend a few hours at the field with friends. Bring the family, bring a picnic, bring your latest project. Come on out and get to know your fellow modeler!

I would also like to see the club more actively involved in attracting new members. The executive and I are putting together a few events that will help raise awareness of AMAC. We have a few ideas but we need your input and your help. We will need members to help visit schools and put on shows. If you are available and would like to help out, please let me know. I believe that attracting new members will bring life and enthusiasm for the club. The enthusiasm the newcomers bring to the hobby is always infectious, even to old-timers. There will always be attrition of club members for any given reason. I would like to know what ideas you may have for attracting new members.

There are many other issues that we need to discuss but I will save them for another time.

Speaking of discussion, this year I would like to introduce to the club an effective means of communicating our thoughts and ideas by use of online forums. If you are reading this newsletter from the internet, then using our discussion forums is only a mouse click away.

If you haven't used online forums before, don't worry, it is very easy to learn.

The advantages of using a forum are many. They can allow us to communicate our ideas and respond to other member's ideas and suggestions in a continual thread as opposed to dozens of confusing emails with attachments.

It would also help to reduce the amount of time spent on discussing issues at the club meetings since people can make their points of view known in the forums *before* the meetings.

I believe there is a lot of potential for using a forum to share stories, ideas, and problems and even act as a bulletin board to let people know when you are flying next so that we can all get together for some fun.

All you need to do is go to the attached link and sign up.

The main page for our forums is:

<http://s10.invisionfree.com/AMACforums/index.php>

note: If you can't click on any of the links shown here, then copy and paste it into your internet browser address window.



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You will need to create a login name and password before you can post on the forums(you only need to do this once)

If you have never used discussion forums before, I have posted detailed instructions with pictures to guide you here:

<http://z10.invisionfree.com/AMACforums/index.php?showtopic=34>

Please make it a point to visit our forums every once in a while- once you start getting used to it- you will realize that it is a very handy tool for communicating with everyone the issues of the day.

I will also make it a point to communicate to you those burning issues that can't wait until the next club meeting In most cases I will send to you an email with a link the forum thread that I would like you to look at- just click on the link, check out the thread, and post your reply there if you have anything else to add to the discussion.

The forums are pretty straight forward, please feel free to add your comments or even start a new thread.

For example, if you want to get in on the discussion regarding field maintenance, just click the link to this thread:

<http://z10.invisionfree.com/AMACforums/index.php?showtopic=10>

I am also asking for ideas about making the club more visible- if you have any ideas you'd like to share, then click on this thread and add your comments:

<http://z10.invisionfree.com/AMACforums/index.php?showtopic=16>

Think you have an idea for a cheap sun shelter? Post it here:

<http://z10.invisionfree.com/AMACforums/index.php?showtopic=7>

I know to some of you that the use of these forums might seem daunting, but I also know from experience that it's not as bad as it first seems. As with all new things, there is some reluctance to try because the whole thing might seem too complicated or troublesome. But I also know that after you try it and get used to it, you will find that it is not as hard as you originally thought. After all, this last century mankind has seen a lot of new and (at first) troublesome technologies such as the motor car- the airplane and even computers.

If you have any problems getting onto the site, just call or email me anytime.

Thanks for your help,
Max Perez, President

416-899-6291 email: max_from_toronto@yahoo.ca



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Vice President's Message:

I would like to thank all of the members of the AMAC for their confidence in me as Vice Pres. for the coming year. I will try to make our field as useful and enjoyable as I can.

We didn't have an opportunity to discuss what conditions and layout the members wanted at the field, perhaps we can devote some time to this at the next meeting in December. However, since so many members have approached me over the past few months to express their opinions I have to assume that what most of us want is a more flyer friendly field. By this it seems you want a somewhat wider main runway and an east/west runway of lesser dimensions, as this will accommodate a greater variety of wind conditions. Also many have commented that the "off runway areas should be cut shorter than in recent months so that their planes are not damaged if they stray off the intended landing areas. If we do this we will need to significantly increase the proposed budget for field maintenance or take a different approach to cutting the grass.

I have costed out purchasing a replacement tractor, roller, spreader and storage container. We could easily purchase these items, have a place to store the trainer/radio and other equipment etc, and still spend about half of the insurance money received from the fire. This would allow us to have a budget for field maintenance of less than half of the proposed amount.

If and when we move to a different field this can all be picked up and moved to another location at minimal cost.

I look forward to a hearty discussion on this issue.
Peter Maxwell, Vice President

Secretary's Message:

As the new secretary for the club I want to express my sincere THANK YOU for electing me to the board again.

I did not think that I would return to the board after my year as President thinking that the work I wanted to do was done and now it was time to rest. Wrong.

I look forward to working with Max, Peter, Matt and Frank and bringing some logical and friendly ideas to the club.

I have every confidence in these men to really show us what fun and friendship can be once more, I want to be able to see a big full flying field and have room for overshoots and deadsticks etc. Back in the old days in Chatham we had two circles (50 ft & 100 ft) on the field to aim for. This would improve your landings and give you a spot to aim for instead of just landing helter skelter all over the field.

We should try to get the Town to cut the grass around the field 3 – 4 times a year with their big mowers. We operate a program for the Town. They made us buy equipment and offer training to any youth that came our way. It was my son who questioned why we do not ask them. All other sports



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programs don't scrape the ice, cut the grass on the baseball, and soccer pitches, Maintain the tennis courts etc. We only need a little help with the periphery, we can cut the flying field proper ourselves and make it as we want it – short !

I hope you find the minutes to your liking when I finish with them. You can read them at the meeting and once approved by the members will appear on the web site.

Contrary to some thinking, we operate a corporation and must act accordingly.

Thanks again,

Murray Berman, Secretary

Treasurer's Message:

This year we have many challenges with respect to our budget. We need to ensure the member's needs are addressed, for both the short and long term. One of our first priorities is to have a club trainer available on site for the flying club. Of course once we get the trainer, it needs to be kept readily available for use at the flying field, so some sort of storage would be required. Most of the people I have talked to suggested we consider a steel shipping container as a storage shed. I suppose that is one of the things the executive will have to look into and we'll keep you informed of what's happening in this matter.

Also, last summer was a hot one. Last year's executive included a budget for sun shelter's in their proposed budget that they forwarded to us. I would like to consider options for an inexpensive yet durable sun shelters. I would like to hear what suggestions you may have, and I know the new forums now have a discussion thread running for this subject. If you have any comments to make regarding sun shelters, click on link that is show for that topic in the president's message.

Thank you,

Matt Stikeman, Treasurer.

Membership Director's Message:

After an absence of 2 years from the club, while I built my house (still not finished), it is my honour to have been nominated and selected as your membership director. Since joining the Aurora Model Aircraft Club back in 1995 I have served as Membership Director, Vice-President, President and Chief Flight Instructor. When I joined back in 95 I found the club to be cold and not very member friendly. After talking with some of the newer members this only confirmed my perspective. One of the reasons I first became part of the executive was to change this. Over my time serving on the executive, we worked hard to change this impression. For whatever reason, and there is no shortage of opinion on this one, the last couple of years have seen a return to some bad feelings and politicking. I believe the time is right for a change in attitude once again and I think this mixture of executive can make this happen. With a challenge such as this, we need everyone in the club to get involved. Make an effort to introduce yourself and talk with members at the field you don't know. Get



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involved with events within the club such as the Swap Meet, Canada Day Event at the Town, Fun Flys etc. Come out to meetings and voice your thoughts. Okay, that's all I am going to say on that issue.

Now let's get down to business, Membership is now due. On the web site you will find a renewal form. We are still offering early-bird membership if you join before Jan. 1/07. The fees are as follows; before Jan. 1/07 Junior (Under 18 years) \$10, Open \$55, Senior (65 years of over as of Jan. 1st or renewing Senior) \$25, Family \$65. After Jan. 1/07 just add \$5 to the above fees except for the Junior, which always stays at \$10.

(editor's note- the new form should be on the amac website by now- check here:
<http://www.auroramodelaircraft.com/html/join.html>)

You can mail your completed membership form to:
Frank Panacci
2382 Herald Rd.
Sharon, Ontario
L0G 1V0

Once received, I will mail you your membership card. You can also come to the monthly meeting and give me a complete form and payment directly. The advantage to getting me your membership form and payment at the club meeting is I can issue your 2007 card on the spot. We are not accepting MAAC application any longer for renewals. You will have to get the form either from the MAAC magazine or the web site and send in payment on your own. We will make an exception for new first time members only. As part of my function as Membership Director I will be validating our membership list 2 or 3 times during the year to ensure all AMAC members are MAAC members as well. It is a requirement of the club to have MAAC membership and I think you will all agree that we need to protect the club in this regard. If you have any questions about membership, please do not hesitate to contact me at 905-853-0944.

Thanks,
Frank Panacci, Membership Secretary

Well, that's all for this newsletter.
Thanks everyone, and hope to see you at the field sometime!