

From the Chief Pilot



IMAA PRESIDENT

BY JIM GIFFIN

As we begin a new year in I.M.A.A. history (now over 26 years) there are already many changes. A new President, Jim Giffin, from Redding, California, a new Vice-President, John Lockwood of Clovis, California and new Safety Officer, Mike Brown of Bella Vista, CA. We also have 4 new District Directors. In District 3, Ronald Shonk, of Navarre, Ohio, has agreed to take on the job, filling the vacancy created by the tragic death of Jim Steinhurst. In District 5, David S. Laver will be replacing the retiring Rod Gier. In District 8, Gary Stephens will take over from Tom Hammer, and in District 9, Walter DeFrees will take over for Don Pemberton. Congratulations guys!

We have had our Winter Meeting in Ontario, California, where much has been accomplished. For complete update go to I.M.A.A. web-site @www.Fly-IMAA.org. Look under what's new.

Let's take a look at membership. 473 down from last year. Not bad considering the age of our membership. Consider this... if each member would reach out and bring just *one* new member into the I.M.A.A. family (at less than the price of good prop ... only \$20) we would have over 14,000 members. It also would mean no dues increases, which by the way we have no intention of doing this year. But we need your help. Let's all get out and make a push for new members

We need to be more active in the model community. (More Fly-Ins, more mall shows, etc.) Let's take a good look at all of the activity

in electric giant scale modeling, and see what we can do to bring those pilots into I.M.A.A.

The next thing we need to talk about is safety. I.M.A.A. needs to take the lead with your ideas and help. We have an excellent safety video available to you. Ask you District Director about it. It's great! We will also be putting a safety committee in place to give I.M.A.A. a more visible presence on the subject of safety.

At this time would also like to thank our past officials. President, Tom Hayden, Vice-President, Cork Heitman, District 3 Director Gary Smith, District 5 Director Rod Gier, District 8 Director Tom Hammer, and District 9 Director Donald J. Pemberton. Thanks guys for a job well done.

We are all looking forward to the I.M.A.A. Summer Rally, to be held May 25th through May 28th, at Castle Airport in Atwater, California. District 10 Director Ken Shapiro has built the Castle event into an amazing production, and having the Summer Rally there will only make it that much better. We hope to see all of you there! Great weather and literally miles of concrete runways makes for a LOT of flying!

If you have any questions or ideas please contact me at 2giffs@msn.com or contact your District Director.

KEEP IT SAFE..... REMEMBER...WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN.....