

# the Chief Pilot

## Turning Over the Controls...

While I take time to celebrate all of my accomplishments, and reflect back on all of the new friends I have made as President of the greatest special interest group, it is with great sadness that I must report the death of Jim Steinhurst. Jim was scheduled to replace Gary Smith as District 3 Director, but on October 19, 2005 was murdered in the Toledo, Ohio area. It is at times like this that I realize the family that is the IMAA, and the support we give each other in our times of grief. I hope you will take a moment and think not only of Jim and the family he has left behind, but all of our family and friends who have been taken from us over the years.

While I have attended many great IMAA events, three stand out in my mind. The first one is the Joe Nall. You can't go wrong when you combine a great facility with Southern hospitality! The flying was great. I even had a great time camping in Corky Heitman's motor home with Corky and Jim Steinhurst (although neither one would admit to the snoring!)

Then there was the Rally of Giants in Danville, VA. The Danville Municipal Airport is a great place for any giant scale event! Jeff Phillips and Flight International showed us a great time! John Eslow and his wife showed us a great evening.

I had time to fly 15 times in 5 days at the Rally and even got a ride on a B-25 thanks to my good friend Corky Heitman. It definitely was the highlight of my summer.

Finally there was the IMAA District 3 Mini-fest in Napoleon Ohio sponsored by Thistledown Flyers. The Thistledown Flyers is Corky Heitman's home club. This group knows how to put on a great show, as well as Corky knows how to pick a great wine! Let's start with no landing fee, no camping fees, and a free air show for all 3 days by Matt Chapman. There was even flying at night under stadium lighting. It is like nothing you have ever seen before. Next year it will not be the Dist 3 Mini-fest, but it will be a great event with rides on a B-25 "Panchito", and everything free to the pilots.

At the District 3 Mini-fest the Thistledown group and I started a perpetual trophy named the Miles Reed Life Achievement Award. The first recipient was Miles Reed. I believe Miles has represented the IMAA as few have over his years as a member. For anyone that knows Miles Reed I hope you can understand the stature and importance of this award.

As I leave the office of President of the IMAA I have one recommendation that I would like to see the Board adopt. We need to expand the IMAA vision, and open our doors. At one time Giant Scale something that few people were involved in because of its specialty. However, anyone who files can get involved by purchasing one of many Giant Scale ARFs.

I definitely see the IMAA needs to make drastic changes in its Vision of the future we are going to have to start opening up our doors to other venues and

start covering other non-IMAA events in HighFlight such as, the Don Lowe Masters, Tucson Shootout, and many others. I would like to have this as our new mission statement:

Purpose

The International Miniature Aircraft Association, Inc. (IMAA) was formed for the purpose of fostering and advancing the operation of all large scale radio controlled model aircraft in a setting where safety of operations prevails. Additionally, it is formed to create an atmosphere where individuals who enjoy the sport of building and flying all large scale radio controlled model aircraft can come together in fellowship.

I would also recommend that the following article be amended in the by-laws. If members wish to recognize each other for their accomplishments, that is their right. Besides, if we tell a club that we won't sanction their event, the AMA will still sanction it, and let the club do what we wouldn't let them. Such an antiquated stance drives clubs to the AMA.

### **Suggested Bylaw Amendment**

*Article III - Purpose and Philosophy  
Section 2*

*Competitions that judge or compare the appearance or performance of aircraft, skill or ability of its pilot, or the manner in which the aircraft is flown are contrary to the philosophy of the Association and will not be allowed at any event sanctioned by the IMAA.*

*The term "competition" does not apply to awards given for the Best Crash, Longest drive to the Event, or similar awards. "People Choice Awards" will be allowed provided no guidelines for judging are provided; only spectators are allowed to vote and no classification of aircraft is established.*

Oh, please don't call me with your thoughts, call your District Director. By the time this change can be discussed, I'll no longer be President.

I would like to thank the entire membership for showing me that we have the greatest hobby in the world. No matter what our differences have been once we went to the field and flew together we all share a special bond.



IMAA PRESIDENT

BY TOM HAYDEN

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