



BCRC Flyer

Monthly Newsletter of AMA Chartered Club No. 4779

Sept 1, 2025



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Flight Leaders

President – Rob Weismiller
Vice President – Philip Foiles
Secretary/Treasurer – Greg Emerick
Field Marshall –
Safety Coordinator – Mark Dudley
Intro Pilot Program – Bryan Swank
Webmaster – Colin Mowery
News Editor – Cynthia Scott
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Where We Meet

Currently, we meet at **the Jim Murray field**. We start at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday each month.

Student Pilots Doing Well



#1

Greg Emerick and Ken Ericson have been training **Kellen Dougherty** over the last several weeks and he has made great strides. Recently, Kellen made his first unaided solo **takeoff and landing**.

Kellen's grandfather was there that evening to witness this exciting and significant milestone. Kellen has his own RC plane that his grandfather purchased for him, so the next step will be to help him get comfortable with his own plane. Congratulations, Kellen, on this big step in becoming a skilled RC pilot!



#2

Gary Waters reports that August 14 was a great day of training. **Sam Engelau flew his airplane solo** for the very first time, and his mother was there, camera in hand, capturing every moment. Their excitement was contagious. Sam has been doing exceptionally well, and the next step in his training will be to give him an airplane that's out of trim so he can practice adjusting it. I believe he's also ready to start finding the runway and soon, making his first landing.

In April, Sam was learning to fly virtually at the library.



August 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Notes from Greg Emerick, edited by Cynthia Scott

At Jim Murray flying field shelter, we (22 attendees) began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a motion to accept last month's meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter. *Approval moved by Philip Foiles and seconded by Dave Lynch.*

Officer Reports

Vice President – Philip Foiles is looking at how we can attract more kids into the training program. He will pass out our pamphlets on the Intro Pilot program. Philip has made the connection with the Indy FPV group. We have a field area open where the Geotex runway used to be and this could be setup as a racetrack for drones with flags.

Treasurer / Secretary – Greg Emerick *reported we are solvent.*

Webmaster – Colin Mowery

Field Marshall - Teams of volunteers are getting things done:

- The shed got painted! Looks GREAT! Thank you to Bryan Swank, Chris Ross, Philip Foiles, John Vinson, Rob Weismiller, Greg Emerick & many others who worked on the shed improvements this summer.
- We still need someone to spray the **weeds** in the parking lot.
- Geotex remnants await removal.

August 17 email from Bryan Swank: "Dave Carothers took care of spraying the parking lot weeds as well as cleaning up around our flagpole and memorial area."

Intro Pilot Program Coordinator – Bryan Swank announced training are active on Thursdays. Reach out to Bryan if you or someone you know wants free flying lessons..

Safety Coordinator – Mark Dudley.

Events

Young Eagles will fly on August 9 and September 13 at the Columbus Airport. They can fly September 6th at the North Vernon Airport. Sign up at EEA chapters.org if you have a child who wants a young Eagles flight. Our participation in this program gives an opportunity to show RC and promote the Pilots program. Ken Erickson, Philip Foiles, & Bryan Swank may be able to attend to promote the club.

Old Business

Rob Weismiller reports the Columbus PD drone training program is approved by the BCSWMD board, and an updated land use agreement has documented this arrangement. Rob will arrange for them to come do a show & tell on their program at a club meeting & sort out their schedule.

August 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 2

New Business

- (Ken Erickson) Allison Williams, assistant manager at the airport, leads a group called Women in Aviation. They would like to come to our field for demos & RC flight training. She suggested Wed Sept 10th, 6:30-8pm. Volunteers needed to do demo flights & RC flight training. Rob Weismiller, Bentley Weismiller, Bryan Swank, Greg Emerick, & Philip Foiles agreed to volunteer.
- (Bryan Swank) new field bench prototype has been designed. It's all-metal so it won't rot. Our old field benches are rotting away & need to be replaced. Bryan may have it ready to show next month.
- (Bryan Swank) proposes painting the porta-potties, motion made by Bryan Swank. Carried unanimously.

Show and Tell

Mike Bealmear showed the profile airplane donated by Russ Kuhn. It is for sale, make your best offer! It comes with an engine & servos & cash goes to the club. Will Emerick shared what he liked about Oshkosh AirVenture 2025 (ME262, P-38, the B29, and the nighttime air show and fireworks). He was there for 8 days and saw tons of airplanes & great air shows. Bentley Weismiller showed the full-scale rudder for a Rans S-21 Outbound airplane that he & his dad are starting to build.

Club Raffle

Gary Waters won an indoor Champ RTF plane! Several people won some other great prizes.

August Meeting Scenes

Photos by Nick Firestone

A view of some of the 22 members who attended the August meeting.



Bentley Weismiller shows the rudder for a Rans S-21 he and his dad are building.

New Field Safety Bench

by Bryan Swank

This project started when I noticed that some of the wooden field benches were showing their age and beginning to fall apart. The current AMA design, with few or no changes, has served the RC hobby for probably the last 50-60 years. Although it has served its purpose, I felt maybe with a little thought we could design something better. And "something better" to me meant a design that looked more modern, was more durable and provided some useful new features.

Initially, I hoped to eliminate wood from the design. After a few weeks searching for material for the top surface I had just about given up. I wanted something that would resist methanol and gasoline spills. The material search quickly led to **high density polyethylene (HDPE)** which is the main material in gas cans. Although it is readily available in 3/4" thick sheets in various colors, the estimated cost was going to be about **\$500 for each** field Bench **just for the top!** Clearly this was a nonstarter.

Facing this discouraging cost issue, I reopened my mind to wood. Using 3/4" marine plywood and coating it with an epoxy coating became the primary direction. I was just about ready to order the plywood and the epoxy coating when I happened to be sitting in our meeting area at the field **and**



A weathered wooden starter stand.

...found myself staring at some folded up plastic picnic tables. It was an "aha!" moment and I started wondering if the top of a small child size picnic table would provide material for the front of the field bench and if a child-sized seat could become the rear extension of the bench.



Picnic table inspiration.

New Field Safety Bench, continued

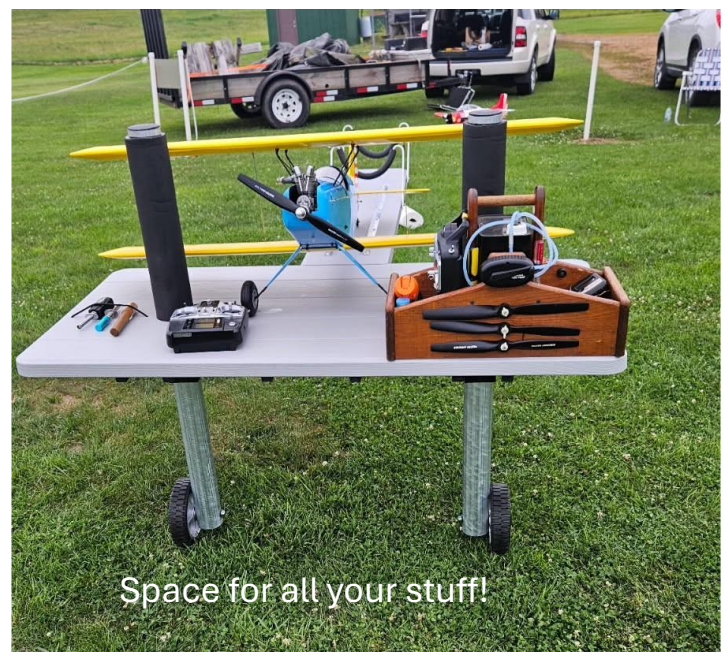
So, with this design redirection in mind the search began. After going down several blind alleys, I lucked out and stumbled on to a good fit. And surprisingly it was made of HDPE with UV protection to boot. It also had a built-in steel frame which provided a solid structure to attach the framework that holds the legs. The picnic table was \$140 delivered from Amazon. Still a lot of money but certainly better than \$500.



The design process then became **what to select for legs** as well as how to hook it all together. For legs I chose 3" electrical conduit since it was more than adequate to support the table but also had a galvanized coating that would resist the weather. Using the tubing also provided a place to put sand or concrete if we needed to add weight to keep the bench from blowing over. The final weight, however, ended up being about 90 pounds which is heavier than the current wooden benches, so I don't think the added weight will be needed.

The next step was the creation of a steel structure to support the legs as well as provide the attachment points for the top. Some welding was required on the frame, so Chris Ross brought his welder down to the field and we did the welding on the prototype bench using the club generator.

With the current wooden bench, I have always found myself **longing for a place to set things like my radios or my flight box**. The new design, although not huge, naturally provides a surface on both sides at the front of the bench to set things. Also, I put in a couple bungee cords where you can tuck items such as glow starters or battery checkers that always seem to otherwise end up on the ground.



New Field Bench, continued

The last design feature came from seeing folks bringing their own stands to the field to hold the plane's fuselage while they worked on it or attached the wing. Since the rear extension off the back of the bench is usually not in use, I add **two padded fold-up bails** that can be used for that purpose.

This first bench is my donation to the club. I was pleased that the comments by those who have seen the bench so far have been very positive. And to my great surprise **four folks** have already **said that they will sponsor a bench!** So, of the eight benches that we think we need, we are only looking for funds to pay for three additional benches. The cost to build a bench is \$350. So, it would be wonderful if we could find sponsors for the remaining three.



Fuselage Holding Bails



The New Field Bench

Dave Carothers said he would create plaques to be placed on the bench acknowledging the sponsor or sponsors.

\$350 is a lot of money so possibly some club members might want to share the cost with others to sponsor one bench. Also, some folks may want to sponsor a bench in honor of a family member who valued being a member of our organization.

I feel that over the winter we could build more benches and start to bring our field up to a standard that would be head and shoulders above other club fields.

Young Eagles

Ken Erickson and his grandson, Henry at the BCRC Fliers table at the Young Eagles event at the Columbus Municipal Airport on Saturday, August 9. Several attendees were drawn to the table with questions.



Nostalgia Corner

Treasures from
old modeling
magazines.

Advertisement from the August 1999 Model Aviation Magazine

Somethin' EXTRA

SIG



Kit # RC-76

Laser Technology Meets All-Out Performance!

Introduced at the 1998 National Model and Hobby Show, the new SIG "SOMETHIN' EXTRA" was a major hit with retailers and consumers alike! The "SOMETHIN' EXTRA" has it all; good looks, incredible performance, SIG quality balsa and ply construction and, **every part in the kit is laser-cut!** This new SIG kit can literally be built as fast as the modeler can apply a coat of paint.

The "SOMETHIN' EXTRA" features a removable wing feature, a built-in landing gear system. The kit includes everything required to build the kit is included, right down to the great looking landing gear and wheel pants.

**"Introduced at the
1998 National Model
and Hobby Show"**

SPECIFICATIONS

Recommended Engines: .40-.46 cu.in. 2-Stroke

.56-.65 cu.in. 4-Stroke

Wingspan: 51.5 in. **Wing Area:** 614 sq.in.

Weight: 4.25 - 4.75 lbs. **Length:** 48.25 in.

Wing Loading: 15.9- 17.8 oz./sq.ft.

Radio Required: 4-Channel w/5 SERVOS

The new "SOMETHIN' EXTRA", from SIG, of course. . .

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