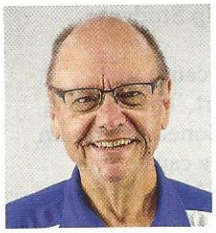
District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia



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As you read this, The Toledo Show: R/C Model Expo, proudly held in District III in Toledo, Ohio, is taking place, but I want to report on a similar show held in Ontario, California.

The annual AMA Expo is held in January and it is a means for AMA to communicate face-to-face with members in the western half of the US. The show is similar to the Toledo Show, with manufacturers, distributors, and vendors showcasing their latest products and modelers displaying their latest masterpieces. I want to highlight some things from this show that will affect AMA members everywhere, including District III.

As we know, model aviation has changed significantly within the last couple of years with the development of sUAS. Technology allows these aircraft to be flown by anyone with little knowledge of flying, safety, etc., which is causing the AMA and FAA headaches. One of the featured speakers at the AMA Expo was FAA Senior Advisor on UAS Integration Marke Gibson. Marke is a retired Air Force General and fighter pilot, so he is no stranger to aviation.

Marke was invited by AMA to speak about the new FAA-mandated UAS registration system that is designed to not only track aircraft, but also to provide a pathway for the FAA to communicate about safety to new users. He spoke to a packed audience and answered many questions from members.

A packed audience of AMA members listen and ask questions of FAA Senior Advisor on UAS Integration Marke Hoot Gibson.

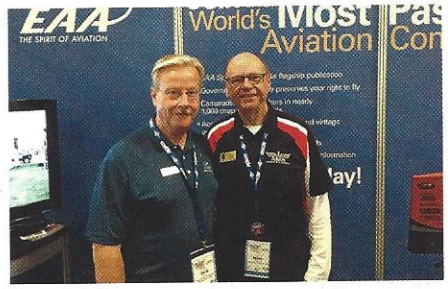
Marke indicated that this event was an experience for him to learn what AMA is about and to meet its members. After the meeting, AMA President Bob Brown, AMA sUAS Consultant Archie Stafford, and I invited Marke to see firsthand how AMA clubs and their members operate and fly safely in the national airspace.

A meeting was arranged for the following weekend at the Patuxent Aeromodelers club field in Maryland. The meeting and demonstrations went well and I hope Marke saw the difference between the model aviation that AMA members participate in as opposed to the general public flying multirotor aircraft.

Another significant event at Expo was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between AMA and the EAA. You may recall that AMA has a good relationship with EAA because our worlds are parallel: building and flying aircraft, whether models or full scale. It was gratifying to see that EAA had a fully staffed booth next to the AMA booth and was well represented with several key EAA officials, including CEO Jack Pelton, Vice President of Advocacy and Safety Sean Elliott, and Vice President of Communities and Member Programs Rick Larsen, all of whom are AMA members.

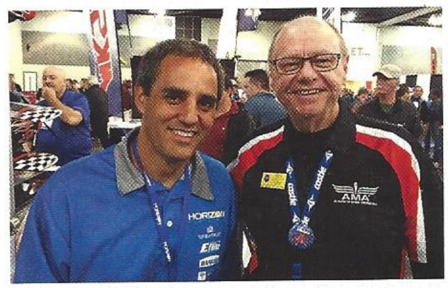
With all of the legislation going on threatening model aviation and general aviation, it is good to know we have an ally who can help us protect both of our interests. I want to encourage all District III clubs to contact their local EAA chapter and invite its members to a club meeting and to your flying fields. After all, aviation is what we have in common and if we work together, it will strengthen both of our organizations.

That's all for this month. Remember to fly safely—fly AMA.



I had the privilege of meeting and talking aviation with the president of EAA, Jack Pelton. Jack is an avid modeler and a lifetime member of AMA.

AMA presented a $92,000 check to Wounded Warrior Project during AMA Expo. Thank you to all of the AMA members and clubs that made this possible through your efforts in promoting National Model Aviation Day.



I met Indy 500 winner Juan Pablo Montoya at the AMA Expo. When not racing, Juan is just like you and me with a passion for model aviation. AMA and model aviation is fortunate to have him enjoying our great hobby.

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