District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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One of the historic Civil War battlefields near the Blue & Gray flying field.

Between July 1 and July 4, 1863, the Confederate and Union Armys lined up on several miles of fields in Pennsylvania to wage one of the deadliest battles of the Civil War. More than 20,000 troops were killed and injured on the fields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Little did anyone know that, nearly 150 years later, there would be RC aircraft flying near these hallowed fields. Heck, the airplane and electricity hadn't even been invented 150 years ago!

My wife and I attended the second annual Steve Arnold Warbirds Over Gettysburg, hosted by the Blue & Gray Miniature Aircraft Squadron on June 22-23, 2013. We arrived early Friday afternoon and found the field gate locked so we decided to drive around the area. Within a few hundred feet we were seeing beautiful fertile fields lined with cannons and monuments dedicated to preserving the history of the battle that was waged here 150 years before.

District III Associate Vice President and CD Jeff Black and Mark Radcliff proudly display their warbirds.

Event CD, Jeff Black, welcomed us to the club's beautiful flying field that adjoins the sacred battlefields of historic Gettysburg. Jeff indicated this was the second year of the event, which was named after Steve Arnold, a club member who died tragically in a motorcycle accident.

On Saturday morning the skies begin to fill with the sites of P-47s, P-51s, B-17s, P-38s, Fokkers … you get the idea … warbirds. At the end of the day, as we drove away past the battlefields, I realized we were flying near and sometimes over this historic hallowed ground.

A B-17 graces the skys over Gettysburg.

What an honor to be able to enjoy our hobby because of the sacrifices of those heroic soldiers who fought in the battle of Gettysburg. I was moved to have had the privilege to fly at such a historic place and look forward to flying there again. If you're a history buff and a warbird enthusiast, then Gettysburg is the place for you.

On June 8 and 9, 2013, I attended and competed in a Pattern event hosted by the Columbus Aero RC Club in Grove City, Ohio. This was the first time the club had held a Pattern event and the turnout was good. Fliers came from Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, and surrounding states to compete and have a good time.

Event co-CDs Rich Hansen and Matthew Finley pulled out all of the stops and made sure everyone was well fed and had a good time. Thank you, Columbus Aero RC Club for keeping Pattern alive in Ohio. I look forward to attending next year.

The flightline at the Columbus Aero Club Pattern contest.

St. Clairsville fliers Bill Kutchell and Nancy and Scott McNickle flying Pattern at Columbus.

Until next time, fly and have fun!

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