District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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Vice President

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Marks Modeling Memo's: January 2012 began for me with a trip to the AMA Expo in Ontario, California. I arrived Friday afternoon and attended an AMA/FAA meeting with FAA officials concerning the upcoming FAA rules pertaining to our hobby.

Saturday I helped staff the AMA booth and talked to many modelers. Saturday afternoon I attended the AMA/FAA membership meeting. It was standing room only. Nothing new came from this meeting that hadn't been previously discussed. Video highlights of this meeting are on the AMA website under Government Relations.

I attended presentations by AMA spokespersons Skip Stewart and Dan Landis. Both are excellent AMA representatives. Skip is an avid modeler and professional air show pilot who is taking his 3-D model flying and incorporating it into his full-scale air show routine. Dan began pattern flying as a youngster and turned a passion into his profession by flying UAVs for the military and is now working for a major hobby distributor.

My first Executive Council meeting on Sunday lasted most of the day. There are several challenges for aeromodeling in the months ahead, particularly regarding the upcoming FAA rules. AMA will be proactive in responding to these rules that will involve the modeling community. Check the AMA website daily to stay current on this important issue.

AMA President Bob Brown, Executive Vice President Gary Fitch, Executive Director Dave Mathewson, the district vice presidents, and the men and women of AMA Headquarters are working as a team to be of assistance to all AMA members. I can't imagine a more dedicated group of individuals anywhere trying to do what's right for their membership.

Twenty-four entrants from Canada, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania competed at the Valley RC Model Club's (VRCMC) 39th Annual Competition Fun-Fly held in Athens, Pennsylvania, on July 16-17, 2011.

Playing the national anthems of Canada and the USA started the contest each day. Junior, Sportsman, and Expert classes were able to complete three rounds during the weekend. Jim Champion CDed the contest.

Contest winners included Scott Turner in Expert, Jason Butler in Sportsman, and Kenzie Rodmell in Junior. Thank you to everyone for making the VRCMC's contest another success.

The winners of the 39th Annual Competition Fun-Fly.

The Hamilton Hawks held its annual Pumpkin Fly & Swap in Hamilton, Ohio, on Saturday, October 29, 2011. Members from several surrounding clubs showed up to join the flying.

One who caught everyone's attention was Alie Hall. A broken hand kept her from flying the past several weeks, so Alie was eager to get her colorful trainer back into the air. Several club members pitched in to assist and Alie did a wonderful job of flying after being "grounded" for so long.

Keith Davidson is the oldest member of the Hawks, but that doesn't mean he just sits on the porch and watches. Keith can handle any kind of airplane, and the cold wind didn't stop him from wringing out his airplane.

The Hawks had a good turnout considering the weather. If you're in the area the week before Halloween next year, bring an airplane or helicopter and join the fun.

—AVP Jim Martin

Alie Hall.

Keith Davidson.

Go fly and have fun!

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