District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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PA flying road trip:

Since becoming District III vice president, I have received newsletters from various AMA SIGs. One organization is CL, and one event that is frequently mentioned is the annual Brodak Fly-In.

I took a trip on Saturday, June 16, to Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, to see what all the hype was about. Upon entering the town, I saw signs welcoming the modelers and several businesses with the name Brodak.

I followed the signs, which went through a wooded residential section and began to hear a sound I hadn't heard for many years: model engines going in circles. As I arrived, I saw a lovely home and an amazing sight. CL airplanes of all shapes and sizes were flying in a huge backyard.

The Brodaks open their home and grounds to host this spectacular event. I met co-CDs Alan Brickhouse and Tom Hampshire, and these gentlemen indicated attendance for the weeklong event was typical with more 150 pilots.

Amazing! This event is not only a competition for all facets of CL but is also anticipated for the great fun and camaraderie of CL pilots around the world. I watched CL Stunt and saw a P-51 performing the maneuvers with a quiet electric setup. As in RC, electric power is making its mark on CL.

Eventually I met the founder of this meet, John Brodak, and he gave me a tour of his facilities. Upon entering his huge building complex, John showed me his laser-cutting and kit manufacturing abilities, printing equipment to print plans and instructions, model product distribution network, and his retail hobby shop. If it's CL models and equipment, Brodak manufactures it for the modelers. Who says nothing is made in the US anymore?

I watched the awards ceremony and saw how much the CL community not only is passionate about its form of flying, but also the love for Mr. and Mrs. Brodak, and what they have done to keep CL flying going not only in the US but around the world.

By attending this great event, I learned one thing. CL flying is alive and well and will be for many years to come thanks to the Brodaks and the CL community.

John Brodak in his kit assembly area.

CDs Tom Hampshire and Allen Brickhaus.

Mike Palko holding his electric P-51 stunter. Mike won CL Stunt.

I received an invitation from the Butler Area Modelers Society (BAMS) to attend its annual model air show held June 30, 2012. The proceeds benefit the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Benefit Fund.

Event CD Dave Chioslm and club president Matt Manier assembled an all-star cast of fliers to not only entertain the crowd, but educate the public on all forms of RC model aviation. All the pilots flying are invited and have exceptional flying abilities.

Mac Hodges came from Georgia and flew his fantastic B-29 show, along with the young McCormick brothers from Connecticut who displayed their exceptional 3-D skills. The event was again a huge success and several thousand dollars was raised for this worthy cause.

Jeff Sumey, a professor at University of California PA, flew a nice, educational helicopter flight.

Future modelers holding Mac's X1.

Until next month, fly and have fun!

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