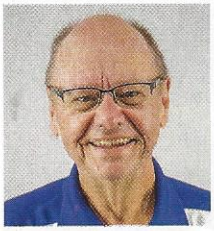
District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia



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Anyone involved in our hobby for any length of time has seen many changes throughout the years: single-channel radios to proportional; 72 MHz to 2.4 GHz; fixed-wing aircraft with reciprocating engines are now electric or turbine powered; helicopters to multirotors, and more.

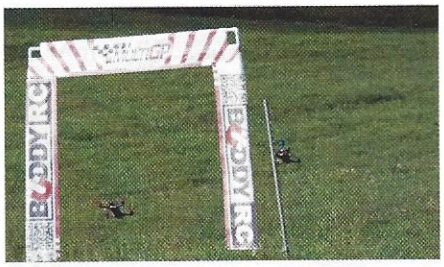
A new trend in the competition area is FPV racing. These events are gaining popularity nationwide, and I am happy to report activity in District III. Our Akron/Canton, Ohio, area associate vice presidents, Lisa and John Zoldak, compete in FPV racing, and Lisa offered the following report on a recent event in Ohio.

The Quad Racing Group of Ohio (QRGO) is a group from northeast Ohio, flying quadcopters using FPV. The QRGO, a chapter of MultiGP, was formed in 2014, to encourage and promote the new sport of quadcopter racing.

Four competitors race heads up on a course laid out with flags and air gates. The first to complete the designated laps wins. Most of the quadcopters that are raced have carbon-fiber bodies and are built by the pilots. With a little wiring and soldering, a quad can be built for roughly $250. The FPV equipment needed can run from $75 up.

The FPV racing contestants who flew in the Fall Classic Race on October 4, 2105.

AMA President Bob Brown is among those who enjoy this new form of racing competition.



FPV quads are agile and fast while flying through the air gates.

The QRGO held its first race April 19, 2015, and ended the season with the Fall Classic race on October 4. QRGO member Rob Maggoire hosted the event on his private property in Carrolton, Ohio. Twenty-two pilots from three states competed for prizes donated by great sponsors such as Buddy RC, RunCam, and See3D.

The group regularly practices at Wingfoot Lake State Park in Suffield, Ohio, but can be found in many area parks throughout northeast Ohio.

Thank you to John and Lisa for educating me and others about this new and exciting racing event. I look forward to giving this type of flying a try.

In my March 2015 column, I wrote about the value of clubs displaying models at local shopping malls and how this seemed to be a dying trend. To my surprise, I heard from clubs that do this. The Flying Aero Sport Team (FAST) club from Brookville, Ohio, and the WACO Historical Society Barnstormers in Troy, Ohio, have put together a show at the mall in Piqua, Ohio, for more than 25 years.

The event was held February 27-28 and March 1, 2015, with more than 25 aircraft displayed and two flight simulators for people to give flying a try. Free magazines and literature were distributed as well as AMA and club applications.

I again encourage clubs to talk to their local shopping malls about displaying models and promoting their club and model aviation. Maybe this would be an excellent time and place to promote safe flying of all the sUAS (aka drones) sold during the holidays. Think about the possibilities of the positive exposure that your club can receive.

A great model display by the FAST and the Barnstormers clubs at the mall in Piqua, Ohio.

Until next time, fly safely—fly AMA!

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