District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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Winter has finally set in here in District III and with that brings indoor flying. Funny … as I wrote that sentence, the thought occurred to me how amazing this hobby is and the technology that lets us now regularly fly RC indoors. This is something that was unheard of a few short years ago.

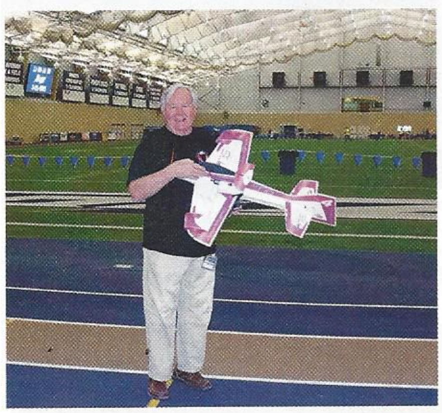
The Horizon Indoor Electric Festival, held in November at the Four Seasons Golf Center dome in Columbus, Ohio, is organized by Contest Director Terry Nitsch. It was, to my knowledge, the first large indoor event held. Now there is another event that helps tide modelers over during these long winter months.

The Northeast Ohio Electric Festival (NEF) is held in the Akron University Field House in Ohio. March 20-22, 2016, marks the third year it will be at this location. Judging from attendance the past two years, I expect to see a record number of indoor pilots and unique indoor aircraft. Not only is there plenty of indoor flying going on, but there is a large number of vendors selling their wares.

I urge you to set your winter building project aside one weekend and attend this great indoor flying event. When you do, be sure you stop at the AMA booth and say hello. I hope to see you in Akron.

The McQuistions, from Youngstown OH, design and build unique aircraft and fly them at NEF.

Marc Stermer flies his giant B-17 indoors at NEF.



Jim Quinn, from NY, proudly displays his indoor Pattern model. The NEF hosts an indoor Pattern contest known as F3P.

Being cooped up all winter, it's nice to think about flying events to attend in the summer. District III Associate Vice President Jeff Black, from New Oxford, Pennsylvania, attended a sailplane event last summer and submitted the following report.

The Muncy Flyers Club held its second annual aerotow event the weekend of June 4-7, 2015, at the Lee Eisel Memorial RC Park in Muncy, Pennsylvania. The weather was nice with more than 20 pilots and many spectators in attendance.

Club President Tony Minnella and his crew did a fine job of running the event. Soaring pilots in attendance included Steve Pasierb from Norwalk, Connecticut; Jim Dolly from Cumberland, Maryland; Chris Fink and Bob Tursack from the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area; and AMA President Bob Brown and his wife, JoAnne.

Bob Brown allowed me to fly his glider and it is an experience having a glider being towed up by the tug plane. On my first flight, I did quite well with roughly a 15-minute flight.

If you have never been to an aerotow event, check it out the next time one is within driving distance. You will not be disappointed.

A few of the gliders getting ready for a tow at the Muncy Flyers second annual sailplane event.

Large gliders require a large tow plane. Jim Dolly prepares to tow with his Pilatus Porter powered by a DA-120.

That will wrap it up for this month. As always, fly safely—fly AMA.

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