District III—Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

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The District III model aviation community is a great group of people that goes above and beyond to help those in need. An example of this was a benefit fly-in organized by District III Associate Vice President Butch Myers and Jason McQuiston. Butch submitted this report.

On July 19, 2015, a benefit fly-in was held at the Mahoning County Model Club near Youngstown, Ohio. The weather cooperated and 31 pilots showed up to help out Jena Sorley, a young lady who has a rare form of cancer. A lot of flying was observed by more than 300 spectators in attendance.

Jena Sorley flies her grandfather, Rich Evans,' 50% Cub as the crowd cheers.

Local vendors, hobby shops, and modelers donated many items to sell and raffle off to raise funds to help cover Jena's medical bills. A giant auction of all of the prizes was held and a grand total of more than $2,100 was raised for this worthy cause.

All reports indicate Jena is doing well with her treatments. Thank you to the members of the Mahoning County Model Club for helping this young lady in this difficult situation and we wish Jena a speedy recovery.

A few of the models flown at the Jena Sorley benefit sponsored by the Mahoning County Model Club.

On September 11-13, 2015, The Ohio Radio Kontrol Society (TORKS) of Columbus, Ohio, hosted E-Jets International. This event, run by Contest Director Terry Nitsch, had been a staple in District III until the club lost its field in Grove City several years ago.

The club found another facility, however, it required considerable time and money to get the field ready. Three years in the making and more than $60,000 later, the field is now the home of the TORKS.

To celebrate the new field, the club notified the city of Mount Sterling of its upcoming event. The city responded with the following:

"We are all so grateful that you contacted us about your upcoming competition! We would be honored if you would accept two items that the Mount Sterling Chamber of Commerce would like to present to you: an honorary membership in the Mount Sterling Chamber of Commerce, and recognition as our September 'Organization of the Month.'"

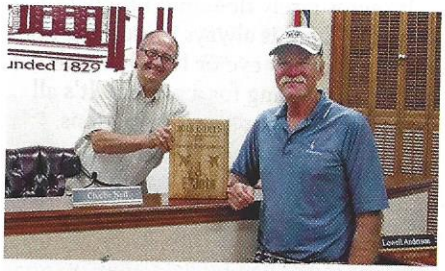
If that wasn't enough, the village ordered wonderful banners welcoming the E-Jets International pilots and crews.

Now, most clubs would be satisfied with all this positive publicity and let it go at that. However, a few weeks later, the TORKS president, Terry Nitsch, attended a city council meeting and presented a plaque to Mayor Charlie Neff as a token of the club's appreciation of the village and chamber of commerce's support.

In addition to the plaque presented to the village, Terry also gave a check for $500 to Michael Browning, president of the Eagles Youth Athletic Association. Michael appreciated the donation saying, "it will replace some of the baseball and softball equipment that was stolen." Talk about a win-win!

Thank you, TORKS, members for setting a fine example of positive club/community relations. I would urge all clubs to utilize your time, talent, and resources and look for opportunities in your communities to help your fellow friends and neighbors. Not only will the recipient benefit from doing what we love to do (fly airplanes), but the club and model aviation will be seen in a positive light in your communities.

TORKS club members proudly display their models under the banner that the City of Mount Sterling made for the event.



Terry Nitsch (R), TORKS president, presents a plaque of appreciation to Mayor Charlie Neff.

Until next time, fly safely—fly AMA!

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