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District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

One of the best ways to expose our hobby and our clubs to a large audience is by participating in full-scale air shows. In 2018, the Yeager Airport in Charleston, West Virginia, hosted a huge event. Model aviation was well represented by three clubs from the area—the Mountaineer, Ona, and Flying Hillbillies RC clubs.

Each club set up a static display in the hangar area and I received reports from the clubs on their experiences. James Butler of the Mountaineer club wrote:

“For a few members of the Mountaineer RC Flying Club, October 13-14 were busy days at the Yeager Airport and the West Virginia Air Guard Salute to First Responders Air Show. We displayed a variety of RC aircraft, provided information regarding the Know Before You Fly Program, passed out Model Aviation magazines, promoted our club and flying activities, and set up a large-screen RC flight simulator allowing anyone interested to try their hands at flying an RC airplane.

“Several thousand people filed past our table during the course of the weekend. Nearly everyone had questions about the models we had on display, our club, and the hobby in general. Many tried flying on the simulator and asked about getting started in the hobby. It was a fun weekend with friends, talking to folks interested in flying, and watching aerial performances.”

I also received a report from John Tabaretti with his view on his club’s success at the air show:

“On Saturday, October 13, the Flying Hillbillies RC Club partnered with the Ona RC Club with a display of our airplanes at the 2018 Yeager Airport Air Show in Charleston, West Virginia. Our goal was promoting the hobby of aeromodeling and to recruit new members. During the daylong event we met the public with our aeromodeling display and handed out informational trifold brochures about our clubs.

“Despite the chilly weather and low ceiling, the air show was a great event. All of the aircraft scheduled performed as promised. The most spectacular was the Harvard AT-6 (Texan) Canadian Aerobatic Team. The four AT-6s stole the show.”

Thank you to James Butler, John Tabaretti, and

the area clubs for participating in and promoting model aviation to the public in a positive manor. Although it might seem like a lot of work, it is obvious from your reports the clubs participating had a great time doing what they love to do and that is enjoying aviation.

I encourage your club to consider participating in air shows or aviation events such as EAA Young Eagles, fly-ins and other full-scale aviation activities. Folks attending these events are there because they love airplanes and flying. Although the dream might be to become a pilot, joining a club and flying an RC airplane may be a more realistic first step to learning to fly the real deal.

Until next month, fly safely, fly AMA.



A view from behind the table shows the crowd of interested spectators at the Mountaineer RC Club display at the Charleston WV air show.



Members of the Flying Hillbillies and Ona RC Club with their static model display at the air show.



One of the rewards of model clubs participating in full-scale air shows is to see amazing aircraft such as these perform aerobatics.