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District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

The following was submitted by District III's webmaster, Roger Luther. Spring Banquet at the Johnstown RC Club: In late March, the Johnstown RC Club held its 47th annual banquet. This Johnstown, Pennsylvania, club has been in existence since 1962 and is quite active.

Forty-plus members and their guests attended and enjoyed a wonderful catered meal, and the speaker for this year's event was our District III AMA Vice President (VP) Mark Radcliff.



Mark Radcliff presents the Award of Merit to Sam Kaplitz, president of the Johnstown RC club. The Johnstown club has been in existence for 57 years!

The banquet kicked off with a meet and greet time where members displayed recent models that might have been constructed over the past winter months. After the meal, everyone voted on the best kit-built, stick-built, and ARF models. There was also a Ladies' Choice award.



Elizabeth Develin was the lucky winner of a prized Johnstown RC Club weathervane airplane made by club president Sam Kaplitz.



First-place winner in the Best Built category was George Wacker with his Douglas Dauntless.



Ladies' Choice airplane award winners (L-R) Bill Rosage, George Wacker, and Grant Moore, with club president, Sam Kaplitz.

The Johnstown Club holds three big events each year, starting off with a winter Indoor Fly-In in January, followed by the Annual Banquet, usually held in March, and then an annual Mall Show in early May. During the flying season, the club holds weekly Sunday afternoon hot dog cookouts and the last Sunday of each month is a family picnic gathering. At this event, the wives and family members bring dishes to pass and enjoy a club picnic.

Mark spoke about all the functions a VP has to take care of, including lots of fun stuff such as being invited to club banquets, and attending fly-ins throughout the three states that comprise District III, as well as the tough stuff of attending regular council meetings to help solve the many problems that affect our RC hobby.

He also discussed some of the negative aspects which include how to deal with the "drone issues" we have all heard about, noting that we can either "embrace" these new RC folks who go out and purchase a drone, or ignore them to our peril.

Mark shared a slide show about the AMA Headquarters in Muncie, Indiana, and informed us about all the functions the staff performs. He also described the wonderful flying sites, the National Model Aviation Museum, as well as AMA offices.

Mark presented the Johnstown club with an official AMA windsock and a beautiful AMA 57-year service award plaque. The club now looks forward to an active flying season at its flying that has been leased from a local coal company for more than 40 years. 



The Johnstown club proudly flying its new AMA windsock.