



III

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District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

Last fall, I saw on Facebook that the Laurel Highlands Model Airplane Club (LHMAC) was hosting a fall fun-fly at the Ridgeview Golf Course in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. RC on a golf course? I loaded up the van on October 19, 2019 and drove to the Ridgeview Fall Fun Fly.

The LHMAC's regular flying field is Mammoth Park near Greensburg, Pennsylvania. One of the club members, Don Gilbert, is the manager of a golf course that closes in the fall for the season, so why not fly RC off the greens? Great idea!

Don opens the clubhouse to the modelers and serves chili and hot dogs with plenty of desserts. It was a beautiful, sunny fall day and the flying took place off of one of the courses with nicely manicured fairways. What a great place to fly!

Thank you LHMAC and Don for hosting this fun-fly in such a scenic setting.

On November 2, 2019, I punched off another bucket-list item when I flew in the 53rd annual Cumberland Aircraft Model Society (CAMS) RC Soaring event at Highpoint Aviation Field in Ridgeley, West Virginia. The history of this event is fascinating.

The property was first used as an airfield when legendary record-holding modeler Maynard Hill used the site for an altitude record attempt in the fall of 1967. No record was set, but the experience of flying from the top of this scenic and beautiful mountain meadow was so amazing that everyone wanted to come back the next year just to fly for the fun of it, and so, the Annual Cumberland Soar for Fun was born.

In 1992, club member James Dolly purchased the land and spent countless hours of time and money improving the property to become one of the premier RC Soaring sites in America.

The fall weather was perfect with pilots from New York, Virginia, Illinois, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and more in attendance. Being a Soaring novice, I was somewhat intimidated at seeing the huge models being flown by experts; however, my fears were lessened when I walked the flightline and found many modelers flying smaller foam and balsa electric-assisted gliders. Everyone offered help and advice to newcomers.

I experienced two types of Soaring in one day! In the morning, the thermal activity kept my glider aloft and in the afternoon, I experienced

the wind blowing off the surrounding mountain slopes holding my glider aloft. What a rush! I could go on and on about this event and the people.

If you want to experience fantastic RC Soaring, then this event in West Virginia is the place to go. For more information on the CAMS, visit www.camsrc.org. Thanks to Jim Dolly and the CAMS for hosting this great event. I'll be back!



Members of the LHMAC who flew in the fall fun-fly at the beautiful Ridgeville Golf Course in Ligonier PA.



The flightline at the CAMS Fall Soaring event featuring Giant Scale gliders and the majestic mountainous region of West Virginia and Maryland.



The man responsible for High Point Aviation in the mountains of West Virginia is James Dolly. Those beautiful mountains in the background make for some fantastic soaring.

Until next month, fly safely and fly AMA.