



III

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## District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

**Rather than focus** on the negative aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many positive things happening within District III that I would like to discuss. On June 9, 2020, I attended the Vienna Sky Sharks club meeting to celebrate the opening of its new flying field. Like many clubs, the Sky Sharks have had several fields throughout its six decades of existence.

In 2019, the club was told it had to move because the owner sold the property. Several fields were looked at, however nothing seemed to be the right fit. For many years, club president Ken Starkey would drive by a buffalo farm in Beverly, Ohio, and would always say to himself, "Boy, that would make a nice flying field."

The farm's owner was contacted and next thing you know the Sky Sharks had a new field! The great thing about this field is it contains an abandoned full-scale 2,500-foot airstrip that simply needed mowed and the club was ready to fly. In addition, the club was given access to a large storage building to house its equipment and hold their club meetings.

Congratulations Sky Sharks on your new field and I look forward to flying with you in the future.

**One area of growth** in our hobby recently are the Dawn Patrol events for World War I aircraft. As most of you know, when I attend your events, I like to fly, so last year I obtained a nice 1/5-scale Fokker Dr.1 Triplane and on June 20, 2020, I attended my first Dawn Patrol event hosted by the Alliance Balsa Bees at Barber Field in Alliance, Ohio.

Upon arrival, I saw a large variety of WW I aircraft, including scratch-built, kit, ARFs, gas, glow, and electric aircraft. These WW I masterpieces come in all sizes, creating a variety of aircraft you do not see every day. It was fun flying sorties of formation, simulated dogfights, etc. Despite the current pandemic restrictions, event participation was strong with everyone respectful of the social-distancing rules required in the area.

If you have not participated in one of these unique events, I suggest you look in the marketplace at the available WW I aircraft and give it a try. You will discover another great area of our hobby that is growing because of the fun and the variety of aircraft offered.

Thank you Alliance Balsa Bees for hosting this event showcasing a great period in aviation history.



WW I models lined up for voting of the People's Choice award at the Alliance Balsa Bee's Dawn Patrol. Photo by Lisa Zoldak.



A drone view of the Vienna Sky Sharks new field in Beverly OH. The clubhouse/storage buildings are at the bottom left and the 2,500-foot runway to the right.



The Vienna Sky Sharks proudly display its new AMA windsock at the new flying field.



A squadron of WW I aircraft over the skies of Barber Airpark. Zoldak photo.

**Until next month,** fly safely and fly AMA.