



2006 RAMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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AMA CHAPTER 468 CHARTERED IN 1971

AMA Gold Leader Club for 13 years since its inception in 1993

WEB SITE: WWW.RCPLANE.COM

THE RAMS DECEMBER 19 MEETING - at the Webster Volunteer Firemen's Building, Sanford Street, Webster, NY 7:00 PM—9:00PM. Visitors are welcome

CALENDAR OF BUSINESS MEETINGS FOR 2006

RAMS MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE (TUESDAYS)

Dec. 19

2007 Schedule

Jan. 30	Feb. 27	Mar. 27	Apr. 24	May 29	June 26
July 31	Aug. 28	Sep. 25	Oct. 30	Nov. 27	Dec. 18

BOD MEETING SCHEDULE (MONDAYS)

Jan. 15	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Apr. 09	May 14	June 11
July 16	Aug. 13	Sep. 10	Oct. 15	Nov. 12	Dec. 03

2007 EVENTS

Annual Freeze-in
Banquet meeting
Meeting at Macedon Field
Meeting at Fordham Field

Jan. 1
Jan. 30
June 26
July 31

- The annual Freeze-In is going to be held January 1 at Macedon field snow or not. Like last year you must have your 2007 AMA Card or your 2007 RAMS membership card to fly.

- Don't forget that the banquet is scheduled for the January meeting. It is also awards night. Tom Starsmore has booked the Jade Palace in West Webster. Old Ridge Rd. and Gravel Rd. Tues. January 30th 6-9:00 p.m. More info in the newsletter.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Alex Antonelli

- Tom Starsmore informed me that the menu for the banquet at the Jade Palace will be **"YOU CHOOSE FORM THE RESTRUANT MENU"**. There will be individual checks so you can eat as much or as little as you want and pay for what you eat and drink at the bar.
- **Program:** There does not appear to be any program for the December meeting. Let's use this time to help anyone who may have a question about modeling and if there is any new members or visitors let's spend time introducing them to the hobby.
- **The 2007 membership application is available on the RAMS web page at:** <http://www.rcplane.com/Application2007.pdf> . You can download a copy to print it at home. The BOD wants to remind you that the 2007 dues is due by Dec. 31, 2006 but there is a grace period of up to Feb. 27, 2007. After this date there will be a late fee of \$25.00. As stated in the President's letter there are NO exceptions to this rule. If you can't pay your dues prior to the 2/27/07 date, it would be best to pay it early to avoid the late fee.
Note: The application is to be sent to our new membership director, Jose Soler. His address is on the form.

President's Letter

Al Bensley

Well, it's December and another year has almost past. Time has passed quickly for me as I watch my three grandsons (3 years, 17 months, and 16 months old respectively) grow. My wife and I enjoy buying Christmas gifts for little people again. Seems they grow up very fast. It's the season for all of us to reflect on all the good times we had this year and how fortunate we are to live in the USA. I'll summarize the RAMS accomplishments in the next newsletter but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in 2006 and to wish you all very Happy Holidays. I look forward to next year.

We had a good crowd at the November membership meeting, well over quorum. We took the opportunity not only to review the 2007 budget but also to pass it. The bylaws were "stretched" a little but the right thing was done.

I received some feedback after the meeting regarding details of the budget, so a couple comments about the budget process may be appropriate. First of all, I believe a budget is a guideline reflecting anticipated financial activity in the coming year and gives the membership an indication of the financial health of the club. It's a snapshot in time of how we see the club's expenditures and income play out in the next year. It doesn't mean that we are required to follow the budget precisely. What I'm getting at is, if there are opportunities to spend less and get the job done, we should grab them. And if there are opportunities to generate more income, we should capitalize on those also. Ideas from all the members are welcome in this process.

I'll take this opportunity (as I've done before) to remind the membership that \$40.00 of your dues goes to paying property taxes for the Macedon field. I personally believe we are fortunate to own a flying field, but it does not come to us without cost. We are different from many clubs in this regard and our dues structure reflects this.

During the budget discussion at the November meeting, Andreas Rodriguez made some observations that the club needs to consider. I'll try to summarize as best I can. Our hobby is changing. With the introduction of "park flyers" a person can fly without the need to be part of a formal club. He/she can build

a foamy, install a radio, find the nearest schoolyard, and throw the plane up in the air. A few years ago, joining a club was necessary because the size of the first plane required a large runway and a lot of open space for flying. Our club provided these facilities. Therefore, it is and will continue to be a challenge to entice new members into the club and then, just as importantly, to retain them. There must be some incentive to become a club member. Our dues structure is certainly not an incentive for a newcomer. So we have to be creative in gaining new members and showing them that being a part of the RAMS has value. There are a number of ideas being surfaced (see the BOD minutes) to deal with this issue. Again, any ideas from the membership are much appreciated.

And last, I will be very interested to see the 2007 membership list. Total senior membership declined almost 30 persons from 2005 to 2006. I hope that isn't a trend but just a normal membership fluctuation. To be honest, I'm concerned.

I'll end this letter the way it started. Have a happy and safe Holiday Season. I hope to see many of you at the Freeze-In on January 1st.

Happy Landings

DECEMBER BOD MEETING MINUTES

Al Bensley

Present: Bensley, Clarke, Curtis, Antonelli

Absent: Powers, Coughaine, Kirsch, Dennis, Stacy, Strickland, Starsmore

Guests: Dave Ottney

Business: Business was not conducted due to lack of a quorum.

Discussion: The members present discussed the budget and issues brought up by the members at the November meeting. We agreed that the club must find new and creative ways to attract new members and to retain them as members. Ideas that were discussed include a reduced dues/initiation fee schedule for new members, mentoring, and putting a major emphasis on our flight training program. Also talked about was a change to our meetings to allow more time for social/hobby interaction amongst all members. These topics and others will be dealt with early in 2007.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM



Bob Herden put on a good program with his discussion on scratch building utilizing parts from planes that have met with the earth under a non controlled landing (Crashed or parts purchased at a swap meet). Bob has designed and built fuselages to mate with wings he got from swap meets or other modelers. He added complete tail sections to a scratch built fuselage. Bob enjoys building from his own planes.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Jake Kirsch

The November 28, 2006 RAMS Membership Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by president Al Bensley.

Number of members attending: 31

Visitors: Ed Wooten; past member wishing to rejoin

Program: Bob Herden on the process of building a plane and designing your own models

Announcements:

- Meeting schedule: June and July at Macedon and Fordham
- Annual Banquet at Jade Palace in Webster; January 30th 6 PM - 9PM
- Rubsum, Junior Achievement and Broken Prop Award nominations are open
- Membership dues are due by Jan 1st; late fee applied after membership meeting in February

Business:

- The October meeting minutes were approved
- John Powers has taken inventory of all RAMS property at both fields; please send info of RAMS property that may not be recorded to John.
- Port-a-potty will be removed from Fordham from December 10th until April 1st
- Damage to Macedon Field due to farm equipment also disturbed survey stake; BOD to discuss with farmer
- 2007 Proposed Budget was presented by President Al Bensley to membership
 - Concerns raised regarding "marketing" of the RAMS due to reduction of year over year membership. Suggested changing membership fee for new members to \$70 + \$25 initiation fee for the first year.
 - Concern for lack of dedicated instructors for new pilots (PROGRAM? ADD TO APPLICATION?)
 - A motion was made to accept the proposed budget; seconded and approved unanimously

Show-and-Tell:

- Bob Wyman showed his EPP foam plane



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REPORT

Larry Clarke

Jose Soler (membership chairman for 2007) reported the final membership numbers for 2006 is 169 members consisting of 144 Sr. & 25 Jr. members.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



P- 40 Warhawk

RAMS
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