



2007 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 FEBRUARY 27 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 2007

RAMS MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE (TUESDAYS)

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)

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

2007 CALANDAR OF EVENTS

Indoor Flying – Roch. Armory	March. 4
Canandaigua Chiefs Auction	March 24
Meeting at Macedon Field	June 26
RAMS Open House	July 21 and 22.
Meeting at Fordham Field	July 31
Northeast Helicopter Jamboree	Aug 24 - 26

***RAMS sponsored events

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Alex Antonelli

Don't forget if you havn't paid your 2007 dues by 2/27/07 you will be liable for the late fee of \$25.00 as well as your dues.

- 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 previous letters from the President 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 or you can pay it at the meeting.

- There is indoor flying held at the Rochester Armory on the first Sunday of the month (March 4th) from 12- 5 pm, the cost is \$10 per person.

February Program

John Dennis

- The February program will be about float flying on snow and water.

President's Letter

Al Bensley

It seems that I begin these letters talking about the weather and this one won't be any different. The last couple weeks have been brutal. The combination of temperature and wind has made it difficult to do anything. I admire the few of you that have found breaks in the bad weather to fly. I've been using the time to put the finishing touches on a Piper Cub kit. It will be ready this spring.

The annual banquet went very well. Seems that it was well attended and everyone had a good time. Congratulations to the Rubsum and Broken Prop Award winners. I expect their pictures will appear in this issue of the newsletter. And a THANK YOU to Tom Starsmore for setting up the event.

As you might expect, the BOD is dealing with several important issues that need to be resolved early this year. The first is the issue of dues for new members. We do not want our dues structure to deter new membership. We also believe that some simplification is important. We discussed a proposal at the February meeting which eliminated the initiation fee and reduced the dues for new/first-time members. I don't want to get into all the pros and cons in this letter, but suffice it to say that the BOD will continue discussion at the next meeting and plans on presenting a proposal to the membership at the March meeting. I did a brief survey of local clubs regarding their dues for new people. The results were that the clubs either 1) have significantly reduced dues for new members, 2) have lower overall dues (another issue), or 3) both. One club has free dues for the first year! My point being that our club is inconsistent with those in the area and I believe closer alignment is necessary.

Next is the issue of new pilot training. The BOD has decided that a more formal process is necessary which will require more qualified instructors. We've been lucky the past couple years to have three people willing to instruct on Wednesday evenings, but because of legitimate conflicts, all could not be present for every session. This would leave two and sometimes one instructor to do the training. This was not fair to the instructor or the student pilots. We need to change this. What we would like to do is the following:

1. "Train the trainers" – This process would qualify good pilots as instructors. We would like one or two of our experienced instructors to volunteer to do this. And, obviously, we need good pilots to volunteer to be trained and then commit to be an instructor.
2. At least six "Flight Instructors" – Either from our current pool or new that have completed the above training. The goal is to have more 1 on 1 training for new pilots. Again, we need people to step up and help.
3. "Building and Setup" Instructors – These members would help a new pilot through the building process and make sure the plane is ready/safe for the first flight. Volunteers are required here also.

I'm sure there are other activities that we can add to enhance the learning experience, but this is a start. I will state for the record that this is a MUST HAVE PROGRAM. We need it for retention of new members and ultimately to keep our membership number at a level that is consistent with our cost structure. The point is that we ALL have a vested interest in attracting and retaining new members. This is part of that process and the BOD needs volunteers to make it happen. If you are interested, contact any of the BOD. THANK YOU!

I'll get off the soapbox.

That's enough for this month.

Happy Landings

FEBRUARY BOD MEETING MINUTES

Jake Kirsch

The February BOD meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by president Al Bensley.

Attendees:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Al Bensley (President) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Hendrickson (Vice President) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacob Kirsch (Secretary) | <input type="checkbox"/> John Coughaine (Treasurer) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jose Soler (Membership Director) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Starsmore (Community Affairs Director) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Playfair (Macedon Safety Director) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Ottney (Ontario Safety Director) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rod Curtis (Macedon Field Director) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Clarke (Ontario Field Director) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Dennis (Program Director) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Antonelli (Newsletter Editor) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Abbott (Librarian) | |

Business:

- The January BOD meeting minutes were approved
- Club has been re-chartered with AMA
- AMA Sanctioning application has been submitted for the Open House in July
- February meeting program – Winter flying outdoors
- Proposal for dues structure for new members
 - o Compared area clubs' dues structures
 - o Discussed proposal for new dues and fees structure to be brought to the March 2007 meeting
- Flight Training discussion
 - o Instructors needed
 - o “Train the trainer” session to recruit potential instructors
- “Thank you” from Bill Stauber for the RAMS assistance with the Armory Indoor Flying
- Thank you from Tom Starsmore for attendance at the banquet

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Jake Kirsch

The January business meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by president Al Bensley.

Annual Awards Banquet:

Special thanks to the following people for helping the club with the Open House and Helicopter Jamboree:

- Sue Wheaton
- Janet Clarke
- Chris Playfair
- Laurel Soler
- Nicky Kirsch

Congratulations to Kevin Nassar for winning the Broken Prop Award!

Congratulations to Tom McCoy for winning the Rubsum Award!

Business:

- The December Membership Minutes were approved

JANUARY BANQUET

A Antonelli

The 2007 banquet was a good success this year. There were about 38 participants including several wives and the invited guests. The broken prop award went to Kevin Nassar. The Rubsum award recipient this year is Tom McCoy. If you have a chance to stop by Performance Hobbies in Webster Tom has the award on display on the counter near the cash register.



Kevin Nassar receiving the broken Prop award



Tom McCoy receiving the Rubsum award.





MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REPORT

Jose Soler

Jose Soler reported the membership numbers for 2007 to date are: 107 members consisting of 98 Sr., 7 Jr. and 2 associate member. _

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



RAMS
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