Blue & Gray

Miniature Aircraft Squadron

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Officers

President
Jeff Black

Vice-President
Mike Brouse

Secretary
Dave O'Leary

Treasurer
Mike Brown

Field Marshall
Brian Colledge

Webmaster/Newsletter Editor
Tim Toot

A Message from the President

Flying field updates:
The field is in good shape and I'm glad to see the membership taking advantage of it.
Field workday: Nothing happening right now
Membership meeting: Will be held during the club picnic September 13, 2026. Some topics to discuss will be future club events and activities.

Club events:
Club picnic – September 13,2026
Chili fly – October 10,11,2026
Christmas party – TBD
FAA update:
To stay up to date with current FAA activities, go to the AMA website site or look in the monthly
magazine at the government affairs section for the most current information.
Final thoughts:
As we enjoy the flying season remember to let other members know when you're out, it is always more
fun when there are more people flying.
Safe flying,
Jeff Black

AMA FRIA ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS
FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION AREA
A FRIA IS A DEFINED GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE DRONES CAN BE FLOWN WITHOUT REMOTE ID EQUIPMENT.

Executive Meeting 8/10/2026

The Blue & Gray Executive Meeting was held at Jeff Black's home on 08/10/2025. Members present were Jeff Black, Mike Brouse, Mike Brown, Jim Groft, Tim Toot & Dave O'Leary. The meeting was called to order at 6:51 pm.

President's Report:

- The club recently experienced our second FAA "Notice To Airmen"(NOTAM) & Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) Alert for our field this year. Tim Toot is putting this information out to all club members as he receives it to ensure no RC aircraft are flying at our field during the restriction period which can be hours to days. Please ensure no flying of any kind occurs at our field during these alerts. Any violations could result in the club losing our certifications. We may be seeing more of these alerts as it appears the FAA has recently increased its restriction range from Camp David from 20 to 30 nautical miles. Tim Toot is also working to identify the best app to use to confirm the restriction has expired as time periods noted in original alerts can often be extended without immediate notice. Tim will advise us once the proper app for our application is determined.
- New Blue & Gray RC adjustable caps and shirts are now available for purchase. Caps are individually embroidered with our club name and color logo for $20.00. Shirts are priced at $15.00. Please contact Jeff for additional information.
- Our club fire extinguishers will be scheduled for certified inspection & service by The Fire Store, Abbottstown, PA in the coming weeks.
- A total of (20) pilots were registered for our "Warbirds Over Gettysburg" event this past June.

Vice President's Report:

- Regular mowing continues & the field is in "perfect shape."
- Mice continue to be a problem in the tractor shed. Various chemical treatments have been repeatedly applied in the shed, & specifically in the engine compartments of our tractors to guard against wiring damage, however we have still had to repair some wiring. Suggestions from our members are always welcome.
- Our portable toilets will be cleaned prior to our club picnic in September.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion by Jim Groft to accept Treasurer's Report; seconded by Tim Toot. Motion was passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report:

- The June Warbirds event featured our RC flight simulator in the "cleaned out" tractor shed where 10 people including first time visitors & children were given basic instruction on the controls of an E-Flite Apprentice on the simulator. Once completed, the participants were invited up to a field pilot station to try flying a real Apprentice under Jeff Black's supervision. One mom thanked us for providing this experience for her children (and herself) stating "I never expected anything like this!"
- We also used the shed to serve as a club information center for new visitors. We displayed various AMA magazines, event flyers, field rules, club membership applications, & information sheets explaining club membership requirements and basic information regarding things to consider when buying your first RC plane.

2025 -2026 CLUB EVENTS:

Warbirds Over Gettysburg: June 6th—7th, 2026

Club picnic: September 13th, 2026

Blue & Gray Chili fly-in: October 10th—11th 2026

Blue & Gray Christmas party TBD

We will attempt to provide a fan for the shed going forward to reduce heat.
- We will also be placing another announcement in The Gettysburg Connection for our "Chili Fly" event.
Field Marshall's Report: Nothing to report.
Webmaster's Report: Any club members who are not receiving our Newsletter or FAA Notice To Airmen (NOTAM) alerts & Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) restricting flight at our field are requested to contact Tim Toot at bluegraymas@gmail.com. to ensure you are on our e-mail list.

Old Business

The board continued discussions on possible ways to increase club membership. We discussed (6) possible suggestions which were provided by AMA with representatives from across the country. Suggestions included:

1. Using social media to promote our club and it's events to include our flight simulator.
2. Possibly organizing a one hour coordinated air show air at our events with an announcer providing pilot & aircraft information, as well as music.
3. Create an "Entry Level" Training program for student pilots.
4. Meet with various community partners such as Rotary, Moose, Eagles, Veterans, "Make a Wish" to see if any kids would like to attend one of our events, learn to fly, etc.
5. Form a club youth group.
6. Solicit possible donations from RC model manufacturers to support our club.
7. Distribute club flyers & introductory flight lessons to various local youth organizations.

New Business

For the October "Chili Fly" event we plan to offer at least one new plane for a raffle & possibly a few older kits for anyone interested. We will also conduct a 50/50 raffle, and our flight simulator with a big screen monitor followed by a live flying experience with Jeff.

A Cautionary Tale for RC Pilots: The Danger of the Live Prop

While setting up control surface throws on the bench with the throttle cut actively engaged, a single mistake turned a routine shop session into a two-hour emergency room visit requiring **35 stitches**. Standing directly in front of the aircraft, the transmitter was accidentally turned off while the flight battery was still connected, instantly triggering the receiver's failsafe setting to command **100% full throttle** and override the radio's safety features. In a knee-jerk reflex to catch the surging airplane, my forearm came into direct contact with the spinning propeller at full speed. This painful incident serves as a stark reminder of electric motor torque, the crucial rule to always disconnect the battery before powering down a radio, and the simple, non-negotiable bench protocol: **always pull the prop before doing shop work.**

Respectively Tim Toot.

The Gettysburg Airport Pancake Breakfast is Sept 19th & 20th

BREAKFAST * 8 AM – Noon * RAIN OR SHINE!

Sponsored by Chapter 1041 of the Experimental Aircraft Association
(the Gettysburg Barnstormers) at: GETTYSBURG REGIONAL AIRPORT (N05)
Route 30 West, 1130 Chambersburg Road, Gettysburg PA 17325

**Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Home Fries, Coffee, Tea, and Juice!
*Cash: $11 Adult/ $4 Youth (12 & under), *Credit: $11.50 Adult, $4.50 Youth
*Prices may be subject to change due to fluctuating food costs. **REFILLS ARE AVAILABLE!!
A portion of the proceeds benefit Aviation Programs for Youth. Join us for Planes, Antique and Classic Cars, and even flying model planes! Also, come see "*Floyd's Fabulous Flying Flapjack Machine*"!

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