AMOS RC NEWS

The October Newsletter is a little late!! (with good reason) At the next membership meeting we will vote not only on the club officers for 2024 but also the possibility of raising our membership dues. I would encourage you to come to the meeting and vote! Raising dues is always a controversial subject and it was decided to delay the newsletter for Oct to give people a chance to send me their opinions on the matter so they could be published in the newsletter. I have included these responses, unedited, at the end of the newsletter.

This month's Member Spotlight features Tim Wright check it out below. If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions for future newsletters feel free to email me @ ngraham_03@icloud.com.

Member Spotlight Tim Wright

How long have you been a member of AMOS?

I have been a member of AMOS for nearly 2 years now.

Where are you originally from?

I am a native Californian. My wife and I came up from Southern California in 1992 to attend law school, settle and raise our family which includes our son and daughter.

How long have you been flying RC?

I would date Radio Control modeling specifically back to 1992. I built a Great Planes Spirit sailplane and launched it in the field (now office buildings) across the street from our condo by Chevy's on the river while I was in my 1st year of law school. I was away from the hobby for about 16 years while raising my kids with their sports and all.

What do you do for a living?

I help level the playing field for victims of injury against unscrupulous insurance companies. My wife and I have a personal injury law practice of over 20 years located in Roseville.

How did you get started in RC? Who got you started in RC?

When I was about 7 years old I started building tissue paper and dope models from the local hobby

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shop near my grandmother's house. She was brilliant — kept me busy for days. Rc was a natural progression after free flight and control line planes of my youth (still have a scar from a Cox .049 Black Widow prop). When I was in law school, RC became a great outlet to do something far different than my studies and I had already developed a love for flight.

What other clubs around the country have you flown at?

I started flying at the Woodland Davis Aeromodelers club back in 1992. Later I was VP of the Red Baron's club back when it was a neighbor to the WPWMA (MRF) plant. That was back when this crazy cat named David Long joined the hobby. Pete Hubick came along too, man what a crew! I have additionally enjoyed flying at the Auburn Airport as part of the Capital City Barnstormers, a sanctioned AMA flight demo team with Roger Grotheer and others (had to avoid hitting runway lights there). I have also flown at the Apollo XI field in So Cal, Coachella, Kings Canyon, Lodi and San Diego. I really enjoy the camaraderie at the RC Jet events.

Have you competed in RC? What have you competed in?

I did some pylon racing and informal competitions, but nothing too serious.

What haven't you done in RC that you would like to try?

Perhaps a turbine helicopter. I would also like to do more with RC gliders as they are the purest form of flight when sailing in my opinion.

What else have you done in RC other than airplanes?

Let's see, power boats, sailboat (powered by the wind from the condo fountain), trucks, 1/8 scale buggies, drone, helicopters, swamp buggy, paraglider . . .

What do you like best about flying at AMOS?

It's a top notch field with great folks and located near my home.

What other hobbies or talents do you have? (Non-RC)

Seriously? Who has time for that? LOL

What's your favorite plane that you own or have owned.

Now that's a tough one! Probably have a different answer on any given day. I really liked my F5B Composite hotliner glider that I killed when I out flew the receiver pack on a thermal day. But, I would have to say the Mephisto is a true dream to fly. But then there's the F16, which is just fun to watch on a fly by. And the Rebels are so reliable. Oh wait, maybe the 2.6M Extra that I threw in the dumpster

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when I thought I would never see an RC field again (childish behavior, I tell you, but isn't that the spirit of RC? I had been walking by it hanging in my garage for 10 years. I did donate my helicopters to the club, hope that helps.

What plane would you own if money was no object?
Er, bad question . . . Ok fine . . . Gulfstream G650

Who do you nominate for next month's member profile?
Nick Graham

Event Dates 2024 (Tentative)

AMOS Christmas Party	Dec 14th 2023 @ California Aerospace Museum
Freeze Fly	Jan 1st 2024 @AMOS
Electric Event	April 13th & 14th 2023 @ AMOS
Warbird Event	May 11th 2024 @ AMOS
3D Event	June 14th 2024 @ AMOS
Pattern Event	June 23rd 2024 @ AMOS
Jet Rally Event	Sept 19th - 21st @ AMOS
Heli Fest Event	Sept 26th - 28th @ AMOS
Profile Event	Oct 5th @ AMOS

How can YOU help the club?

Join The Volunteer List

Participate in preparing and helping with our events, email Dave Long @ davelong9050@comcast.net if interested.

Be A Leader

Volunteer to "Manage" an event. We have a simplified system of successfully managing an event. Just follow the check list, training, guidance and help will be provided!

Become A Trainer

Without partnership with the Aerospace Museum Of CA, we will soon be attracting a LOT of kids and we will need the staff to "Buddy Box" with them. Being a trainer is a very rewarding aspect of the hobby! The club has the planes. We will provide training and guidance. Sign up today!

Donate!

We are slowly building our war chest for the day when we move. Although this is going to be for many years in the future, it's now time to plan.

Member Opinions

Below are the opinions as received via email and unedited. If the member did not include his name I have added it at the end of their comment. I have differentiated them by color to make it easier to see who's opinions belong to who.

AMOS 2024 Budget and Dues Increase Opinion
This coming election will include a vote on AMOS annual dues amounts. There will be 3 choices;

1) Dues to remain at $140 per year
2) Dues Increase to $155 per year
3) Dues Increase to $175 per year

In September a budget committee met and received input from the current president and treasurer. A few questions were forwarded to the membership coordinator and answered. Prior years budgets were reviewed.
The resulting budget has been published via email as of October 14th. At the general meeting on that date a motion made and approved will shift the Online Payment fees from the club to the member utilizing that option. That change will eliminate the $800 Credit Card Processing line item, raising the bottom line budget surplus to $ 9,758.
Over the last 3 years many changes and improvements have been made to the AMOS facility. Some with direct benefit to the general membership and some specifically targeted toward enhancing events and a small segment. While funding has been independently provided, a time is fast approaching when maintenance and re-engineering costs will become the responsibility of the club treasury. As originally proposed to the board, this was not the case. In fact, the original presentation to the board was that enhancements and events would be a source of revenue to the club and self supporting. Over the last 3 years that has not proven to be the case.
The proposed budget does cover all projected costs for the 2024 year, and does NOT require a dues increase.
The opinion I'm offering here is lets take a pause in updates, modifications, improvements for the coming year. Lets operate within our budget. Lets freeze the dues at $140 for this year. Lets ensure that all capital projects are approved by the membership with thoroughly analyzed cost/benefit.
Thanks for taking the time to read and consider. Please vote in the coming election, your voice counts.
Rob Ryerson

Yes, we should increase the dues. Having a safe place to fly RC planes is a gift to the community! It is the least expensive place for family fun out there. Who else provides free instruction and free taco nights? A dues increase is still a wonderful bargain.
Linda Winthers

We need a major cut-back in dues. The spending has gotten way out of hand. We had a great air field 3 years ago and the dues were acceptable. I am protesting this outlandish increase and will not renew my membership because of the wasteful spending and the wrong direction the club is going.
Skip Willaman

Proposal for Raising the Annual Club Dues

The Board met in Executive Session on November 7th and agreed that the dues increase for 2024 should be $175 and placed on the November Ballot. This increase would be effective January 1st, 2024.

AND THIS IS WHY.....

The Budget Committees' findings show a surplus of almost $10,000 for 2024 however this budget is "bare bones" and does not include the following:

What the Club needs for 2024

1. **Replenish the New Field Fund (Used for the new runway in 2023)**
   - We took $15,000 from the New Field Fund for the runway
2. **Last phase of Petromat replacement**
   - We need at least $8000 to finish the Petromat replacement in the pits
3. **Sail Shade replacement reserve for any new shades needed**
   - We need to set aside at least $1,000 per year for new sails. Replace all every 4 years.
4. **Additional allocations for any future field if we have to move**
   - We will need a minimum of $250k and only have $75k in the bank now.
5. **Unscheduled Improvements to the field.**
   - Examples: sealing up gazebo, adding solar and security to gazebo, adding more chairs
6. **Unexpected repairs**
   - Examples: Tables and roll stand repair from wind damage, broken truss repair, replacing security lights and truss stiffeners
7. **Entry road repairs & improvement**
   - Minimal patch and water re-rout
8. **Expanded our presence at the Capital Airshow, Lincoln Airport Open House, Cancer Fun Run, Year End Roseville Speedway Race.**
   - Additional signage and literature not captured in Signage and Marketing
9. **Support the Youth Program and Training– The Mavrix (22 enrollees) – they are the Club's future**
   - Trainer replacements, repair and supplies, Shirts, Hats and Pens and a simulator

The Bottom Line

A Dues increase of $2.91 per month to $175.00 for 2024 will help us meet the needs of our Club.

The average RC Field membership dues for NorCal is $156.00 and the State average is $210.00
We are one of the BEST RADIO CONTROL FIELD'S in California AND significantly undervalued but it takes dedication, sweat and money to maintain it. Quality always comes at a cost.

Vote for the dues increase and become a part of THE BEST RC Field in California.
David Long

I'm Neil, a member of AMOS. In my opinion. The field is very good in many aspects. Such as runway quality, spaces, members, board members, etc etc. as for the due. I understand that costs of operation and the future will always be on the rise. Therefore, my hope is of course, not to have any due raise at all. However, this is just a thought. If due must be raised. I truly hope it won't be to $175 as proposed. While the rationalization of only an additional few dollars more a month sounds of nothing. However. I think many other seniors are on a very tight budget and this may present a little of hardship for those. Thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts.
Neil Phan

While we've all experienced a significant cost of living during the last couple of years, those increases don't usually come with an improved product or service. We pay more to get the same thing we were getting at the old price.

That cannot be said for the ever-improving benefits we experience with an AMOS membership! Look around and see the improved field facility and the growing number of young members who are the lifeblood of our future as a viable organization. Consider the resource of having talented fellow members who are ready, willing and able to help you build your skills. Think about the experience of seeing world-class flyers at our annual events and the good we contribute to the community in which we live.

In short, I support a dues increase because of the value we receive in exchange.
Les Dahlstedt

My thoughts are concerning for me as raising dues will take me out. But also why are we spending so much on the field when not needed. Why do we spend on not authorized money, why was the cafe done that is not authorized in our lease, are the events making money? I don't think so. Maybe it's time to have a real accounting done!!
Thank you,
Kirk DeFord

It is necessary and I approve.
John Kirkpatrick

I think it sucks!
Jeff Kirk

I believe the dues increase makes good sense, since we are going to be paying more of what Dave long has been personally paying. The club should be lightening his load.
Thanks,
Bob Erdman

First, after "working" out next year's budget, we should have about $8-9,000 as surplus. This in itself would tell us that we do not need a dues increase! With that said, we all know that prices will continue to increase along with inflation. To offset that, a small increase would make sense and give us a little more cash on hand, Of the five clubs in our area: El Dorado RC Flyers, Sacramento Area Modelers, Woodland/Davis Aeromodelers, Red Baron RC Flying Club and AMOSRC the average basic annual dues are $124 per year. So we are already above the average dues.

If there is a need to raise the dues for that "field in the future" then the increase should be dedicated for that reason and that reason only! The money collected to fund a future field should be held in a separate fund and not be allowed to be used for anything else! Otherwise it becomes a "slush fund" and who knows what it might be used for. We constantly see that kind of thing in our government when money is approved for something special and that something special never gets funded because the money is spent on other things.
My .02
Dick Gold

I have no problem with the increase. People gripe about the increase – but we are going to need a new field. That is not an if, as you know it is a when. And the dues will still be less than most people spend on 1 plane.
David Randolph

I am against it.
Bob Crawford

On the topic of dues I am one to get the least expensive bargain as possible. And I want quality for my money. That said I believe the dues need to be increased to keep up with costs so our club is a nice place. Other clubs in the area are also addressing dues increases. Look at what TV, theater, sporting events all cost for only a couple hours. At $15/ month I will support the dues increase to $175/year.
Charlie Lukes

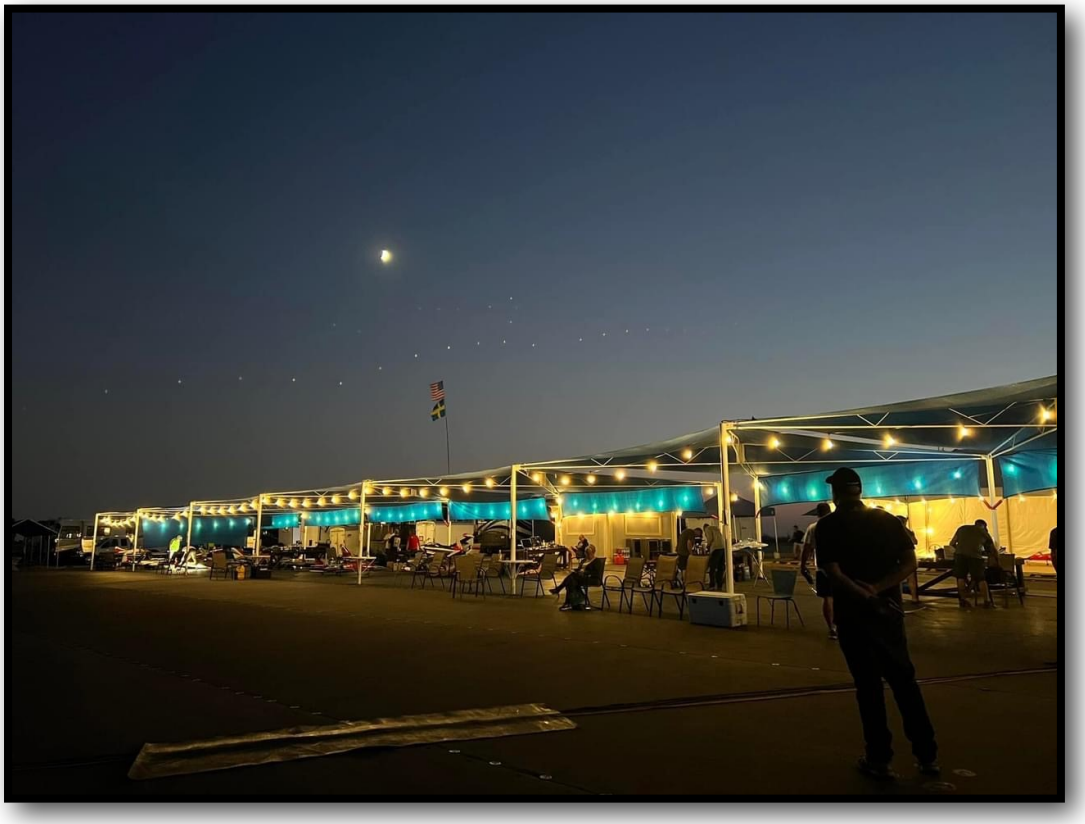
I've been an AMOS member now for going on 5 years. Since I've joined the club I've seen a massive swing in leadership, leadership style and the field itself. So much so that it's motivated me to get involved, work events, attend events, help with maintenance and improvements, and this year I found myself as the Newsletter Editor and on the board. In that amount of time just the field improvements alone have been huge. In addition to that, the club has become recognized by the local community and it's leadership, we now contribute to several charities, we put on some "must attend" (and really fun) events and we've put ourselves on the map as an aero-modeling

destination. We've brought in more youth in the last year than I've seen in probably my entire modeling career AND we have a REALLY nice place to fly!

The club leadership works and plans for the future of the club not just having a place to fly today. While you may not personally benefit from all of these things, the overall club membership and future club membership does. Maintaining our relationship with local community leadership is essential for the eventual club relocation. I support the direction the club is going and love being a member of such an active club. Our events are a ton of fun and I want to see them continue, we need to plan for the future, continue to maintain and improve our field, continue to support the youth and future of model aviation, and continue to have the best possible facility for our members to fly. I support the dues increase and look forward to what this awesome club does next!

Nick Graham

Well that about wraps up this month's newsletter. If you're still reading all this I'm impressed! I hope to see you at the membership meeting to vote on the dues increase and the club leadership for 2024. It's your opportunity to have an impact on your club.

See ya next month!

Nick