District XI—Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

Bryan Wood
Vice President

I hope everyone is getting out into the nice weather and enjoying the hobby after a long winter that did not seem to want to go away. I have enjoyed looking at Facebook and seeing all of the aircraft that people have built or assembled throughout the long winter. It really is refreshing to see more scratch- and kit-built models. I think a lot of people have had it with ARFs and want an airplane that doesn’t look like 12 others at the field. Very refreshing!

It is also awesome to see people taking on the challenges of time and money to work on repairing or making upgrades to their fields. I had the privilege of approving five of our district’s clubs for Flying Site Improvement Grants totaling $4,319.93 for the year. Remember to submit your improvement receipts to me after the first of the year, and if approved, AMA can reimburse you up to 10% of the costs!

Speaking of flying field improvements, this month features Don Tomson, and new Associate Vice President Joe Miller of the Dallas Wing Dingers, in Dallas, Oregon, showing how reaching out to people you know can lend itself to procurement of valuable materials for very little in the way of costs. Don wrote:

“Our illustrious club president, Joe Miller, borrowed a truck from Cliff Marks, a car trailer from Irving Yoder, and conned Doug Taylor and me into a 250-mile road trip to Longview, Washington. We arrived at the KapStone Paper and Packaging, and after being issued safety gear to be worn onsite, we were directed to an area where the company’s employees loaded 490 feet of 16-foot-wide drier felt (a type of conveyer belt used to dry paper).

“Joe secured the three rolls of material (worth about $24,000) as a replacement for our aging runway at the field. KapStone donated it to our club, although Joe had to convince security at the gate that we were not stealing it! We will install it during the field renovation later this summer.

“We could have sold tickets to watch us unload that stuff. Thanks to Ken Beaty for bringing his truck to the field and serving as an anchor as we pulled the trailer out from under the rolled felt. All kidding aside, it was a great acquisition that should really enhance our field for the future. Thanks Joe! Also thanks to Butch Jurhs from the McMinnville Aircraft Modelers club for being our middleman and securing this pot of gold for us.”

Hope you are having a great flying season and, given the chance, please take a youngster flying!