



# THE MAX-OUT

Newsletter of the Magnificent Mountain Men

AMA CHARTERED CLUB #177



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Editor: John McGrath

Visit our Website at: [www.themmmclub.com](http://www.themmmclub.com)

Or email us at: [johnmcgrath2@comcast.net](mailto:johnmcgrath2@comcast.net)

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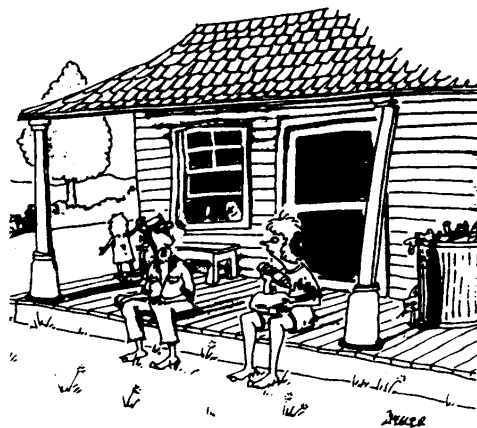
2023-01 (Jan-Feb)



**From the Editor:** Howdy. I'm new at this newsletter thing, but so far I've been overwhelmed with support, advice, and best of all, content. I'll never be able to approach the professionalism that Rick brought to this newsletter, but we'll muddle through. Rick remarked that someone out there said his tenure at the Maxout was very likely the longest in free flight. I'm going to double down on that and suggest that his tenure as a newsletter editor may be among the longest in any hobby, any field, any organization in the world. Tough act to follow, Rick.

Fair winds and following seas, my friend! (But don't go anywhere just yet. Stick around and enjoy a few more decades of deadline-free flying)

John



"Ma ...

What's Latin for, "I fly, therefore I am"?

**Members, Please pay your dues for 2023! \$45**

*"The MAX-OUT"* newsletter is published periodically six times per year. Submissions, photos and ideas are most welcome!

**TO JOIN THE CLUB OR SUBSCRIBE**

- Full membership is offered to any current AMA member: \$45
- Newsletter Subscription Only: \$15
- Ages 16-20 \$10
- Juniors (under 16) Free

Contact Chuck Etherington  
etherington.freeflight@outlook.com  
33946 Goldfinch Dr.

**MMM Club Officers and Contact List**

**President:**

Peter McQuade 719-433-5346

**Vice President:**

Jace Pivonka 720-202-2936

**Sec'y / Treasurer and Flying Site**

**Coordinator:**

Chuck Etherington 720-201-6218

**PR:**

Don DeLoach 719-964-7117

**Indoor Coordinator:**

Sean McEntee 314-910-2097

**Club Records Monitor:**

Don DeLoach 719-964-7117

**Club Points Monitor:**

Jeff Pakiz 303-337-9188

**Newsletter & Website:**

John McGrath 719-963-9227

Operating the club and providing you with great flying opportunities whether indoor and outdoor, it does cost money and we solicit contributions to help offset that cost. You can donate directly to Chuck Etherington or use the MMM Paypal opportunity noted below.

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**Policy:**

*Follow the roads wherever possible  
Take the shortest path possible to the plane in order to retrieve it. Avoid riding through noxious weeds.*

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- In the next form where you confirm payment, in the Lower "Subject" and "Message" boxes state what the money is for... annual dues, entry fees and such



## The President's Corner

*By Pete McQuade*

It's a new year and I'm honored to once again have the opportunity to serve you as President of the finest Free Flight club anywhere. First, I wish to thank John McGrath for the phenomenal job he's done as MMM President for the past four years. It's a gross understatement to say John's a hard act to follow. His leadership, dedication, energy, innovativeness, and wisdom have led the MMM to a whole new level of excellence. I'm immensely glad that he'll still be deeply involved with club operations as the new MaxOut editor and as a member of the Leadership Council. Thanks for everything, John!

Many thanks also to David Aronstein, who's finished two years of superb service as our vice president. His skill in building and flying, both indoor and outdoor, are unexcelled. David's well-recognized leadership in the greater Free Flight community and his infectious enthusiasm have been essential to keeping the MMM on the leading edge.

It's with a heavy heart that we allow Rick Pangell to finally take a well-deserved rest from 40 years as the outstanding editor of the MaxOut. There aren't words that could sufficiently express our gratitude, Rick. You're the best, and you've made the MaxOut the best, too! It's good to know that you're not going far, and will still be active in the club.

We have so much to look forward to in 2023. The indoor season is already in full swing, with both our Manitou Springs contests and the fun flies at Beth Eden in Denver. Science Olympiad

and the Pikes Peak Ceiling Climb will be here before you know it. And the outdoor season isn't all that far off. Thanks to the amazing efforts of Chuck Etherington, we have TWO beautiful outdoor venues: the Lowry Ranch and the Norris Ranch site off Squirrel Creek Road outside Colorado Springs.

## The 2023 Leadership Council

Our club bylaws require the President to form a six-person Leadership Council by the end of January each year. The two major purposes of the Council are 1.) To provide seasoned and informed advice to the President, and 2.) To serve as decision authority for certain specific situations as outlined in the bylaws. These duties are vitally important to the MMM, and I'm pleased to announce your 2023 Leadership Council:

Don DeLoach

Chuck Etherington

John McGrath

Rick Pangell

Jace Pivonka

As President, I'm the sixth member.

We're all looking forward to serving you this year.

I sense the energy in the MMM building like a huge thermal. I know 2023 is going to be a great year!

## You Know You're Somebody When...



...the cook at the Stagecoach in Franktown makes you a White House-quality sculpted apple.  
(Pete's salad after the Annual Meeting)



## MMM at the SWR's

Members Jerry Murphy, Rick Pangell, Darold Jones, and Frank Mennano had a great time down at the Southwest Regionals in Eloy, AZ. We hear the flying got compressed into a Really Busy Saturday in view of anticipated weather! Here are a few shots, courtesy Bruce Grawburg of PMAC, Frank Mennano, and Brigitte Brocks.



Frank Fires it Up!



Rick retrieves his E-36. That smile must mean a max!

**SWR Report by Frank:** Arrived on the field Thursday afternoon, slightly breezy but was able to test for a few hours, returned to the field Friday morning before sun up and had an exceptional day of trimming and flying, all day long. Almost 80 degrees and was ready for the contest on Saturday. Saturday came and I was on the field before the Sun came up, other FAI flyers were moving their stuff out to the line. 8 a.m. Saturday morning started the first round. I

saw Brian Van Nest released his glider into a nice zoom, bunt and roll out, right after the horn, 1 1/2 hours between rounds to give us a chance to fly other events.



Frank Proudly displays the Maverick given to him by Bill Lovins

The night before Peter Brocks had approached my brother and me to let us know that inclement weather was coming and he had decided to move the FAI contest to Saturday. Then the CD of the AMA contest decided to move the whole contest to Saturday also! So a three-day contest became a one-day contest and we flew and did our best to fly as many events as possible. Jerry Murphy, Rick Pangell and Darold Jones arrived on the field before the first round and unloaded their airplanes and commenced to fly P 30, F1S, E36, and others.

Rick, Darold and Murph all received awards for placing in different events. A very special thanks to Bill Lovins for his Maverick that I put an electronic timer in and trimmed out in one flight and placed fourth in A/B Classic Gas and first place in AMA A Gas. At the awards ceremony when I was called up for my

trophy in A gas there was a problem with the stickers that went on the trophy and the award ceremony stopped for like 10 minutes and everybody started talking and having a huge gabfest which was a very enjoyable time.

The air quality was extremely strange Saturday because the front had rolled in that was going to start raining on Sunday & Monday. It was a cloud cover that reduced the sun to a minimum and there were no thermals as the day wore on. The Calm before the Storm hit and there was no wind at all by 2pm. In A/B gas I could barely squeak out 3 minutes with the Maverick but as the day wore on a thicker layer started to appear and I was able to manage three Maxes in a row and then I had an overrun on my fly off flight. A special thanks to my brother Guy who brought a Chase bike for me and a few beers to drink. He helped me out immensely and he did well in F1C. It was good to hang out with my older brother.

As I was pulling off the field I stopped by to talk to Bob Hanford and I asked him; "well, what did you think" and he said he was happy with the contest. That was my same feeling. I flew more flights in the two days of test flying than I did at the contest yet still was able to put in almost 27 official flights and had a Perpetual smile on my face on the drive home!



Murph and Rick in the pits. Looks chilly for Arizona ☺

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### SWR Report by Murph:

When we arrived at the field Friday evening we were greeted by the CDs Peter Brocks and Tom Gaylor with the news that the three day event would be compressed to being only one day because of weather forecast for heavy rain and wind starting Saturday evening. Yes, this is the same storm system that caused so much trouble in California.

The contest management team made the hard decision and put plans in effect to fly as many events as possible in a one day format. This was a hard decision and the CDs did a very good job to get as much flying as possible. The FAI events were flown in a 5 round format and the AMA-FAC events also were flown in a one day format.

This worked as well as expected. The weather on Saturday played a big part in making the one day format work. Lift was plentiful and

winds very light all day. It was almost like a rock thrown up would max.

The big news from team MMM was Rick's performance flying electric. He maxed out "plus" in F1S, A, and B electric for 4th in F1S and First in A & B Electric. He also won jet-cat with his 20" P-59.

Darold was having problems with his F1G so he switched to P-30 and Andrade rubber where he placed.

I encountered a problem with my RDT system. My plan was to set the DT time for something like 5 minutes and then use the RDT to bring the model down. This removed the possibility of committing a timer programming error while flying. Well Murphy's law came to play as the RDT system failed. This caused a spectacular E36 crash. After spending considerable time troubleshooting the system, I



decided to fly my trusty old Gollywck in Mulvihill with no DT. This worked well as the model stayed on the field and managed to win the event.

We had a good time and managed to get the car reloaded before the award presentations. Again, the CDs pulled off a great fun contest. Getting home a day early was a plus. We spent Sunday night in Santa Fe, dinner at Maria's and Monday morning breakfast at the LaFonda before heading north.



The Rickster with his P-59 Airacomet Jet Cat

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### **Indoor at Beth Eden 13 January** **By John Christiansen**

Friday the thirteenth was lucky for participants at the January indoor session at the Beth Eden Fieldhouse. Attendance was the highest I have seen since Covid restrictions were eased. Of the nine participants, three had commitments that caused them to arrive later than usual. So with accommodations made by the Beth Eden administration, we were able to extend the closing time to eleven p.m.

We were honored to have past and present MMM officers Pete McQuade, John McGrath and David Aronstein in attendance. Regular participant Norm Roglitz was experimenting with props for his Penny Plane while David Aronstein brought two Intermediate Stick models that flew like a dream. David got one badly hung up and amazingly he freed it with his pole with little to no damage evident. The rest of us were flying an assortment of fun designs from Skinny Cats to Rick Rouge's flapjack style flying wing A-6.

A highlight for me was the Sea Story P-18 kit I received through the efforts of Tom Norrell and Sea Story's producer John McGrath. The Sea Story kit is easy to build and flies great. The three spectators for the evening seemed to enjoy themselves and one expressed interest in flying with us next season.



President Pete launches a model he built for his daughter more than thirty years ago.

## Indoor Scramble 22 Jan at Manitou Springs High School By Chuck Etherington

Doors opened at 0930 to find the HVAC blowers running. In recent flying sessions, they have come on for perhaps 10 minutes at a time and we were able to fly in between those cycles. This day, however, they ran continuously until mid-afternoon. Some flying was done during that time but people were reluctant to risk their models. Darold Jones, MMM/MSHS liaison, is looking into why our requests to have them shut off haven't been successful.

The turnout was quite good with ten fliers making 30 official flights and two mass launches. Several people came to visit and watch. We answered questions, exchanged contact information, and tried to make them feel welcome.

Tom Norell, mentor to many and friend to all, was in attendance after a break of several years. He was his usual jovial self and it was great to see him.

The big surprise was a junior, Heidi Scharpen. She built a Sea Story P-18 (her first model ever) from John McGrath's kit, and began test flying it. Before long she was putting up official flights, the longest of which was 1:41. Well folks, that was more than enough to win the whole scramble! Congratulations Heidi!

Scramble: 1<sup>st</sup> Heidi Scharpen,  
2<sup>nd</sup> John Christensen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Don DeLoach  
Phantom Flash Mass Launch: Chuck Etherington  
P-18 Mass Launch: John McGrath

### **The Indoor Scramble Format:**

Contestants may fly any class for which we have a Colorado Springs City Auditorium record. Out of six official flights, the best flight is converted to a percentage of the City Aud Record.

Highest percentage wins. For some classes, there are Junior records as well, and Juniors fly against that time.



Winner Heidi launches low to keep it out of the rafters.  
(Mark Scharpen photo)

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## It's a Small (Free Flight) World After All



**"I'll bet I've got a tool that even Tom Norell doesn't have,"** said Don DeLoach at the January Indoor Scramble. That would be impressive, as Tom is a dedicated collector of all things Free Flight. The tool in question was an Oppegard rubber stripper—but not just any example. It was one of a very small number of prototypes Robert Oppegard made back in early 80's for club members in Minnesota. Well, not only had Tom Norell once owned the very stripper that Don had unearthed from a friend of his on the east coast, but the instructions in the (ancient) box contained a handwritten note from Bob Oppegard addressed to "C.N." Would that be Tom's father, Clyde Norell?



## Annual Awards for 2022

Our now-President Pete McQuade has been kind enough to be in charge of club awards for some years now. During the Annual Meeting we award four annual awards: Hand Launch Glider Champion, Junior Champion and Scramble Champion, and Master Magnificent Mountain Men awards for those who exceed 25 maxes in the course of the year. And the winners are...

Annual Junior Champion: Skilly DeLoach

Annual Hand-Launch Glider Champion:

Jace Pivonka

Annual Scramble Winners:

1st place: John McGrath

2nd place: Don DeLoach

3rd place: Rick Pangell

4th place: Skilly DeLoach

5th place: Sean McEntee

Master MMM Award ( $\geq 25$  maxes)

Don DeLoach (39 maxes)

Jack Murphy (39 maxes)

John McGrath (27 maxes)

Jace Pivonka (26 maxes)

Pete—thank you very much for being on top of this important club function!



**Jace Pivonka—2022 Glider Champion.  
Go Jace!**



**John McGrath – 2022 Annual Scramble Winner**



**Our 2022 Junior Champion—Skilly DeLoach!**



## Magnificent Mountain Men (MMM) Club Annual Meeting, 7 January 2023

Reporting: Chuck Etherington, Secretary/Treasurer

The meeting was held at the Pikes Peak Grange Hall in Franktown. There was a decent turnout compared to recent years and John McGrath, Club President, conducted the meeting.

- **Welcome, opening remarks – John McGrath**

The year in review - Everyone in attendance was asked to share what stood out for them in 2022. Among all the interesting comments, Jerry Murphy's gratitude for the club support after the death of his wife, Kathy, stood out for me.

- **Down to business**

Financials – Chuck Etherington presented the "Statement of Finances." The club continues to be financially healthy, and based on that, Jerry Murphy made a motion (that passed) to leave the annual club dues at \$45. Financial information is available to club members upon request. Please contact club treasurer, Chuck Etherington.

Field Lease – The Lowry field lease was renewed in the spring of 2022. Recreational leases are now limited to 5-years, but there was no increase apart from the standard 3% annual bump. The big news is that the State Land Board (SLB) agreed to remove \$1000 annually from our Lowry Ranch lease and apply it to the "Norris Ranch" site SE of Colorado Springs. Our argument was that our total burden and presence on state land would be the same whether we had one field or two. No one can fly at two fields at the same time and a shorter drive is beneficial for everyone in the C.Spgs & Manitou Spgs area. A map with details will be republished in the MaxOut as the outdoor season draws closer.

- **CD Shelter**

A semi-Permanent Shelter at Lowry – At the RMCs last year, our 10' x 20' portable CD shelter was twisted up by a micro-burst that came through in the middle of the night. That led to a discussion about what we should do for the future. It had long been thought that a semi-permanent steel shelter would serve us well but our previous request was turned down. However, with a new property manager in place, it seemed like another request might be worthwhile. Well, low and behold, our new manager OKed a steel shelter. The next step was to talk to the rancher, Nick Trainor, about negative impact it might have on his cattle. His only concern was the same one

he had with the chair corral; that his bulls would tear it up. It poses a bit of a conundrum in that bull-proofing it would make it look more permanent than semi.

The basic shelter would be about \$1500 and we may be able to reduce the cost if we picked it up (in Denver) and assembled it ourselves. We discussed the basic structure and some bull-proofing ideas. \$2000 was approved for the project. AMA District IX AVP, Mark Dennis encouraged us to apply for field improvement funds from AMA.

- **The Outdoor Scramble and its Rules**

Runaway protection and prevention – Don DeLoach brought up a concern with our current Scramble annual points tally. The Phoenix Model Airplane Club (PMAC) has a scoring system similar to ours, and using theirs as an example, possible ways were demonstrated that an individual could win the season championship with crazy high scores at only a couple of events. Jace Pivonka & Pete McQuade will retrospectively score the past 5 years' of Scrambles using each of 2 proposed methods, and see how each would have affected the scores.

Don only recalls one instance of something like the PMAC example having occurred in MMM history, ~May 2015. It might be a good idea to include that season in the exercise, because it might be more informative, even if it is >5 years ago.

The 2 suggested methods are:

A. Protect 2nd & 3rd places (per Scramble) with a 'floor' of 60-75% and 50-60%, for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, lower places lesser amounts.

B. Cap the 1st place scoring at however many maxes it took to win, i.e. one more max than 2nd place.

Following some discussion, the matter was deferred to an appointed Scramble committee.

First flight parameters all the way through, or add impediments class by class? – This led to a lengthy discussion that didn't get resolved. This was also deferred to the aforementioned Scramble committee. Currently, per the rules, reductions in motor / engine run (gas and electric) do apply, unless & until the rules are changed to say otherwise.

Fresh edit for the rules doc - See aforementioned Scramble committee

14R – How is the Scramble incorporated? - Jace Pivonka to summarize and report.

### Calendar and associated issues

A review of CD duties and checklist – a heartfelt request (John McGrath)

John handed out the checklist with a request that all CDs understand their responsibility as agents of AMA. In 2022 (as in previous years) some CD checklists were late and some weren't done at all. Consequently, others in the club had to figure out what was done (in some cases nothing), and complete the tasks that were not completed. I don't think any of us want to burden our friends and club-mates with tasks we agreed to do but failed to.

Calendar Approval and Choosing CDs – The calendar was discussed and approved Draft B of 7 Jan 2023 with three possible changes:

- Casino Cup date to be confirmed or corrected
- Possible F1E move from 14-Rounder to RMFFC due to 14R being very close (before) F1E World Championships. Chuck will poll the F1E fliers to see if they would be more likely to attend on the RMFFC date instead.
- PPCC: Possible change of venue (same date) to UCCS arena in co-sponsorship with the UAV club that Sean McEntee belongs to. In order to get a favorable rate, we would not be able to charge an entry fee at the venue; but we can work with that. Another possibility is City Auditorium instead on a date that would depend on availability.

-CDs were chosen for the 2023 outdoor scrambles, 14R and RMC.

Ceiling Climb Details – 12 March 2023 with the venue being worked out.\*

### Season Awards and Results

Presented elsewhere in this newsletter

- **AMA Award**

District IX Associate VP, Mark Dennis, attended our meeting to present Chuck Etherington with the Carl Goldberg Vital People Award. The plaque reads: "For your dedication above and beyond in support of the AMA and model aviation." It was a huge honor to have been nominated by my friends and given the award.

- **Transitions**

Following 40 years of dedicated service to the MMM Club, Rick Pangell passed the MaxOut Editor torch to John McGrath. Jerry Murphy gave a touching speech about Rick's outstanding contribution to the club. Sean McEntee takes over Indoor Coordinator from John Christensen

**Officer elections** – Pete McQuade President, Jace Pivonka Vice President, Chuck Etherington Secretary/Treasurer,

**\*Late breaking—deliberations continue about the Ceiling Climb. Other nearby dates are under consideration. Watch for news.—Ed.**

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### What's in a Name? by Chuck Etherington

So what should we call our new southern field? Lowry used to be "Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range," then shortened to "Lowry Range," and now the SLB refers to it as "Lowry Ranch." I've heard our southern field referred to as "Squirrel Creek" as it's off the road of the same name, but the actual creek is nowhere near there. And following that logic, shouldn't we be calling Lowry "Quincy Field?"

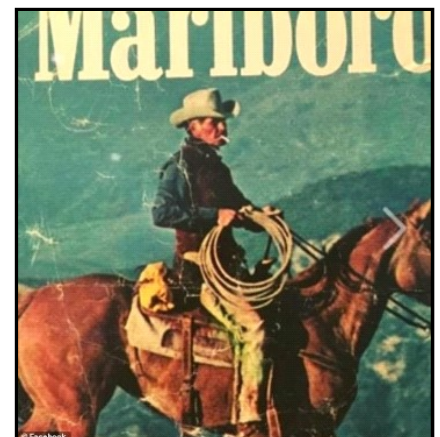
The ranchers on the southern field are the Norris family and their brand is the "T-Cross." Founder of the ranch is Bob Norris, the original cowboy featured in the Marlboro cigarette ads that began in the early 1960s. Art Hillis was friends with Bob's son Steve and it was through that connection that he was able to arrange the '95 SAM Champs on the very property we now lease. Bob Norris never smoked and lived to 90, but always had to have a cigarette in his mouth for the ads. I doubt if they were lit.

When the AMA flying site owner's insurance application required the name of the field, I listed it as

"Norris Ranch" to be compatible with "Lowry Ranch" on the companion application. Abe Medina, the State Land Board Recreational Lease Manager, advised that the name would be fine.

So what should we call it? Common usage will probably dictate, but I like the idea of being more purposeful by making a club decision. My vote is obviously for "Norris Ranch."

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## MMM 2023 Event Calendar as of 30 Jan 2023

Club Events are **bolded**. Relevant non-club events are unbolded.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>CD(s)</b>
(Southwest Regionals Eloy, AZ)	14-16 Jan	
<b>Indoor at Beth Eden</b>	13 Jan (Fri)	John Christensen
<b>Indoor at Manitou</b>	22 Jan (Sun)	Chuck Etherington
<b>Indoor at Beth Eden</b>	10 Feb (Fri)	John Christensen
<b>Indoor at Manitou Sci Oly Build/Fly/Trim #1</b>	12 Feb (Sun)	John McGrath
CO Southern Region Sci Oly (UC Pueblo)	18 Feb (Sat)	John McGrath
<b>Pikes Peak Ceiling Climb</b>	12 March (Sun)	Don DeLoach, David Aronstein
<b>Indoor at Manitou Sci Oly Build/Fly/Trim #2</b>	19 March (Sun)	Mel Gray
CO State Sci Oly Tournament (UCCS)	1 April (Sat)	John McGrath
<b>Indoor at Manitou</b>	2 April (Sun)	Frank Menanno
(Round Valley Dome, Eagar, AZ)	22-23 Apr	
<b>Scramble</b>	30 Apr (Sun)	Rick Pangell
<b>Scramble</b>	21 May (Sun)	Pete McQuade
<b>Scramble</b>	11 June (Sun)	Darold Jones
<b>Casino Cup, Wendover, NV</b>	14-15 June	Jack Murphy
(Indoor NATS/USIC, Moscow, ID)	19-23 June	
<b>14-Rounder + F1E (Incl. July Scramble)</b>	7-9 July	Pete McQuade, John McGrath
(Outdoor NATS, Muncie, IA)	17-21 July	
<b>Scramble (Late Day)</b>	6 Aug	Chuck Etherington
<b>Rocky Mountain FF Champs</b>	2-4 Sep	Don DeLoach, Chuck Etherington
<b>Scramble</b>	24 Sep	John McGrath
<b>Scramble</b>	15 Oct	Jeff Pakiz
<b>Scramble (Frito Pie)</b>	5 Nov	Frank Mennano/Jerry Murphy
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	6 Jan 2024	Pete McQuade



## Chuck Etherington receives AMA's Carl Goldberg Vital People Award



Chuck, as we all know, is the very embodiment of a person vital to a model aviation club. Without Chuck's ongoing stewardship of our flying fields, his long service as the club's Secretary/Treasurer, and his support for all indoor and outdoor events, the MMM club would be a far cry from the thriving enterprise it is.

We had the honor of a visit by our AMA Colorado Associate Vice President Mark Dennis to the Annual Meeting. Mark made the long trip from Longmont to attend our meeting specifically to present the award to Chuck. Without taking the wind from the sails of Mark's report in the upcoming issue of **Model Aviation**, suffice it to say that he was extremely impressed by the seriousness with which we take our issues, the organized way we conducted our meeting, and most of all, with Chuck's numerous contributions to our club.

Thanks to Rick Pangell for his efforts in bringing about this award, and thanks to Chuck for bringing such credit to the club!

--John

## Excerpts from Chuck's Nomination

"An old saying has it that 'Nobody is indispensable.' Whoever wrote that never met Chuck Etherington. His 40-plus years with the club make him a resource without equal."

"Chuck is one of our club's formal leaders, and has been the club's Secretary/Treasurer for decades. As a member of the club's Leadership Council, Chuck provides historically well informed guidance."

"Every person who's flown here at our Colorado State Land Board Lowry Field has benefited from Chuck's efforts. He has been the club representative to the State Land Board, maintaining a beneficial relationship which has resulted in positive lease negotiations."

"As a leader and competitor, Chuck is a CD and member of our Major Contest Management Team. He is instrumental in both of the club's two major contests—the FAI-focused 14-Rounder and our Rocky Mountain Championship."

"Every time the MMM Club puts out a call for help with Science Olympiad, or build-and-fly events, or any involvement we have with potential new fliers, Chuck's right there helping out. He is truly a Vital Person to the MMM Club."

## Congratulations, Chuck!

***IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER, OR IF YOUR PERSONAL  
INFORMATION CHANGES, PLEASE USE THIS FORM***

***Use this form and send it in regardless of how you pay***

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- *In the "To" block, type in [mmmffclub@gmail.com](mailto:mmmffclub@gmail.com), the amount, and click the button "Services"*
- *In the next form where you confirm payment, in the Lower "Subject" and "Message" boxes state what the money is for... annual dues, entry fees and such.*
- *When pre-entering a contest that needs event selection or similar, you still need to send in the pre-registration form to the Contest Directors*

***Note, Paypal does charge a fee for this service so if you do use paypal maybe add an extra buck to help us out***