

December 15, 2023



**Higgins Field is now an Academy of
Model Aviation and Federal
Aviation Administration
Recognized Identification Area or
FRIA**

Miniature Aircraft Association (MAA) Officers 2024

President: Dick McGrew

Vice President: Ed Haas

Treasurer: David Brown, Sr.

Secretary: David Brown, Sr.

Safety Officer: John Schug

Field Marshal: Ron Morrison

Newsletter Editor: Dawn Morrison

Board of Directors Members:

Clark Hymas

Rudy Higgins

Bill Stewart

Jared England

Mark Westergren



HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

2024 Officer Elections

Elections were held at a club meeting on November 18, 2023 at Higgins Field. This followed nominations made at the previous club meeting held October 28, 2023. The officers for 2024 are:

President:	Dick McGrew
Vice President:	Ed Haas
Treasurer:	Dave Brown, Sr.
Secretary:	Dave Brown, Sr.
Safety Officer:	John Schug
Field Marshall:	Ron Morrison
Newsletter Editor:	Dawn Morrison
Elected Board of Directors:	Clark Hymas and Mark Westergren
Existing Board of Directors:	Bill Stewart, Rudy Higgins, Jared England

A big thank you to the officers who gave their time, commitment, and work to support the Miniature Aircraft Association (MAA) and our Higgins Field in 2023.

Welcome to our new and continuing officers. Please give them your support and plan to help with and/or at the club in any way you can. Many hands make light work.

Past Activities and Information:

April 29 & 30th, 2023 - International Miniature Aerobatic Club (IMAC) Event.



Nine pilots attended the Spring IMAC event at Higgins Field from around the Northwest to compete in this IMAC event. Thanks to Clark Hymas for being the contest director and to Ron and Dawn Morrison for handling registrations and providing meals for the weekend.

Congratulations to Clark Hymas, a member of our MAA club, who took first place in the Advanced Class.

Breakfast and Club Meeting



On July 1, 2023, a free breakfast was provided to club members just to get us all together to have fun, fly and swap stories. Thanks to Ron and Dawn Morrison for doing the cooking for this event.

A club meeting was held at 11:00am. President Dick McGrew went over what the club is up to. We are still looking for volunteers to get a couple of fun flies or activities for club members and others scheduled. Anyone interested in helping or taking the lead on an event is encouraged to contact Dick McGrew for scheduling.

Another topic discussed was maintenance on the Hen Pen/Doghouse, the exterior of which has seen major weathering damage. It was decided we needed to take steps to preserve the structure.

Hen Pen/Doghouse Restoration

Work began on restoration the weekend of July 8th-9th when Dick McGrew replaced the broken window and patched numerous defects in the exterior structure.

On July 13th and continuing through July 15th the structure was pressure washed, scraped, caulked, and painted by a crew of MAA members as shown below.

By vote of those present, the “Hen Pen” has now been rechristened to its original moniker the “Doghouse”.



Many thanks to all who donated their time and labor to bring this project to completion from left to right above: Ed Haas, Dick and Andi McGrew, John Schug, Ron and Dawn Morrison and Bill Stewart (not pictured). Special thanks to Dick and Andi for their organization and collecting supplies so we could complete the work in a timely manner.

September 23rd & 24th, 2023 - International Miniature Aerobatic Club (IMAC) Northwest Regional Finals Event



Ten pilots attended the IMAC Regional event at Higgins Field from around the Northwest. Thanks to Clark Hymas for being the contest director and to Ron and Dawn Morrison for cooking meals and handling sign-ups for the weekend.



Huckfest 2023 – September 28 – October 1, 2023 at Higgins Field

The biggest and most exciting event of the year, the Northwest Huckfest 2023 was held at Higgins Field, September 28 – October 1, with some of the most incredible RC Pilots anywhere coming from far and wide to Higgins Field. Even if large scale extreme aerobatics aren't your personal slice of the hobby this was the one to attend, especially if you wanted to show friends, family, or neighbors just how

exciting your RC hobby can be. If you missed it, you missed the biggest and most exciting event of the year. Next year can't get here soon enough!

A big THANK YOU to the club members who helped prepare for this event including Ron & Dawn Morrison, Dick & Andi McGrew, and Clark Hymas. A special thanks to Clark Hymas for C/Ding the event and handling the parking. It was a special treat to have Tim Hanstine travel from Georgia to attend this event and see all his Northwest friends. A big thanks goes to one of our newest members, Ken "3D" Elgin, and his amazing girlfriend Shadow Kabrich for all their support and for breakfasts served at the event. This event is a significant contributor to keeping the lights on and the field functioning at our Higgins Field, one of the finest RC facilities in the Northwest.

Below are a few photos from the event:



Field Problems

We continue to experience problems with the irrigation well at the field, hence the brown grass. The well isn't producing the amount of water seen in the past and we are working on ways to mitigate the problem. In addition, we have more sprinkler heads that have been broken (elk/deer maybe) which will need to be replaced.

Improvements at Higgins Field

The trees at the field needed some pruning and one dead tree removed. Thanks to Clark Hymas for bringing his electric pole saw and doing the pruning. Thanks to Dick McGrew for bringing out his chipper to make short work of all the limbs and all who helped get them to the chipper.

Also, thank you Dick for bringing out your chainsaw so that you and Ron Morrison could take down the dead tree and cut it up. That fixed a safety hazard, and we are glad to have it gone. See pictures below.



Higgins Field Water Systems Winterized

All water systems have now been winterized and are unavailable. The club's new porta potty is now in place for use. Thanks to Dick McGrew, Jared England, and Ron and Dawn Morrison for completing this important task.

2024 Club Projects

- Replace broken sprinklers on Runway 1
- Clean out pump house and label water supply lines (result of well inspection).
- Replacement of failed floats and testing of septic system sump pump and alarm system.
- Hold Spring Work Party to get the field ready for the season.
- Diagnose and hopefully repair/replace (hope not) the existing irrigation well.

Future MAA/Higgins Field Events and Activities:

• Chilly Chili	January 1, 2024 (weather permitting)	Higgins Field
• IMAC Grizzly Bear	April 13 - 14 2024	Higgins Field
• Spring IMAC	TBD	Higgins Field
• Huckfest 2024	TBD	Higgins Field
• IMAC NW Regional	TBD	Higgins Field

Please think about events and club activities for next year. If you are willing to propose and/or conduct an event, please contact the Club President, Dick McGrew to get an event considered and/or approved. We want to have an active season this year at Higgins Field and maybe even a couple of offsite events. We are always looking for new ideas and members to help organize them.

Higgins Field is now an FAA-Recognized Identification Area (FRIA)

Although the final compliance date was extended to March 16, 2024, gaining FRIA status for Higgins Field was a critical priority. Without FRIA status we would be subject to numerous onerous requirements under the new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. Some of these requirements include installing electronic transponders so our aircraft could be tracked in real time, reporting your flying activities to the FAA, and being under strict flight limits (to name a few). Now having obtained FRIA status, with some details, we will be able to continue to operate our aircraft at Higgins Field under the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and the Miniature Aircraft Association's (MAA) established safety rules just as we do now. If you wish to view a video on the current requirements including flying at a FRIA site here is a YouTube video which goes over the general rules.

[FAA Regulations & Rules for Recreational RC Pilots \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Please note, in spite of our FRIA status you still need to be a registered Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) pilot with the FAA and have passed The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) knowledge test. Big thanks to Ron Morrison for working with the AMA folks and doggedly pursuing our FRIA approval.

If you have not yet registered with the FAA here is the website to do so (cost is \$5.00).

[FAADroneZone Access - Home](#)

If you have not yet completed the TRUST knowledge test here is the AMA website to do so (it is free to take the test).

[THE RECREATIONAL UAS SAFETY TEST \(TRUST\) | THE RECREATIONAL UAS SAFETY TEST \(TRUST\) TEST by AMA \(modelaircraft.org\)](#)

Be sure to print the certificates that will be available after registering and completing the test.

To submit suggestions, comments, photos, or articles for the MAA newsletter please forward to Dawn Morrison at: rdmorrison1@outlook.com