

Successful Clubs

Successful clubs do everything they can to **get that person in the air as soon as possible**, or at least ask him or her to accompany them while they fly.

Successful clubs focus on "accentuating the positives" whenever they encounter a potential member or interested spectator. These **positives include a dedicated runway** from which to fly, **experienced members to help** answer questions, and the fact that **technology is making it easier and cheaper than ever before** for people to enjoy the hobby

Successful clubs I make every reasonable effort to keep things simple and remove obstacles that would get in the way of others enjoying flying at the club field.

Consider the E-flite Apprentice basic trainer. Veteran modelers typically advise any newcomer buying an Apprentice to forgo the basic radio offered with the airplane, and instead buy one with more features. However, the radio offered with the Apprentice is preset by the factory, so all that a novice has to do is charge the batteries and fly.

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- Successful clubs promote a policy of never allowing spectators to sit off to the side.
 - Successful clubs have all of the printed forms needed to join AMA and the club (even if they'll be joining online), and, if possible, a printout of an RTF basic trainer,

ready to hand to any interested spectator before he or she leaves.

- As long as a person's equipment is airworthy, leaders of clubs with high retention rates generally hold off pointing out everything they would change or improve upon, but do their best to help that person experience the thrill of seeing his or her airplane in the air as soon as possible.

- Successful clubs hype the fact that the unique thing about the hobby is that there are so many options available, and that pilots can change their interests at any time.

For a club to experience growth, it must have individuals in positions of leadership who possess the initiative and/or natural inclination to map out a club's mission statement, along with a step-by-step plan of action aimed at cultivating an active, fun, flying club.

When people in the area hear about the club and decide to check it out, they will encounter an appealing club that looks as though it would be fun to be involved with. The reason that it takes this type of leader is because the turnaround or growth doesn't often happen right away.

It all starts with getting the basics right to foster an environment that promotes flying and encourages people to have fun and pursue their own particular interests.

Have a great 2016 flying season!

—Dave Scott