

# Welcome to PGRC

by Rick Moreland

## A little history and how things work

Prince Georges Radio Control Club all started in 1963 with 15 members. We have been at 4 locations since that time, all of which have been within 4 miles of one another. We moved to our current, and hopefully last, home on Swanson Rd. in 1995. When we arrived, the property was owned by the City of Bowie, and then sold several years later to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). PGRC has a lease agreement with M-NCPPC which covers the flying site and club house. We have averaged between 140 to 160 members each year, over the past several years.

## Initial assessment

Why the assessment? Since the club was formed, we have received no money from local or state entities. All site improvements we have made at both past and present locations have been paid for by PGRC members. At our current location we started with nothing. It was a corn field with no access road. To secure a lease for the property, we had to agree to build the road and prepare the entire site on our own. The lease for the house requires us to maintain the property so it is safe for meetings and storage.

So, that road you just drove on, that paved runway you just took off from, that nice smooth grass you taxied out on were all paid for by past PGRC members. When you pay the one-time assessment fee, you are buying into what all our members before you have paid for over the years.

## Annual dues

As you can imagine, we have many expenses. Our maintenance equipment: two zero-turn Hustler 60" commercial mowers, trim mower, weed whackers, limb saw, International 504 tractor, and John Deere Gator are required for weekly grass cutting, bushhogging, and other chores. Plus, there's gas, oil, and spare parts to keep them running. This year alone, we spent close to \$5,000 for road maintenance; and let's not forget the monthly electric and field toilet bills. Dues are payable by our January club meeting. After that date there is a \$25 late fee.

## Who runs the club (the day-to-day stuff)?

PGRC's day to day operations are run by an 11-member board of directors elected by the general membership. Every year we have elections for 3 or 4 board members. A board member's term is 3 years. Anyone can submit their name for one of these positions. We have a board meeting the first Tuesday of the month and a general membership meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. Any member can attend both meetings.

## PGRC Constitution and Bylaws

Our Constitution and Bylaws is available at the PGRC website ([www.pgrclub.com](http://www.pgrclub.com)). FYI, the only way bylaws can be changed is by a vote of the general membership. The board can institute changes at any time but we need to notify the general membership of the proposed changes 30 days in advance. The proposed changes are voted on at the next general membership meeting. I think we have had maybe one or two requests for changes in the past 10 years.

## Getting Started

We require all our members to join the Academy of Model Aeronautics ([www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org)). Besides providing information about the hobby and maintaining a relationship with the FAA, the AMA provides required personal liability insurance for our members.

For our new fliers, PGRC offers a great flight training program available for both young and old. Weather permitting, every Tuesday afternoon/evening during the flying season, we have RC instructors on site. You don't need a thing to get started, just show up. We have club trainer planes and radios available to help you learn the basics of RC flying. When you are ready to take the next step, we can provide recommendations regarding what equipment (aircraft, radio, field equipment) to purchase.

We have one of the best clubs in the area. We welcome all to enjoy the experience of model aviation. Just follow some simple rules concerning safety, meet some new friends, and welcome to PGRC.