

## AMA partners with BSA for mutual benefit

From AMA member Milt Woodham, Colorado Springs: Pikes Peak Soaring Society (PPSS) began in the early 1970s as a handful of R/C glider pilots in the local R/C power club. Growing sailplane activity by the late 1970s made it increasingly difficult to safely co-exist in the same airspace and on the same frequencies, so in 1979 eight sailplane pilots formed PPSS. Today, PPSS has about 44 members, including five of the original eight. For many years PPSS has held monthly sailplane competitions and, in recent years, one electric competition. This year we are trying a new format for the electric contest, with everyone flying a Stevens Aeromodels Helium motor glider with limited motor run.

The Boy Scouts have a large ranch near Elbert Colorado, some 30 miles or so from Colorado Springs. Each year, for about 6 weeks during June and July, they have Scouts from all over the country there for a week at a time.

The PPSS VP's property adjoins the Boy Scout ranch and about five years ago he had a casual conversation with the ranch managers. That conversation led to PPSS offering to sponsor Delta Dart building sessions with interested Scouts (During one session we had a BS Commissioner sit in and build a DD for his Grandson - Ed). Those building sessions have seen as many as 21 scouts building the Delta Darts, with PPSS members' guidance, and then flying each model.

A PPSS member equips each DD with contest-grade rubber, assists in trimming the airplane, and with winding and launching. Every airplane is flown, with some making amazing flights. Many of the Scouts have never seen a model like this, and to see their own creation fly makes some of them almost jump for joy. Their reactions are gratifying to see. PPSS has also sponsored Estes rocket building and launching sessions with area schools at the ranch. And in addition, PPSS has sponsored Delta Dart building sessions with local Cub Scout groups.

Impact: As a result of the PPSS activities with the Boy Scouts, PPSS members have been granted flying privileges on the ranch, including a sailplane site and access to their lake where float planes are flown any time that the pond is not frozen over. This gives us about eight months-a-year access to the lake.

From the Editor – The members who have regularly donated time and effort to the BS DD project are John Ames, Bob Avery, Charles Bush, Austin Cleis, Frank Deis, Glen Pope, Gus Gustafeson, John Read, Milt Woodham and finally Milt's Grandson Jacob. Jacob was a great help with the younger cub scouts. I apologize if I left anyone out.

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