

The History of Music City Aviators

Where we've been *and* Where we are going

1960s - 1963, Metro acquired 273 acres of farmland from E. N. Peeler

1970s - One warm and sunny day, after receiving permission from Metro Parks and Recreation, a handful of modelers gathered at the site we now refer to as our "Flying Site" and began to hone out a rough and dusty runway. Radio Control Aircraft have made great strides since the "early years" (reed and vacuum tube systems) and the newly introduced transistor systems made it possible for more modelers to try their hand at R/C flight. Peeler was not the first flying site in the Nashville Area, but modelers were eager to have a flying site closer than the long trip to Edwin Warner.

1980s - As time continued on, more technological improvements were made to R/C systems as well as kit building and more reliable engines. The Music City Aviators Club continued to grow as well as other clubs around the city. Several country music stars came out to Peeler and received help in learning to fly.

1990s - The R/C community continued to grow and ARF's began to show up in the Hobby Shops for those who were too busy raising families and making a living to build from kits. Thus started the friendly debates between ARF's and Kits. ARF's grew more popular as family

and career time grew more demanding. The Hobby morphed into many different aspects. those who loved to build and those who enjoyed flying as well as those who loved both. There were all types of club events held at Peeler during the 90s and into the new century. Pattern flying, Scale and Semi Scale events, Pylon Racing, and various types of Fun Fly's, events we held at Peeler Park. We even hosted one of the first 3D events back before electrics were advanced enough to be competitive. It was called the Profile Brotherhood aka ProBro. There is even an organization dedicated to the building and flying of antique aircraft called S.A.M. which some of our members belong to.

2000s - More and more electrics began to show up as did better and better electric motors. The introduction of the Internet and ability to buy hobby supplies on-line spelled the end of many friendly neighborhood hobby shops. But the fellowship shared by the Music City Aviators members continued on and field improvement (paved runway, safety fences, etc. etc. Also, another 388 acres (the Taylor farm) was added more than doubling the size of Peeler Park. Also, just before the turn of the century, some of our members plus some other RC stalwarts were testing the limits of the every growing popular electric powered foam airplanes. They would meet mostly on Sunday mornings at the field and fly until their batteries were exhausted. They would be leaving around the time the fuel and gas powered gang would begin later that morning. They called themselves the "Foam-Busters". The Foam-Busters eventually merged in with the Music City Aviators and many are still active in various capacities within our club. Anyone wishing to know more about this wild bunch should speak with Jim (Hark) Harkreader.

2010s - In this decade, change has become the “norm” and the technology is matched by the skill of the pilots. FVP (first person view) and GPS and satellite controlled aircraft is no longer a novelty. Drones, large and small can be seen in backyards as well as flying fields. Yes, there are still a handful of modelers who love to build from kits, some even “scratch” build (either from commercial plans or an idea they thought up themselves).and of course the ARFs. The MCA members are a diverse group of talented individuals (young people to retirees) and it is always a treat to show up on any given day at Peeler to see what new and innovative aircraft is being readied for flight into the wild blue yonder.

2020s - Tomorrow is any body’s guess, but one thing we can count on is the dedication of our members to continue to amaze us with the ever expanding capabilities of every aspect of our hobby. Stay tuned. The best is yet to come.

Submitted by Charles Waterston