

December 2020

FLY PAPER



The *Flypaper* is a
monthly publication of

The Fox Valley Aero Club

An Illinois not-for-profit
Corporation

P.O. Box 837
St. Charles, IL 60174-0837

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AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics
Charter Club #252

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Hallmark Sky's the Limit
Rearwin Speedster 6000M
2020 Ornament

Photo: Doug Swanson

President's Message

Dale Gathman

president@foxvalleyaero.com

FVAC Election for the 2021 Board of Directors

The election has been completed, and by the time you see this you will know who has been elected to serve as our Board of Directors for 2021. Congratulations and Thank You to those members who will fulfill the duties they have been elected to for the upcoming year. We will be planning the events for 2021 soon, and I ask that you be patient with our decisions as we still have to deal

with the Covid situation for a while yet. A big THANK YOU goes out to Secretary Debbie Howe and her husband John for handling our electronic election once again this year. Electronic voting is a great way to handle the election and Debbie and John made it happen. I also send a big Thank You to all of our 2020 Board members. Together, we handled a very strange and different year than any we have had in the past. You have done a great job and I know that our members appreciate your service.

FVAC Zoom Christmas Party and Raffle – Do not forget to join us for our Christmas Party and Raffle via *Zoom* this year. The party is scheduled for Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 pm. A link will be emailed to you a couple of days before.

Frozen Fingers – I am looking forward to our annual Frozen Fingers – First in Flight event on January 1st at 10:00am. This is a fun event, as at the starting signal we see which of

**FROZEN
FINGERS**

our pilots are able to take off first and fly one pattern flight and successfully land again. Look for more details coming soon via email.

Swap Meet – On a sad note, I must let you know that we have made the decision to cancel the Kane County Fairgrounds Swap for 2021. We know we would not be able to have our normal swap in February, and so JT and Joe looked into scheduling it later in the year. Unfortunately, the only open date that the fairgrounds had available was December 18, which we felt would definitely not work. We have reserved our regular February date for the Swap for 2022. We also will be looking at options for holding a full-sized swap later in the year at our flying field. Look for more details as we discuss our options.

Christmas – I wish a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our members and your families. I pray that you all stay safe and healthy through this holiday season and look at ways to get together that does not endanger anyone. I know that our Gathman family had a big 'virtual' get together via *Zoom* for Thanksgiving, and we actually had many more of us attend than would have been possible if we had our normal family meal. Through *Zoom*, I got to see both of my sons and their families who live in other states, so although the virus caused us to cancel our normal dinner plans, it opened up a new option that allowed more of our families to get together via computer. Always try to look at the 'bright side'.

Dale



Tree illustrations designed by Freepik

Secretary's Report

Debbie Howe

secretary@foxvalleyaero.com

Fox Valley Aero Club
Member Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2020 @ Online Zoom Meeting

President, Dale Gathman thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone to say their name so that Debbie can identify you for the minutes.

Secretary, Debbie Howe asked for a motion to approve the October Member Meeting Minutes, a motion was made by **Bill Suhr** and seconded by **Tom Flint**, all approved.

Treasurer, Joe Pedone said the checking account is looking good, we have paid the last lawn mowing of the year and are down to just the porta potty and the Christmas/Holiday raffle prizes. We will start taking membership renewals after January 1st for 2021. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by **Steve Haas** and seconded by **Mark Knopkie** all approved.

President, Dale Gathman said the board has made a motion to approve the changes to Article 4, Sections 2 and 4 of the constitution regarding the dues payment dates and late fees. **Scott Schilling** seconded the change and all approved. Article 4, Section 2 will now read:

The due date for club dues is March 1st each year. To retain flying rights at the field, dues must be paid on or before March 31 of the calendar year. Any member who fails to pay the dues by this date will be denied any use of the field until their dues are paid in full. In addition, late paying Adult Members will incur a twenty-five-dollar late fee which is added to the amount due for that year. Junior Members will incur a five dollar late fee for late payment.

...and Section 4 will read:

New members joining on or after October 1st of the year will pay the full annual dues amount, but that payment will cover the remainder of the current year as well as the entire year following their application.

Safety Chairman, Jeff Peca reminded everyone to renew your FAA Registration. Most expire 12-31-20, but please check your cards, some are expiring on other dates in December. There is a link in the last *FlyPaper* with the link you can click to get to the correct site. There are other sites out there that are scamming and charging more. You should only be paying \$5 for 3 years. Here is the correct link: <https://faadronezone.faa.gov>. We have also found the address that if any emergencies come up at the field and 911 has to be called. The correct address is:

3831 Karl Madsen Dr, St Charles, IL 60175

Members may want to keep this address in their wallet for safe keeping.

Membership Chairman, Dave Cotton said we have 195 members—10 of which are honorary, and 2 are life members. At this time we do not have any new members this month. We do need to make sure we have our new members' AMA membership numbers.

President, Dale Gathman said he has been contacted by club members requesting that we keep a handicap-accessible porta-potty at the field. The board decided tonight that in early spring we will have a handicap-accessible porta-potty brought out and kept at the field. We want everyone to be able to enjoy the day at the field.

Field Chairman, Mark Knopkie said **THANK YOU**



to all the Grass Gophers for all their work cutting and taking care of the field all year long. A big **THANK YOU** to **Tom Flint** and **Dan Compton** for their work cleaning the mowers and waxing them to get them ready for the winter, they got them covered and moth balls put around them to keep the mice away, Tom Spriet also replaced some windows that were broken in the pavilion and replaced them with Plexiglas, Thank you for all you have done to get the field ready for winter. Mark also thanked everyone that do so much behind the scenes to keep our field so nice and everything everyone does for the club. We have a great group of people that make up FVAC.

FlyPaper Editor, Doug Swanson said thank you to **Tom Flint** for submitting the article on the hats and to **Dale Gathman** for the pics that he submitted. Doug said a bunch of members have sent in pics and articles about how they store planes at home. Doug will be putting the article together for the next newsletter issue with the pics. Doug also said he will be doing a Meet the Member article. Doug said he spent over 2 hours with a member and hearing about his military past and his life after the military and about his life with planes. It was very interesting and he can't wait to share it.

Doug will be putting together a short newsletter with the candidate statements. Anyone that is running for the board is asked to put together a statement about themselves and send to Doug so that they can be included in the pre-vote newsletter.

Government Relations Chairman, Tom Spriet replaced some of the broken windows in the pavilion and replaced the *office of Dan Compton Flight Instructor* sign. Thank you to Tom for a great job and all the hard work.

Public Relations Chairman, Tom Flint said Thank you to **Doug Swanson** for a great job doing the *FlyPaper*. He reminded everyone to get the club hats to help ward away any bad luck. Hehehe.

Swap Shop Chairman, Joe Pedone said at this time we will be postponing the upcoming **Swap Shop** due to Covid but him and his Co-Chairman **JT**, will talk with the fairgrounds and see if they could put together another date once Covid settles down and it is safe.

Warbird and Classics Chairman, John Fischer talked about the hopes of a vaccine for Covid and how that would affect how we run the giant scale event. John and **Armin Weber** went to the Bluegrass event. They limited the event to 65 pilots and they did not have spectators and the pilots had a great time. So that is something we can think about—not having spectators. So as of now we are planning on the event.

Christmas Party Zoom Meeting, Debbie Howe said she would like members to send her emails with funny moments they have had with the planes or at the field or at events, she will pick a few and read them at the December *Zoom* Christmas Party and have members guess who the story was about. She would also like members to send her pics that can be running as a slideshow during the party. It does not matter what the pictures are of—it can be your holiday decorations, it can be you and your plane, it can be your family—anything you want to share to help bring our club together. Finally the **CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY RAFFLE....**the board has decided we will be doing an entire club raffle. Every club member's name will be put in a drawing and at the *Zoom* party on December 10th, at 7pm, we will be drawing for prizes. We encourage you to wear your funny Christmas/Holiday sweaters, antlers, lights anything festive and join us for a *Zoom* Christmas/Holiday Party. **Please try to sign in around 6:45** so that we can get everyone on and signed in by 7pm.

Since we normally do our donation to the **Salvation Army Angel Tree** at the Christmas/Holiday Party, we are setting up a day of donation. On Saturday, December 5th, Dale or one of the board will be at the field to collect donations for the Salvation Army from 9am-3pm. We are asking to keep in mind that we try to help supply gifts for the kids who are a little bit older. The Salvation Army has a harder time with gifts for the older kids, so that is where we try to fill the need. We encourage you to donate gift cards for any local stores like Target or Wal-Mart, where the kids can pick anything from cloths, to music, electronics, etc. We suggest, due to Covid restrictions, do not do movie theaters at this time. If you think you might forget or do not want to make the drive to the field, please mail any donations to the club P.O. Box before December 5th.



Jim Hari said that he had dropped off a couple radios and a receiver that is free for the taking at the field. It is not an expensive radio but if you want to put together a cheap plane, just to play around, have at it.

President, Dale Gathman opened up nominations again and asked if anyone else would like to run. Debbie Howe is checking one member, to see if he would accept running, but will let us know.

Nominations are closed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Pedone and seconded by John Fischer, all approved.

Happy Thanksgiving, and for all of those who I don't see until next year, have a Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays.

We wish you all a happy, healthy, wonderful new year!!!!

★ ★ ★ ELECTION 2020 ★ ★ ★

Congratulations to the following newly elected Board members who will serve the club for 2021. These board members will take office at the end of our Zoom Christmas Party on December 10.

President
Dale Gathman
Vice President
Dave Murray
Secretary
Debbie Howe
Treasurer
Joe Pedone

Directors-At-Large
John Fischer
Steve Haas
Jeff Mrachek
Rob Sampson
Bill Suhr
Armin Weber

In Memoriam

Norm Johnson

Reprint of obituary:

Norm Johnson, 87, passed away Nov. 4th. He was born and raised in Oak Park, IL. In 1969 he married his wife, Ivy, and they lived in the St. Charles, Geneva area for 51 years. Norm worked in the printing ink industry and enjoyed a successful career in Research and Development. He had a passion for aviation and airplanes all his life and was an active member of the Fox Valley R/C Aero Club for many years. Norm was also a longtime, active member of the Congregational United Church of Christ in St. Charles. Norm leaves behind his wife, Ivy; nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces and nephews.



Norm was captured at the 2011 Festival of Flight in this image by Joe Pedone



Norm's family was able to spread some of his ashes out at the flying field. Widow, Ivy, said she would have liked to have the Club involved, but couldn't, due to the virus.

From the Editor: Norm has been a part of FVAC ever since I can remember (he joined in 1982). When I would come out to the old field back in the 80's (across Rt. 38), I would always see him flying in the airshows and on regular weekend days. I was in awe one day when he took off with his Ugly Stik and proceeded to fly a 360° rolling circle. When I put out a request several yeas back looking for a certain old, rare, Futaba radio, Norm reached out, and had one for me.

Blue skies, Norm.

From the Editor

Doug Swanson

newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com

Hello, all,

This year has had some mild December weather so far. The weather was beautiful on December 5th, when I came out to the Donation Day for Salvation Army. I heard there were a lot of people out flying early in the day. The ones who

were still there when I arrived are on the next page in a rare, December "Shots from the Field".

I want to thank all of our contributors who waited an extra month for me to get their articles out (*Cub Scout Rocket Launch* and *Aircraft Storage*). Last month was busy, and this one hasn't been much better, but the articles are finally here in this super issue.

Bill and Nicole Sponsler have provided a write-up and photos on the Cub Scout Rocket Launch, held on October 22nd. Don Froula was there that day as well, and has shared some of his exceptional photographs for us to enjoy. See the article on page 8.

Many members came through with aircraft storage contributions in both images and words—their credits can be found with their respective content. **Thank you all for your input!** I think there's something in there for everyone. Even if you have just one aircraft—it needs to be stored—both safely and out of the way. Enjoy this feature starting on page 10.

Happy Holidays, and here's to a great 2021.

See you at Frozen Fingers on the 1st of January.

Doug



OV-10 Bronco 30cc ARF
HAN4670

Futaba T16IZ





Jim Hari and his Dynam WACO YMF-5D. Power comes from a 4S 2600 battery. Guidance by a Spektrum DX8. Snoopy wing-walker.



John Turner, "JT", and his Hobby People Taipan. Powered by a Rimfire 52 and 6S 4500.

Shots from the Field

photos by Doug Swanson



Dale Gathman with his E-flite F4U-4 Corsair 1.2m. Battery is a 3S 3200.



Tony Bagnola flies his E-flite T-28 Trojan 1.2m on a 4S 2200 battery with Spektrum DX6 guidance.



Cliff Fullhart's kit-built Slow Poke. Was left in the pavilion: "free". Cliff added the graphics to the already pink and green covering job. O.S. FP 20.

Cub Scout Pack 260 Rocket Launch

by Nicole Sponsler

Last month the kids from St Charles Cub Scout Pack 260 enjoyed perfect weather for their rocket launch event. The Scouts built and decorated their own rockets and were so excited to launch them at the FVAC field with the assistance of Club and Pack member Bill Sponsler. The Pack had a great turnout for this event and we hope that we will encourage a new generation of model enthusiasts!

Editor: The full set of photographs from Nicole and Don can be viewed on our website, in the gallery. Clickable link to photos: [Here](#)



Don Froula photo

Don Froula photo



Don Froula photo



Don Froula photo



Don Froula photo



Nicole Sponsler photo



Don Froula photo



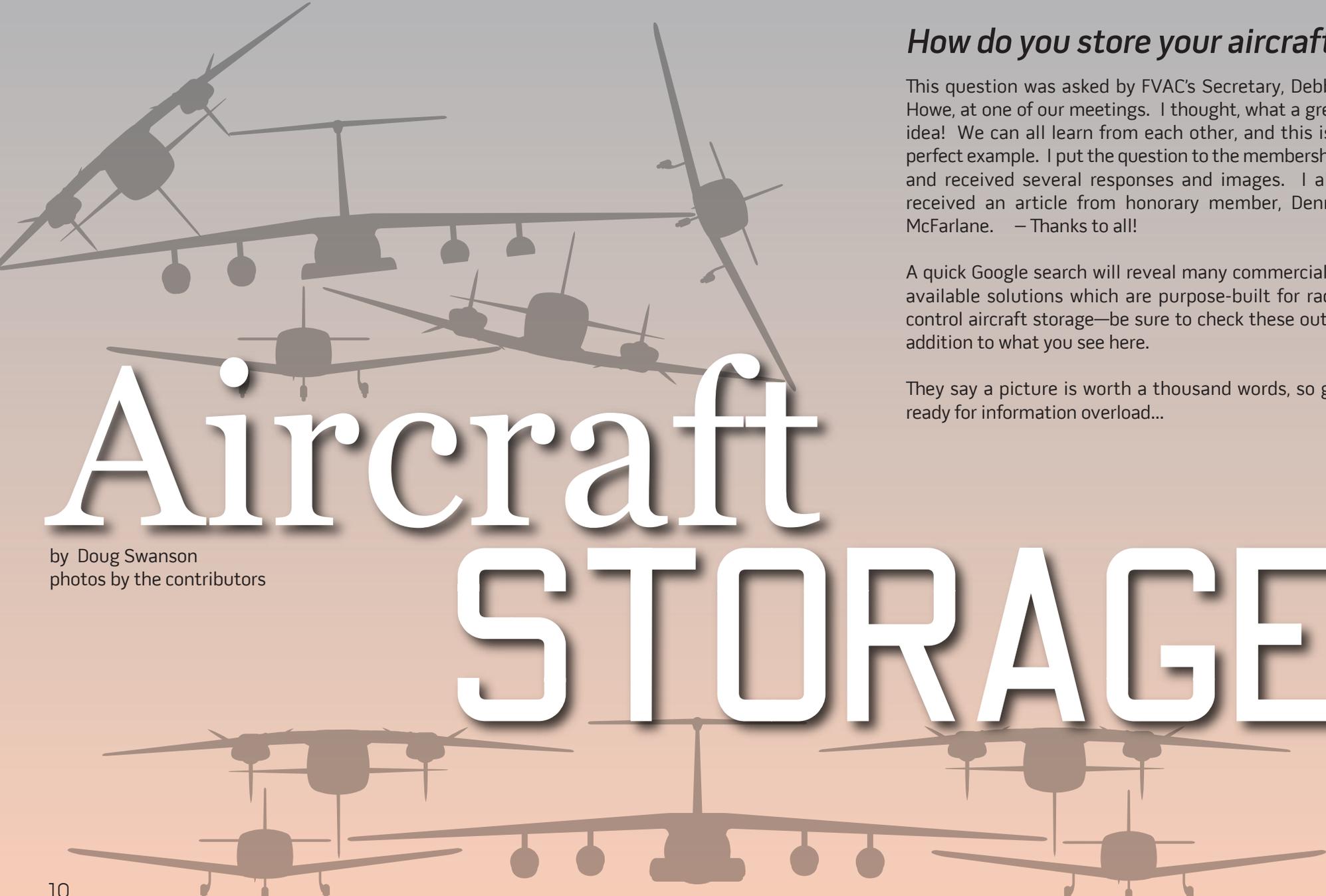
Nicole Sponsler photo

How do you store your aircraft?

This question was asked by FVAC's Secretary, Debbie Howe, at one of our meetings. I thought, what a great idea! We can all learn from each other, and this is a perfect example. I put the question to the membership, and received several responses and images. I also received an article from honorary member, Dennis McFarlane. – Thanks to all!

A quick Google search will reveal many commercially-available solutions which are purpose-built for radio control aircraft storage—be sure to check these out in addition to what you see here.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so get ready for information overload...



Aircraft STORAGE

by Doug Swanson
photos by the contributors

I classify the storage options into three categories:

1. Commercially-available solutions
2. Repurposed product solutions
3. Home-made/home-built solutions.

I have organized the photos, and will cover them, in this order.

Commercially-available Solution

Dale Gathman: "I use the DuBro Wing and Fuse racks in two places, as the photos show. These are easy to use, and can hold a lot of wings close together. They are good for most planes 60-size or smaller. I think planes larger than that would overtax the bars, and the wings would be too wide to be secure."



Repurposed Product Solution



Armin Weber: Here is my storage solution. For fuselages, I have a 4x6 rack that holds 7 large, about 1/5-scale, fuselages. I have room for 2 more. The rack is wrapped in the foam sleeves used for water pipes to protect the fuselage from "hangar rash". Each fuselage rests in a PVC cradle. I can carry the fuselage, in the cradle, from the shop to the car. Once in the car, the cradle keeps the fuselage from moving around.

The wings are mounted to shelving brackets.

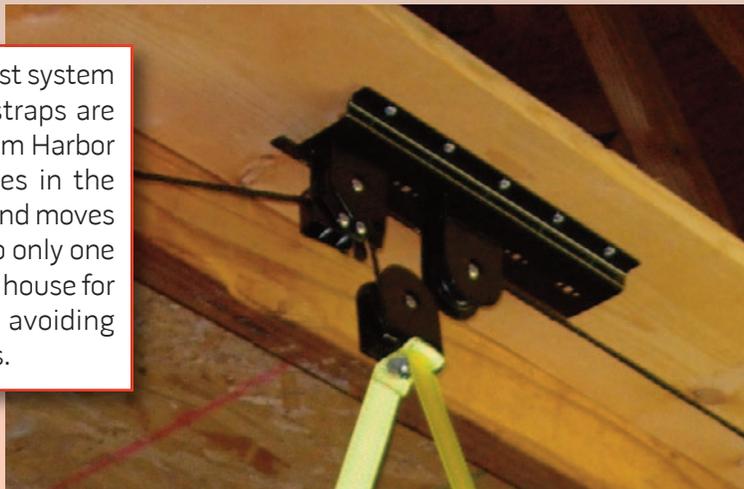
This allows me to store a lot of airplanes in a relatively small space.

Repurposed Product Solution

Steve Gawlik: I have taken to using bicycle lifts for the big airplanes. Menards has them on sale once in a while for \$5.99 or so.



Author: I also use the bicycle hoist system for my 35% Extra. The yellow straps are from a tie-down ratchet strap from Harbor Freight Tools. The fuselage lives in the garage for the summer months and moves inside for winter. This equates to only one move out and then back into the house for the entire season—a plus for avoiding banging into doorways and walls.



Repurposed Product Solution

Walt Thyng: Here are the pics of my "summer shop", which is set up in my garage. I think they are self-explanatory. As for the string trimmer, I haven't flown it because I can't figure out the C/G. 😂



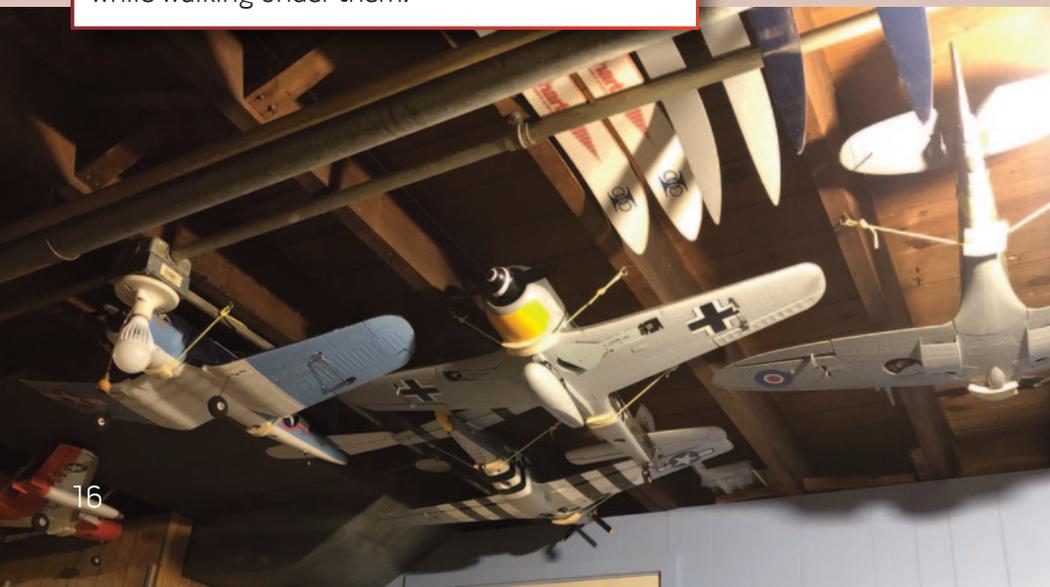
Repurposed Product Solution

Author: After seeing how Dale Gathman stores aircraft in the unused space of his basement floor joists (next page), I knew I had to do something like this myself. I put my own twist on it, and repurposed some garage ladder hooks. Scrap wood blocks are first screwed to the floor joists, and then the hooks to them. Pipe insulation protects the surfaces. Do not screw into your subfloor, or you could damage the finished floor above, or worse, your feet!



Home-made/Home-built Solution

Dale Gathman: In my basement, which does not have a 'finished' ceiling, I have open joists. This gives me the opportunity to store my smaller foamies up in the joists. I hang them with four hooks and two pieces of nylon cord, with the tail and some of the fuselage sticking up between two joists. I cushion the planes with DuBro foam, and make sure that the plane is balanced with neither wing touching the joists or other planes so as not to take on any warp or twist over time. Some of the planes overlap each other, but most can be removed for flight and re-installed after flight without having to move anything out of the way. I can walk under the planes without my head touching them in all walk areas. In positions close to the walls, where I cannot walk, I can position larger planes that don't have to clear my head while walking under them.



Home-made/Home-built Solution

Kevin Kessler: I stole the idea of using ropes to hang planes and wings from **Victor Miller**. The first photo (below) is his basement, and the next two are my basement after using the same idea. At the end (lower right) is a wall hanging bracket I purchased from Menards.





Tom Spriet: My aircraft live in the garage either hanging on racks made from copper pipe with foam insulation or on a shelf. The garage is not heated but due to insulated walls doesn't get much below 25deg in the harshest of winters.

Home-made/Home-built Solution



Steve Gawlik: The wing rack is just vertical 2x4s with holes drilled for ½" dowels. Space between 2x4s to match wing spans.

The small models are hung from the ceiling with rope on J hooks in boards mounted to my concrete ceiling. Could be J hooks screwed into floor joists in a standard basement ceiling.



Home-made/Home-built Solution





Home-made/Home-built Solution



John Fischer: Here is how I store my planes at home. Not very pretty but I can store 7 giant scale models and several smaller models in a small space.

Here is my trailer:

The bed slide, an idea stolen from **Rich Gabrys**, works great in the bed of my trailer. Props go to **Sal Perno** and **Dave Cotton** for their ideas, help and construction abilities in the development of this trailer.



Just Get Them out of the Bedroom

by Dennis McFarlane

When we relocated to SW Florida from Lombard around five years ago we purchased what most couples do, a nice two-bedroom retirement home on a slab. We've never had any regrets, but when moving from a tri-level with a full utility room to a cottage, room is an issue. Not to fret, like most homes in Florida ours came with a garden shed, which quickly became my hobby storage room.

The entire fleet, at least those that made it south, was stored in the shed. Then probably around this time last year one of the local clubs was going to host a "big bird" so it was time to get something ready for the event.

On the floor of the shed was an older, long discontinued, but in near perfect condition, giant SIG Sundancer biplane. The shock came when I went to pick it up. What was left was a perfect shell of plastic film. We live in a wildlife sanctuary, and leave Mother Nature to herself. A black racer, something of our version of a garter snake, had formed a nest inside the fuse. What little wood that was left was saturated in snake slime and urine.

The entire fleet had to be rebuilt, and as aircraft were replaced they were simply stacked in a line on the floor of the spare bedroom. Then out of nowhere, without warning, came the command, "Get your airplanes out of the bedroom."

Options are limited. My lower spine has deteriorated to the point where lifting a large-scale aircraft over my head to hang it is out of the question. Therefore all I could do was find a scrap of carpet, and place them on the garage floor. On top of the carpet is a section of campers pad that was used for years to assemble foam ARFs without damaging the components. In theory its waterproof but only time will tell... **DM**



FVAC NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Assessment Fee: \$300.00 (For new memberships only. Does not include dues.)

- Dues for Senior Members (19 years and over) \$125.00 per Member
- Dues for Junior Members (18 years and under) \$ 25.00 per Member
- Family Membership \$125.00 1st Member
(\$25 for each additional family member with an AMA card, either a spouse or a child under 19 years old.)

PLEASE PRINT

Your Full Name:	AMA Number:	Birthdate:	Dues Amount:	Include me on the club email list.
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Complete Mailing Address:

Please list the R/C channel(s) you use:

Your Phone Number/s:

Home:

Work:

Cell:

What is Your Occupation: (Please provide details)

Your E-mail Address:

Total Payment Enclosed:

\$ _____

Complete and mail this form to:
FOX VALLEY AERO CLUB
P.O. BOX 837
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174-0837

Make checks payable to:
"Fox Valley Aero Club"

Signature _____ Date _____