

FLY PAPER



Election 2020

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

www.foxvalleyaero.com

AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics
Charter Club #252

Special Edition:

ELECTION 2020



This "extra" is dedicated to the upcoming election for the Officers and Directors who will lead our club in 2021.

The voting is again happening by e-mail ballot this year. You will receive an e-mail from Dale with the voting instructions and link to the ballot on or about Wednesday, the 18th. Simply make your selections, and then submit, to electronically cast your ballot. Voting will close at 11:59 p.m. on the 25th.

This issue intended to make you familiar with the candidates vying for your vote. The individual statements are in order by position, and second, alphabetically.

Doug Swanson, Editor

Candidates:

President

Dale Gathman (unopposed)

Vice President

Dave Murray (unopposed)

Secretary

Debbie Howe (unopposed)

Treasurer

Joe Pedone (unopposed)

Director-At-Large (six positions available)

John Fischer (incumbent)

Steve Haas (incumbent)

Jeff Mrachek

Rob Sampson

Scott Schilling

Bill Suhr (incumbent)

Armin Weber (incumbent)

President:
Dale Gathman
president@foxvalleyaero.com

Vice President:
Dave Murray
vicepresident@foxvalleyaero.com

Secretary:
Debbie Howe
secretary@foxvalleyaero.com

Treasurer:
Joe Pedone
treasurer@foxvalleyaero.com

Flypaper Editor:
Doug Swanson
newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com



Dale Gathman

for President (unopposed)

I thank you for nominating me once again to serve as president of our great club in 2021. If you are new to the club and would like to know a little about my history before FVAC, see the Meet the Members section of our September 2011 Flypaper, available on our website. Since joining the club in 2011, I have served one year as an At-Large Director, four years as Secretary, and the last four years as President.

2020 started out as well as every other year, with our Frozen Fingers – First-to-Fly 2020 event.

This get together is always a great way to start our new year. That was followed up by our Swap Meet at the Kane County Fairgrounds in February, which was also fun and successful. Then, to our surprise and dismay we heard about a new danger to our health called the Coronavirus. It took a few weeks to grasp what this was all about, and we still had our regular meetings in person in March. Soon after, we were awakened to the severity of this new virus when Gov. Pritzker closed the state down except for essential workplaces. Somewhere along the way, the virus' name was changed to Covid-19. As a board, we had to make some hard decisions about whether we could leave the field open and what we would do with our event schedule. As you know, we did keep our field open all year, with added restrictions and requirements of social distancing and wearing of masks. We banned spectators and anyone but members for a while, and then before long, we were able to allow spectators again. Unfortunately, we decided we needed to temporarily change our guest pilot policy and did not allow guest pilots to fly at the club for most of the year as an added precaution to keep our members safe. I am incredibly happy to say that our members were very responsible through these changing times, and I do not know of any of our members who have gotten the virus.

I would love to say that 2021 will be back to normal, but I know that it will not, at least at the beginning. We will be holding our Frozen Fingers event but will be postponing our Swap Meet till later in the year. Our Swap Meet organizers are looking into our options and will come up with a recommendation in the next month or so. We will be continuing our 'virtual' Zoom meetings until the City allows us to have more than 25 members in the meeting room. We have already decided to have our Windy City Warbirds & Classics 2021 but will be deciding in the months leading up to the event whether it will be a pilot-only event or whether we will be able to invite spectators. The remaining calendar will be decided in January, however it will be kind of fluid, as we will have to evaluate the Safety of having each event based on the progress with the Covid-19 vaccine. As a board, we will keep you informed month by month as the year progresses. The most awesome thing about our club and hobby is that even when we cannot have our fun events, we still have been able to fly our aircraft all year, and that is a great privilege that we can enjoy due to our responsible actions taken in regards to the virus.

This year, we have two open positions for At-Large Director, as Sal Perno has stepped down from running this year, and Dave Cotton has been appointed Membership Chairman. I thank you for nominating four of our members to the At-Large Director position this year, so we now have eight nominees running for a total of six positions. I encourage you to read the candidate's statements in this special issue of the Flypaper, and use these statements and your knowledge of the candidates to make your best decision of who you will vote for to serve on the board in 2021. I thank Sal Perno for his past service to the board. I also sincerely appreciate the current board members who are running again for 2021. As a club, we owe each and every one of you our appreciation for your service. The current board has done a remarkable job of leading the club through this year of unknowns, and it takes a great team who works together to be able to accomplish what we do. Thank you.

I also thank you, our members, who help out in many ways, even when we cannot have our events. Every few

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days I see that one or more of you have stepped up and handled something that most of the members did not know needed handling. With your help and support, the 2021 board will continue to work to keep Fox Valley Aero Club one of the premier clubs in the country. In this fast-changing time in the R/C flying hobby, we need to do everything in our power to help to maintain and grow our hobby of flying. We will look at ways that we can promote not only

flying, but building airplanes, which is a declining skill. I will do my best to keep abreast of additional changing government and AMA regulations that will be coming and will keep you informed. Let us plan to have another fantastic year of Flying, Fun, Safety and Camaraderie. I count it a privilege to have you as FVAC members and look forward to spending some time with you in 2021.

See you at the field,

Dale

Joe Pedone

for Treasurer (unopposed)

My name is Joe Pedone, and I've been a member of FVAC since 2008. I am currently running unopposed for the position of Treasurer. I've held the Treasurer position at FVAC since April of 2019 when our long-time club Treasurer Paul Jacobs became ill. I had been a club Director-At-Large prior to that time, and while I felt I could never fill the void left in Paul's absence, he was a wonderful teacher to me for this role before his eventual passing. So, I've been your club Treasurer since that time, and agreed to carry on again in 2021.

I've been involved with building model planes since high school, but really stepped up my involvement with RC planes when I joined FVAC. RC planes quickly moved from a casual interest to an obsession, and today I fly a mix of sport, aerobatic, and warbirds. WWII warbirds continue to be my main interest, and with spending more time at home this year I've tried to get more focused on kit building. I am a lifelong aviation enthusiast, and have an avid interest in all things that fly. I've even tried my hand at helicopters this year, which is definitely a new challenge!

I thoroughly enjoy my time at the field, meetings, and club events, and value the camaraderie with all our members. Obviously, this

past year has been quite unique, and I've not spent the time at the field I normally would. Like the rest of you, I'm very anxious to see us get back to "normal operations". When at the field, I find our members to always be friendly and helpful, which contributes to the success of our club, and helps enhance the skills of our members.

Over the past few years, I've served on the committee for the Warbirds & Classics event, as well as the Festival of Flight. For many years I have also co-managed our annual Swap Meet along with John Turner. I strive to participate in every club activity during the year, including workdays, parades, family day, and fun flies.

I feel I've benefitted enormously from so many talented people in our club, and therefore try to give back whenever possible to keep our club growing and successful. So, I look forward to serving as your Treasurer again in 2021.

Joe Pedone





John Fischer for Director-At-Large

Hi,

My name is John Fischer. I am running for at-large board member for 2021. I have been a member of FVAC since 2004. During this time I have been very involved with the FVAC over the years to include VP as well as several years as board member at-large. As you may know I am currently the event chairman for the highly successful Windy City Warbirds and Classics event. The 2020 event was put on hold due to COVID 19. However, the 2020 board has approved dates for the event for 2021 and I plan to continue to be your event chairman. I am asking for your vote to be retained as board member at-large for 2021. Together, we can make 2021 another fun and exciting year!

Thank you for your consideration.



Steve Haas for Director-At-Large

My name is Steve Haas and I am running for the Board. I have been involved with RC flying since 1979 and have been on the board of another Club on and off for the past 10 years. I have been on the Fox Valley Aero Club Board for the past year and would like to continue. I have been a member of the Fox Valley Aero Club for over 6 years and have helped out at the Warbirds and Classics and the Festival of Flight. What I like about the Fox Valley Aero Club is it is a very well-run and organized club with great club members that volunteer when needed and without them, it would not be able run all the events that it does.

Jeff Mrachek for Director-At-Large

Hello, my name if Jeff Mrachek.

I have been involved with radio control for over 30 years, with the last 16 focused on airplanes. Through out the year I enjoy attending local flying events, meeting other flyers, and flying at our club field!

I consider myself an all-season flyer, logging flights every month of the year. I enjoy attending club meetings to see how this great club operates.

I ask for your vote and would be honored for the opportunity to serve as a Board Member.



Rob Sampson for Director-At-Large

I'm Rob Sampson. I attended the University of Illinois Institute of Aviation where I earned most of my pilot certificates, Airframe and Power- Plant mechanics license and graduated with a degree in Marketing.

During my 40 years in aviation I've been a mechanic on WWII aircraft and worked in a simulator factory. I did flight instruction, charter flying, corporate jets and I flew 34 years with the airlines, retiring 9 years ago.

Like many of you, I started building and flying u-control models in the 60's. I enjoy flying all types of aircraft, large, small, gas, electric, sailplanes, and float planes. I enjoy building both kits and from scratch, but I also have many ARFs in my hanger.

Scott Schilling for Director-At-Large

Hello FVAC friends and family. My name is Scott Schilling and I am running for a Board Member position that is driven by the desire to help support and bring value to the good friends that I have met over the last few years as we share this hobby.

From a professional stand point, I spend my work day in the sexy and action-packed field of IT as a Director of Infrastructure and security for a large automotive company. I also have experience on multiple HOA boards.

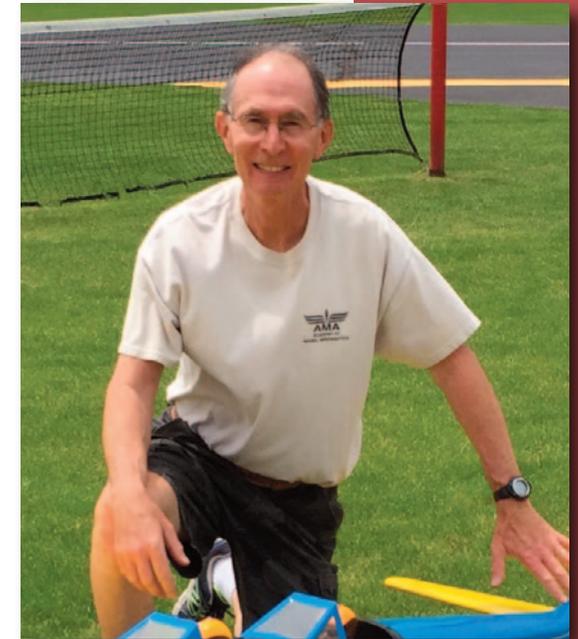
I've been a member of FVAC for 18 years and I have served on the Board in the past. I'm constantly impressed by the talent and professionalism of our club members and how the club presents itself to the community. We have been blessed with insightful, hardworking, talented, dedicated and skilled leadership. As a result of this, our club gets better each year.

I strive to be an actively involved member, helping on work days, festivals, family fly events etc. I also enjoy the social events and attending the monthly meetings.

It would be an honor to once again serve on the Board of such a great organization.

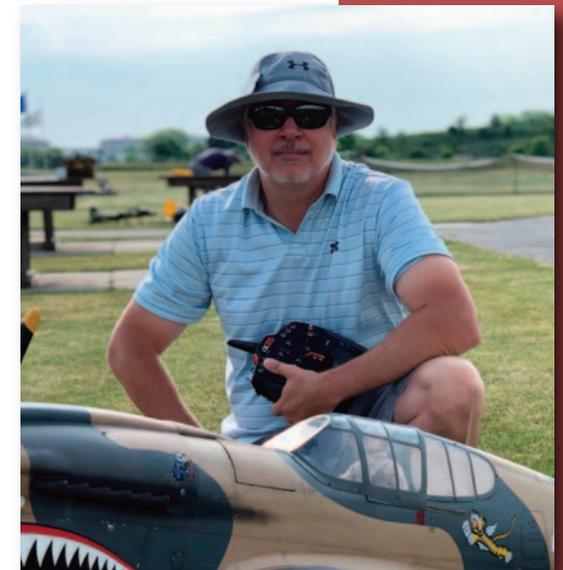
Thank you,

Rob Sampson



Now for the good stuff: I started this hobby back in the early 80's and bought my first MRC Trainer Hawk at Pat's Hobbies with my grade school graduation money. I was lucky enough to find a neighbor that was a member of SAC club in the south suburbs. He was good enough to tell me that the aircraft was poorly build and sent me home to try again. I was very disappointed but determined. For the next few years, a few members of that club took me under their wing to ensure I was successful. Whenever I crashed a plane, they always had something laying around to get me back in the air. That experience has taught me life lessons and values I hold valuable to today. I have found the same experience here

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at FVAC; therefore, I would like the opportunity to participate and help in any way I can, because I enjoy my time at the field working or flying with the members.

My primary interest is warbirds and then more warbirds. I love building and flying them. I am lucky enough to be married to a wonderful wife that even allows me to keep them on the dining room table for short periods of time. I am a lucky man.

I would have them all... from Jets, to Cubs if I could. But there is only one basement and one dining room table.

Thank you, Scott P Schilling _____

Bill Suhr for Director-At-Large

My name is Bill Suhr and I am a candidate for Board Member at FVAC. I am a full-time pilot for the past 24 years flying private jets, currently a Hawker 4000 based at Chicago Executive Airport. For the last 48 years I have been involved with and flying RC aircraft, from my Sig Kadet thru turbine powered jets like my F-15.

I have been a member of FVAC for approximately 8 years and have actively participated in our various events, usually as one of the flight line crew.

My relationship with the FAA through my work and knowledge of the airspace in the Chicago area is an asset to FVAC and as a board member can make a meaningful contribution to the club.



Armin Weber for Director-At-Large

Hello FVAC Members,

My name is Armin Weber. I am currently an At Large Director, and am running for the same position in 2021.

During the week, I am a senior software developer with a large health care organization based in Naperville. I enjoy my work and am proud to say this year marks my 41th year with the same company. I saw my first RC airplane fly in the early seventies and have been hooked ever since. My primary interest is large scale models, WW2 aircraft being my favorite.

I have been a member of several clubs over the years and have served in various positions. I have spent

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over 20 years with FVAC, and consider it to be one of the finest clubs in the Midwest. I have been a contest director for many years and have helped organize past Kids Day and Festival of Flight events. I served as contest director for the 2014 - 2019 Warbirds & and Classics event and look forward to working on the 2021 event. I am a member of the Warbird and Classics Alliance, and attend several of the Warbird and Classic flying events.

My goal as At Large Director is to:

- Support the board in promoting a safe and welcoming environment for the membership, guests, and spectators.
- Support, and promote activities that engage our neighbors, and the local communities.
- Represent FVAC at flying events
- Balance the considerable need for safety and restrictions, with the goal of this hobby (which is to have fun).

Thank you for your consideration for At-Large Director.

Armin Weber

December EVENTS

December 5	Donation Day for Salvation Army	9:00-3:00 – FVAC Field
December 5	Annual Christmas Party	CANCELLED
December 10	Zoom Christmas Party/Raffle	7:00 pm via Zoom application
December 10	Rookies Christmas Party	CANCELLED

The viewpoints in this newsletter are solely those of the individual authors. They may not necessarily represent those of the Editor, Officers, Board, or Membership of the Fox Valley Aero Club.

(excerpt from the October member meeting minutes)



...we will be doing a **Donation Drop Off Day for Salvation Army** on DECEMBER 5th. Members are asked to drop off donations of Cash and Gift Cards, especially to be donated by our Club to the Salvation Army Angel Tree. We then take any cash that is donated and we buy gift cards to local businesses that the older kids in the charity will like. Finding gifts for the older kids has always been a struggle for the Salvation Army and our help has always been a blessing. If you know you are not available to drop off gifts to the field on DECEMBER 5th, you can feel free to mail your gift to the PO Box and Joe Pedone will get it and put it with the donation...

Support our local hobby shop:

HobbyTown USA
 2061 Lincoln Hwy A
 St. Charles, IL 60174
 (630) 587-1256

