

The Fox Valley Aero Club Monthly Newsletter		
 Academy of Model Aeronautics Charter Club # 252 2008 AMA Gold Leader Club	President – Dominic Saverino Vice President – Dennis McFarlane Secretary – Tom Spriet Treasurer – Paul Jacobs Flypaper Editor – Tom Siwek – tsiwek@sbcglobal.net	P.O. Box 837 St. Charles, IL 60174-0837
		February 2009 Edition

Is This Antarctica?



With frigid cold and massive amounts of snow, many of the FVAC faithful have gone into hibernation until more temperate conditions prevail. Dennis McFarlane is one of the rare exceptions.

Editor's Message

Tom Siwek – tsiwek@sbcglobal.net



The Dog Days

I'm figuring that it's safe to say that most everyone has had their fill of winter. Mother Nature has definitely hit us early and hit us hard. We've had a few brave souls who have taken advantage of the brief temperate conditions to get some flying in. Dennis McFarlane has the cover photo from a recent flying session at the field.

I'm making an annual ritual of New Year's Day flying mishaps. You'll find more on that in JT's committee report.

I anticipate that many are held us in basement and garage workshops preparing for the break of spring with their new models. I expect that these projects will look great. It seems that everyone will have plenty of time to focus on the smallest of details as spring appears to be far, far away. I think when spring eventually breaks, it will be an exciting time at the field as the masses will be eager to emerge from the workshop and show-off the results of their efforts.

We're now on the doorstep of the E-Fest event down in Champaign. If you plan on flying in this event, hopefully you already have your registration wrapped-up. Information can be found at www.gpe-fest.com. One of these days, I'll make it down to this event. The problem for me is that my daughters both have birthdays that are around this event. Family and kids parties take precedence in my calendar. Eventually, they'll reach the age when hanging out with friends trumps parties hosted by mom & dad. My early February will then free-up.

We're also less than a month away from the FVAC swap shop. Jim Toth has been working hard preparing for this event. We're back at the fairground in a nice, single-room building with heat. Spread the word about this event. If seller turnout is good, it should results in an abundance of great deals. I expect that many will find some nice supplements & additions to their winter projects. Details on this event are found in the flyer in this issue.

Hang in there FVAC, the season will eventually turn.

Ciao for now, Tom

Link to Archived Newsletters - www.foxvalleyaero.com/newsletters.htm

President's Message

Dominic Saverino – dominic@teamsaverino.com



Hello to all. It's nice to finally get something in writing to you your as your president. I have had one heck of a summer and I truly believe I'm on the road to recovery. It is a little weird knowing that at any given moment something can happen to any one of us. We are so frail. I hope to see you all soon.

Vice President's Message

Dennis McFarlane – highpd119@aol.com



Some Jargon for January

By now all of the decorations have been put away and we are proceeding forward with what most of us perceive as a normal lifestyle. For modelers, that means the “winter project” I know I began looking for my project early in the fall, and finally made my decision after the first of this year. I’ve slowly been gathering all the material needed to complete the project before I even start. Secretary Tom has the necessary equipment associated with his business to cut custom graphics, and I’ve already contacted Tom with basic concepts. I’m not going to say much more about it at this time other than it follows suit of my favorite type of aircraft. Merlyn uses Fuji engines almost exclusively, and at last month’s post meeting social session the “Fish” said he is really happy with the performance of the Fuji in his Stinson. That’s what you get for now. A classic airframe powered by a Fuji 34-BT on a magneto. Capacitive discharge has the advantage of easier starting and generally more performance as the timing adjusts to the RPM, but magneto has its own pluses, notably the lack of extra batteries and wiring harness to cause problems. For the type of flying I do reliability is more important than performance. Years ago a gentleman by the name of Frank Garcher, president of Midwest Products, taught me to keep things simple while remaining safe. Most commonly known as the KISS principle, it’s good advice for any modeler. Frank passed years ago, but I still follow this basic rule.

Wow! I don’t have any other words to describe this winter. Relentless snow, followed by bitterly cold temperatures, has pretty much brought most outdoor flying to a halt. That is, of course, unless like me you are starting to go a little stir crazy. National Helicopter Products or NHP offers a combination transmitter tray and hand warmer through Horizon Hobby Distributors called the “Radio Warm” I had ordered one around the first of this month, but they had been backordered. We had really hoped to have one for the January show & tell session but of course it didn’t come in until the following morning. If you like to fly, regardless of the outside temperature, you should look into one of these. They come in four colors, I chose gray and black. There are a myriad of adjustments, and it will take more than a little fiddling to get everything right, but once you do, it’s a really nice unit and a whole lot better than having frozen hands.

The reason I know it works so well is because Tom Spriet had called me on the 19th to say he was at our flying field and the access road from the 911 center to our pavilion had been plowed. Without discussing politics I had enough of Obama-mania on the 20th – Inauguration Day. The sun was bright, and winds relatively calm, so I loaded up for a few flights. Tom was correct, the city had plowed the road, but all of the snow was piled up along the east side of the pavilion and onto the chain leading to the pits. I simply backed up to the telephone pole benches and flew from there.

I had a pretty good time. While doing a touch and go I had just landed and my ElectroStick disappeared! I mean just gone... I walked to where I thought it should be, and if it wasn’t for the red wing I’d still be looking. As I touched down I evidently coasted into some sort of hollow drift. All I could see was the top of the vertical stabilizer, and part of the wing. During the time it takes to use up a couple of battery packs I slid into another hollow in a different location. I decided fun was fun, to call it a day, and go visit Dominic. Should you want to try this be prepared. The dead flat pure white landscape really messes with one’s depth perception.

That’s it for this month. Cindy, Tom, Paul, they all say I ramble at times. I prefer to say I have a tendency to be verbose.

Think spring,
Dennis

Secretary's Report

Tom Spriet – tom@etglass.com



Minutes of the December 5, 2008 General Meeting

Vice President Dennis McFarlane called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Dennis reiterated that AMA membership is required at our field. Membership is from 1/1 – 12/31. If you do not hold a current AMA card do not fly at the field until you do.

Committee Reports

Secretary Thomas Spriet – Tom Requested a motion to accept the minutes as published in the Flypaper. The Motion was so made by Tom Siwek with a second by Cindy.

Treasurer/Membership Chairman Paul Jacobs – Paul reported a balance of \$17,000.00 plus in the club treasury as of 1/1/2009. Dennis made a motion to accept the report as presented. The Motion was made with a second. Paul reiterated that membership dues are at \$100.00 with Family memberships incurring a \$25.00 additional fee per card carrying member.

At this time we have 231 members. Members whom were delinquent in 2008 have been dropped from the roster as of 12/31/2008. Jim Diverte was introduced as a potential member.

Field Chairman Greg Bohler – Greg was not present. Al Zabel offered to clean and paint tennis posts. Any help would be appreciated.

Safety Chairman Karl Griesbaum – No Safety issues to report. The 2008 all season flyers were presented their patches. If you are interested in all season flyer for 2009, see Karl.

Flypaper Editor Tom Siwek – If you are working on any winter projects please share. We'd like to share your work in the Flypaper.

Fun Fly / Government Relations Chairman John Turner – John introduced the "first in the air" pilot for 2009 - Dennis McFarlane. Congratulations Dennis! Toys for tots were collected at our Christmas party. Sal Perno, Tom Siwek and I delivered the items to the Salvation Army on behalf of our club. Kudos went to John for a job well done this past year with all our fun fly events.

Chief Instructor Dan Compton – Dan had nothing to report. Not much flying going on.

Event Reports

Swap Shop Coordinator Jim Toth – The event date is February 21st. Five weeks to go. We are going to have a 15,000 sq foot room to display your unwanted items. Food will be available for purchase. Clean out your work area of unwanted items and come on out. \$13.00 per table, \$15.00 at the door. One wrist band for admittance will be given per table. \$5.00 admittance for all others at the door.

Kid's Fly Day CD Armin Weber – The event date is May 16th. Armin said last year we had approximately 70 kids and the year before we had 106 kids participate. The event is free to kids, free food will be served. Event planning is on schedule.

Al's Helicopter Fun Fly CD Cindy McFarlane – The event date is June 26th & 27th. Cindy is ready to go. AMA paperwork is filed.

The Flypaper

Festival of Flight CD Paul Jacobs – The event date is July 16th & 17th. The AMA paperwork is filed. Event planning is on schedule.

IMAC Contest CD Mel Ziska – The event date is August 8th & 9th. Mel said AMA paperwork will be filed soon. Dan Knippen (who's coordinating the event with Mel) said not much help is required to run the event. If you are interested in the event or have questions, please contact Dan.

Pattern Contest CD Jason Walsh – The event date is September 5th & 6th. Jason was not in attendance at the meeting so this event was not reported on.

New Business

At the Board Meeting that preceded the General Meeting, the board voted to allocate funds to replace the metal fire pit at the field. The old one is worn out.

Show and Tell

New planes were shown by the following members:

Escapade from Great planes	John Turner
Electro-Stick with custom skies	Denny McFarlane
MS Composite Blade Dancer	Armin Weber
Scorpion Jet with Red Bull trim scheme	Dave Murray

Vice President Dennis McFarlane adjourned the meeting @ 8:26 P.M.



**Another Photo from Dennis
McFarlane's recent trips to the field.**

**Being what the weather's been, Dennis
is either really committed or really
bored!**

Treasurer's & Membership Chairman's Report

Paul Jacobs – paul_jacobs@att.net



Happy Dues are due! Renewals are coming in at a great pace this year and as I write this near the end of January we have \$24,830 in the checking account. We also had two new members (Fred Kavanagh and Jim DiVerde) join this month which helps our cash position and brings the roster total to 233. Remember we purged the members that did not pay their 2008 dues and they also lost their \$300 assessment and will have to rejoin as new members if they come back. Over 130 of our 233 on the roster have paid their dues so I am hoping the rest of you can get the job done in February.

The FVAC Swap is right around the corner so I remind everyone that the club has a table for you to donate items to for the benefit of our treasury. This is a great time to clean out your shop and remember that anything big or small...Jim Toth will sell them all.

As I mentioned in previous editions, I completed a couple of models this year and have attached the following photos:



The one on the left is the Haigh Superstar which I have added a Supertigre 3000 engine to and the one on the right is a Cermak Pitts which has a YS 110 for power. I'll spend the next two months going over the other 12 aircraft in my fleet checking batteries and fuel systems and anything else that seems out of place to make sure they are all ready for spring flying season.

Till next month,
Paul

Field Chairman's Report

Greg Bohler – gbohler@sbcglobal.net



Greg didn't have a field report for this month. It's safe to say, the field's under an iceberg. All season flyers need to remember that vehicles plows need to say out of the pits and off of the runway. The pavement is not thick enough to sustain the weight of the vehicles. Enjoy the opportunities to fly when you have them.



Fun-Fly Chairman's Report

(A.K.A. John Turner) – john.turner@bayercropscience.com



2009 First Flight of the Year

The FVAC held their annual "First Flight of the Year" with 25 attendees including 6 pilots who braved one of the coldest days of winter flying. Both electric and gas aircraft "powered up" for a few minutes and then pilots approached the runway facing a 25-30 mph south-cross wind. It was agreed that all planes should face the south and await the signal for take-off by our safety director Karl Greisbaum.

Those pilots who participated in this year's event were: Tom Siwek, Tom Spriet, John "JT" Turner, Dennis McFarlane, Armin Weber, and Allan Galle.

As the seconds counted down, one could see the frozen fingers clasping the transmitters with left sticks in full up position and elevator pulled all the way back (including trim) for the hopes and luck of being number one for 2009. At 10:00 a.m. sharp, the flag was dropped and the race was on! Within seconds, Dennis McFarlane's electric stick got off the ground to become the 2009 FVAC recipient of the "First Flight of the Year Award". The remaining 5 pilots followed close and everyone made a few passes around the field with the biggest challenge awaiting them; a severe cross wind landing.

All the pilots decided to land on the frozen grass versus the asphalt with only a couple minor casualties. Tom Siwek got his Ultra Stick too slow on landing. The heavy wind stood the nose up and his plane hit tail first, snapping off the horizontal stabilizer. JT landed his Twist "dead stick" and sustained a broken wheel axel. After all the 6 frozen pilots (and planes) completed this annual event, everyone returned back to the shelter with a warm fire where hot caramel rolls/cookies and coffee was being served.

Mr. Tom Spriet, 2008 champion, presented Dennis with the traveling trophy. Congratulations to Dennis and thanks to those who came out to watch and endure the cold and wind for the "First Flight in 2009"

See you at the field for some winter flying.

JT

Chief Flight Instructor's Report

Dan Compton – trainu2fly@comcast.net



Dan didn't have a report for this month.

The Flypaper

2008 FVAC Flight Instructors			
Name	Contact Information		Note
Dan Compton	Cell: 630-664-6426	trainu2fly@comcast.net	Chief Flight Instructor
John Fischer	Cell: 312-518-0075	jeffxx@comcast.net	
Cliff Fullhart	Home: 630-397-5033 Work: 630-668-0111	cfullhart@farmersagent.com	Prefers 24 hrs. notice during business hrs.
Alan Galle	Cell: 630-697-8464	ajgalle@comcast.net	
John Horvath	Cell: 630-440-7398	horvatsky@comcast.net	
Paul Jacobs	Cell: 630-908-9955	paul_jacobs@att.net	
Mike KostECKi	Cell: 630-373-2722	MkostECKi503@comcast.net	
Dennis McFarlane		Highpd119@aol.com	Not available Friday or Sunday.
Tom Siwek	Cell: 630-677-5855	tsiwek@sbcglobal.net	Available primarily on weekends.
Bill Sponsler	Cell: 847-323-6578	bsponsler@comcast.net	
Dave Taitel	Work: 847-537-8669	davet@venturehobbies.com	
Jason Walsh	Cell: 630-291-1872	jwalsh1@ameritech.net	

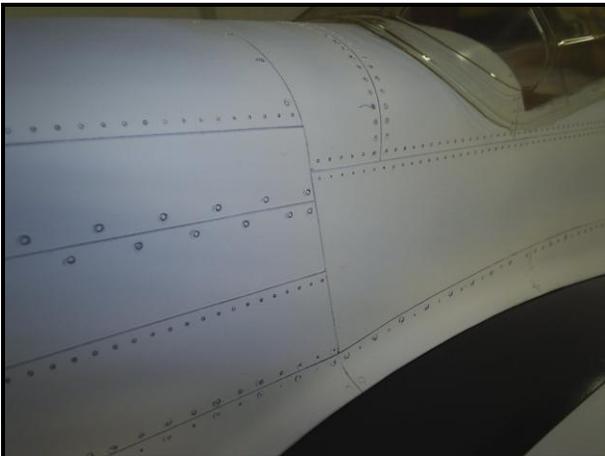
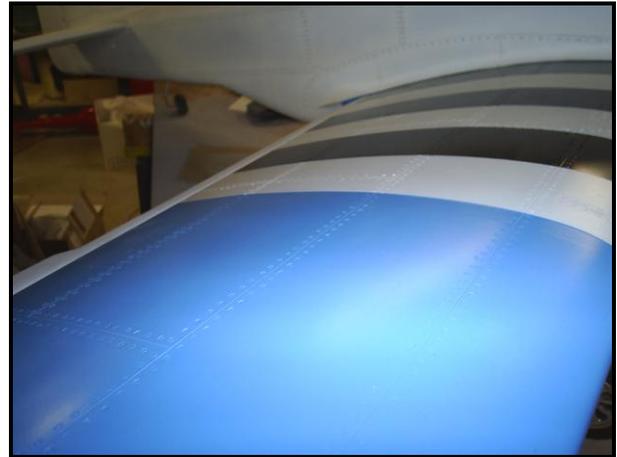
Club member Paul Douds is killing time this winter working on a SIG LT-40



The Flypaper

Club member Dave Brustle shares his winter project.

My current project is an 85 inch span P-51 Mustang fun scale. I'm building from plans that are about 20 years old. It has foam core wings and tail surfaces. It is sheeted with balsa and covered with 0.7 oz fiberglass cloth. I am adding panel line and rivet detailing. The wing is in final paint. I estimate that the top of the wing has over one thousand rivets. The fuselage has panel lines done, and the rivets laid out but not yet done with the rivet tool. Control surfaces have only been primed. They still need details added and painting. I plan on using a Quadra 42 cc engine and have installed Robart struts and wheels.



THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

By: Walt Thyng

Amazing - I actually had a response to my first article (more about that in a minute)! I also heard a comment that the article was mostly a biography. Exactly right! I wanted the club to understand that my knowledge of e-power comes primarily from experience; my answers will not always be "technically" correct, but they will be "functionally" correct.

The reply I got asked me whether or not it was okay to run a 3-cell motor on a four-cell battery. The smart answer would have been "Sure, you can run any motor on any number of cells you want --- of course it may blow up (or more likely, melt down) in 5 seconds." In order to give an accurate answer, I needed to have at least the name of the motor; it would also have helped to have the KV, magnet length, number of poles and diameter of the motor. It would also have helped to know the capacity of the esc (voltage and amperage ranges). E-power always involves a balance between the motor, esc and battery pack. In prop driven planes this can most easily be adjusted by changing prop pitch or diameter or both. There are other factors, but adjusting the load on the system by changing the prop is the most basic. I'll discuss some other factors in the future.

Here is a basic e-power lexicon:

Ohms Law: volts X amps = watts (VxA=W). Learn this. It is the key to understanding e-power.

VOLT: a unit of *potential* electrical energy.

AMP: a measure of the rate at which volts are being turned into power (current).

mA: milli-ampere = 1/1000 of an amp. The common units used to express the capacity of a battery pack.

mAh: milliampere hour; or milliamps per hour. This is a measure of the ability of a cell to deliver current. A 1000mAh cell can deliver 1000 milliamps for one hour; or one amp for one hour; or 60 amps for one minute (only in an ideal world, however). This is why vendors advertise cell capacity in mAh rather than amps; which would you want a 1000MAH cell or a 1Ah cell? This convention can be confusing for those trying to understand e-power.

CELL: a device for storing potential electrical energy. Each cell chemistry has a characteristic nominal voltage. NiXX (nickle-cadmium or nickel-metal hydride) =1.2; LiPo (lithium polymer) = 3.7; LiFe (A123, M1, DeWalt) = 3.5. All of these cells will show a higher voltage right off the charger, but it will decline when the cell cools down from the chemical reaction of charging.

BATTERY: a group of CELLS connected in series (positive to negative) to provide a higher voltage potential. The terms cell and battery are often (incorrectly) used interchangeably.

SERIES: a method of connecting cells/batteries together to provide higher *voltage*. V= nominal cell voltage times number of cells. 3 LiPo cells in series = 11.1 volts; 3 NiXX = 3.6.

PARALLEL: a method of connecting cells/batteries together to provide higher *capacity*. Two 3-cell, 1000mah LiPo batteries in parallel (3S2P)= 11.1 volts with 2000 mah. This also doubles the discharge rating.

"C": capacity (usually expressed in mah; i.e. C =1000mah). How much "gas" your pack holds. This number is also used to determine charge and discharge rates.

WATT: a measure of the rate of energy conversion. One horsepower = 746 watts

The Flypaper

Whew! That's enough for this time.

Hint of the month: Volts times amps equals watts. Watts divided by amps =volts; watts divided by volts = amps

Web site of the month: <http://www.wattflyer.com/forums/>. An all electric site with many great forums.

E-mail me with your questions: thyng@att.net

2009 Calendar of Events

February 12 February 21	FVAC Member Meeting FVAC Annual SWAP	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall Kane County Fair Grounds
March 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
April 9 April 25	FVAC Member Meeting Member Work Day	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall FVAC Field
May 14 May 9 May 16	FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event Kid's Day Event	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall 4:00 PM, FVAC Field FVAC Field
June 11 June 13 June 26 & 27	FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event AI's Helicopter	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field 4:00 PM, FVAC Field FVAC Field
July 9 July 11 July 18 & 19	FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event Festival of Flight	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field 4:00 PM FVAC Field FVAC Field
August 8 & 9 August 13 August 15	IMAC Contest FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event	FVAC Field 6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field 4:00 PM, FVAC Field
September 5 & 6 September 10 September 12	Pattern Contest FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event	FVAC Field 6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall 4:00 PM, FVAC Field
October 8 October 10	FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event	6:30 Board 7:30 Regular at Township Hall 4:00 PM, FVAC Field
November 12 November 14	FVAC Member Meeting Last Fun-Fly & Turkey Fry	6:30 Board 7:30 Regular at Township Hall 11:00 AM, FVAC Field
December 4	Annual Christmas Party	Hilton Garden Inn

FVAC Membership Renewal 2009

Annual Dues remain at \$100

**Family Members are an additional \$25 each.
Must be an AMA member and live in the same
household. Children must be 18 or under.**

Make all checks payable to the FVAC and mail to:

**Fox Valley Aero Club
P.O. Box 837
St. Charles, IL 60174-837**

Or mail to:

**Paul Jacobs
1010 Bankfield Ct.
Naperville, IL 60540**

FOX VALLEY AERO CLUB

RADIO CONTROL SWAP MEET

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Location: KANE COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

St. Charles, IL 60175

Use Randall Rd. entrance between Rd's # 64 and #38

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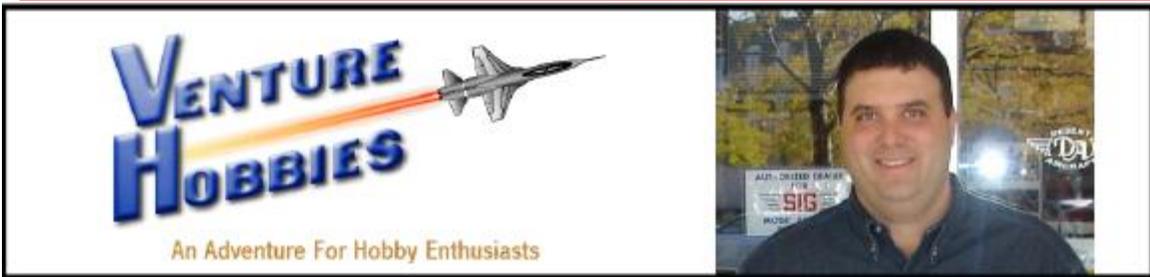
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Monday: 12:00 to 8:00 P.M.
Tuesday through Friday: 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Saturday: 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Sunday: Closed



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This month's DOD photo offering!



An unseasonably cold January has Jade "Bundled Up"