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AMA Gold Leader Club

Academy of Model Aeronautics
Charter Club #252



Flypaper

February 2017

Fox Valley Aero Club



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dale Gathman

president@foxvalleyaero.com



The year is already shaping up. The Windy City Warbirds & Classics committee has met twice via Skype since our last meeting, and plans are going well. Look for a few changes this year, as every year we strive to improve the event. The committee consists of our event coordinator John

Fischer, our CD Armin Weber, flight line guys Sal Perno and Dave Cotton, webmaster Joe Pedone, media master and graphic designer Tom Flint, announcer R.J. Monroe (from the Elkhart club) and yours truly. If you have any ideas for improvements, please let one of the committee members know.

The calendar is shaping up nicely, and there are only a few dates left to firm up at this time. The next event will be our always exciting Swap Meet on February 18 at the Kane county Fairgrounds. This is an event many of us look forward to, as it is fun to sell our items that we no longer need or want, and maybe buy that used or hard to find item that we happen to find at the swap. What a nice break in the winter doldrums (building season). We also have a great time flying our ultra micro foams in the swap building in the afternoon - come give it a try.

The shed project: The demolition crew is ready to go with the barn teardown, but due to the warmer weather, they have to wait till the ground either freezes again or gets harder from lack of rain. As soon as conditions are right, they will "tear it down." If you have not looked at the cameras lately, check out the west camera. It now faces the barn so that we can watch the teardown once it gets under way. Thanks goes to Tom Spriet for rotating the camera. Tom Flint is actively obtaining competing quotes for the roof install on the shed, and the Land Use Exploration Committee will meet as soon as he has them. We will then come to the board with our recommendations and the board will make the decision how to proceed. At this time, we hope to have the roof completed before our first Field Workday which is scheduled for April 15.

Hope to see you at the February meeting on the 9th, and please bring your winter projects to show the group. - Dale

FROM THE SECRETARY

Debbie Howe

Secretary@foxvalleyaero.com

Fox Valley Aero Club - Member Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2017 @ St. Charles Township Hall

Photos by Doug Swanson



President **Dale Gathman** called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and welcomed everyone. Dale asked that anyone who speaks at the meeting, please say their name first so that our new secretary **Debbie Howe**

can learn everyone's names. Dale went on to inform the members that there was a board meeting held on January 10th due to the January board meetings always take much longer. At this meeting the board approved the appointed positions as follows:

Tony Bahowick - for Membership Chairman

Todd Culbertson - for Government Relations

Susan Galle - for FlyPaper

Mark Knoppkie - for Field Chairman

Jeff Peca - for Safety

We also welcome our new Secretary, **Debbie Howe**.



Dale also informed everyone that just as he has always done the meetings are recorded; this helps in the meeting minutes writing process, he assured everyone that if you want to say something that you do not want in the

minutes, please just say "off the record" or let us know not to be published.

Dale went on to call for a motion to approve the November and December meeting minutes. **John Fischer** and **Orvil Fluharty** motioned, minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer **Paul Jacobs** reported that we have \$23,319.00 in the checkbook. Paul explained that we will be spending some money on the shed project this year so later in the year, funds may be a little tight. We will be putting the roof and the wall on the shed; this will be in the price range of \$10,000 so Paul will keep us updated on the funds and keep us on track.

Dale next did a little game (with prizes) to ask what the Boy Scout motto is, **Steve Haas** was first to say "Be Prepared" he received a mini candy bar for the quick response. Next question moved on to the scout's law. Dale answered with the long list of scout promises. The reason he went through this is we are adding more words to our club words of description. Currently we have Safety, Fun, Mentorship, Camaraderie and Courtesy. Words that were added to it for this year are Community, Fellowship, and Flying. **Tom Flint** said he would work on a picture of our club doing each of these and get back to us.

Todd Culbertson reminded us to motion to accept the treasury report. Motion was made by Todd and seconded by **Steve Haas**.

Safety Chairman **Jeff Peca** welcomed everyone to the New Year and reported that he did not have too much to say. He did let everyone know if there are any topics that they would like him to cover for safety please let him know and he will be happy to do so. Jeff also said there is not much flying being done outside but if anyone wants to keep their fingers limber there are a number of indoor flying sites available around us. Jeff had just went to the Propmasters club indoor day, this past week and said that they have

it at the Naperville Yard Indoor Sports Complex, 1607 Legacy Circle, Naperville, it is pretty large and is held Monday and Wednesdays from 12pm-3pm for \$8 per person. Jeff also mentioned that there are a number of other places for indoor flying in the area as well. Lastly Jeff said we will be doing spotter training, this year and we will talk about that later. A nice round of applause for Jeff was given.

Membership Chairman **Tony Bahowick** asked if **Tom McCreery**, a new member, was there, Tony asked him to stand up and tell us a little bit about himself. Tom stood and said that he had built a Sig Kadet about 40 years ago and then started having kids and then grandkids and then after the passing of his wife he decided to retire and get back in the hobby, currently he is working on a Funmaster STOL. Welcome Tom! Tony reminded everyone that membership dues are due, so please get them sent in as it will save Tony a lot of time that he takes to individually email all members that have not paid yet. Tony reminded everyone to make sure that the club has both your AMA and FAA numbers for each pilot. Dale Gathman brought up that we need to get a Date of Birth for all junior members. Dale explained that as the junior members turn 18 they will then be senior members and will have to pay full dues, so this will help the club track that.

Field Chairman, **Mark Knoppkie** reported that we have some big projects this year. We will have at least 3 work days, one will be the traditional clean up and get the field ready for the year and the other two will be mainly working on the shed. The first workday is scheduled for April 15, 2017. Mark explained the shed project is going to entail leveling the floor a little bit and then adding crushed lime stone. We will be putting a front on the building including two garage doors and one people door. The barn will be taken down and that area will be used as parking for our events. Mark said there would be the purchase of a second riding lawn mower and the plans are to keep the short grass the entire length of the field. Mark has fixed the plastic pipe for running electric and said that we do need to think about getting electric to the shed, whether it is permanent or if we have to run it each time is also an option if needed. John Turner brought up that he is with a new company and they can spray the field for dandelions, JT said it is a riding sprayer and the company can donate the product and do the spraying. Thank you JT, a round of applause was heard.

Fly Paper Editor **Susan Galle** said if there was anything you would like to see in the Fly Paper please

let her know and she will be working on putting in a small information article on new members.

Government Relations Chairman **Todd Culbertson** also known as "Rocket Man". Todd explained that his company had been bought out and he had sold his way into a new role at the company and thought it was interesting that in the hiring process he explained that he was on TOSH 2.0 and a Jet Pilot and Won Top Gun. These were all ways of spurring interest and information about our hobby and our upcoming events. Congrats on the new position Todd!

Todd said he would be contacting some of the big event leaders in St Charles that the city seems to get behind and help out and see if we can get some of that help sent our way as our events get bigger and bigger.



Rich Gabrys came up to talk about a plane he brought that was a joint project with **Mel Ziska**, he stated that Mel provided the financial muscle for the project. The plane is a Mamba, the first and only balsa/

plywood plane from Flex Innovations. This is a Quique Somenzini design. It is powered by a Dessert Aircraft 70 and is very light and a great flying airplane. This is an ARF and Rich said the Ultra coating is beautiful right out of the box and the internal structure is also very well done. When asked how it compares to the Beast, Rich explained this one is smaller as the Beast is 92" from Rudder to Spinner and the Mamba is 80". He used Potenza servos and is very happy with them. There is also one being flown right now on electric 12cell battery pack with a motor from Potenza.



Steve Gawlik next showed us his Tower Hobbies hellcat, all foam ready to fly in 15 minutes. There is an air cooling hole for the ESC. It runs on a 3 cell 2200m Ah pack. It is selling right now on Tower Hobbies site for \$119.99 during the

holidays it was put on sale for \$109 and then Steve's wife was able to get another \$30 coupon so, she was able to get it for about \$80.00. Steve said there are only two bolts one for the wing and one for the tail so all you do is drop in a receiver and fly.



Dale Gathman showed everyone his new "tail dragger A-10" slightly tail heavy. The A-10 has an 800mAh pack and that is the weight that holds the nose down. Dale said it is pretty cool with the duel

ducted fans. Dale was asked if he would be flying this at the swap indoor electric fly and he said no but would like to see someone, everyone agreed to as long as they were flying Dale's plane. A good laugh was had by all.



John Turner "JT" brought his Sebart Wind 50 ARF with a Hacker 50e motor and RC Gator spinner to allow some extra airflow to help cool the speed control, micro servos for the elevators and pull pull system for

the rudder. 4000m Ah 6 cell 22volt battery pack and built up/foam construction. John was very impressed by the covering right out of the box.



Next **Alan Galle** showed his Hangar 9 B-25 Arf, it has an 81" wing span, he replaced the evolution 36 engines with two OS 46 with Bisson Mufflers and Robart retracts. Alan went on to say

that all the decals were not in the box for the original "Mitch the Witch" nose art so he went to AeroLoft Designs and looked for a design he liked and found "Heavenly Bodies". These transfers were dry transfer and he was not happy with them at first but found out that once he got the proper burnishing tool, they were much easier to use, he said the proper burnishing tool makes all the difference.

Dale Gathman told us he was having some telemetry issues with his Spectrum DX9 radio and went through and showed the members how the telemetry system on the radio shows the fades of signal and

gives you rates as to how often those signals are being lost. This data can be downloaded into your computer so you can figure out your weak areas and if your antennas are not in the right location, too close, etc. **John Howe** said if you have a 2.4 radio with telemetry you can use it to get directions to the crash site as well. John said the weakest point of the signal is at the tip of the antenna so you can use a sweep motion to hone in on the source of the signal.

Walt Thyng said we should do a demonstration of that feature at a later meeting. **Mark Knopkie** said that he had seen an ad for a product called R Tracker, this product is a small coin size GPS that Mark suggested we could put in planes, other members suggested the range on this product is limited but demonstrations that Mark had seen were for over a half mile away.

John Howe told us about the YouTube video (2.4 GHz spread spectrum review) John said this will break down the 2.4 comparison with all the major radio brands.

Dale Gathman passed around copies of the proposed calendar. There are a few changes, like the cub fly will start earlier in the day. Dale went down the schedule and stated there was going to be a Tree Line/Berm orientation day, on that day there will be member stationed at the tree line and berm to let pilots know by radio when they reach the outer limits. This will give better orientation to be able to see your plane in the air and what it looks like for orientation when you are at the berm or tree line limits. Members were reminded that they can fly over the tree line this year but not the berm. When the range is active absolutely no flying over it, but even more important to stay on our side of the berm is not to fly anywhere near the 911 center. **Todd Culbertson** said we have a great relationship right now with the police with the range and we really want to keep it that way. When there is a problem its Todd that gets those calls so he asked "please be respectful of their space, to keep good relations".

Dale continued to go down the calendar events and let **Doug Swanson** explain Retro Fly day, he said he started collecting old R/C stuff a while back and thought it would be cool to have an event where everyone could dust of their old R/C stuff and bring it out for a day of fun, bring your tube socks, bell bottoms and short shorts (or not). We talked about the date change of the Festival of Flight, we are going to have it a bit later so that the kids are back in school by then and we are not fighting with the last weekend of summer break where

everyone is preparing for the start of school. We might get a better turn out.

Dale said the Christmas party dates are still a subject to be talked about; the board is kicking around combining the two events to save a lot of money. We may be looking at a new venue for the event as well due to the cost at the main event going up so high. We will discuss this more when we find a new chair person for the Christmas party as this last party was JT and Pam's last year running it. Many thanks to both of them for all their hard work, a round of applause was heard by all for them.

We moved on the portion of the meeting looking for volunteers. It has been rumored that **Hillary and Tom Bean** might be willing to take over the Christmas party but they were not at the meeting to say yes or no, so that will be looked into.

We will need a new Parade Chairman, **Dave Murray** might be willing to do this but we will have to do work on our float. The carpet is getting pretty nasty, the plane stands are too tall for the door opening and the back extension makes it too long for our storage so we would be taking that off to shorten it up.

We need a Festival of Flight Chairman, right now **the Howe's** are looking at that, they just want to make sure that date does not conflict with any of the dates of other events that they attend each year. One of our newer members, **Jim Thompson** said that he would like to help with the event as he has attended the event the last couple of years as a spectator and had enjoyed it very much and now that he is a member, he would like to help and give back. Thanks Jim. Dale said it would be great to get a committee together of 7-8 club members to run the event together, similar to how the Warbirds and Classics event is run.

A new event we are going to have will be Spotter Training. Dale said that one of the best spotters he has ever had was **John Fischer**. The training will be done both in the flypaper with articles, at the meetings with our safety chairman and out at the field.

Swap Meet Chair person/s **Joe Pedone** and **John Turner** said they have flyers available for members to take and put them up where ever they can, the more people who see, the better. Electronic flyers have been sent out to all the AMA chapters in a 100 mile radius.

John Turner was asked to put something in the St Charles newspaper. This year vendors will be able to register and pay on RCFLIGHTDECK.COM or

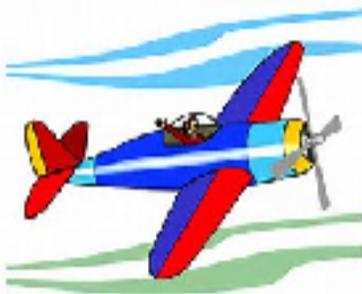
you can call Joe or John or pay in cash at the door. As it looks right now, we are right on schedule. We will need a lot of volunteers for this event and don't forget after the swap is cleared up we will be having the indoor electric fly. If you do have anything you want to give away, the club will have a club table, so anything donated will be sold to raise money for the club.

John Fischer was up next to talk about the Windy City Warbirds and Classics event. The event will be held June 22-24th this year. The pilot registration keeps on increasing as last year we had at this time 10 pilots preregistered and we finished with 90 pilots. This year we already have 38, so the event is growing. John asked if you are going to register please do so soon, so that the more people that are preregistered the better our event looks and draws. It looks like we could have 125 pilots this year with the barn gone and fix up the shed; it looks like we will be able to bring some much needed money back to the club. John is looking forward to seeing everyone and a great event.

Susan Galle asked for information on how everyone stores their planes for the winter.

John Fischer is going to submit an article for the Fly Paper and then do a demonstration at a meeting about a new way of fiber glassing using z-poxy and this technique helps limit the sanding needed. We will get more information for this, coming up. Dale reminded everyone that we have a blown up cover portrait of the article in Model Aviation. We are sending this to **Jennifer Alderman** for all the great work she did, so please make sure you sign it before you leave. Thank you to **Tom Flint** for getting this made up, it looks great.

Dale called for a motion to adjourn at 8:57pm and it was motioned by **Orvil Fluharty** and second by **Bill Suhr**.



FROM MEMBERSHIP

Tony Bahowick

Membership@foxvalleyaero.com



We have a new member: Tom McCreery (see below). Tom was interested in R/C way back in the 1970's and kit built a Sig Kadet. Unfortunately, he never got a radio or was able to fly the Kadet as life events came up and he was forced to put it on

the shelf. Tom did manage to do some control-line flying early on, but for the most part model aviation was on hold. Living close to the field, Tom recently decided over 40 years since his start, to get back into the hobby. He's building an electric power Alien Fun Master 72 and will be learning to fly when the weather breaks. Here's the history:

- '70s - built Kadet, did not fly; kids - 76 / 78 / 80
- '80s, '90s, '00s - moved around Midwest & East
- 2012 - lost wife to cancer, w/o general up to own mischief
- 2015 - flying, 4' foamy & Kadet ARF
thx Tom Flint for setup help
- 2016 - started grandson on Decathlon & Mini Apprentice
bought Timber and Sig Alien 72" funmaster kit
- 2017 - FVAC

Please extend a warm welcome to Tom. – Tony



FROM OUR SAFETY CHAIRMAN

Jeff Peca

safety@foxvalleyaero.com



With flying season around the corner it is time to take a good look at our fleet. One issue I recently ran into concerned my utility plane that served as my everyday flier, fun flier, float plane, snow plane, etc. It met its demise last year and as I was building a replacement I decided to try and salvage as much as I can from the broken plane. I inspected the control horns on the elevator and rudder and they

looked to be in pretty good condition so I figured I would take them off and use them on the new parts. When I backed the screws out of the horns I noticed that the part of the screw that was inside the wood of the control surface was completely rusted. It was rusted to the point that they would probably fail soon. It appears that years of float flying had taken its toll on the screws. Both parts of the screw that was exposed to the air dried rather quickly and showed no signs of rust but the part of the screw that was inside the wood was completely rusted. Moisture must have penetrated the wood where the screw passes through the control surface and slowly ate away at the screw. So take a close look at your float planes and check all of the steel hardware for corrosion.

FROM THE EDITOR

Susan Galle

newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com



First off I'd like to say that the money the club raised for Toys for Tots last month was very much appreciated and the Salvation Army sent us a thank you letter (see page 12)– thanks to John Turner for sharing that.

As I sit here, my brain is swirling with ideas but this month I thought I would write about spotting (which could take up to three issues) but I will start with the basics. I'd like to first say that I love to spot planes and have been doing so

for a long time. I'd also like to offer some tips for those who are new to the club and/or possibly unfamiliar with what to do when you spot since I am a member of the club and do have a plane of my own (a Kadet Sr.) and of course, when I get better, a faster plane will be my preference – like a jet! (gee, I wonder why that is??). If I could, I'd buzz the tower (and I'd probably be the one to find out who's on watch or when there is a shift change just so I could do that!).

For starters, it's helpful if you know whether you are spotting for a new pilot (who is going on a maiden flight with his plane and/or is new to our field) as the depth perception at every field is different or is an experienced pilot. For the new pilots – who are unsure and/or nervous about things since they are new to flying at our field (as one gentleman was last year that I spotted for) what I like to do is to tell them the pattern first (if it's not obvious as this is very important), secondly, the parameters of our flying field (how far in each direction they can fly and also what's on the ground, so they know what exactly they are flying over or what they need to stay clear of. An example of this is that to the east, we have a shooting range for the police and we need to stay clear of that) so in essence, I basically “hold their hand.” I also tell them exactly what I am going to do as their spotter and where I'm going to stand (usually behind them) so they will be familiar (as each spotter may do things differently) before they get that plane up in the air so they can just fly the plane (most important whether it's RC you're flying or the real thing). This gives the pilot more confidence since you are showing him or her that you know what you're doing and are really going to be his or her extra set of eyes (critical if there are numerous planes in the air while your new pilot is flying). Lastly, be calm and just tell him to do what he's always done and focus on the plane - it's up to you as the spotter (as you stand behind him) to communicate to him (and not loudly either or being chatty) what is up in the air, and where. Also, I like to tell whoever I am spotting for that landings always take precedence over take-offs – for obvious reasons since if someone needs to land and is low on fuel, they really need to bring that plane down now and safely as well.

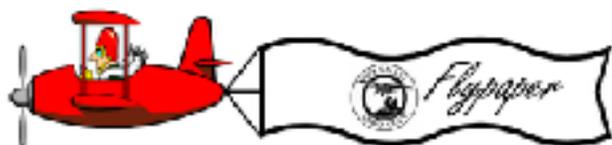
For the experienced pilot (and I already know who is) I am familiar with what he or she expects and may just ask them what would be most beneficial to them in being their spotter. But it's usually the same. I will make the same coordinate calls but they may be abbreviated as well. Lastly, I know from experience it's not a good idea to chat a lot either while you are spotting as there may be a lot going on and for someone who is new at our field, they really need to

focus on their plane plus it's just not good common sense, just focus on being the spotter so the pilot can focus on being the pilot.

I recently attended an FAA seminar which was very intriguing to say the least – as I read through some of that material, don't be surprised if I put in blurbs here and there about that in upcoming issues.

Lastly, I just wanted to tell everyone about the **indoor flying** that is available in our area and other counties. In looking this up on the AMA site, I could not find any which tells me it is not AMA sanctioned. The only one I know of is through SAC (Suburban Aero Club) and they have indoor flying at a Homer Glen H.S. on Friday evenings beginning at 6 or 7p (but it is not every Friday either as they have a flyer). The cost to fly there is I believe \$3. And if anyone knows of other places that offer indoor flying, please share them with me.

That's all for now. – Susan



* ~ *

"Johnny: *[plugging back in the runway lights]* Just kidding."

* * *

"Elaine Dickinson: There's no reason to become alarmed, and we hope you'll enjoy the rest of your flight. By the way, is there anyone on board who knows how to fly a plane? "

* * *

"Rumack: You'd better tell the Captain we've got to land as soon as we can. This woman has to be gotten to a hospital.

Elaine Dickinson: A hospital? What is it?

Rumack: It's a big building with patients, but that's not important right now."

Frozen Fingers 2016











The Salvation Army

Founded in 1865 by William Booth

DOING THE MOST GOOD™

Tri City Corps
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Community Center

André Cox
General

Paul R. Seiler
Territorial Commander

Charles H. Smith
Lt. Colonel
Divisional Commander

Betsy Clark
Lieutenant
Corps Officer

January, 2017

Dear Fox Valley Aero Club,

Thank you for your generous donation of gift cards and toys to our Angel Tree Program at The Salvation Army Tri City Corp. With your help we continue to be committed to "doing the most good."

The Salvation Army assisted over 1,000 families this year with food, toys, books, clothing, gift cards & coats.

We hope in the future to work with you again. Until that time, please feel free to check our webpage at www.satricity.org

Blessings,

Belen Hood
Community & Family
Services Director



P.O. Box 3939 | St. Charles, Illinois 60174 | p: 630.377.2769 | f: 630.377.2849 | www.satricity.org



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2017 Fox Valley Aero Club Calendar of Events

January 1	Fun-Fly — Frozen Fingers	10:00 am FVAC Field
January 12	FVAC Member Mtg	7:30 Regular at Township Hall
February 9	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
February 18	FVAC Annual Swap Meet	9:00-1:00 Kane County Fair Grounds
March 9	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
April 13	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
April 15	Field Work Day	9:00 am FVAC Field
April 22	Tree Line/Berm Orientation Day	9:00 am — 1:00 pm - FVAC Field
May 6?	Batavia Loyalty Day Parade	Time TBD, Parade Begins at 1:30
May 11	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
May 20	Fun-Fly —#1 TBA	1:00-3:00 FVAC Field
May 29	St. Charles Memorial Day Parade	Time TBD
June 3	Rocket Fest & Kids Fly	FVAC Field
June 4	Pig Roast & Fun-Fly	FVAC Field
June 8	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field
June 9	2017 Media Day	9:00 am — 3:00 pm - FVAC Field
June 22-24	2017 Windy City Warbirds & Classics	FVAC Field
June 25	Open Fly — All Scale	FVAC Field
July 13	Retro Fly and FVAC Member Mtg	Retro Fly 2:00; Meetings- 6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field
July 22	Fun-Fly — #2 TBA	1:00-3:00 FVAC Field
August 10	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field
August 12	Cub Fly — AMA Sanctioned - Open	9:00 am — 8:00 pm - FVAC Field
August 12	Night Fly — AMA Sanctioned - Open	8:00 pm — Midnight - FVAC Field
September 9?	Festival of Flight	FVAC Field
September 14	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
September 16	Night Fly	9:00 pm FVAC Field
October 12	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
October 15	Turkey Fry & Fun-Fly - Limbo	FVAC Field
November 9	FVAC Member Mtg	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
December 1?	Annual Christmas Party	6:00 TBA
December 7?	Rookies Christmas Party	6:30 Rookies Sports Bar & Grill-St. Charles

Revision 01-23-2017

Bold dates with ? not confirmed