



Fly paper



November 2013

The *Flypaper* is a monthly publication of **The Fox Valley Aero Club**

An Illinois not-for-profit Corporation

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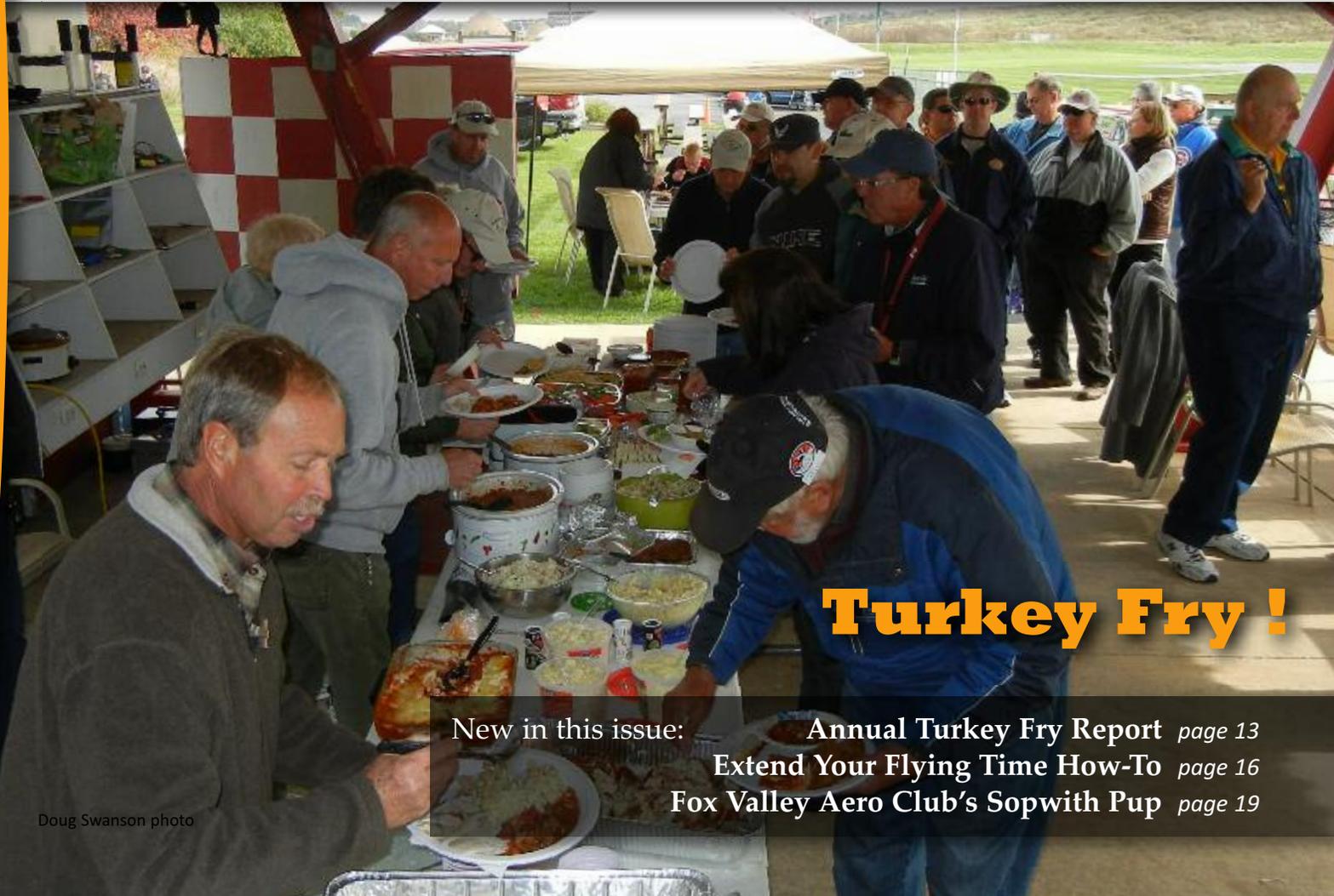
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AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model
Aeronautics Charter
Club #252



Turkey Fry !

New in this issue: **Annual Turkey Fry Report** page 13
Extend Your Flying Time How-To page 16
Fox Valley Aero Club's Sopwith Pup page 19

Doug Swanson photo



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Spriet—president@foxvalleyaero.com

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Three years ago you placed your trust in my ability to lead the Fox Valley Aero Club. In that short time I, with the help of all the different board members, have been able to achieve great things for the betterment of our club. The final task, and main reason for taking on the job of President, was to use my lifelong St. Charles residency and relationships to attain the next 10-year lease.

That job is now done. We, the current board members, have signed and submitted the agreement with the City.

My time as your President is almost over. At the November meeting you will finalize your choices for my successor as well as other board replacements. The voting process will then take place by mail with the results announced at our final event of the year, the Christmas party.

It has been my pleasure to work with all of you toward one common goal: To enjoy this fine hobby together!

See you at the field,

Tom Spriet
President



Membership Chairman Tom Flint has been busy making cold-weather improvements to our pavilion. A series of panels, hinged accordion-style, now enclose the west end of the pavilion to help keep the all-season fliers sheltered from the wind and cold. During the warmer months of the year, these hinged panels can then be folded up, and out of the way, against the rear wall. Nice job, RTF! (not) Ready To Freeze



Nine Eagles Solo Pro 270A
FP SLT 2.4GHz Red/White
RTF (NE201092)





FROM THE EDITOR

Doug Swanson
newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com

As I prepare each month's issue, I look back to the previous year's offering for cues on month-specific content which should be included from year to year. As I reviewed the November, 2012 issue, I am saddened that for a second year in a row we're in the midst of another natural disaster—last November

was Superstorm Sandy and this year it's Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. There are many ways to help out with donations. The American Red Cross makes it easy at their web site: www.redcross.org.



American Red Cross

As far as club-related news and business for the month of November goes, nominations and voting for Officers and Directors are at the forefront. Information on the process can be found on page 7. Nominated candidates please see the sidebar at the upper right of this page.

The results of the election will be revealed at our Christmas party, which is rapidly approaching (Dec. 6th). John Turner has already sent out the invitations and menu via e-mail—a combined version of both documents can be found on page 5 of this issue. If you haven't already signed up, don't delay—JT needs your check and entrée choice by November 29th!

JT is again coordinating our efforts for this year's Toys for Tots donation drive. The Salvation Army has come to depend on the Fox Valley Aero Club during the holiday season. We come through in a big way for them year after year—lets carry on the tradition this year as well. Information on this campaign can be found on page 6.

Attention: Candidates

If you were nominated at the October meeting or are nominated at the upcoming November meeting, the membership would like to read a candidate statement from you! Please send your text and a 'mug shot' for a special-edition election newsletter to newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com by the end of Saturday, November, 16th.

Taking place last month was the FVAC Annual Turkey Fry. This signature event has grown from a few members huddling inside the storage barn to the large gathering of family and friends that it is today. Dennis McFarlane has written a few words about the day on page 13. Thanks, Dennis.

Dale Gathman brought his lighted T-28 park flyer to the October meeting for show and tell. He has written an article detailing what it takes to outfit your own aircraft for some fun after the sun goes down. See his article on page 16.

Hopefully you've had a chance to see the club's Sopwith Pup out at the field this year, under the care of Cliff Fullhart. I've included, on page 19, some photographs and specifications of the plane for those who haven't been able to see her in person.

My time as *Flypaper* Editor is almost up. Before that happens I owe you a December issue. This will be delivered around a week after the Christmas party at Hilton Garden Inn. Look for photos from the Christmas parties as well as pictures of you and your aircraft in 'Shots from the Field' and 'In the Air'. Dave Cotton has written a report on this summer's Air Supremacy over Elkhart, and I publish the granddaddy of all 'Meet the Members'—can you guess who I've interviewed?

See you soon, Doug

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.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Jacobs—
treasurer@foxvalleyaero.com

My flying season is over for 2013 and all aircraft are safely stored back in my shop/hangar space for a long winter's nap. Over the next five or six months I will go over each plane and make sure it is ready for next flying season. There should be no problems for the next ten years, as the lease renewal has been executed and the field is in perfect shape. As I turn 67 next year, it is about time I start thinking of cutting back my work and maybe start doing 3-day weeks. With age comes more repair work and this week I will get some carpal tunnel work done on my right wrist to allow me to feel the sticks on my Futabas. The only other project scheduled this winter is the completion of the DC-3. The Klotz Stik may not make it through inspection and may need replacing. I can't imagine how many flights it has taken, but I do remember flying it at the old field, 10 years ago.

The club's treasury is still in great shape. I look forward to the Christmas Party that John and Pam Turner are coordinating this year. Members have accepted the dues increase without any complaints as all seem to realize that our costs have, and will continue to go up in the future. I have again been nominated to run for Treasurer in 2014, and if elected, I will continue to be the conservative voice on the board. Our GHP is stepping down after years of great service to the FVAC. Tom was the right person at the right time to bring some adult supervision and direction to the club. He accomplished a great deal in the past few years and his leadership and enthusiasm will be missed, but he remains on the board as Past President.

FVAC Membership Renewal 2014

Dues are now due

Annual dues are now \$125

Family members* are an additional \$25 each.

* Must be an AMA member and live in the same household.
Children must be 17 or under.

Make all checks payable to the FVAC and send them to:

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

or

Paul Jacobs
1010 Bankfield Ct.
Naperville, IL 60540

Please remember to send separate checks this year for the Christmas party to John Turner and the dues and Big Dog to the P.O. Box or my home address. As I write this the Big Dog is already over \$300 and should get to over \$1,000 by the time of the party.

Until next month, Paul

**Great Planes RealFlight 7
w/InterLink Elite Mode 2
(GPMZ4500)**



Fox Valley Aero Club

Christmas Party

Friday, December 6, 2013

HILTON GARDEN INN
4070 EAST MAIN STREET
ST. CHARLES, IL

Cash Bar 6:00 P.M.
Hor D'Oeuvres 6:30 P.M.
Dinner 7:30 P.M. 'till ??

*Live music by FVAC member
Alvin Cole and his band*

Raffle prizes and spouse gifts

SINGLE \$30.00 COUPLES \$45.00

HOLIDAY MENU

Soup: Artichoke Bisque

Salad: Mixed Greens with Cranberries, Mandarin Oranges, Feta
Cheese & Candied Walnuts with Raspberry Vinaigrette

Entrées:

**Pecan Crusted Breast of Chicken with Honey Dijon Sauce
topped with Caramelized Pecans**

or

Roast Beef with Cabernet Red Wine Sauce

or

Penne Pasta with Portabella Mushrooms

Twice-Baked Potato

Chefs Selection of Vegetables

Rolls & Butter

Carmel Apple Pie

Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea

R.S.V.P. WITH ENTRÉE CHOICE(S) BY 11/29/13

**john.turner@bayer.com or call
(630) 443-7807 or (630) 215-6110**

*Payment: Cash or check payable to **Fox Valley Aero Club***

*Send to: John Turner
40W 665 Campton Woods Dr.
Elburn, IL*

this holiday season...

As you shop this holiday season, remember to patronize your local hobby shops. Also, remember those less fortunate and support our "Toys for Tots" donation drive.



180 QX HD BNF by
BLADE (BLH7480)



Great Planes
Factor 3D EP ARF
38" (GPMA1552)

HobbyTown USA®

HOBBYTOWN USA – St. Charles

2061A Lincoln Highway
St. Charles, IL 60174

Phone: (630) 587-1256
htufoxvalley@yahoo.com

AL'S HOBBY SHOP

Box 449
119-125 Addison Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Phone: (630) 832-4908
Fax: (630) 832-3812
www.alshobbyshop.com



Dear fellow FVAC members:

During the upcoming holiday season, I will ask the membership to support the Salvation Army's "Toys for Tots" campaign. As you know, this program helps many individuals and/or families who need encouragement and support within our local community. Over the past several years, the FVAC has been recognized by the Salvation Army Chapter of St. Charles as one of their key donors and contributors. Toys as well as gift cards have been a real success from our members and I want to continue our pledge for helping this charitable organization. There will be several opportunities for gathering toys for the event such as our Christmas Party and our December "get-together" at Rookies, in St. Charles, prior to Christmas. In the past,



Rookies has been the location where members come to share stories about our successful flying season and make a monetary contribution towards gift cards and/or bring toys. The date for the Rookies get-together has been set for December 12th—please join us. Remember, toys are not to be gift wrapped. Also, if you have any plastic coat hangers, please bring them as the S.A. needs these for hanging up various clothing items.

Thank you for your contribution(s) and let's make sure both the Salvation Army and the City of St. Charles know about our continuing

support during the holiday season.

Have a safe Holiday, John "JT" Turner



DECISION 2013



This month we decide who will lead this club as Officers and Directors in 2014

The process continues at the November 14th general meeting with nominations. Want to step up and offer your time for the good of the club?—make your intentions known. Soon after the November meeting our Secretary, Dale Gathman, will mail out ballots to each member of the club. Your vote for each position can be cast by returning the ballot in the pre-paid envelopes provided. There will be a due date for ballot returns specified by Dale—please make his job easier by responding in a timely manner. The votes will then be counted and the results revealed at the Christmas party on December 6th.

There will again be a special edition of the *Flypaper* dedicated to candidate statements. This will go out to the membership after the November meeting, before the ballots get mailed out. If you are nominated at the November meeting and want to be included in this publication, please prepare your statement and send it to me within a few days of the meeting (no later than Saturday, November 16th please).

Thank you. Doug Swanson, FVAC *Flypaper* editor

Fox Valley Aero Club Calendar of Events

November 14	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
December 6 December 12	Annual Christmas Party Christmas "Meeting"	Hilton Garden Inn, St. Charles 6:30 at Rookies Pub and Grill, St. Charles
January 1 January 9	First-to-Fly Fun Fly FVAC Member Meeting	10:00 AM FVAC Field 6:30 Board 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
February 13 February 22	FVAC Member Meeting FVAC Annual Swap Meet	6:30 Board 7:30 Regular at Township Hall Kane County Fair Grounds
March 13	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board 7:30 Regular at Township Hall



Past Events of 2013

January 1	First-to-Fly Fun Fly
February 23	FVAC Annual Swap Meet
April 27	Member Work Day
May 27	St. Charles Memorial Day Parade
June 8	Kid's Day
June 9	Fun-Fly & Pig Roast
June 14 & 15	Al's Helicopter Fun-Fly
June 23	Geneva Swedish Days Parade
July 20 & 21	Festival of Flight
August 3 & 4	Chicagoland IMAC Challenge
August 24	Cub Scout Rocket Fest
October 20	Fun-Fly & Turkey Fry



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dale Gathman—secretary@foxvalleyaero.com

Fox Valley Aero Club Member Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2013 @ St. Charles Township Hall

President Tom Spriet called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm, and welcomed everyone.

Secretary Dale Gathman asked for any additions or corrections to the September 12, 2013 Member Meeting Minutes. None were voiced and the minutes were accepted as presented.

winner will be drawn at the party, and the winner takes all the cash collected from the Big-Dog entries. The winner does not have to be present.

Field Chairman Mark Knoppkie announced that the Turkey Fry and Fly is coming up. We will be frying four turkeys this year, using two pots. Mark asked that everyone help take the chairs, blast shields and flags up to the storage area following the Turkey Fry. He wants two blast shields left in place for now. Mark stated that the Turkey Fry is 'on' rain or shine. **Greg Bohler** reminded Mark that the snow sticks needs to be put up along the driveway sometime before it snows.



Mark Knoppkie

Also, **Steve Baker** needs to be contacted about winterizing the roller. **Cindy McFarlane** mentioned that some members like to bring their pets to the Turkey Fry, but no pets should be allowed to be under the pavilion roof, especially near the food. **Tom Spriet** mentioned that he and Mark are working on getting a couple of recycling receptacles put out at the field, and that once they are delivered, we should use them for their intended purpose.



Flypaper Editor Doug Swanson received a rousing round of applause for the latest issue of the Flypaper. Doug reminded us that his service as our Flypaper Editor is coming to an end after the December issue. He stated that as of yet, no one has stepped up to volunteer to take over as the editor for 2014. Doug will be sending out another special 'Election' edition of the paper immediately after our November meeting. Any candidate that would like to submit a campaign statement this year should get their article to Doug as soon as possible, but no later than the Saturday (November 16th) following the November meeting. Doug announced that RTL Fasteners has a special offer on their Master Builder Assortment of fasteners. It is normally \$175.00 and is being offered for 50% off. The discount can be obtained by entering code 'MAS88' at step 2 of the checkout. RTL's website is 'rtlfasteners.com'.

photos by
Doug Swanson

Treasurer Paul Jacobs reported that the checkbook is in good shape. He reminded everyone that the dues are \$125.00 this year [2014]. Paul stated that he would be accepting dues payments tonight, along with the Big-Dog raffle payments from those members who wish to enter. The Big-Dog costs \$25.00 to enter, and only those members renewing their dues before the Christmas Party may enter the raffle. The raffle



Paul Jacobs

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President Tom Spriet next asked whether everyone noticed that **Cindy McFarlane** was present tonight, which elicited cheers and applause. Welcome back Cindy, we're glad you are feeling better. Tom next announced that we have the new lease extension in our possession, and that the city said they will renew it. Both he and **Dale Gathman** endorsed the lease tonight. Tom asked Dale to read the lease to the members, which he did. Dale will deliver it to the city's attorney tomorrow. The attorney will present it to the city for their signatures. The lease extension runs from April 1st, 2014 and ends on March 31st, 2024. The rent amount for the first year of the extension will be \$3060.00, and is subject to be increased to the then fair

market value of similar unimproved land used for agricultural purposes on April 1st of each successive year. At this time, we do not have an extension option written into this lease. We will look into that option once this new lease is finalized and in place.

Show and Tell

Dale Gathman showed his ParkZone T-28, which he recently adorned with LED strip lights. He said that he is able to fly the plane in total darkness. The LEDs connect to the balance lead of the 3 cell LiPo which also powers the motor and controls of the plane. The LEDs are sold by the foot, and the strips can be cut between every third LED. Dale used red, green and white led strips.

Dale then displayed his Hangar 9 Sopwith Camel 60, which he acquired through EBay from a gentleman in Colorado. Dale coated all of the shiny green Ultracote with Top-Flite



LustreKote Flat Clear, which gives it a look similar to that of Solartex. He prepped the surface prior to painting by scuffing it with '00' steel wool. This finish is much more realistic looking than the shiny finish that it originally came with. It is powered by a Saito 91, and has a Spektrum AR6210 receiver. The rigging still needs to be installed.



Dale Gathman

Dave Murray, typically a 'jet' guy, stated that he hadn't lost his mind, and then presented his new 'prop' plane. He did say that there is a turbo-prop in its



Dave Murray

future. Dave purchased the plane from Bill Brundle. It has sixteen JR servos and is powered by a DA150 with a smoke system. The plane weighs 50 pounds, and is 46% scale. It uses 2-5000 mA batteries just to drive the servos. It is no longer manufactured, but all the parts are in inventory at Horizon. The plane is 9 years old, and only has 30 flights on it.

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Rob Sampson, who wrote an article in the September, 2013 *Flypaper* detailing his new plane, showed off his scratch built EDF. The Balsa/Ply plane is made with the components from a couple of old Habu EDF jets, one acquired from Jeff Anderson which had met high speed dirt. Rob's goal was to make a plane similar to a Habu but to add retracts (this was before the new Habu became available with retracts as an option). He used poster board to build the prototype, and once he got everything just right, he used the poster board pieces to make the light-ply bulkheads. The dimensions are about the same as the Habu, and he installed the E-Flite electric retracts. Side-force generators were added to the wings, to improve control. Rob hopes to maiden it soon.



Rob Sampson

Membership Chairman Tom Flint was absent, and Tom Spriet asked if any new members or visitors were present. There were none.

Chief Flight Instructor Dan Compton, who is back from Florida, spent some time training a couple of new pilots. Dan presented a solo certificate to **Walter 'Buzz' Janis**. Buzz thanked all of his instructors, including Dan, **Cliff Fullhart, John Turner, Ross VanDorpe, and Tom Flint**. He said we are a good bunch of guys. Congratulations, Buzz. Dan then



Chief Flight Instructor Dan Compton and Walter 'Buzz' Janis

presented a solo certificate to **Fred Nilles**. Fred said that Dan taught him so well, that when he was flying his solo, he 'talked to himself', giving himself instructions in Dan's voice. Fred thanked Dan, and said that he had a terrific amount of patience. He also expressed appreciation for the help and support he received from all members during his learning process. He received a lot of encouragement. Tom Spriet said that Dan Compton and Fred Nilles are the pilots flying at the flightline in the new overhead field shots posted on the club web site (www.foxvalleyaero.com).



Dan Compton and Fred Nilles

Show and Tell

Dennis McFarlane showed us his new 6 prop drone. He said that this type of aircraft is what the FAA and AMA are screaming about. The drone has a GPS and electronic compass under the top dome. Using the programming and camera, it is entirely possible to fly it 'out-of-sight'. The drone can be flown via the camera image over Wi-Fi, and it also has Gyro stabilization. The AMA says that these aircraft are okay to fly as long as they are kept 'in sight' by the pilot. Dennis said that the latest drone he saw at the iHobby Expo could be flown completely hands free, using an iPad. Once a pilot obtains their current location, the pilot can trace a pattern on the map and enter an altitude, and the drone will fly the pattern traced, at



Dennis McFarlane

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the altitude entered, completely hands free. This type of aircraft is a rapidly improving and expanding segment of the RC hobby, and the FAA and AMA are monitoring the developments. Dennis said that these are the most popular items in RC flight right now.

Doug Swanson asked Dennis whether the iHobby Expo would be returning to Schaumburg next year again, and Dennis stated that they signed a 3 year contract, so most likely they will return. Dennis mentioned that JR is now JR America, and will be distributing their high-end products themselves. Horizon will only be distributing a select few JR products.



Eric Karl

Bill Mikesell displayed his expertly detailed 1/5 scale Grumman F4F Wildcat. It took him about a year to build. He installed a G62 engine, and Robart retracts. He painted it with a 1940 paint scheme from a plane that was on the Wasp aircraft carrier. The pilot is a replica of Pappy Boyington, who didn't fly Wildcats, but looks cool in it none the less. It has a 14 oz. fuel tank.



Bill Mikesell

plans were purchased from Jerry Bates, and Doug Imes designed the plane. Bill said that all of Doug Imes' designs fly great.

All the insignia were painted on. **Eric Karl**, Bill's pilot, then detailed the process of getting the bugs worked out during the maiden flight and succeeding flights. The airplane now flies like a dream. It has very light wing loading, and leaves the ground very quickly. To keep it on the ground longer on takeoff, he added about 10 deg. of flaps. Bill said that the plane was made from plans. The

Mike Cannata said that 3 weeks ago he lost a plane in the corn. He did some research, and found a device called Loc8tor. It has a device that mounts into a plane, and a locating device that the pilot holds. The device lights and has a tone that pulsates faster as you get closer to the airplane. The battery in the device in the plane lasts about 2-3 months. It comes with two units that mount in the plane, and the main unit. The cost is around \$75.00.



Mike Cannata



Tom Spriet

Tom Spriet told of a mishap he had. He received a new GoPro Hero 3+ camera for his birthday. The camera transmits its video signal to an iPad up to 600 feet away via Wi-Fi. Tom installed the camera on the bottom of his Extra, and took off. 17 seconds later, his airplane went into the corn, with no control. Tom thinks the problem may have been a problem between the GoPro signal and the 2.4 radio signal. The plane ended up 800 feet south of the centerline of the runway. **Paul and Brandon Makowski** found the plane. The plane was separated from its

batteries, and Tom was wondering how good the Loc8tor unit would be as many times batteries separate from devices during a crash. **Mariano Rosales** said that he had done some research about the Hero 3 signal, and didn't find any problems reported with 2.4 GHz interference. However, the Hero 3+ has only been out for a week, and

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Mariano Rosales

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it boasts a stronger Wi-Fi signal, so some further testing would be a good idea. Mariano then showed us a locator device called 'StickNFind', which transmits 100 feet over Bluetooth to an Android or Apple smart phone app. The app displays the distance from the device. A pack of 2 stickers costs \$49.00, and a pack of 10 runs \$199.00. They use watch batteries that last about a year. **Greg Bohler** found a free app called 'Walk Your Dog' which traces your path as you walk, and it can be used to see where you have walked when looking for a downed plane.

Tom Spriet then announced that it was time to open the floor for Officer and Director nominations for 2014. Tom asked if any of the current board members were not interested in serving in their position in 2014. **Tom Spriet** is going to step down as President. **Eric Karl** asked to be removed from board duty for 2014. Hearing no further withdrawals, Tom opened the floor for nominations. The following board nominations were made and accepted:

Alvin Cole for President
Tom Siwek for President
John Fischer for Vice President
Dave Murray for Vice President
Dale Gathman for Secretary (incumbent)
Paul Jacobs for Treasurer (incumbent)
Bob Boen for Director
Todd Culbertson for Director
Cindy McFarlane for Director (incumbent)
Joe Pedone for Director (incumbent)
Sal Perno for Director
Tony Sokol for Director (incumbent)
Doug Swanson for Director

Tom Spriet will automatically take over the Past President position.

Tom then closed nominations until the November meeting, when they will be re-opened for the last time before the election.

Christmas Party Organizer John Turner announced that he and his wife will

be organizing the Christmas Party this year. It is going to be held on December 6th, at the Hilton Garden Inn. JT will send the menu and announcement to Paul Jacobs for distribution next week. The cost will be \$30.00 for singles and \$45.00 for couples. Checks or cash should be sent to John Turner at the address on the announcement. Alvin Cole's band will again provide the music. The bar opens at 6:00 pm. Party registrations must be received by JT by the end of November. We will be delivering toys and gift cards to the Toys-for-Tots campaign at the Salvation Army again this year. Please

bring an un-wrapped toy(s) or gift card(s) to the Christmas Party and JT will collect them. Plastic clothes hangers are also needed.

There will be no annual meeting in December, so we will have an informal Christmas party the night of December 12th at Rookies in St. Charles, starting between 6:30 and 7:00 pm. All members and their significant others are invited. JT will also be accepting gift card donations for Toys-for-Tots at the party at Rookies.

JT mentioned that the 2014 Swap Meet will be in February again at the fairgrounds.

Remember:

Checks for Dues and the Big-Dog Raffle should be sent or given to Paul Jacobs. Checks for the Christmas Party should be sent or given to John Turner (JT).

Hearing no further business, President Tom Spriet asked for a motion to adjourn. **Eric Karl** moved, and **Cindy McFarlane** seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
 Dale Gathman – Secretary FVAC



John Turner

Fox Valley Aero Club Annual Turkey Fry

by: Dennis McFarlane

Four Birds Weren't Enough

I've always said there are three major aspects of model aviation. The first involves those individuals who love to fly. They don't have the time or inclination to build. They are happy to pay anyone who will build for them. As long as they are able to fly a quality product they are content. The second group is related to the first. Many of us know club members who never fly. Flying a model airplane

is about the last thing on their mind. It's why the AMA came up with the concept of "Team Scale." This group of people love to build. They build for others, or themselves, deriving extreme satisfaction from simply seeing their labor of love in the air. In most instances groups one and two come together as one. The vast majority of enthusiasts will purchase a kit, build it and then take the finished model to the field and fly.

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Photos by Dennis McFarlane, Dale Gathman, Brian Wituk and Doug Swanson



The third aspect of model aviation is the one I like the best. Even though I have the opportunity to build a wide variety of model airplanes (boats and cars also) I don't fly very often anymore. Generally I haul a product to the flying field (pond or track) take a ton of photos and move onto the next waiting project, but what I do enjoy about model aviation, and still have a passion for, is the social aspect of our hobby. I absolutely have the most fun just hanging out. If I've finished a project and have the time. I really enjoy sitting around the pavilion chatting.

I'm not alone either. All one has to do is look around at the number of members, including family members, who attend our annual food feasting events. It's quite evident FVAC loves to socialize and eat, and I mean eat a whole lot of food.

Although a few members will continue to fly throughout the late fall and winter months, in only three years the annual Turkey Fry has come to signify the flying season is at an end. The event has become so popular as our club's last outdoor event of the season, more main course - turkey - is purchased every year. For this year's event four of the biggest birds that could be found made their way into the stomachs of hungry members, and the cooks still ran short.

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Have no fear—this is the process of RETURNING the oil to the containers

The event is an absolute delight. Many times throughout the course of a flying season pressures can build and tempers will flair, but when the turkey is served it seems like everything is forgiven. Members interact and have a great time.

Flying is also part of the event. Although a brief shower interrupted the airborne activity it wasn't for the entire day. Actually the sun came out for a very brief period and I got a photo I'd been fighting for. Not even counting the wicked speed of the Rifle 1M I'd brought along, three trips had been made to FVAC with a delta that had been promised some exposure. Entirely by accident I nailed the photo I was after, so the day wasn't just food and fun, but productive also.

What more can members ask for? A great day with fellow members, lots of flying, tons of food and the kind of laughs that will carry most of us through the winter. **DM**



EXTEND YOUR FLYING TIME WITH L.E.D.s

By Dale Gathman

NOW THAT WINTER is just around the corner, and the number of daylight hours is decreasing every day, I wished to have a way to fly even though it was getting dark. I had seen LED strips at the swap meet a couple years back, and I thought that they would be worth investigating. During one of my visits to HobbyTown, I noticed a display of LED strips that they had on the counter. By pushing the

button on the display, the 7 or 8 different color LED strips lit up, and they were surprisingly bright. I inquired as to the price, and found out that they were sold by the foot for \$5.00/foot. I decided to purchase three feet of red, green, and white. I also purchased a few feet of small gauge wire, both red and black. A better alternative to this wire would be servo wire, with the orange, white or yellow wire stripped off.

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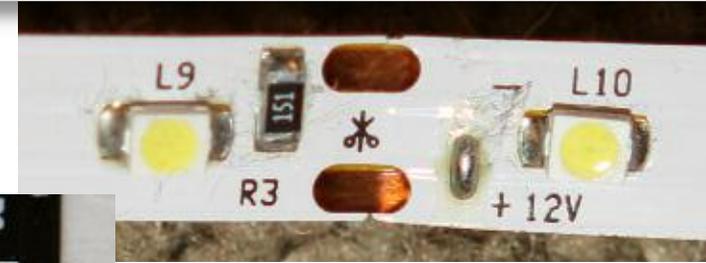
Paul Makowski photo



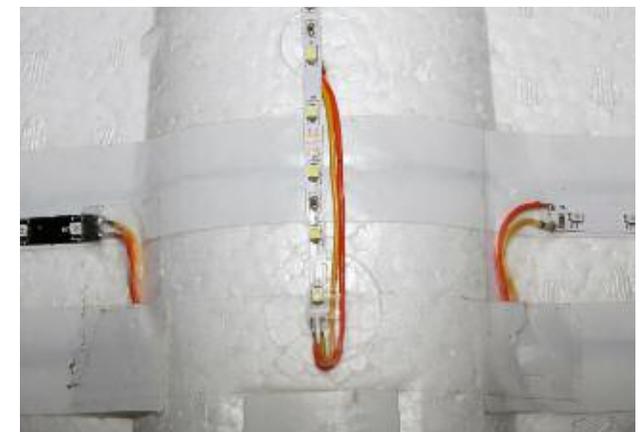
The next decision to make was which of my planes I would try them out on. I chose the ParkZone T-28, both because I am pretty proficient at flying it, and because it is old and beat up, and it wouldn't bother me too much if I smashed it while learning to fly in the dark. I decided to use the color scheme used to mark ships and planes, which is red on the left and green on the right. A good pattern, shown in the photos, is to run the green and red strips longitudinally on the bottom of the wing, a couple of inches from the front. The LED strips have self adhesive on them, so they are easy to

installed a strip of red and green parallel to the fuselage, about 1/2 of the way between the fuse and wingtip. This allows the pilot to easily determine which direction the plane is moving, and also whether it is upside down or not.

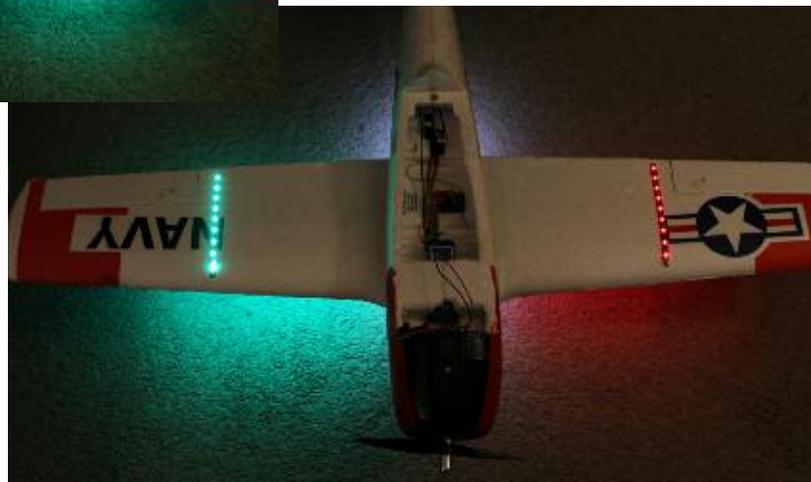
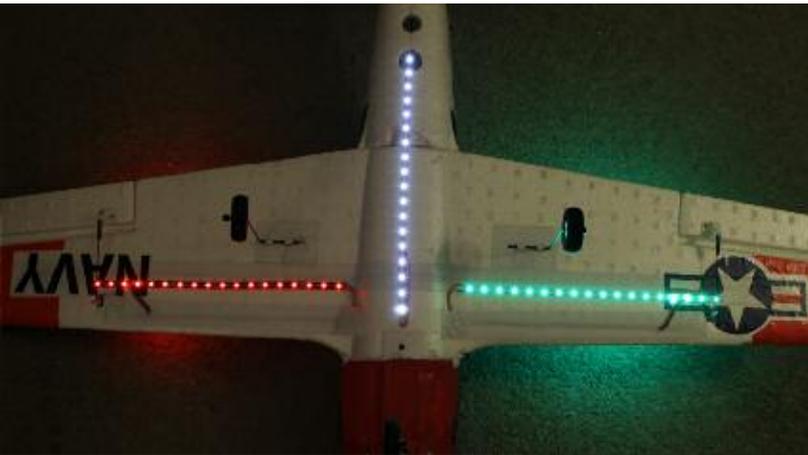
The next step in the install is to solder wires to the light strips. The strips have 'solder pads' every three LEDs, and they are marked positive (+) and negative (-). The strips can be cut between every third LED, between the two pairs of solder pads. Once the strips have been cut to length, the wires can be soldered to any pair of solder pads the installer desires to use. Because this is a foamy, it was easy to punch holes through the wings and fuse to route the wires into the fuselage. I ran wires from the three bottom strips into the fuselage, and parallel soldered



them to one of the handy balancing plug connectors shown in the photos. To wire the top strips, I paralleled from the outside end of the bottom strips, through the wing, to one end of the top strips. I used some of DuBro's Electric Wing Hinge Tape to tape over the solder connections, just to keep them from touching anything. My concern was that shorting any of the positive pads to any of the



negative pads would in essence short the LiPo battery supplying the power, and we all know that is not a good thing. Keep that in mind when handling a plane with LEDs installed once the battery is hooked up.



apply—just peel and stick. I also ran a strip of white LEDs down the underside of the fuselage, about a foot long. This idea came from a suggestion that the Bad Brad people gave me at the swap. The idea is that the white strip lights up the runway so you can see where you are landing. On the top side of the wings, I

To power the lights, all that is needed is to plug the connector into the Lipo balancing lead of a 3S LiPo battery. On the T-28, it uses a three cell LiPo to power the motor, so the EC3 plugs into the motor, and the balancing connector powers the lights. The LED strips are rated for 12 volts, so a 3S Lipo fits the requirement. LEDs draw next to no power, so the additional draw on the battery is negligible. If you want to get fancy, you could mill grooves for the light strips and wires, to make them flush with the wing surfaces. I just surface mounted mine, and ran the clear tape over the lengths of wire to secure them.

Next, it was out to the field. My first flight was just before sundown, as I wanted to make sure I could see the plane somewhat even without lights. On my first flight, I did not have the top of wing LEDs installed, and everything looked



The black (red LED) and white (green or white LED) strips are single color. The gold LED strip has four solder pads instead of two, and they light up white, red, green or blue depending on which pads the wires are connected to. The gold strips came from HobbyTown in Rockford, and were about \$8.00 per foot.

great until I banked so that the top of the plane faced me. At that point, the lights could not be seen at all and the plane was very hard to see. Luckily it was still somewhat light. I landed and decided to install the top strips. After another dusk trial with the top of wing strips installed, the visibility was great. I landed and waited until a full hour after sunset. At this point, it was so dark that I needed a flashlight to see to plug the wires in. The first total-dark test flight went great, and the plane was easy to track in all orientations. The landing was good, and as long as I brought the plane down slowly, I had enough time to acquire the runway before touchdown. Since the install, I have made about ten successful flights. Doug Swanson, Paul Makowski and Mariano Rosales have all flown it successfully as well.

The availability of these LED strips can open up a whole new experience of flying at night, increasing the amount



of 'flight time' that we get every day, especially during this season when many of us go to work and come home from work in the dark. I think sometime this spring, we may have our first 'Midnight Fun-Fly' for anyone interested. We could light the runway with glow sticks every fifty feet or so. Let me know if you are up for the challenge. ✈



SPOT light

Fox Valley Aero Club's 1/3 Scale

SOPWITH PUP



Photos by Dale Gathman and Doug Swanson

This model was donated to the club by Cantigny Park, Wheaton, IL (www.cantigny.org). Its care was entrusted to none other than Cliff Fullhart. The model has been flown all year by Cliff and a number of club members, with Cliff's assistance.

Kit: **Balsa USA**

Model: **Sopwith Pup**

Wingspan: **108"**

Length: **77"**

Power: **Zenoah GT80**
(donated by Mel Ziska)

Radio: **Futaba 2.4 GHz 7-ch.**

Servos: **Tower Hobbies System**
2000 1/4-scale

Weight: **Approx. 30 lbs.**

Flight characteristics: **Big kite**





SHOT *of the* **month**

Brian Wituk captured Shirish Shah's Byron Originals F-15 with the afterburners lit.



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