

<b>The Fox Valley Aero Club Monthly Newsletter</b>		
 Academy of Model Aeronautics Charter Club # 252  2008 AMA Gold Leader Club	<u>President</u> – <i>Dominic Saverino</i> <u>Vice President</u> – <i>Dennis McFarlane</i>  <u>Secretary</u> – <i>Tom Spriet</i> <u>Treasurer</u> – <i>Paul Jacobs</i>  <u>Flypaper Editor</u> – <i>Tom Siwek</i> – <a href="mailto:tsiwek@sbcglobal.net">tsiwek@sbcglobal.net</a>	<a href="mailto:tsiwek@sbcglobal.net">P.O. Box 837</a> <a href="mailto:tsiwek@sbcglobal.net">St. Charles, IL</a> <a href="mailto:tsiwek@sbcglobal.net">60174-0837</a>
		<b>October 2008 Edition</b>

## Fox Valley Aero Club Introduces (and quickly discontinues) - Float Flying!



From September 12<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>, club members could "have their cake and eat it too" as the runway was about 500 feet of pavement and another 500 feet of retention pond. The opening of a drainage valve and a few hours time made the vision of FVAC as a "Float Flying Mecca" a distant memory. Automobile parking during this period was also "a challenge."

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## **Editor's Message**

Tom Siwek – [tsiw@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:tsiw@sbcbglobal.net)

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### **Goals for 2009**

With iHobby Expo right around the corner, I've begun taking stock of projects and goals for 2009. In doing so, I've come to find that a number of areas I'd like to focus on, and will build goals around, have a common theme. The vehicle for reaching these goals rests in four letters – IMAC.

I've been at this hobby going on five years now. Looking back at accomplishments also affords the opportunity to identify skills and knowledge that have yet to be fulfilled. Having a goal of beginning participation IMAC allows me to focus on a number of areas.

- Detailed assembly of an airplane for competition.
- Advancing my knowledge in radio programming.
- Setting-up and trimming an airplane for competition (balance, thrust angles, control throws, mixes, etc...).
- Building disciplined practice habits – flying/practicing with purpose.

Everything from when the boxes hit the bench to when the first round of competition starts will go towards advancing my knowledge and skills aeromodeling. If I can stick to this plan, I'll know a lot more and be a better pilot this time next year. Fortunately, there are a number of folks in our club who've been involved in IMAC for a long time. I'll have plenty of brains to pick.

For those who are goal oriented or who feel they've been in a rut with the hobby, take some time to think about what you'd like to accomplish for 2009. Maybe you should take the plunge and build that first kit. Maybe you've wanted to transition from sport planes to warbirds. Maybe you're ready to put together that first gas-powered airplane. Maybe you should act on that interest in expanding to helicopters. Whatever you're considering, take a chance and try something outside your comfort zone. You may be rewarded with an unexpected breakthrough.

Ciao for now, Tom

Link to Archived Newsletters - [www.foxvalleyaero.com/newsletters.htm](http://www.foxvalleyaero.com/newsletters.htm)

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## **President's Message**

Dominic Saverino – [dominic@teamsaverino.com](mailto:dominic@teamsaverino.com)

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Dom didn't have a report for this month.

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**Vice President's Message**

Dennis McFarlane – [highpd119@aol.com](mailto:highpd119@aol.com)

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**October's Offerings**

Wow, what a month September has turned out to be. After a near perfect start with an exceptional Labor Day Weekend, Cindy and I spent it in Milwaukee at the Harley Davidson 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. The middle of the month went sour in a hurry. Rain started on the 11<sup>th</sup> did not end until the 14<sup>th</sup>. This led to some pretty serious flooding in several areas (including our flying field).

Cindy and I live in unincorporated DuPage County. By Saturday afternoon, our front yard was a lake. It stayed that way until receding to a pond the following Monday. As I write this a week later we still have some residual standing water in our yard. We were very fortunate though. With two sump pumps running about 70 hours straight, Cindy and I managed to keep the water out of our house. Many of our neighbors were not as lucky. I can only hope that those of you who were affected by the recent flooding escaped with no, or at least minimal damage.

On a much lighter note, by the time this is in print we will only be a couple of weeks away from I-Hobby Expo. This is a great event held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. All the manufacturers will have their latest and greatest Christmas offerings on display. I know it sounds odd to be thinking of Christmas this early, but trust me when I say this, Cindy and I will be spending from Wednesday morning until Sunday evening at the show. By the time we leave after the show ends, I will be starting on my Christmas list for Cindy Clause. There is always good stuff on display. I will spend more than my share of time at the MTH O-Gauge train booth where I will be scoping out the Harley Davidson special edition products for 2008. I can't help it, even though this is an airplane club, I love trains.

For you autograph hounds, Michael J. Gross, the guy who played the father on the TV sitcom "Family Ties," is a huge model railroad enthusiast. He will be signing autographs on both Saturday and Sunday, at least that's the latest word from the show committee.

I have asked Tom to import page 89 from the September issue of "Model Aviation" to our newsletter this month. What I want to draw your attention to is the top of the page where it says "AMA club members get in for free." With the way the ad was written, there is a bit of confusion as to whether you need an AMA card to get in, or, if you need to show an AMA club membership. Depending on who I talk to, I get conflicting answers. If you put both your AMA card and your Fox Valley Aero Club card in your wallet, you're sure to get in that way. With free entrance, the only thing needed is cash for parking. I realize this is a little pricey, but cram four guys into one car, and it's only going to cost \$5.00 each. Five bucks for one of the premier shows is a cheap way to spend a Saturday or Sunday, especially when you get to check out any or all of the new stuff.

I was recently talking with a good friend of mine (not a member of FVAC) about the hobby, and Bob mentioned that he sets aside Thursday as a maintenance day. I questioned further, and regardless of weather conditions, Thursdays are strictly for cleaning, checking, and repairing, his model fleet. Bob added that by making a list, and following through, his airplanes are always ready for the weekend. He never has a "round-tuit" lying on the bench. Obviously Bob is an extremely structured and disciplined individual, but nevertheless, I am intrigued by this attitude and I feel it's a system I will adopt.

## *The Flypaper*

One last tidbit and I'll end this article. I will be looking at I-Hobby Expo for my winter project. If nothing new strikes my fancy, I will start looking at some of the older offerings on the market. Almost all of the reputable manufacturers offer the builders manuals for their model aircraft online. If you are thinking of making a purchase and have seen a potential project, go to that manufacturers web site and check into the manual. Do yourself a favor and print it out and look it over. There have been a couple of past instances where I downloaded the manual and noticed things I did not care for. By that same token, I've downloaded manuals and have been impressed to the point of being swayed into making a purchase. Currently there's a manual for a ¼ scale "clipped wing" Cub on the coffee table in the TV room. Like I say, I'm not making a decision at this time, but I've take the time to look the aircraft and its potential conversion to electric power over.

I would like my project for 2009 to involve large electric. I was extremely impressed by the performance of the electric FAI airframes at our recent pattern event. With my ever increasing hearing difficulties I'm looking to back away from roaring glow motors. There is still the issue of battery expense, but I have all winter to save my shekels.

Get well Dom.

Dennis

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### **Secretary's Report**

Tom Spriet – [tom@etglass.com](mailto:tom@etglass.com)

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#### **Minutes of the August 13, 2008 General Meeting**

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

Dominic is again in the hospital. Please pray for his recovery!

#### **Committee Reports**

**Secretary – Thomas Spriet:** Tom Requested a motion for the minutes in the August newsletter be approved as published. The motion was made by Mark with a second by Chuck.

**Treasurer / Membership Chairman – Paul Jacobs:** Paul Presented the Treasurer's report with a smile as He reported a balance in excess of \$21,000.00 in the club treasury. Part of the proceeds from the events this year will go to field maintenance/improvements. The club membership is now at 235. Paul Apostolos and Jason Griffin are our newest members. Welcome to both.

**Field Chairman – Greg Bohler:** Starting to close up for fall. Not much is happening at the field. Please acknowledge John Griffith for his efforts above and beyond. He has helped in my absence due to my day job. (John received a standing ovation for his contributions from the members at the meeting) Great job John!

**Safety Chairman – Karl Griesbaum:** No safety issues to my knowledge to report. Name badges and shirts are on hand if you ordered them. Please see me.

**Flypaper Editor – Tom Siwek:** All the members are welcome and encouraged to provide content for the flypaper. Your help whether it be pictures or text would be appreciated. I will be spotlighting members as we go forward to give us a little insight of whom we are flying with. Time to expose those little items in the closet (I will spare you the question of whether or not you purchase internet pornography)!

**Government relations – Dominic Saverino / John Turner:** No report.

## ***The Flypaper***

**Chief Flight Instructor – Dan Compton:** Training has been active. Jim Clousing and Bob Woodhouse are close to soloing.

**Fun Fly Chairman – John Turner:** We came in second place against Chicagoland RC. We only had 5 FVAC members participate. This is possibly due to the holiday weekend or the type of events? The good news is we came in second. The bad news is there were only 2 places. It was proposed to have the fun fly's moved to 4:00pm in 2009. This will open the field in the day and allow more folks attend in the early evening. Without participation we will have to cancel the events.

### **Event Reports**

**Pattern Contest – Mel Ziska (reporting for Jason Walsh):** The contest went really well. The event went well finishing early each day. 20 pilots participated in this year's event. Jason did a great job.

**Pylon Race – Jim Hagner (Absent):** The information reported to the board was that the expected participation by Fox Valley members was questionable. In light of the absence of reporting as to the readiness for the event, the board voted to cancel the event and open the field to general flying.

**Glenwood Boys Fun Fly – Merlyn Graves:** About 40 kids were there with 5 or so trainers. It was a great day for all with the Kiwanis and Rotary in attendance.

**Preliminary 2009 Event Calendar:** At the board meeting that preceded the general meeting, the following events were proposed for 2009. The goal was one major event in each month.

May – Kids Fly Day  
June – Al's Helicopter Fun Fly  
July – Air Show (Festival of Flight)  
August – IMAC Competition  
September – Pattern Competition

The exact dates are TBD. The air show in July will be open to all aircraft types and there may be no pilot entry fees. All members are encouraged to bring any type of aircraft to fly or statically display. Further details will be refined in future board and general meetings.

**Christmas Party – Jeff Anderson:** Jeff Anderson and Cindy McFarlane will be the coordinators for this event. Al's Hobby Shop will again be contributing for our party. Many thanks to Cindy!

**Annual Elections:** The election committee is about to be formed. Please contact Paul Jacobs at [paul\\_jacobs@att.net](mailto:paul_jacobs@att.net) if you have interest in participating in this committee. The committee is made up of club officers, board members and general members.

**Birthday Party:** The board received an inquiry from a local resident asking if the club would permit use of our pavilion for her son's birthday party. Her son is a huge fan of RC planes

### **Show and Tell**

Bill "Skittles" Simmons: Midwest Jaberwalkie. Powered by rubber bands from Bill's collection.

Chuck Noyes: Buzzard Bombshell. Powered by an O.S. 25 LA.

Mel Ziska: Hangar 9 Pulse XT 60. Powered by an O.S. 75 AX.

Vice President McFarlane adjourned the meeting @ 8:30 P.M.

Tom Spriet  
FVAC Secretary

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## **Treasurer's & Membership Chairman's Report**

Paul Jacobs – [paul\\_jacobs@att.net](mailto:paul_jacobs@att.net)

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We are now at 235 members with the return of Chuck Spoto. We also welcome the following new members to one of the fastest growing and finest clubs in the country:

**Paul Apostolos, Zachary Davis, Jason Griffin, Mike Kirkpatrick and Kevin Sharp.**

The treasury is back up to \$21,665 with the completion Festival of Giants and Windy City Jets. The events added \$2,602 (FoG), and \$3,919 (WCJ) net income to our checking account. We learned a great deal about what works and what doesn't. That big tent for instance was a huge waste of time and money and was little used during the events. The best idea was renting the two "people mover" golf carts (that Dave Murray came up with). They were a welcome addition.

Greg Bohler, Maintenance Chairman, is working on a budget for next year which will include seal coating the runway and parking areas and restriping all asphalt. Also, we'll be replacing the wooden poles holding up the tennis nets with the original metal ones which Greg hopes to get from his employer when they install new ones at the school. Other items on the list for 2009 would be the addition of some decent chairs for spectators under the pavilion and refinishing the picnic tables. Even though it looks like we have a lot of excess cash, it will be used up quickly maintaining our perfect flying field. Remember, it costs \$250 a week just to keep it mowed.

The Board has decided to keep member dues at \$100 for 2009 but has corrected the family memberships to include a \$25 charge for each additional family member with an AMA number. Children of family members must be under 18 and living in the same household.

The Board has decided for next year to only have one money making event to help defray the cost of maintaining the field and it will be called Festival of Flight. This event will allow for all types of aircraft to be flown as directed by the "air bosses" on the flight line. There will be no landing fee for pilots and everyone will be encouraged to attend and fly. This will be a Saturday and Sunday event in July with a noon time show and we will charge the public admission and sell food. The goal next year is to keep the field open for member flying as much as possible and limit events to one per month.

Final dates for the calendar haven't been set, but in general, the May event will be a Kid's Day, June will be Al's Helicopter, July the Festival of Flight, August is the IMAC contest and September is the Pattern contest. That's it, and even the fun-fly's will be moved to Saturday afternoons starting around 4:00 PM to keep the field open in the morning and allow members and their wives or significant others to come out and enjoy the picnic area.

There is still a lot of flying this year so get out and enjoy the fall weather.

Till next month,  
Paul

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**Field Chairman's Report**

Greg Bohler – [gbohler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gbohler@sbcglobal.net)

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The field is open and in wonderful condition. The flood was our big story this month. There was so much water that it over flowed our retention pond and our field was more than half way under water. A couple of our telephone poles floated away. The good news is that when we built the field we installed a valve in the burm to help relieve water in extreme cases such as this. It worked perfectly. The water was gone in a couple days and the field was flyable by Wednesday.

We had about 8 people flying Wednesday night and they took a break to help put the telephone poles back where they belong. We had our regular mowing done on Thursday. **OUR FIELD IS GREAT.** Thanks to everyone that helped put the poles back.

We did have one brave pilot that flew his float plane off of the flooded field. He posted pictures for the club to see. We may want to note that because it may be a very long time if ever before another FVAC pilot can claim such fame. Good job JT.

I also want to mention a winter project opportunity if anyone has the ambition. I was able to get my hands on some old tennis standards. I will be bringing them out to the field in the next couple weeks. They could use some wire brushing and some grease in the tightening mechanisms. We have all winter to get this done and in the spring we will be able to replace our wood poles with real standards. There are enough to replace all of our poles. Anyone that has the time to work on these this winter, please shoot me an E-mail.

Take advantage of this great fall weather and get lots of flights in. See you at the field.  
Greg



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## Fun-Fly Chairman's Report

(A.K.A. John Turner) – [john.turner@bayercropscience.com](mailto:john.turner@bayercropscience.com)

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### September Challenge between FVAC and CRCM

Our August fun fly created some friendly competition between the FVAC and the Chicagoland RCM. A total of 19 pilots completed two unique rounds of flying skills (along with the digestion of saltine crackers). Each flyer started out with a set of base points (250) while competing each of the following tasks under timed supervision.

#### Round One

Timed takeoff with a series of 5's (loops, touch & go's,) then land and place a cracker in your mouth while chewing to make an attempt to whistle. Once the faint whistle could be distinguished, the timer was stopped and the total amount of seconds was added to your base. I couldn't help notice that some of the attempted whistles were identified from the tune "Blowing in the Wind" from a 60's folk group (Peter, Paul, and Mary) or vocal legend Harry Chapin. I am sure there is a rap but cannot qualify the rapper!

#### Round Two

Take off with a 30 second climb out and cut power to idle and spin your plane as many time you can with a spot landing. Brain Nowac (CRCM) performed 60 spins with Terry Danca (FVAC/CRCM) coming in at 33. For the spot landing, a series of 3 squares consisting of point values was challenged as pilots attempted to hit any of the squares without exiting the paved runway. No points were allowed if you landed in the green stuff-grass or yellow stuff-corn! Fortunately, the corn gods were good to all the pilots that day. Both spins and spot landings were then calculated and deducted from the round one score.

As individual and team scores were added up, the FVAC defending champion came in second. Below is a summary of the total team scores where the trophy is now in the hands of the CRCM. (Lowest score – winner).

FVAC: 1659

CRCM: 795

At the end of the event, lunch was sponsored by the FVAC to pilots and their guests.

Next month's fun fly is scheduled for Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Event: "Race around the Park"

Time: 9:30 a.m. with a briefing at 9:00 a.m.

The runway will be set up as a small NASCAR or "NASPLANE" track where you will taxi your plane through the course and return to starting line where you will be timed. Planes that become airborne will be disqualified. After returning to the starting line, each pilot will take off completing a one minute flight with landing on the grass. The flight will be timed and then added to your earlier score event. The total amount of time (seconds) will be divided by length of your prop for determining lowest score. Pilot skills will be taxiing on the ground and counting for the one minute flight. This event is for both novice and expert pilots where either electric or gas/glow will be allowed. Should there be a tie, then a second NASPLANE course event will follow without your wing!

Places: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

For those of you wondering about the track, I will set up the course with no impact to the wings, props and fuselage. Considering chalk markers on the pavement. The next time you are flying, start practicing your taxiing skills from each end of the runway.

Fly Safe.

JT

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**Chief Flight Instructor's Report**

Dan Compton – [trainu2fly@comcast.net](mailto:trainu2fly@comcast.net)

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It has been a busy month for training, and except for the weekend of the great flood, we had some fairly decent weather for flying. Recently, there were two notable events. First, members of the Kiwanis and Rotary Service Clubs hosted the Glenwood School training day at the field on September 18. Second, two of our newer members were kicked out of the nest.

I would like to thank Merlyn Graves, Mel Ziska, Armin Weber, Jack Treadman, John Griffith, Jack Ekstrom, Cliff Fullhart, Al Zabel, Bruce Thomas, Tom Densmore, and Joe Cubalchini for making the Glenwood School Day at the Fox Valley Aero Club field a super success. We had six trainer type aircraft set up with buddy boxes and cords, which made it possible for thirty young boys and girls from the Glenwood School located in St. Charles to experience flying a remote control airplane. The Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of St. Charles provided lunch for all of the kids and pilots. After lunch, each of the young people had the opportunity to fly at least once and some were given a second chance to fly. They were all very excited and thanked us as they left FVAC field.

Cliff Fullhart and I have been training Bob Woodhouse and Jim Clousing for several weekends. That training paid off last weekend when both Bob and Jim achieved their solo flights. Please congratulate Bob and Jim on a job well done when you see them.

The days are getting shorter now that fall has officially arrived, but it is still my favorite time of year. Mornings are usually calm and it may get windy during the day. But then in the evening, just about two hours before sundown, the winds become calm again. That is the best time to fly and do touch and goes one after another. Without the wind, a touch and go looks so graceful. So come out and refine your touch and go skills.

Dan Compton  
Chief Flight Instructor

2008 FVAC Flight Instructors			
Name	Contact Information		Note
Dan Compton	Cell: 630-664-6426	<a href="mailto:trainu2fly@comcast.net">trainu2fly@comcast.net</a>	Chief Flight Instructor
John Fischer	Cell: 312-518-0075	<a href="mailto:jeffxx@comcast.net">jeffxx@comcast.net</a>	
Cliff Fullhart	Home: 630-397-5033 Work: 630-668-0111	<a href="mailto:cfullhart@farmersagent.com">cfullhart@farmersagent.com</a>	Prefers 24 hrs. notice during business hrs.
Alan Galle	Cell: 630-697-8464	<a href="mailto:ajgalle@comcast.net">ajgalle@comcast.net</a>	
John Horvath	Cell: 630-440-7398	<a href="mailto:horvatsky@comcast.net">horvatsky@comcast.net</a>	
Paul Jacobs	Cell: 630-908-9955	<a href="mailto:paul@mertes.com">paul@mertes.com</a>	
Mike KostECKI	Cell: 630-373-2722	<a href="mailto:MkostECKI503@comcast.net">MkostECKI503@comcast.net</a>	
Dennis McFarlane		<a href="mailto:Highpd119@aol.com">Highpd119@aol.com</a>	Not available Friday or Sunday.
Tom Siwek	Cell: 630-677-5855	<a href="mailto:tsiwek@sbcglobal.net">tsiwek@sbcglobal.net</a>	Available primarily on weekends.
Bill Sponsler	Cell: 847-323-6578	<a href="mailto:bsponsler@comcast.net">bsponsler@comcast.net</a>	
Dave Taitel	Work: 847-537-8669	<a href="mailto:davet@venturehobbies.com">davet@venturehobbies.com</a>	
Jason Walsh	Cell: 630-291-1872	<a href="mailto:jwalsh1@ameritech.net">jwalsh1@ameritech.net</a>	

2008 Calendar – FVAC Events		
10/9	Board Meeting	6:30 – St. Charles Township
10/9	General Meeting	7:30 – St. Charles Township
10/11	Fun Fly	FVAC Field
11/6	Board Meeting	6:30 – TBD
11/8	Fun Fly	FVAC Field
11/13	General Meeting	7:30 – St. Charles Township
12/5	FVAC Christmas Party	Hilton Garden Inn

The club’s board has recently received inquiries about advertising in the Flypaper. After much discussion, it was decided that parties interested in advertising can get a business card sized ad for \$250.00 for six months. Anyone interested in advertising should contact **Paul Jacobs** at [paul\\_jacobs@att.net](mailto:paul_jacobs@att.net)

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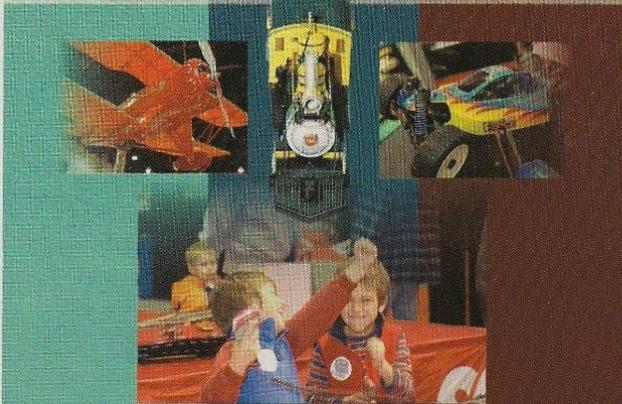
## The Flypaper

A few FVAC members participated in Suburban Aero Club's Float Fly on August 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Merlyn Graves shared a few of the photos.



Attention all AMA Clubs Members—**FREE** Admission  
with your AMA membership card on Saturday & Sunday Only!

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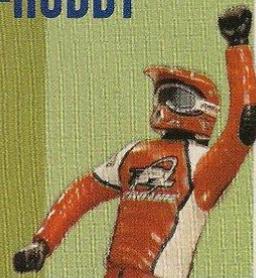
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*The Flypaper*

**Reminder to the Membership**

**The following members overdue on club or AMA dues**

**Overdue Club Dues**

Anderson	Gene
Bargman	Mike
Bassett	Joseph
Brunken	Gerald
Busse	Mark
Catlow	Walt
Cameron	Doug
Consuegra	Guillermo
Hedges	Darryl
Kroll	Brian
Petersen	Tom
Petersen	Tim
Swanson	Ronald

**Overdue AMA Dues**

Hamilton	Max	Applied?
Keogh	Erica	2004
Kling	Gregg	2007
Kling	Tyler	2007
Mahalas	Matt	2006
Nyman	Mark	2007
Rhodes	Randy	2007
Scherschel	Kevin	2007
Scherschel	Thomas	2007
Ulsaver	Kirk	2007
Unser	Kurt	2006
Watson	Charlie	2006
Wenzel	Dan	2006

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**Please patronize your local hobby shops!**

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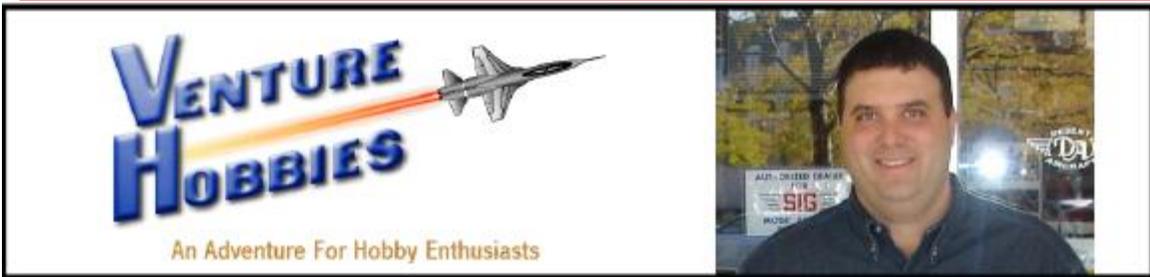


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**Monday: 12:00 to 8:00 P.M.**  
**Tuesday through Friday: 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.**  
**Saturday: 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.**  
**Sunday: Closed**



**Main Street Commons**  
**3627 East Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174**  
**630-587-1256**

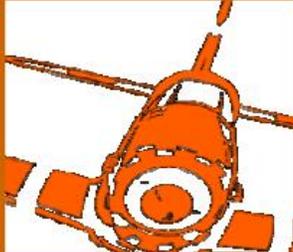


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***This month's DOD offering!***

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Casey reminds us that fall has arrived. Time to break-out the sweaters and jeans ☹️.