

President:

**Alvin Cole**

president@foxvalleyaero.com

Vice President:

**Dave Murray**

vicepresident@foxvalleyaero.com

Secretary:

**Dale Gathman**

secretary@foxvalleyaero.com

Treasurer:

**Paul Jacobs**

treasurer@foxvalleyaero.com

Flypaper Editor:

**Jason Boettcher**

newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com



AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics  
Charter Club #252

# Flypaper

October 2016

**Fox Valley Aero Club**

**Dale Gathman Photo**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Alvin Cole**  
president@foxvalleyaero.com



Rain, rain, go away!

Well, the summer flying season is coming to an end. It had been a great season for our club. Great events, mentorship and fun. We have seen growth in the club's membership adding some really nice people to the FVAC family.

I certainly look forward to more fun and fellowship at our upcoming Turkey Fry this Sunday! Bring family and friends along with a dish to pass.

See you at the field.

Alvin

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Paul Jacobs**  
treasurer@foxvalleyaero.com



It's Turkey Fry time which means the flying season will be winding down as Mother Nature drops the temperature. Mine ended a little early as I had bypass surgery which limits my lifting for the next few months.

At the October and November meetings nominations will be taken for the at-large board positions and the officer positions. If you are interested in being more involved in the club affairs, now is the time to throw your hat in ring.

The club treasury is still in great shape even after the major expense of seal coating the drive and parking lot.

This months flashback photos are from our first pattern contest at the new field on August 6th 2005. How many people can you recognize?

Till next month,

Paul



Paul Jacobs Submission



Paul Jacobs Submission

AUG 6 2005



Paul Jacobs Submission



Paul Jacobs Submission

## FROM THE EDITOR

**Jason Boettcher**  
 newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com



Once again I'd like to express my Gratitude to folks who help so much with the newsletter. Doug Swanson shot photos at our member meeting this month. It was a last minute request and he also dropped off a DVD full of photos at my house, which brings me to the next kudos. That DVD full of photos was from Dale Gathman, who continues to shoot photos at just about every

FVAC event. Thank you so much for contributing so much content to our newsletter.

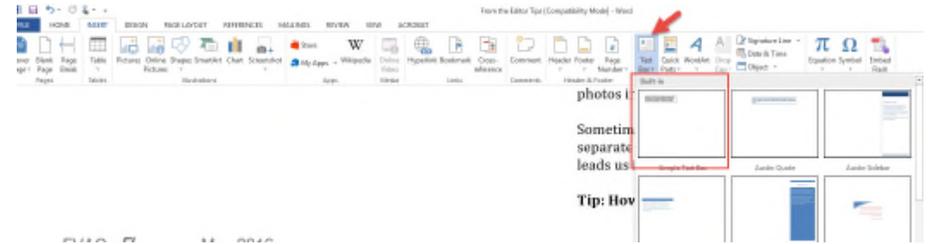
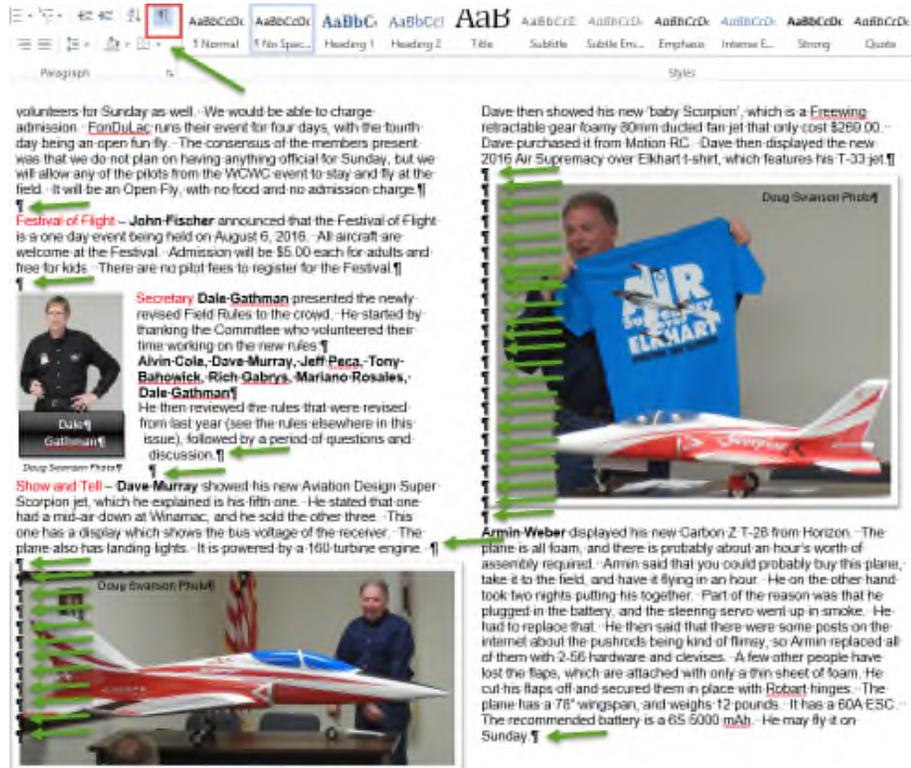
As you can probably guess, I am ready to pass the pen on to the next editor. We are blessed to welcome our Daughter into our family this year, and it is challenging to find time to fly, let alone take care of our Newsletter. As my priorities shift I'll strive to find balance between family and hobby time.

**Tip: How to see what formatting is going on in your document**  
 Press the show/hide tool in the home tab. In this example we are using Word 2013 as opposed to Word 2010:



When this selection is on, you can see where carriage returns (pressing enter for a new line) exist. This is helpful to see how the text is being

spaced. In the example below, the show hide tool is on and spacing was created by pressing enter to make room for the photos. In this case, the photos are formatted as 'behind text'. This seems to prevent text from being 're-positioned' around photos and seems to be useful for larger photos, such as for the show and tell section.



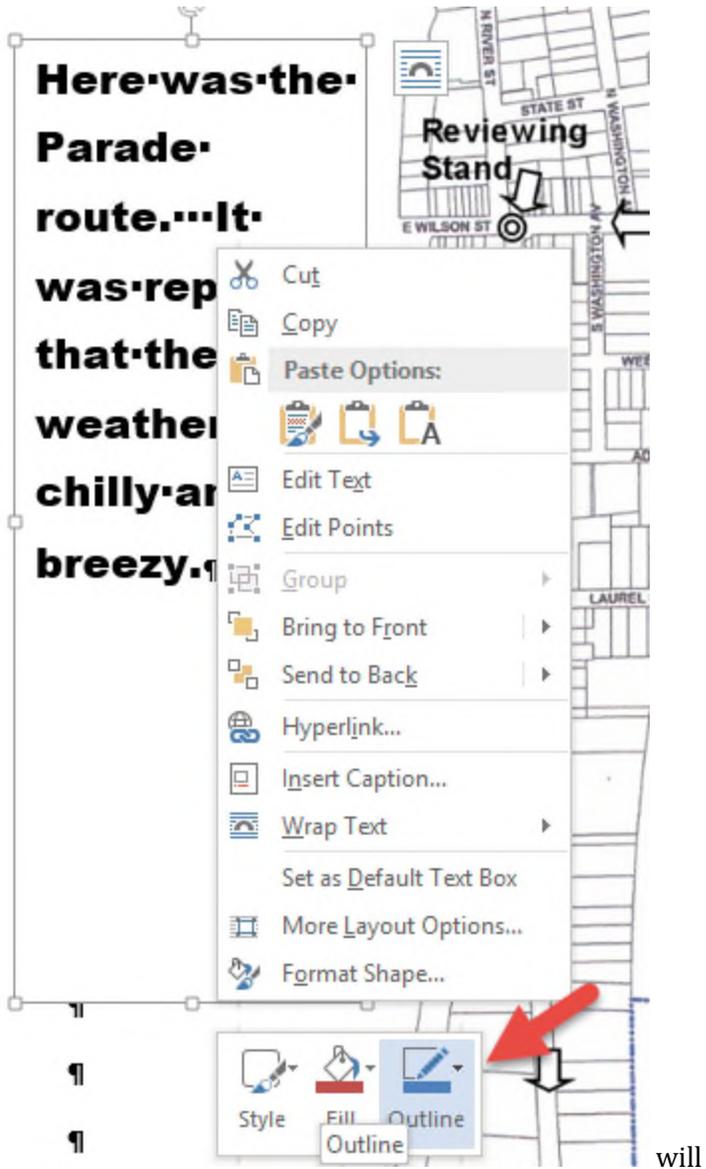
Then, hold down the left mouse button to draw a box to contain your text. Here is an example:



Note the ¶ symbols, here we pressed enter a bunch of times to make room for the parade map. Use the show/hide tool to show those symbols. The red arrow points to the text box. To make the outline of the text box invisible, right click on the box, choose outline,

**Tip: How to easily move text around by 'containing' it within a text box.**

In the Insert menu on the ribbon choose Text Box, simple. I found that simple works for most situations, it allows you to draw a rectangle to contain the text inside.



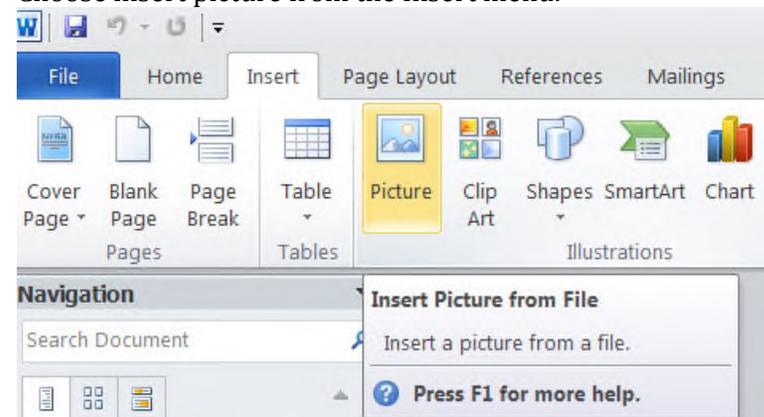
will

Then choose 'no outline' to make it invisible.

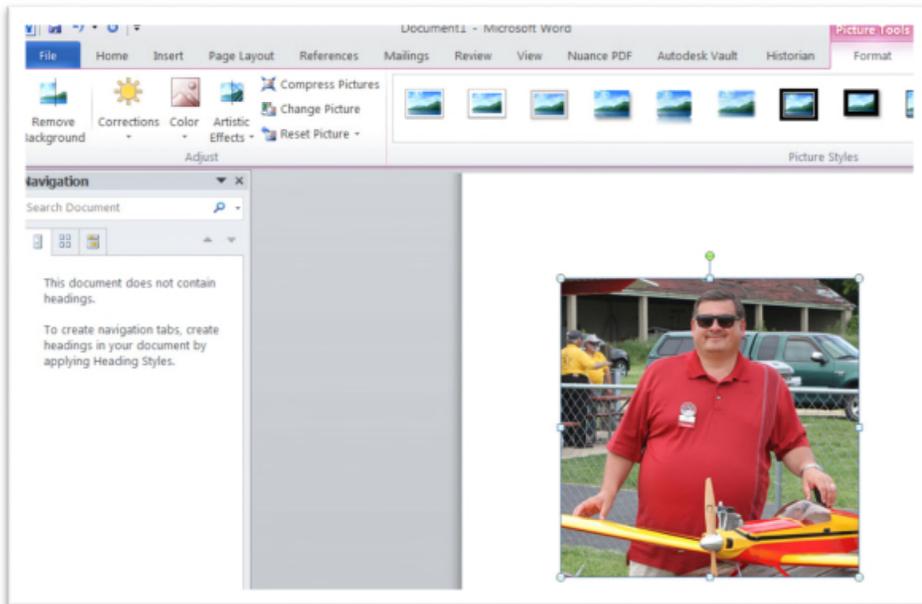


**Tip: How to insert a picture, and choose a border outline to make it look a photograph**

Word 2010:  
Choose insert picture from the Insert menu:



Select the picture, note all the borders available in the format menu:



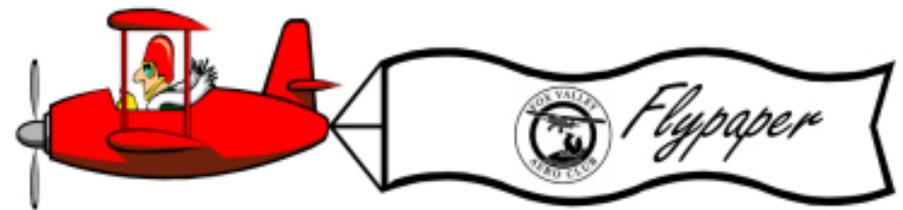
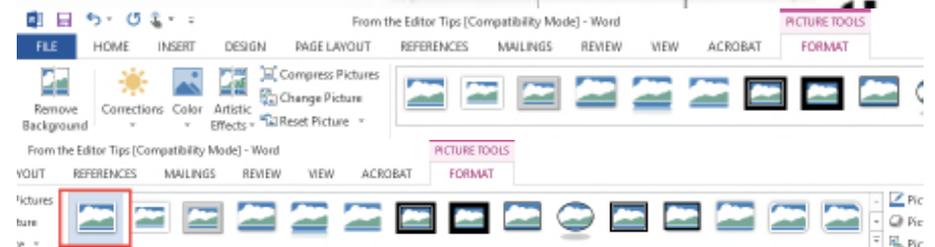
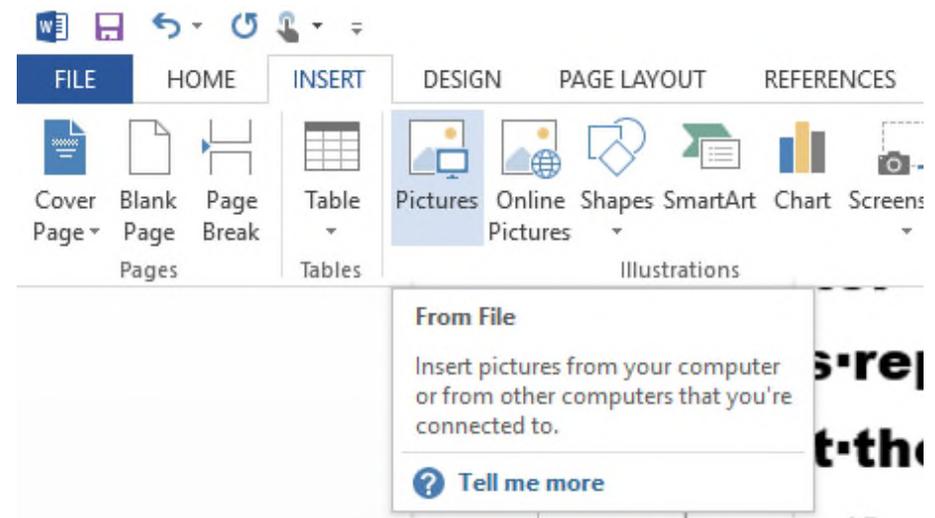
Choosing the one all the way to the left makes a nice photo border:



Same procedure, different version of MS Word so a slightly different look:

Word 2013:

FVAC *Flypaper* – October 2016



*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.*



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Dale Gathman**  
secretary@foxvalleyaero.com

### Fox Valley Aero Club

Member Meeting Minutes

September 08, 2016 @ St.

Charles Township Hall

Photos by Doug Swanson

**President Alvin Cole** called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and welcomed everyone.

**Secretary Dale Gathman** asked for any additions or corrections to the August 11, 2016 Member Meeting Minutes. None were voiced so the minutes were accepted as presented.



Dale Gathman

**Treasurer Paul Jacobs** reported that the checkbook balance is in great shape. We need to pay to get the driveway sealed, but no other large expenditures are coming up. Sal Perno moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Bill Suhr seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Safety Chairman Jeff Peca** reported that he didn't really have much to say about safety this month, which means that everyone is being safe.



Jeff Peca

**Night Fly - Jeff Peca** reported that we had a successful night fly on August 13. We had 17 or 18 pilots registered and all were club members. Jeff thanked all of the volunteers, who made the night a success. He especially thanked **Glen LaRocco** and his wife **Jean** who brought out a fantastic salad. Jeff said that at one point, we had



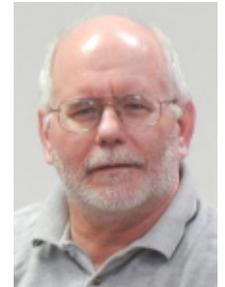
Alvin Cole



Paul Jacobs

seven planes in the air at one time, and together with the lighted runway it was really cool. Jeff mentioned that we didn't bring in much money from pilot registrations, as those who were working did not have to pay the registration fee. However, due to many individuals who donated stuff, the expenses were low as well. Jeff reported that **Orvil Fluharty** donated all of the hot dogs, and the members showed their appreciation with applause. Jeff also said the **Glen LaRocco** and **Scott Stampfli** families brought salads, the **Bob Littlefield** family brought corn on the cob, and one of the members even fogged the field to help rid the area of mosquitoes. So, even though we only brought in \$65.00 in registration fees, the expenses were only \$63.36. Thus, the event made a profit of \$1.64. Jeff closed by again thanking everyone who helped out and/or donated items, which made the event a success. He said that everybody had a great time.

**Field Chairman Mark Knoppie** reported that we are going to get the road seal coated from the gun range to the west edge of the east parking lot. The work will be done either Monday or Tuesday. Mark asked everyone to avoid driving on the seal coated area for at least 24 hours after it is coated. Mark said that he hopes to finish fixing the hole that was dug to repair the PVC pipe located in the field behind the pavilion sometime in the next week. Other than that, Mark said the field is doing pretty well.



Mark Knoppie

**Membership Chairman Tony Bahowick** was absent.

**Alvin Cole** reported that we had a total of 26 new members this year so far (18 adult and 8 junior). Alvin mentioned that this influx of new members, and the support they bring through dues and time helping out, is part of the reason we can keep our field in such great shape. Alvin then asked Dale Gathman to read an email that Alvin received from **Pete Regnier** on September 05, 2010. Alvin said that this email really speaks to the culture of this club that we have been working towards over the last few years. The email follows:

*Hi, Al*

*Just wanted to mention to you what a great member and person Tony Bahowick is.*

*I was flying (so to speak) on the morning of Labor Day and crashed my new 1.2m T-28.*

*The fuselage broke in two right in the middle.*

*Tony was also flying that morning and saw my mishap.*

*Some of the others members graciously went out to the field and helped me pick up the pieces and offered words of comfort and encouragement.*

*Tony immediately offered (almost insisted) that I follow him back to his workshop and he would help me repair the plane. As a newbie, I wouldn't have known where to start. Tony guided me through the repair process offering up his own carbon tubes, glues, tools, etc. Within an hour or so, the plane was back together and I believe will fly again. Tony is so typical of our members and why I love being part of this club. Everyone is so willing to help, offering both their time and moral support. Tony gave up a beautiful morning of flying to help me out. I can't tell you how much I appreciated it. I have been exposed to some of the best people I have ever met through this club.*  
Thanks,  
Pete Regnier

The members showed their appreciation for the letter, for Tony and for the club through a rousing round of applause following the reading of the Pete's email. Alvin expressed his pride in the fact that our club members help each other out the way they do. He said that about a year and a half ago, a guy called him and explained that he had a plane that his dad started and asked for help getting it finished and test flying it. Alvin agreed to help, and after some life events getting in the way, they finally got it ready to take to the field the other day. The guy brought his mom and dad out to the field to see Alvin maiden the plane (no pressure right?), and when they got there, Dan Compton was there. Alvin asked Dan to look it over, and as Dan does, he tweaked a few things to get it just right. Soon after, the plane was maiden successfully. Alvin said because of this help offered to a potential future member, the plane owner is now showing interest in getting lessons from Dan and may someday join the club. Alvin then asked the new members in attendance to introduce themselves. **Mark Lipp** introduced himself and said that we can blame **Dave Cotton** for bringing him to the club. Mark said that he started flying free-flight in 1955. He got his first RC plane in 1960. That plane had only a single channel control. During the years since, he has been into and back out of the hobby. Three or four years ago, he got back into it seriously. He recently finished a ¼ scale Fokker Dreidecker (Triplane). He is currently working on a ¼ scale Fokker D7. He has not flown either one of them yet. He is also a member of Propmasters. The members welcomed Mark with applause. Next visitor **Ron Connelly** introduced himself. He mentioned that he has never flown an RC plane before, but thinks that our club has a lot of

fun members. Following that, **Shayan Sakkaria** was introduced by his dad. Mr. Sakkaria explained that Shayan is seven years old, and a cancer survivor, who got into RC as therapy during his cancer treatment. Shayan has been flying for about 3 years, and flies mostly helicopters, but also some fixed wing. He is able to fly 3D with his helicopters. The members welcomed Shayan with applause. Next, **Jim Thompson** introduced himself. Jim explained that he has been flying for about eight years. He is a member and Safety Officer at Chicagoland Radio Control Modelers. He is also a Contest Director. Jim said he has been flying at our field at our open events for about eight years. He really loves the facility and the members. Jim said that **Ron Kostus** said to him that he comes here often enough that he should just join. Jim said that he is an EDF addict, and he loves to fly EDF jets. He is now a proud member of FVAC and is happy that he now has a place to fly his jets. The members welcomed Jim with a round of applause. **Welcome to the club Mark, Shayan, and Jim.**

**Government Relations Chairman Todd Culbertson** (Rocket Man) was absent. **Alvin Cole** reported that the land to the west of our field is being purchased by the Kane County Forest Preserve and they plan to close on the land at the end of the month. This is great news, as the Forest Preserves goal is to assure open land stays open. Further details will be announced when we get them.

**Parade Report** – **Brian Wituk** reported that the club's Batavia Loyalty Day Parade float won First Place in the Adult category this year,



beating out the Fire Department. Brian showed off the First Place plaque that we were awarded for our efforts. For those who are newer to the club, Brian explained that twice a year we participate in parades with our FVAC float. We place warbirds or civilian planes on top of the float, and then **Dave Murray** puts his turbine jet on the back. Dave runs the turbine during the parade and blows smoke all over the parade route. We also drive ducted fan jets down the street for the crowd to see. The club is also able to place



our banner on the float and at the Batavia parade we can even hand out advertising flyers for our events. Doug Swanson recalled a funny recollection from the Batavia parade. He said that Jeremy from Hobbytown let us use his monster Hobbytown truck to pull the float during the parade. Doug was driving the truck in the parade, and a guy yelled out to him asking “Do you guys have model trains down there?” to which Doug responded “Why Yes we do, come on down.”

**Turkey Fry** – **Alvin Cole** reminded everyone that we have our annual Turkey Fry coming up on Sunday, October 16. Alvin said that we have Turkey specialists in the club who take care of the frying and carving. Karl Griesbaum and Tom Spriet take care of the frying, and ‘Ginsu’ Cliff Fullhart is our master carver. Alvin said that weather permitting we also fly at the event. Most of the past events had pretty strong winds blowing. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass and the club will supply the birds. Tom Spriet recommended that we fry six turkeys this year as we have more members than last year. Last year we fried four turkeys and ran out. We will also be holding our last Fun Fly of the year from 1:00-3:00pm during the Turkey Fry. The event will be the Limbo.



Alvin Cole

**John Turner** announced that he delivered a check from the club in the amount of \$271.00 to Betsy Clark of the Tri City Salvation Army. JT asked her to join us at our October or November meeting to explain a little about what the Salvation Army does for the community. The check was donated out of the proceeds from the WCWC event apparel sales and raffle.

**Mike Maciejewski** asked that the handicap parking spot at the field be reinforced. Alvin reminded everyone that they need to use tact when talking to someone who is violating the parking space.

**Gary Stephens** announced that the Rockford club is holding their Warbird event this Saturday, September 10. The field is very nice and they serve a great lunch for the pilots.

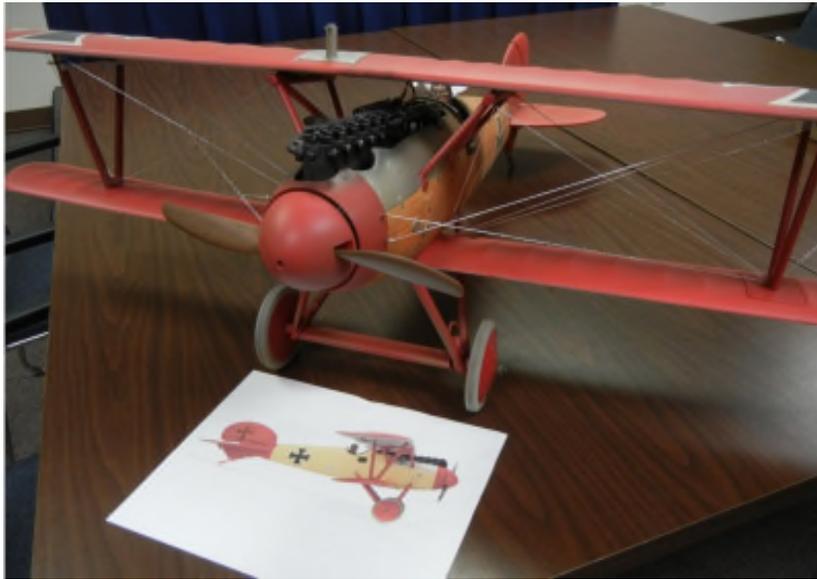
**Show and Tell** – **John Turner** showed his new Tower Hobbies Chaos. JT installed a Rimfire 80 motor and a Castle Creations 75 speed controller to power the plane. He maiden it last Friday, and

said that it flies like it is on rails. The plane was an ARF. The power comes from two 3S 2000mAh LiPo packs hooked up in series. JT said that this is one of the best planes in his fleet. While JT was at Mel Ziska's the other day, he saw an interesting spinner which allows air to pass through it to get to the electronics. The spinner was available from Gator RC and John picked one up. He also added a flange to the bottom of the plane to allow more air to circulate through. The ARF cost about \$179.00. JT installed Hitec servos in the plane. Mike Cannata recommended that JT get a single 6S 5000 mAh battery, and JT explained that he already has a 6S 6000 mAh on order at Hobbytown.



**Doug Swanson** showed his newly weathered Parkzone Albatross. Doug explained that he has had the plane for about three years, and has flown it about five or six times shortly after getting it. Doug said that due to a ‘mishap’ in the basement, he had to replace the fuselage on the plane. When he got the new fuselage, he thought it would be the perfect time to ‘make the plane look better’. He took artist markers using the big edge for one direction, and the fine tip to add some wood grain. Then, deciding the red was too bright, he dulled it down with some dark earth tones. He also did some weathering on the engine and some oil spattering around the engine. Doug said that there is a thread on RC Groups that is close to 600 pages long just on this plane. Some of the guys on the thread put way more work into their planes than Doug has. Doug said that one of them installed the

rigging wires on their plane. Doug kind of followed his tutorial and installed rigging on his plane. The rigging is made of elastic cord. Doug said that the day he got it done, he kept going into the basement every half hour just to look at it. He repeated this the next day also. The newly weathered Albatross looks great. Doug went with the tail skid this time, but after thinking about it he thinks he may have to go back to the tail wheel.



**Bill Suhr** showed his new turbine jet, which started out as a Navy T45 Hawk. Bill purchased the Hawk from a guy he saw at Toledo. The plane is a 2005 Skymaster T45 s/n 13, so it was made at the point when Skymaster was just getting into jets. Bill said that the white covering had really turned yellow over time, so he decided to re-finish it. After Bill refinished the plane, the only original color it still sports is the red on the intakes. He said that this plane doesn't need any fancy controls; it just has Ailerons, rudder, steering and elevator. The turbine is a Kingtech 80 which has 19 pounds of thrust. The turbine used to be in Bill's Reaction jet. The weight dry is about 22-23 pounds. It does burn a lot of fuel. When in the Reaction, the turbine's fuel tank carried 54 ounces of fuel, which allowed for about six minutes of flight time. He said that you needed to be on final at the end of the six minutes, and you would have a minute and a half of fuel remaining. The plane now has 135 ounces of fuel on board, so it will

fly for a long time. If he lands early, he will be landing really heavy. The main gear doors work. The nose wheel gear door is spring loaded, so it opens when the nose wheel comes down, and closes when it goes up. The gear and main doors are electric, and the only air system is for the brakes, so there is not a lot to really go wrong with the airplane from a systems standpoint. The plane has disc brakes with a bellows unit that expands rather than drum brakes. During the maiden flight last weekend, they found out there are a few things that can go wrong. Takeoff went well, but right after rotation it got exciting. One was Bill's fault, which was the inability to trim the elevator. The entire flight required correction to the elevator after Bill ran out of trim. Bill had forgotten about the screws that hold the mechanism on the servo tight, so the elevator had about 1.5 inches of travel before the servo actually tried to resist the movement. That is now fixed. The landing was a hard landing, and it tore one of the landing gear out, but that was the total extent of the damage. Bill said during the flight the plane constantly wanted to roll left so bad that he couldn't let go of the stick to trim it. Bill asked his spotter for more and more trim, and when he got it close and it started to go right, he would have the same problem whenever he tried to make a turn. What caused the problem was that the attach points for the servo in the right wing had come loose and the servo was sliding to both ends of the travel of the slot that the arm protrudes out of. This made it impossible to trim the ailerons. When Bill finally landed it and looked



it over, he found the attach points on the left aileron servo were also coming loose. The plane flies faster than Bill thought it would, but he said that it takes a while to 'get up and go'. Bill said that everything has been corrected now and he beefed up the servo mounts. He said that he feels that he needs to make a second maiden flight as it will probably fly totally different now. The paint scheme Bill used came from an Air Force T37 trainer. The paint is straight Krylon primer and paint.

**Dale Gathman** showed a new Spektrum 6 channel receiver that just came out. It has built in telemetry, and it sells for only \$65.00. Dale said that this is a real savings as the Telemetry module for a regular receiver would cost \$60.00 by itself. Spektrum is also coming out with 8 and 9 channel versions of these in the next few months. The 8 channel will sell for \$80.00 and the 9 channel will sell for \$120.00.

Hearing no further business, President Alvin Cole asked for a motion

to adjourn. Sal Perno moved to adjourn. Bill Suhr seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dale Gathman – Secretary FVAC



Visitor **Ron Connelly** & New members **Mark Lipp, Jim Thompson, and Shayan Sakkaria.**



**Member Meeting**

# Retro night

blast from the past!



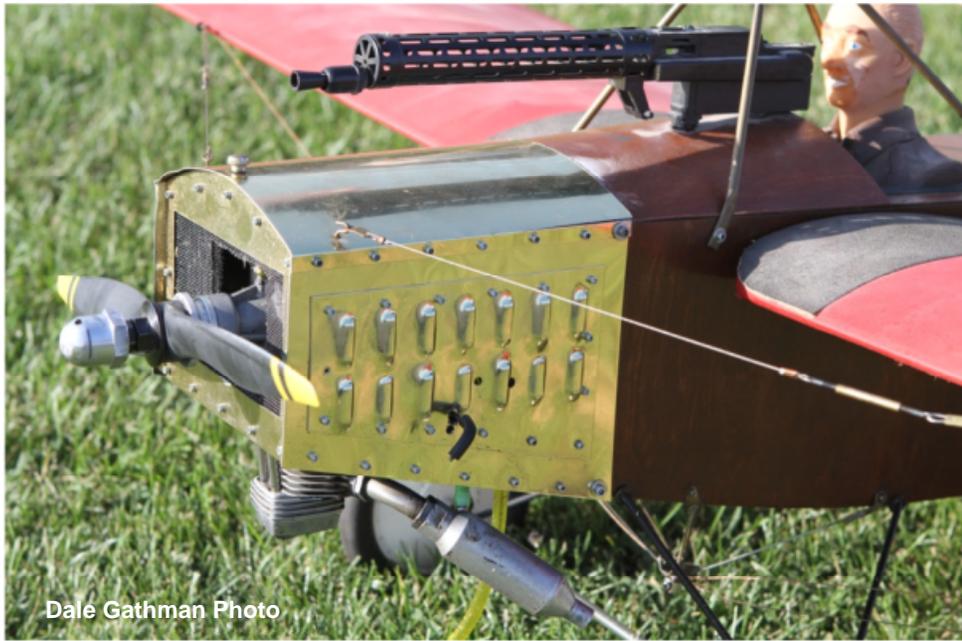
Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo

# *Festival of Flight 2016*



*Photos by Dale Gathman*

Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



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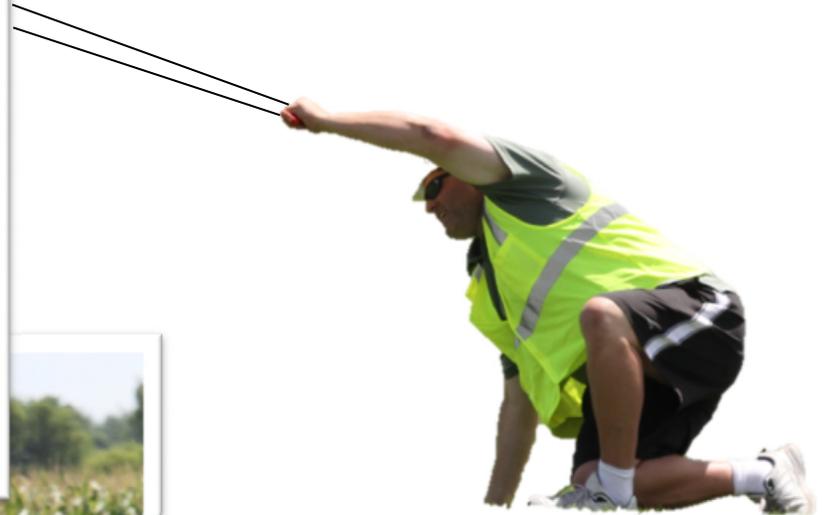


Dale Gathman Photo

**Fly by Wire (?) Entertainment  
By Jeff Peca and Scott Stampfly**



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo

***Extreme Aerobatics  
Chris Gini and Dan Rocha***



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



***Candy Drop Courtesy  
Of the Howes***



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



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Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo

# Our first Sanctioned Night Fun-Fly Event



**This was not our first Night-Fly Event, but it was the first FVAC Night Fly to be Sanctioned.**

**Jeff Peca coordinated the event, and Joe Pedone took care of pilot registration. A twilight buffet was also enjoyed.**



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo

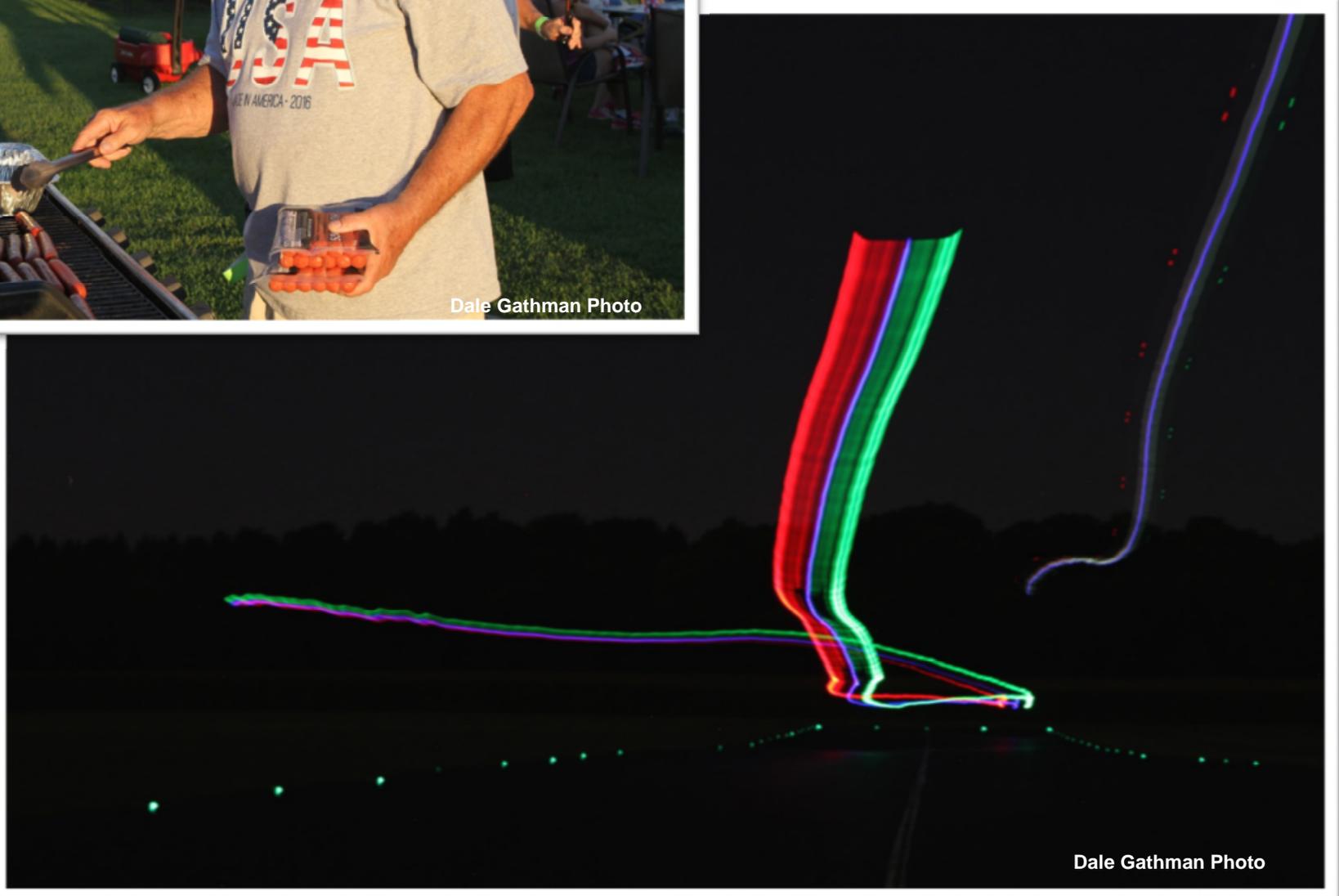


Dale Gathman Photo

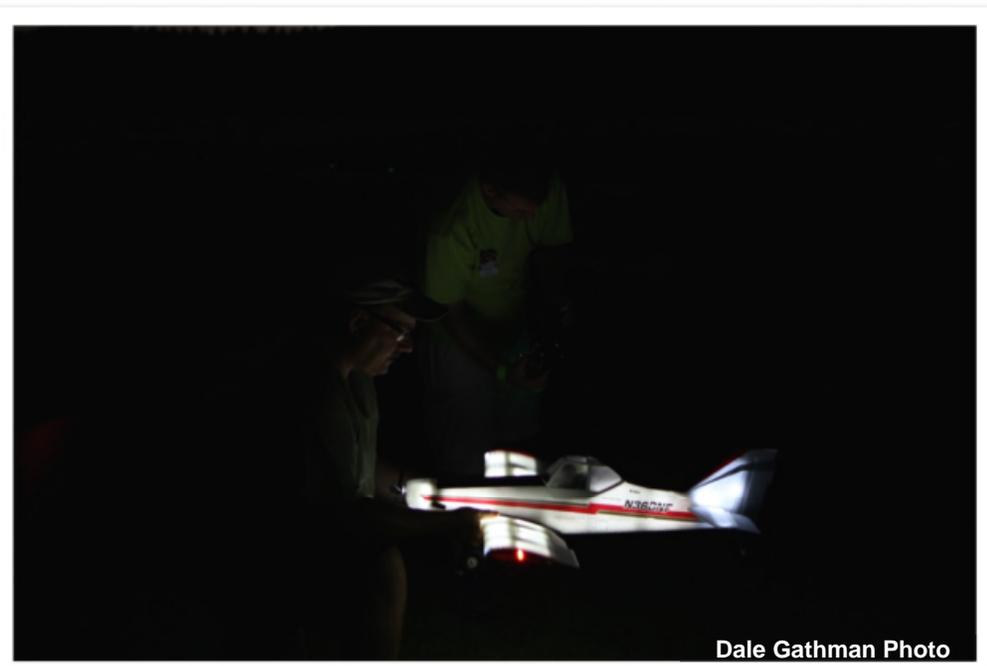




Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



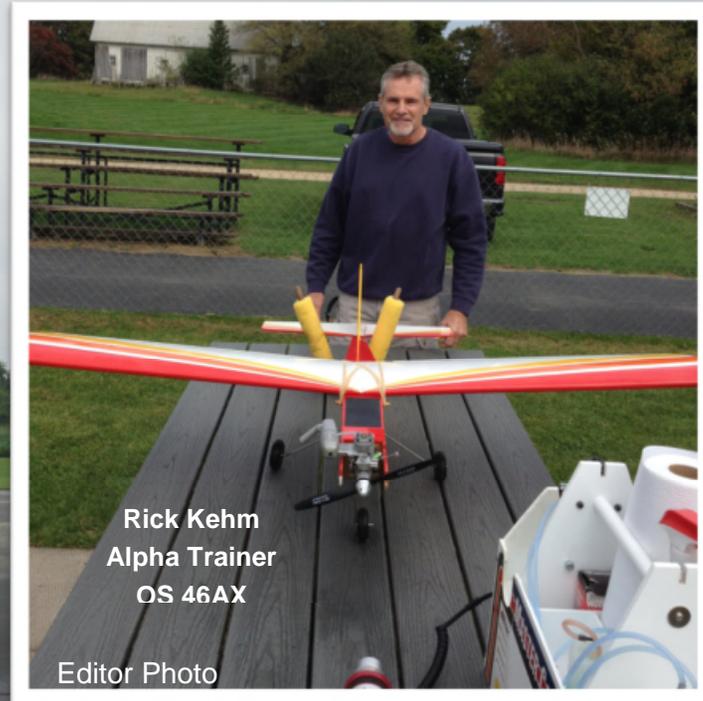
Dale Gathman Photo



Dale Gathman Photo



# SHOTS from the Field



Rick Kehm  
Alpha Trainer  
OS 46AX

Editor Photo



Editor Photo

Editors note: This photo was taken months ago and I apologize I lost my notes with the details. What I do recall is that this pilot flew his plane with some of the most graceful precision I have ever seen, and this bird screams! If this photo is you, please let me know your name and the plane's details and we will get the photo published proper!

# SHOTS in the Air

Dale Gathman Photo



Orvil Fluharty  
Piper L4 Grasshopper



Dale Gathman Photo



**Vic Miller  
Fokker Eindecker**



**Dale Gathman Photo**

## Please Support your Local Hobby Shop!



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Monday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Thursday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sunday	11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

# SHOT OF THE MONTH



Dale Gathman photo

Twilight is captured during the early hours of a night fly Fun-Fly.

# FIELD OF DREAMS

Triple Tree Aerodrome takes off as South Carolina's ultimate aviation playground and classroom

BY KEITH PHILLIPS | PHOTOS BY CARROLL FOSTER

**ALAN GALLE IS MAKING HIS PREFLIGHT CHECKS WHEN A FELLOW RC pilot passing by nods in admiration of the red-white-and-blue Super Decathlon parked alongside the grass runway of Triple Tree Aerodrome.**

"Have a nice flight," the man says with a friendly wave.

"Thanks!" Galle answers, but his eyes never leave his pride and joy—a 47-percent-scale replica of the venerable civilian airplane. With spotter George Carmen standing by, Galle manipulates the twin joysticks on his transmitter and watches the plane's

ailerons, rudder and elevators waggle in response.

After priming the engine, he spins the propeller counter-clockwise. Once. Twice. A third time. On the fourth try, the 170 cc, two-cylinder engine sparks to life, and the men take positions on opposite sides of the fuselage, holding the aircraft stationary as Galle performs the final check by revving the engine to full power.

With the plane ready for flight, Carmen raises a signal pole to announce their takeoff to other pilots and spotters. Making sure the runway is clear, Galle nudges the throttle, smiling as he watches the Decathlon roll forward, execute a sharp, 90-degree turn and begin a smooth takeoff roll. Within seconds, the tail is up and the plane leaps skyward, climbing at full power to find its place in a squadron of RC planes orbiting the skies over the 400-acre airfield near Woodruff.

**GO BIG, OR GO HOME** Alan Galle of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, takes his newest RC plane out for a spin at the Triple Tree Aerodrome. The giant-scale replica of a classic taildragger is the third model plane he's owned. "I love it," Galle says. "I just wanted to fly something unusual. Something different. Something big."



KEITH PHILLIPS

## Build it, and they will come

Welcome to Joe Nall Week, one of the world's biggest fly-ins for RC pilots. Organized and hosted by the volunteers of Triple Tree Aerodrome, the annual event draws more than 13,000 people from around the world for a family-friendly celebration of aviation, says Rob Traynham, the airfield's volunteer spokesman.

"In the RC modeling world, this is the premier event," he says. "Our guests are always just so happy to be at Triple Tree."

Throughout the week, an incredible array of model aircraft, covering every era and style of flight, crowds the taxiways and fills the skies at Triple Tree. From sunrise to



**READY FOR TAKE OFF** The power-to-weight ratio of 3D aerobatic model airplanes makes them capable of extreme maneuvers, including vertical tail stands where the aircraft hover like a helicopter. Pilots sometimes compete to see who can dip the lowest without touching the ground.

sunset, the whoosh of miniature jet engines rises above the roar of propeller-driven craft and the electric whine of the latest in quadcopter drones. At the main viewing gazebo, where Galle is piloting his giant-scale Cessna, a visitor may see biplanes, World War II bombers, modern fighter jets—even an executive business jet—all sharing the skies in a freestyle aerobatic ballet.

The airfield itself, served by Laurens Electric Cooperative, is a thing of beauty. Owned and operated by a non-profit educational foundation, it boasts one of the world's longest grass runways—7,000 feet long by 400 feet wide; big enough to land full-sized airplanes, even some jets. The control tower, used during general-aviation fly-ins, is a tangible piece of South Carolina aviation history. It previously stood over Donaldson Air Force Base in Greenville, where countless B-25 pilots trained during World War II.

Everything else on site—including campgrounds with RV hookups, bathroom and shower facilities, a beautiful wooden pavilion and a 52-acre lake for RC floatplanes—has been custom-built since 1998, thanks to the vision

and generosity of Triple Tree founder Pat Hartness and the tireless work of a tight group of volunteers and supporters.

The Hartness family has a long connection with aviation in South Carolina, and young Pat grew up building and flying RC model planes before eventually learning to fly the

full-size ones. After a long career in the bottling business, Hartness decided to give something back to the aviation community. He purchased a former cotton farm on the banks of the Enoree River, built the ultimate airfield and then deeded it to the 501(c)3 educational nonprofit.

Today, a cadre of 100 dedicated volunteers maintains the facility, working to fulfill the foundation's mission "to ignite and expand the passion for aviation." That includes maintaining a hangar filled with an impressive collection of vintage aircraft and running what Traynham calls "the heart of the operation," a brand-new educational center with classrooms and flight simulators designed to teach visiting school groups, Boy Scout troops and civic clubs about the wonders of flight. ▶▶ [PAGE 20]

# HIGH-FLYING

Images from Joe Nall Week 2016



**THE NEED FOR SPEED** Powered by a four-cylinder engine, the “Galloping Ghost” P-51 replica is one of the fastest RC planes in the sky. Sponsored by a manufacturer of model-plane parts and accessories, pilot Otto Widroither of Munich, Germany, travels to international RC events to fly demonstrations and always enjoys Triple Tree Aerodrome. “I’ve been all over the world, but this is the best,” he says.

KEITH PHILLIPS



**HARD AT PLAY** RC flying buddies Keefe Lemmon (left) and Stanley Johnson, both from Tennessee, enjoy their fifth visit to Joe Nall Week. As pilots of large-scale, 3D aerobatic planes, they appreciate the wide-open airspace of Triple Tree Aerodrome. “This is heaven for RC pilots,” Johnson says.



**OUT FOR A SPIN** FPV quadcopters are the newest form of radio-controlled flying featured at Joe Nall Week. FPV stands for first-person view. Pilots maneuver the tiny drones through obstacle courses by watching a live video feed from the drone’s camera on headset goggles or flat-screen video monitors.



## IN MEMORY OF JOE NALL

A tribute wall inside the main Triple Tree Aerodrome hangar complex commemorates Joseph Trippe Nall, the namesake of the annual RC fly-in. Nall was a Furman University classmate of Pat Hartness, and the men shared a lifelong love of aviation and RC flying. Until his death in 1989, Nall served as the master of ceremonies at annual RC events in South Carolina.



## FOUNDING FATHER OF TRIPLE TREE

Pat Hartness (left), the chief architect of Triple Tree Aerodrome, poses for a picture with his son and fellow pilot, Sean Hartness.

# FUN



**FUN ON THE WATER** Harold and Melinda LaVere of Delaware take advantage of the 52-acre lake at Triple Tree Aerodrome to fly their RC float plane. The lightweight craft runs on batteries and gets about 10 minutes of flight time on a single charge. In winter, the couple replaces the pontoons with skis to land on ice and snow.



**LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON** Steve Hoyt and his son, Quin, drove from Panama City, Florida, to fly their RC float plane at Triple Tree Aerodrome during Joe Nall Week. "We're very lucky to have a place like this," Steve Hoyt says. "They go out of their way to make sure you have a good time." At age 9, Quin is already an accomplished pilot, capable of delicate water takeoffs and landings and switching out the batteries in the plane without his father's help. "I've been doing it since I was 5," he says.

**FLYING COLORS** Keith Sessions serves as the chief financial officer of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), but, like every other pilot at Joe Nall Week, his primary mission is fun and fellowship. "We have friends that we see only once a year, and this is the place we see them," he says. "For model airplanes, this is the biggest event." A 1990 graduate of Clemson University, Sessions decorates his Yak 54 3D aerobatic plane with the team colors and tiger paw logo.



**INSIDE THE HANGAR** During Joe Nall Week and other fly-in events, visitors are invited to explore the airfield's hangar complex, which contains vintage military, civilian and RC aircraft used in Triple Tree's educational programs.



**WORKING HOLIDAY** Rob McClanahan of Dayton, Ohio, readies his jet-powered replica of a Chinese J-10 fighter for takeoff. When he's not flying unmanned airplanes for fun, Capt. McClanahan is working on them as an engineer in the U.S. Air Force. "My experience growing up flying RC planes helped land me my job in the military," he says.

**GET MORE** For more information on Triple Tree Aerodrome, the educational mission and upcoming RC and general aviation events, visit [tripletreeaerodrome.com](http://tripletreeaerodrome.com).

For the safety and security of guests, access to all events is limited to members of aviation organizations and their guests. "It's not that we're trying to be private or exclusive," says spokesman Rob Traynham. "It's the fact that there are only about 100 volunteers. A large, public crowd would overwhelm us. In the pure interest of safety, we want our guests to be at least tuned into aviation a little bit. We want everyone that attends to have fun and be safe."

The easiest way to be a part of the fun is to join the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) at [modelaircraft.org](http://modelaircraft.org). Adult memberships are \$75 a year; youth memberships are free. Through AMA, prospective RC pilots can link up with one of 36 model-airplane clubs in South Carolina. Many even have introductory programs for new AMA members.

# TRIPLE TREE FLY-IN

Of the 12 general-aviation and RC events held at the airfield each year, the Triple Tree Fly-In may rival Joe Nall Week for sheer spectacle and fun. For five days each fall, the grass strip becomes one of the busiest airfields in South Carolina when more than 800 private pilots navigate their way to the aerodrome to show off their planes, talk shop, socialize and enjoy

tent camping along the banks of the Enoree River.

The collection of aircraft on display runs the gamut from everyday civilian craft to World War II trainers, fighters and cargo planes, experimental ultralight planes and even helicopters. There's also an occasional flying boat, like the Republic Seabee RC-3 flown in from North Carolina by Edgar "E.T." Tello and his wife, Melissa.

Melissa Tello says the couple enjoys the relaxed environment of the close-knit aviation community.

"It's so cool to come here," she says. "The neat thing about pilots is that it takes a certain caliber of person. You know they are grounded. You don't worry about theft or anything. You've got good people simply by the fact of their love of aviation and the diligence it takes to become a pilot."

Tom Smith of Sarasota, Florida, made his



**LENDING A HAND** John Helmke, one of the volunteers who worked the 2016 Triple Tree Fly-In, guided planes down the taxiway the old-fashioned way. As a pilot, he'd rather be flying but volunteers his time on the ground, making sure visiting aviators enjoy the weekend. "I do this as a labor of love," he says.

first visit to Triple Tree in a restored 1942 Vultee BT-15 Valiant, a two-seat trainer built for the U.S. military during World War II.

Smith says he enjoyed camping out on the airfield with hundreds of his fellow pilots and getting to meet Triple Tree founder Pat Hartness.

"Quite a guy, quite a vision," Smith says of the Triple Tree team. "They're doing it right, and everybody loves to come here because of it."



**POINT OF PRIDE** Pilot Tom Smith of Sarasota, Florida, displays his 1942 Vultee BT-15 Valiant, a World War II military trainer. Smith's plane is one of only four BT-15s still flying.



**THE BIG ATTRACTION** Tinker Belle, a 1944 Curtiss C-46F transport plane brought to the 2016 Triple Tree Fly-In by the volunteers of Warriors and Warbirds, stole the show. The flying museum, owned by the city of Monroe, North Carolina, is dedicated to the men and machines that flew "The Hump," a treacherous World War II supply route over the Himalaya mountains between India and China. Pilot Tom Mulcrone says the restored cargo hauler, rescued from the scrap yard at Tinker Air Force Base decades ago, is the only C-46 still flying in the lower 48 states.

**[FROM PAGE 17]** "Triple Tree is intended to give them an aviator's field of dreams," he says. "It's designed to be the ultimate environment where kids, and I say kids of all ages, can get plugged into aviation in all its forms."

## Big-boy toys

Plugging into RC aviation is what Joe Nall Week is all about. The airfield is large enough that organizers can give each segment of the hobby a dedicated space to play.

Near the control tower, there's a field for control-line planes, beginner-friendly, string-controlled aircraft that can inexpensively launch a young pilot's interest in RC modeling. At the lower end of the runway, the pilots of large-scale, 3D aerobatic airplanes have all the space they need to perform low-altitude twists, loops, dives, rolls, spins, stalls—even vertical tail stands in which the planes hover like helicopters just inches off the ground. Moving up the runway,

there's a dedicated section for battery-powered planes, and over on the lake, RC floatplanes skim across the water on takeoffs and landings.

At the center of the airfield, in front of the main viewing gazebo, you'll find pilots flying everything from \$200 off-the-shelf planes to custom, giant-scale aircraft costing \$20,000 or more. Attendees also gather here to watch the world's top pilots and RC-flying teams perform aerobatic demonstrations, often set to music. Near the entrance gate, visitors can explore the world of RC helicopters and the newest kid-friendly rage—first-person video quadcopters.

For visiting pilots like Jacob Helber of Richmond, Texas, meeting his fellow pilots and learning about other forms of RC flying is all part of the appeal.

"You get to talk to people from all over," he says. "I think I have more fun walking around and watching other planes than I do flying." ☺

# 2016 Fox Valley Aero Club Calendar of Events

January 1	<b>Fun-Fly — Frozen Fingers</b>	10:00 am FVAC Field
January 14	FVAC Member Meeting	7:30 Regular at Township Hall
February 11	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
February 20	<b>FVAC Annual Swap Meet</b>	9:00-2:00 Kane County Fair Grounds
March 10	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
April 14	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
April 16	<b>Field Work Day</b>	9:00 am FVAC Field
April 23	<b>Tree Line/Berm Orientation Day</b>	9:00 am – 5:00 pm - FVAC Field
May 1	<b>Batavia Loyalty Day Parade</b>	Time TBD, Parade Begins at 1:30
May 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
May 21	<b>Fun-Fly – 30 Second Climb/Target Land</b>	1:00-3:00 FVAC Field
May 30	<b>St. Charles Memorial Day Parade</b>	Time TBD
June 4	<b>Rocket Fest &amp; Kids Fly</b>	FVAC Field
June 5	<b>Pig Roast &amp; Fun-Fly</b>	FVAC Field
June 9	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field
June 23-25	<b>2016 Windy City Warbirds &amp; Classics</b>	FVAC Field
June 26	<b>Open Fly – Small Scale</b>	FVAC Field
July 14	<b>Retro Fly</b> and FVAC Member Meeting	Retro Fly 2:00; Meetings- 6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field
July 16	<b>Fun-Fly – Bomb Drop</b>	1:00-3:00 FVAC Field
August 6	<b>Festival of Flight</b>	FVAC Field
August 11	<b>Cub Fly</b> and FVAC Member Meeting	Cub Fly 2:00; Meetings- 6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field
August 13	<b>Night Fly – AMA Sanctioned - Open</b>	8:00 pm FVAC Field
September 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
September 17	<b>Night Fly</b>	9:00 pm FVAC Field
October 13	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
October 16	<b>Turkey Fry &amp; Fun-Fly - Limbo</b>	FVAC Field
November 10	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
December 2	<b>Annual Christmas Party</b>	6:00 Hilton Garden Inn-St. Charles
December 8	<b>Rookies Christmas Party</b>	Rookies Sports Bar & Grill-St. Charles



# FVAC NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

**New Member Assessment Fee: \$300.00** (For new memberships only.)  
Does not include dues.

- Dues for Senior Members (18 years and over)** ..... \$125.00 per Member
- Dues for Junior Members (17 years and under)** ..... \$ 25.00 per Member
- Family Membership** ..... \$125.00 per Member  
*(\$25 for each additional family member with an AMA card, either a spouse or a child under 18 years old.)*

**Yes**    Include me in the member only phone book                       **No**    Do not publish my information

PLEASE PRINT

Your Full Name:	AMA Number:	Age: <small>(Junior Members only)</small>	Dues Amount:
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____

**Your Complete Mailing Address:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please list the R/C channel(s) you use:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Work Mailing Address:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Phone Number/s:**  
**Home:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Work:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

What is Your Occupation? (Please provide details)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment Enclosed:**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_



***Complete and mail this form to:***  
**FOX VALLEY AERO CLUB**  
**P.O. BOX 837**  
**ST. CHARLES, IL 60174-0837**



***Make checks payable to:***  
**"Fox Valley Aero Club"**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date