

# FLY PAPER



October 2021

The Flypaper is a monthly publication of

## The Fox Valley Aero Club

An Illinois not-for-profit Corporation

P.O. Box 837  
St. Charles, IL 60174-0837

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AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics  
Charter Club #252

## Retro Day!

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Steve Gawlik with his Goldberg Skylane 62. Built by Steve in 1982 to teach his brother-in-law how to fly. Powered by a Como .51 engine. He also has a set of floats for it.



Doug Swanson photo

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## President's Message

**Dale Gathman**

president@foxvalleyaero.com

**Festival of Flight** – Our Festival of Flight was a success, and a lot of fun. We had good attendance, were able to welcome spectators again, and even made a little money in the process. My thanks go out to all of the volunteers who helped at the event, as well as all of the pilots who brought their planes and flew for the spectators. We welcomed all active and veteran military as well as police/



Dale Gathman photo



2021 Festival of Flight

fire personnel in for free as we usually do, and it was great seeing so many veterans in attendance. We received many positive comments from attendees as they were leaving for the day. Thanks to Jim Thompson for coordinating the event. It takes a lot of club members to have an event of this caliber, and you, our club members, did another fantastic job.

**Tailgate Swap** – Our first 'sanctioned' tailgate swap went very well. We had around 35 sellers, a fair number of shoppers, and a great time of camaraderie with our members and visitors. We hope to do this again next year and feel that if we do a little more advertising next year, we can draw more shoppers. One of our members mentioned that it takes three or four years for an event like this to 'catch on', so we will hope for an even better event next year.

**Fun Fly #3** – Thanks go to Jeff Peca for organizing all three of our Fun Flies this year. The third one was a somewhat modified 'Climb-N-Glide', and Jeff's changes made it very interesting. We also had a great lunch following, along with raffle prizes. If you have not been able to attend any of our Fun Flies, be sure to give them a try next year.

**Turkey Fry** – As I am writing this article, I am looking forward to the Turkey Fry on Saturday the 9th of October. The Fry is our last



Dale Gathman photo

Magical photo from the future: Turkey Fry 2021

event at the field each year, and while we celebrate another fun year of Flying. It also reminds me that winter is

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just around the corner. The winter season does bring time for building and fixing aircraft that it is hard to spend time on when the weather is nice. If you are mainly a foam flyer, I would encourage you to try your hand at building a kit plane, or maybe start out with a good ARF. Doing these types of projects helps keep us involved in the hobby all year round.

**Opportunity to Serve the Club** – Serving on the Board of Directors is a great way to help your club out and to get to know the inner workings of the club. We always welcome anyone who would like to run for At-Large Director or for any of the Officer positions to have someone nominate you. Our election process starts with open nominations at our October Member Meeting, and then again at our November Member Meeting. The Election takes place via electronic vote shortly after. Give some thought to the possibility of joining the board for 2022. If you have any questions about serving in this capacity, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing you at the Member Meeting on Thursday, October 14 at 7:30pm. We will be meeting at the St. Charles Township building. Hope to see you there.

Dale



XFly T-7A Red Hawk  
64mm EDF Jet

## From the Editor

Doug Swanson

newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com

Hello, everyone. Fall is here, and I'm not sure where the summer went. As usual, I didn't make it out to the field as much as I had hoped. I've had a cold the last week, which refuses to completely go away. As a result, I had to miss our Turkey Fry. It was great weather—I hope everyone enjoyed lots of great food and flying.

As far as the *FlyPaper* goes, my production of it will end with this year. I wish I could help out for another year or two, but I just don't have the time available to work on it. I truly enjoy putting it together, and hope to revisit the position later. If you are interested in taking it over, please let myself or President Dale know of your intentions.

Put your own mark on the publication, and have some fun with it—it really is rewarding!

Thank you to the contributors this month. Dale Gathman came through with photos again, and Armin Weber submitted photos taken by member Jason Rigney of his P-51—see them on page 7. Jeff Peca has submitted a report of Fun Fly # 3—see it on page 10.

I hope to see you at the flying field a few more times before the snow flies! Take care, Doug



## Watcha got?

The *FlyPaper* is always looking for content! Send your builds, tips, and tricks for inclusion in this newsletter to: newsletter@foxvalleyaero.com

# Retro Day

*Report and photos by: Doug Swanson*

The 2021 edition of Retro Day was held on August 28th.

It was an extremely hot day, with temperatures/heat indices in the 90's. As a result, most pilots who attended got their flights in early and left for the comfort of air conditioning. A few (brave?) souls sweated it out and stayed for the entire allotted time. Luckily, we did have our normal cross wind, albeit only about a 10 mph one, but it did help with some comfort in the shade.

I counted 8 pilots participating, who brought out a combined 14 aircraft to fly.

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The author's EZ Sportsman 25L with O.S. .25 FP engine and Futaba 9V PCM 1024 radio.

Kevin Hersey brought two aircraft: An E-Flite Ultimate Foamy with a GWS NiMH 730 mAH battery and a Sig Kadet with an O.S. .40 nitro powerplant.





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I brought out a couple of portable canopies and set up some tables for the 'Retro Museum', which displayed items from my collection as well as items from a few others' collections as well.

Each pilot got in at least one flight with each of their aircraft, with most aircraft being flown multiple times. I am not aware of any aircraft casualties that day.

If you haven't thought about flying something from 'back in the day', you might give it some thought. There's plenty of time to get something ready for next year's *Retro Day*. You might be surprised what is available on Ebay or estate/garage sales. I got on a kick several years ago to buy back all of the different Futaba radios that I had flown with since I started flying R/C back in the late 80's. Some visits to Ebay, and I had brand new versions of the radios I was looking for. Then, buying some older aircraft followed, along with the nitro engines to power them. As in the sidebar at right, the options are endless, and remember, 'Retro' is a relative term.

I hope to see you next year, for Retro Day 2022! ✈

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Jeff Mrachek brought three aircraft to Retro Day.

1. 20-year-old Sig ¼-scale Clipped Wing Cub with DLE 20.
2. P-51 Profile. Control Line R/C conversion from a Charlie Bauer kit. O.S. .46 LA power, 50" wingspan. \*Second plane ever! – flight #620 at Retro Day.
3. Ultra Stik mini. Flight #346 at Retro Day. 3S 1300 battery and E-Flite 450 motor.



### What is Retro Day?

Retro Day is an informal gathering where we operate and reminisce about aircraft and equipment from the good 'ole days—whenever that may be to you. 'Retro' is a relative term, and is up to the individual as to what equipment qualifies to them. Some fly with a complete setup of vintage equipment, while others may fly old aircraft equipped with updated radio equipment or powerplants. There aren't really any rules for the day (except if you're flying 72mhz—frequency board!) and the whole point is to have fun.

# Retro Day



R. Thomas Flint (RTF) Goldberg Cub 40 O.S. .70 F.S. Has custom-built flaps. What— Flaps on a Cub?



Mike Giovachini brought an old World Engines transmitter from the early 70s for display.



Dale Gathman with a Great Planes P.T. 40 Kit, powered by an O.S. F.S .56a. Also, two ParkZone warbirds, each powered with 3S 1800 packs.



Kevin Kessler dressed the part. He poses with a Kraft radio and his 1/3-scale Cub. No, he didn't fly with that radio. Maybe next year...



Cliff Fullhart and his Top Flite Contender with O.S. .46 and Tower Hobbies 72 mHZ radio.



Armin Weber shared photos of his P-51, which were taken by Jason Rigney.

The model is a Hangar 9 Mustang 90" ARF. Stripped and fiberglassed, and painted with latex. Construction started by Sal Perno and completed by Armin. DA 60, Sierra retracts.





## Secretary's Report

**Debbie Howe** secretary@foxvalleyaero.com

Fox Valley Aero Club  
Member Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2021 at  
St. Charles Township Hall

**President** – Dale Gathman called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm and welcomed everyone.

**Secretary** – Debbie Howe was out of town. President Dale Gathman asked for any additions or corrections to the August 12, 2021 Member Meeting Minutes. None were voiced and Steve Haas moved to accept the minutes as presented. Bill Suhr seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer** – Joe Pedone reported that the checkbook balance is in great shape. We hope to get a little income in from the Festival of Flight this month. Joe also reminded everyone that the checkbook is open to the club members for review at any time. John Fischer moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Dave Cotton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Safety Chairman** – Jeff Peca reported that the AMA Model Aviation magazine published a good article about the AMA insurance which covers each member. It reminded that the AMA insurance is secondary insurance to the member's other liability insurance (usually homeowners or umbrella). Jeff mentioned that typically if the insured's primary insurance will not cover an accident, then the AMA insurance would become the primary. (This article can be found on page 104 of the 09/2021 issue of Model Aviation). Larry Grela recommended getting an umbrella policy in addition to our homeowner's policy, as the umbrella policies are pretty inexpensive. Joe Pedone recommended that everyone remember to range check their airplanes due to a rash of planes lost in the past few months. Jim Thompson stated that a Facebook friend of his who is an RC

pilot and very good builder lost his shop and all of his RC equipment in a fire. The pilot believes it was caused by a LiPo battery. Jim recommends that everyone double check where they store their LiPo stock. Jeff Peca recommended that we get a LiPo expert to come to a meeting and talk to us about LiPo safety.

**Government Relations Chairman** – Tom Spriet was not in attendance but reported through Dale that there has not been much going on with Government Relations.

**Membership Chairman** – Dave Cotton reported that we have a total of 207 members now (2 lifetime, 9 honorary and 22 junior members). We have three new members this month: Ethan Smercina (junior member), Chuck Kocan and Walt Catlow. Walt addressed the members stating that he was a member of the club between the years 1985 and 1999, and then bought a full-scale Cessna and was involved in full scale for 20 plus years. He is now tapering off on that and getting back into RC. Walt is rejuvenating some of his 25-year-old engines. Jeff Peca announced that if you look at Walt's name badge, it has red stars on both sides of his name. Members whose name badge has these red stars have been members for a long time and Jeff says that "they deserve respect". Welcome new members!

**Field Chairman** – Mark Knopkie reported that the field is in good shape for the Festival this weekend. Mark obtained an additional regular Porta Potty and got the handicap Porta Potty replaced, as the previous one had a bent door and was not closing completely. The members thanked Mark for his work on the field and showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

**Flypaper Editor** – Doug Swanson was not at the meeting. The group expressed their appreciation for another great issue.

**Public Relations Chairman** – Tom Flint reported that we had a great Cub Fly Day and Dave Murray even flew a full-scale Cub over the field. Dave plans to fly his wonderful A-10 Warthog turbine jet at our Festival of Flight. Tom said that Dave would

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fly a full-scale A-10 for the event, but the price to rent one was a little more than he was willing to pay. Tom said that next year, we will have additional challenges at the Cub Fly, and everyone has to come so that we can meet our goal of having 50 Cubs at the event.

**Fun Fly #3 – Climb and Glide** – Jeff Peca reported that our last Fun Fly of the year is Sunday, September 19 from 11:00am till 1:00 pm. It will be a variation of the Climb and Glide. You can climb as high as you like, and then land in as close to 30 seconds as you can. If you touch down in a marked spot, there will be a bonus. For this last Fun Fly, we will be having Cheeseburgers, Hamburgers, Sausages, salads, baked beans, and chips for lunch.

**Family Fly** – Dale Gathman reported that Family Fly was very successful. We had a steady flow of guests come out to try their hand on the buddy box. Dale said that thanks go out to all of the pilots and spotters who helped out, and especially Todd Culbertson. Todd makes the day special for our guests by welcoming them to the club, explaining how RC works before their flight, and even lets them try out his RC Flight Simulator which he brings to the field.

**Retro Fly** – Dale Gathman reported that Doug Swanson held our annual Retro Fly again this year, and one of the things that Dale enjoyed the most is seeing Cliff Fullhart's articles in old magazines which show his award-winning planes. The best thing is that Cliff still has some of these planes.

**Festival of Flight** – Jim Thompson reported that this Saturday, September 11 is the event. This year we will be open to the public, and we plan to sell food and the remainder of our t-shirts. We will be having a noon show, starting with a Color Guard and the National Anthem. The airshow will be the Parade of Planes, which will cover the history of flight as best we can. The Festival allows

all types and sizes of aircraft to fly. Jeff Peca and Scott Stampfli plan to do a special comedy routine during the noon show.

**Tailgate Swap Meet** – Our Tailgate Swap will be Saturday, September 18. Mike Maciejewski showed a drawing of the parking plan and said that any vehicles with trailers will be parked on a 20-degree angle on the south side, and cars and trucks will be parked straight on the north side of the parking area. We will need parking help, and Debbie Howe will be manning the admission gate at the beginning of our gravel drive. Vendor fee will be \$10.00 per vehicle or vehicle/trailer combo. The field will be open to flying to our members only. All pilots flying during the swap need to keep their planes south of the runway centerline. Vendors will get wristbands to show that they paid.

**Turkey Fry** – The Turkey Fry is coming October 9. Dale said that Tom Spriet may not be able to attend, so Karl Griesbaum may need some additional help this year. (Since the meeting, we were informed that Tom will be at the Turkey Fry).

**Christmas Party** – We are currently looking into our options as far as the Christmas Party. We will be making a decision on whether we have it or not as soon as more information is received from the Hilton Garden Inn.

**2022 Election** – Dale Gathman reminded everyone that nominations for Officer and At Large Director positions will be open at both the October and November

Member Meetings. If you ever wanted to get more involved in the operations of the club, this is your chance to have someone nominate you for a position. If anyone has questions about the board, contact Dale Gathman or any of the board members.

**Show-N-Tell** – Mel Ziska showed his new *Fantasia*. It is a 70-size and has a flying Stab. The plane is made by BJ Craft and is an ARF, to a certain extent. It has a 17x10 Falcon



Mel Ziska and his Fantasia

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Carbon-Fiber prop, with an E-flite motor. There were some modifications to the motor mount. It uses two batteries—one for the receiver and one for the motor power. The fuselage has a 'V' cut in the bottom to help the aerodynamics and stiffening of the fuselage. The plane is very light, and the flight is rock solid. Mel also has the larger one of these that is F3A qualified, and that one does not have the flying stab, but the front chin is articulated. This is a beautiful plane.

Hearing no further business, President Dale Gathman asked for a motion to adjourn. **Sal Perno** moved to adjourn. **Jeff Peca** seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dale Gathman for Debbie Howe – Secretary FVAC

*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.*

## Fun Fly #3

Report by Jeff Peca

Our final FunFly of the season was held on September 12th. We had 22 pilots sign up for the Climb and Glide. The goal was to get your airplane as high as you want and cut the throttle, glide for 30 seconds and aim for a bonus spot landing. We flew 3 rounds and dropped the lowest score. The competition was tight with only 5 points separating first from fifth. The top five results were:

1 Jeff Mrachek	238/240 Pts
2 Orvil Fluharty	237 Pts
3 Rob Sampson	235 Pts
3 Jeff Peca	235 Pts
4 John Anzalone	234 Pts
5 Dale Gathman	233 Pts

With the contest complete we turned our attention to food. For this Funfly we served Italian Sausage and Angus Burgers masterfully prepared by Glenn Larocco. The Real Housewives of Fox Valley West also provided salads, baked beans and desserts. It was without a doubt our best FunFly lunch this season. I hope everyone enjoyed it.

After lunch we held our FunFly Raffle. This time we included our judges Dave Cotton and Jim Hari and our Chef for the day Glenn Larocco. In addition to the club buying a \$20.00, \$30.00 and \$50.00 gift cards, Jeremy at HobbyTown in St. Charles was again very generous with donating another \$100.00 gift card. A big thank you also goes to Mark Knoppkie for donating a Seagull Models T-6A Texan II for the raffle. The results of the raffle were:

Orvil Fluharty	\$20.00
Dale Gathman	\$30.00
Wayne Mallaber	\$50.00
Rob Sampson	\$100.00
Cliff Fullhart	Seagull Models T-6A Texan II

I would like to thank all of the pilots and workers that made FunFlies this year a huge success. A special thanks to Jeremy at HobbyTown for supporting our FunFlies all summer long. Please remember Jeremy when looking for your next airplane. ➔

January 1	<b>Fun-Fly — Frozen Fingers</b>	10:00 am FVAC Field
January 14	FVAC Member Meeting	6:00 Board, 7:30 Member Zoom
February 11	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member Zoom
February 20	<b>FVAC Annual Swap Meet</b>	CANCELED
March 11	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member Zoom
April 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member Zoom
April 17	<b>Field Workday</b>	9:00 – FVAC Field
May 8	<b>Tree Line/Berm Orientation Day</b>	9:00 – 3:00 – FVAC Field
May 13	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member Zoom
May 23	<b>Fun-Fly – #1 – 1-minute Timed Flight</b>	11:00 – 1:00 – FVAC Field
May 31	<b>St. Charles Memorial Day Parade</b>	CANCELED
June 10	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
June 12	<b>FVAC Cookout (formerly pig roast)</b>	12:00 – FVAC Field
June 17-19	<b>2021 Windy City Warbirds &amp; Classics</b>	FVAC Field
June 20	<b>Open Fly – All Scale (TBD)</b>	FVAC Field (TBD)
July 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
July 11	<b>Fun-Fly – #2 – Bomb Drop</b>	11:00 – 1:00 – FVAC Field
August 7	<b>Cub Fly – AMA Sanctioned</b>	9:00 – 1:00 Cubs Only - FVAC Field
August 7	<b>Electric Only – AMA Sanctioned</b>	1:00 – 6:00 Electric Only – FVAC Field
August 7	<b>Night Fly – AMA Sanctioned</b>	6:00 - Midnight - FVAC Field
August 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
August 14	<b>Family Fly Day</b>	9:00 – 1:00 - FVAC Field
August 28	<b>Retro Fly</b>	9:00 – 3:00 - FVAC Field
Sept 9	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
Sept 11	<b>Festival of Flight</b>	9:00 – 5:00 – FVAC Field
Sept 18	<b>FVAC Tailgate Swap Meet – Sanctioned</b>	9:00 – 1:00 – FVAC Field
Sept 19	<b>Fun-Fly – #3 – Climb and Glide</b>	11:00 – 1:00 – FVAC Field
October 9	<b>Turkey Fry</b>	12:00 – FVAC Field
October 14	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
November 11	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
December 4	<b>Annual Christmas Party</b>	6:00 Hilton Garden Inn – St. Charles
December 9	<b>Rookies Christmas Party</b>	7:00 Rookies Sports Bar & Grill – St. Charles

# Fox Valley Aero Club Flight Boundary Map

Rotary-wing  
Aircraft Only  
Area

Forest  
Preserve  
Property

Western Boundary - First Tree Line

Flight Area (unshaded, red boundary)

Eastern Boundary - Base of  
Police Gun Range Berm

Police  
Gun Range

9-1-1  
Dispatch  
Center

Red shaded area =  
No-Fly Zone

# FVAC NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

- Dues for Senior Members (19 years and over) ..... \$125.00 per Member
- Dues for Junior Members (18 years and under) ..... \$ 25.00 per Member
- Family Membership ..... \$125.00 1st Member  
(*\$25 for each additional family member with an AMA card, either a spouse or a child under 19 years old.*)

PLEASE PRINT

Your Full Name:

AMA Number:

Birthdate:

Dues Amount:

Include me on the club email list.

_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	_____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Complete Mailing Address:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number/s:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Work Mailing Address:

Work:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cell:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is Your Occupation: (Please provide details)

Your E-mail Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



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

**Complete and mail this form to:**

**FOX VALLEY AERO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 837  
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174-0837**



Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_