



April/May 2003

# The Fox Valley Aero Club Flypaper



April/May 2003

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## Passing the baton...

**This month's club meeting** will be held in the usual spot, the St. Charles Township Building, on Thursday the 8th at 7:30 pm.

**Fun Fly this Saturday!** Come out to the field this Saturday morning at 10:00 am for some fun with your flying buddies! The events are set up for all levels of flying skills, and it's guaranteed to be a great experience for all attendees. Bring a plane you're comfortable with, and be ready to compete. Beginner to expert, these events are always a blast. See you there!

I've been editing the Club's newsletter for a number of years now. So many, in fact, that I've lost track of exactly how many it's been. I know for certain that it's been since 1995, because I have computer files that go back that far. I think, though, that it's been a bit longer.

In any case, it's come time to pass the newsletter-and-website baton to another editor. It's with a great deal of nostalgia and not a little sadness that I do this. I was thinking tonight of all the things that have transpired in the world and in my life since I started doing this every month...

- I've had three jobs, and now for the first time I'm in sync with my boss (I'm self-employed.)
- The dot-com boom came and went, along with half my 401K
- I've made some great new friends
- I've gone through 10 or so airplanes (most worn-out, but a couple through unscheduled landings)
- My kids have grown a couple of feet
- Two US Presidents
- Monica Lewinsky, and Dolly, the cloned sheep
- Survivor, The Mole, The Bachelor, and other cultural milestones
- Y2K
- That terrible day in September of 2001, and its repercussions that will be with us when our children are our age

Of course, there were plenty of other important things that happened; I just can't remember them all. The main thing that occurs to me, though, is that this Club has always been a steady part of life, even when everything else seemed to be changing. Sure, some welcome new faces continue to join the seasoned veterans, and we're meeting in a different place now, and we might be flying from a new and even better field before too much longer. But this Club has been, and I'm sure will always be, a place of camaraderie, fun and fellowship that we all can share, whatever else life holds in store.

It's been a great pleasure and a privilege to bring you the **Flypaper**. See you at the field!

*Jack*

## April/May Highlights

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## Don't Forget the Sun-Block!



Did you know that ANY change in your skin

color as a result of sun exposure is a bad sign? That's right. And sun damage is cumulative, so that great tan you got in 9th grade could be the spot you get taken off your nose next year. Always protect yourself with a good hat, and a good glob of sunblock, with a high SPF number. Skin cancer is no picnic!

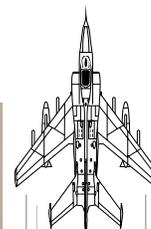
### Tips and Tricks

**Beware of "first-flight-of-the-season syndrome!"**

Check your nuts and bolts, start a new gallon of fuel, cycle your batteries, invest in a new box of rubber bands, and basically treat yourself like a beginner for the first couple of flights after a long winter's lay-off. Many a plane has been lost due to simple, avoidable oversights on the first day of a new season. Be sharp, and be safe!

## March '03 Club Meeting Minutes

by Kevin Hersey



### Fox Valley Aero Club General Business Meeting Minutes March 13, 2003

President Mel Ziska called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. at the St. Charles Township facility.

#### Secretary's Report

The February meeting minutes, as published on the club's website, were approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bill Simmons reported on the Club's assets. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

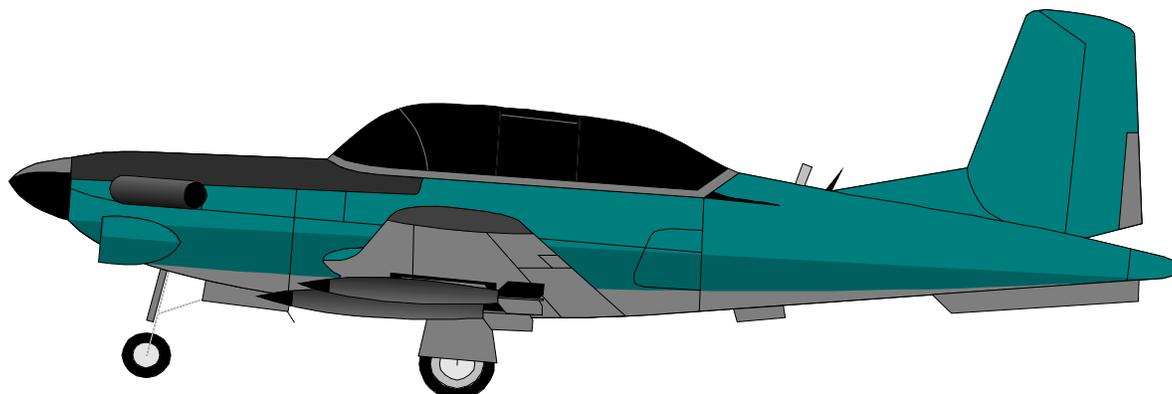
#### FIELD

**REPORT** – Lee reminded members that there is no food or drink allowed in the meeting room.

*"...there is concern that unauthorized people have entered the area..."*

Lee mentioned that comments had been received about locking the access gate to the field. Evidently there is concern that unauthorized people have entered the area and may drive across the soccer fields. For this reason it is requested that members lock the gate if they are leaving for the

*(Continued on page 3)*



*March 2003 Meeting Minutes, continued*

(Continued from page 2)

day and no one else is present.

**INSTRUCTION** – Dan Compton indicated that there is no training at the current time, primarily due to weather conditions. Dan mentioned that there are three buddy boxes at the field and all three have some malfunctioning component. Donations of

Futaba Conquest radios to serve as buddy boxes are solicited. If you've got an old radio that you no longer use, your gift would be appreciated.

**MEMBERSHIP –  
Membership**

Chairman Al Zabel was evasive when questioned concerning the membership totals. Al is evidently busy tallying up the membership renewals.

**SAFETY** – President Mel Ziska addressed the issue of safety in a few words...FLY SAFE!

**FLYPAPER** – Check out FoxValleyAero.com for a new look on the website. Once again thanks to Jack Henderson for his efforts in keeping the website fresh and up to date!

**EVENTS  
AND GENERAL  
BUSINESS**

**Festival** – Planning for the July Festival of Giants is getting underway. Already a full scale glider and ultra lite aircraft have been scheduled for static display. Contacts were made concerning a full size Wright Flier replica but the owners advised that it was too fragile for display purposes. A rather large scale replica is evidently available for display.

Pilot registration forms have been prepared and are close to being ready for distribution.

**Swap Shop** – On February 22, 2003 the Club swap shop was held at the Pottawnamee Park facility. Treasurer Bill Simmons indicated that this event netted approximately \$1,700. Steve Baker, Swap Shop Committee Chairman, was recognized for his fine efforts.

**Fuel Sale – Details** of the fuel sale are available at FoxValleyAero.com.

**Guest Speaker** – Mel Ziska introduced Norm Johnson. The latest Flypaper has an article on how to trim an R/C aircraft. Norm shared his

pattern flying experience and suggested the following:

1. Build the aircraft according to the instructions.
  2. Balance the aircraft to the recommended center of gravity.
  3. Balance the aircraft laterally.
  4. Trim the rudder first.
  5. Next trim the ailerons
- When properly trimmed a slow role should take 4 to 5 seconds.

Norm advised that it often would take 30 to 40 flights to properly trim the aircraft.

**Show and Tell** – George Pariza brought in a model of a PBY. George has been building on the kit for two years and it is now 99% complete. The aircraft was built from a G & P kit and George was less than complementary on the materials and design. Originally set up for 2 FP 40's, George substituted 2 Tower 46's to assure the aircraft gets out of the water. This aircraft has significant detail including panel lines that George meticulously added. George's building tip is to assemble a plastic scale model to obtain many of the scale details.

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***“Planning for the July Festival of Giants is getting underway.”***

## March 2003 Club Meeting Minutes (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

The model is painted using Perfect paint and looks great!

Cliff Fullhart brought in his Fokker DRI Triplane. This is a Great Planes ARF powered by an OS 70. Although this is an

IMAA legal aircraft it only weighs about six pounds! Cliff advises that 10 hours were required to assemble this kit and everything fit perfect. Many

favorable comments were heard concerning the excellent quality of this ARF.

Dave Murray brought in his Kangaroo powered by a Top Cat P-80 jet engine. The landing gear is designed so that this aircraft can be flown off of grass. The P-80 engine provides 18 pounds of thrust for a plane weighing 20 pounds dry. 60 ounces of Jet A fuel provides for an approximate six minute flight at full throttle. For a jet aircraft the speed envelope is broad. Dave indicates a landing speed of approximately 35 to 40 MPH with a top speed of 200 MPH. This aircraft will be flown in exhibition at the Festival.

John Meisch displayed three of his electric powered aircraft. The first was a Mountain Models Mini Flash equipped with a brushless motor. John indicates a flight time of approximately 8 to 10 minutes. The second aircraft was an E3D by Gary Wright designs. This aircraft has 420 watts of power and is equipped with a 5:1 gearbox. A flight time of 8 to 10 minutes is also expected with this aircraft. The third aircraft was framed and sheeted. Although relatively small in size the top speed on similar aircraft has been as high as 100 MPH.

John indicates that the performance of the electrics are comparable to the performance of glow powered aircraft. It will be great to see these high performance electrics at the field!

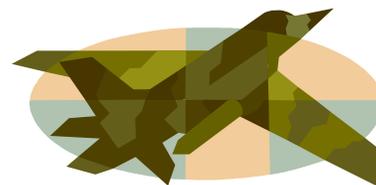
Eric Karl and Mel Ziska both brought in folding field stands for display. Eric's is a wood framed stand with an optional parts tray. The stand is fabricated by ISC and costs approximately \$80 plus \$20 for the optional tray. Mel's is a folding steel framed stand

equipped with wheels for easy transport. Although Mel was unspecific about the cost, he indicates a figure in the \$150 range.

Thanks to all the members that brought in the aircraft and aircraft related items for discussion! See you at the next meeting!

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

*Kevin Hersen*



**“Cliff Fullhart brought in his Fokker DRI Triplane.”**

## Make the Wind Your Friend

Let's face it. It's often windy in this part of the country. But that doesn't need to limit your flying days.

Most of the planes we fly can handle the wind just fine. That is to say, YOU can handle it, and frankly, it will make you a better pilot. Crosswind or straight down the runway, you can learn a lot about piloting by flying on one of those "marginal" days. Your normal, comfortable maneuvers can be a whole new challenge to fly in a crosswind. And landing into a 15 mph, gusty Chicago breeze will test your reflexes and teach you a lot about your trusty airplane.

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**Did you know...**  
The word **balsa** is Spanish. It means "raft," in reference to the wood's excellent floatation qualities. In Ecuador balsa wood is known as **Boya**, meaning "buoy."

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## April '03 Club Meeting Minutes

by Kevin Hersey

### Fox Valley Aero Club General Business Meeting Minutes April 10, 2003

President Mel Ziska called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. at the St. Charles Township facility.

#### Secretary's Report

The March meeting minutes, were read and approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bill Simmons reported on the Club's assets. Bill reported the major expenditures for the month, summarized the Club assets and provided an update on the revenue from the Swap Shop. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

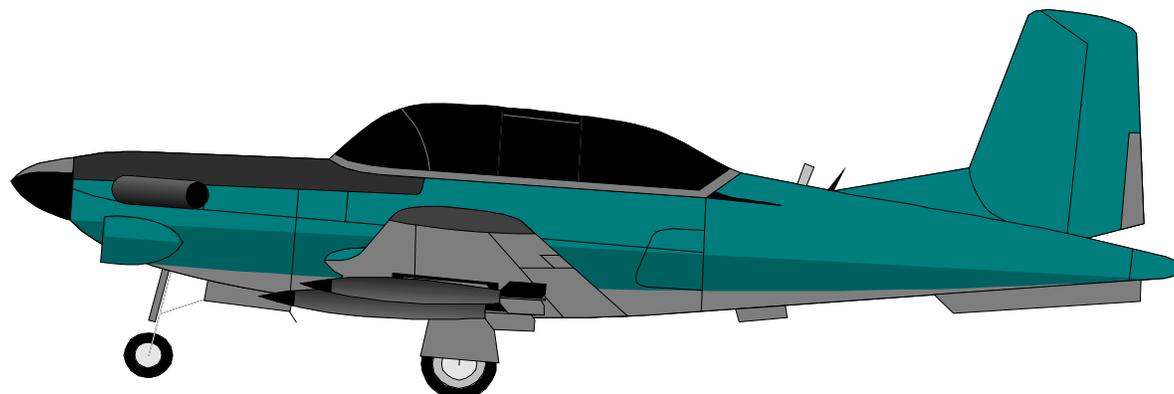
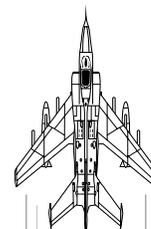
**FIELD REPORT** – Field Chairman Lee Patterson reported that the field is in good condition. A couple of the catch nets need to be replaced and a pile of mulch has been delivered to the canopy. Thanks to Paul Douds for purchasing a new flag. Old Glory is getting a little tattered and a couple volunteers are needed to scale the canopy for the flag replacement.

*"Lee Patterson reported that the field is in good condition..."*

**INSTRUCTION** – Dan Compton reported that a few novice pilots have been out. One of the inoperative buddy boxes has been repaired. Cindy of Al's Hobby Shop indicated that they would donate a new buddy box with the purchase of a buddy box at \$25. The purchase was authorized.

#### MEMBERSHIP –

*(Continued on page 6)*



*April 2003 Meeting Minutes, continued*



*(Continued from page 5)*

Membership Chairman Al Zabel was unavailable to attend the meeting. Chip Bailey was initiated into the Club. Chip is a novice pilot and has attempted R/C in the past. Please welcome Chip to the Club.

**SAFETY – Everyone** becomes a little frisky with the onset of spring.

President Mel Ziska reminded that with a new season of flying it is time to check out those batteries that have been discharging over the winter. Every year a plane or two is lost due to weak, neglected batteries.

Proper flight line etiquette is also important as more and more pilots are at the field. Follow the pattern. Stay within the air space allotted. If you are unfamiliar with the restrictions, ask a fellow Club member. If you cannot fly within the prescribed boundaries, ask for assistance from a trainer!

This years celebration of a Centennial of Flight is expected to bring more visitors to the field. Mel advises - be kind, fly nice and fly safe!

**FLYPAPER –**

Our intrepid webmaster is away on business for a couple weeks.

**CLUB PROMOTION -**

Have you been on jury duty lately or at the dentist's office. Some of the reading material is 10 years old! President Ziska provided a supply of stickers that can be affixed to your old, slightly used magazines. The sticker promotes the Club, indicating that the magazine is a donation from the FVAC. It would certainly be welcome to spend your last moments before entering the dentist's chair by reading an aviation related magazine! Magazine donations should be suitable for a general audience, if you know what I mean!

**PYLON RACING -** Jim Hagner reported that the first pylon race of the season is June 8, 2003. Volunteers are always needed to support this event. If you've never been to a pylon race but are interested, please contact Jim Hagner.

**FUN FLY –** The first FUN FLY of the season will be held at 10:00 on the Saturday following the May General Business meeting. Fun Fly events consist of four competition categories: Novice, Intermediate, Expert and FunFly. Novice pilots

may have the assistance of a trainer on a buddy box. Points are awarded for participation as well as placing in the events. At the end of the season an auction is held and accumulated points are used to bid on great R/C equipment .

**EVENTS AND GENERAL BUSINESS**

**IMAC –** Rick Aronos reported that towards the end of April a program is being held on the judging of IMAC contests. The cost is \$50.00 plus a motel room. Contact Rick for more information.

**AMA –** The AMA Executive Council has obtained insurance from West Chester Surplus Line. The annual premium is 70% more than last year. Insurance Certificates are being prepared and will be provided in the near future.

**Lake In The Hills Air show –** Rick Hackenberg attended the meeting and asked for support of their local air show. There will be an R/C exposition preceding a full scale air show. Rick asks that

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***“...the first pylon race of the season is June 8, 2003.”***

## April 2003 Club Meeting Minutes (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

members provide planes that will be on static display. Many civic organizations supporting youth activities will be represented: Indian Guides, Boy Scouts, Explorer Clubs, and Girl Scouts etc. Members will be expected to talk to interested groups about model aviation.

**“John Meisch, prolific builder of electric aircraft, displayed two new electric models.”**

This will be a great opportunity to promote our activities. The event is June 14, 2003 with the “demonstration” starting at 10:00 and lasting about two hours.

**Festival** – Planning for the July Festival of Giants continues.

**Helicopter Event** – Dennis from Al’s Hobby shop attended the meeting to promote the helicopter event to be held at the field on June 21 and June 22, 2003. Pilots will begin showing up on Friday with the main event on Saturday and conclude on Sunday morning. Saturday evening there will be a helicopter light show. Some of the aircraft have lights in the rotors and skids.

There will be no open flying during Saturday and Sunday morning. For those members that attended last years festivities, helicopters were seen doing maneuvers that defy description. The FVAC provides the food

concession for this event with all profits to the Club treasury. Volunteers are needed to assist!

**Show and Tell** – Mike Wlodek presented information on a unique business that he recently discovered. It’s a product called “Mini Me”. An artist started a business of making miniature figures from photographs. The standard product is based on a 12 inch doll figure, although any scale can be provided. This is a great idea for scale pilots that look like the full scale pilot. More information can be obtained at the following website:  
[www.alteregoactionfigures.com](http://www.alteregoactionfigures.com).

John Meisch, prolific builder of electric aircraft, displayed two new electric models. The first is a GWS warthog complete with desert camouflage. The aircraft is equipped with aileron, elevator, throttle and steerable nose wheel. No rudder. Twin electric ducted fans power the model. It is equipped with poly cell batteries which are significantly lighter than other batteries of comparable power.

John’s second aircraft was a Mountain Models Dandy. This is described as an aileron trainer. The neat thing about this aircraft is the light system. Using transparent covering John installed lights between the

wing ribs as well as a flashing beacon. The light system is powered by a separate poly cell battery pack.

Jim Toth displayed his 56 inch wingspan Falcon 3. This model is currently available from Lanier but was originally a Carl Goldberg kit. The aircraft is powered by a Tower 46. Jim indicated that there are about six things wrong with the kit. Jim overcame the difficulties and produced a great looking model. A neat feature of the Falcon is the flying stabilizer.

Dave Gustafson displayed his Profile Edge 540. Dave brought the model to demonstrate the Profile Edge 540 kit that was a raffle prize. The plane has a high power to weight ratio and is great for learning 3-D maneuvers.

Mel Ziska brought in his Thunder Tiger Raptor. The helicopter is equipped with the latest equipment, digital servos and gyros. Mel’s comments indicated that there was apparently a cost overrun on the project. Consequently he would seek assistance setting up the model to assure the best chance of success.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.



# *Fox Fotos*



# *Fox Fotos*

(continued)



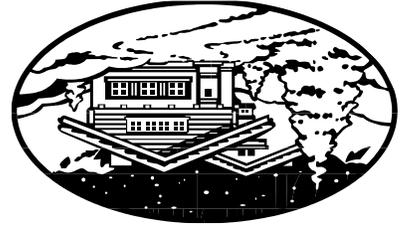
In This Issue...

The Latest Club News, and More!

# The Fox Valley Aero Club *Flypaper*

*Rush to:*

Jack Henderson  
26 W 586 Embden Ln  
Wheaton, IL 60187



Club Meeting This Thursday!

See you there!



*Name this  
plane!*

**Stumped? Ask George Pariza at the Club meeting!**