



January 2003

The Fox Valley Aero Club Flypaper



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Nyman Goes Vertical



As things turned out, Mark Nyman was leaning the hardest. Either his Somethin' Extra had a little extra lift, or he caught a friendly gust in the gale-force wind, but as you can see in the picture, the plane went UP at a crowd-pleasing angle of attack. While aerodynamically questionable, the maneuver was effective in winning the First Flyer honors.

Over the years, we've seen rain, snow, sleet, wind, and even Spring-like weather on the first day of the New Year, and every year this competition is different. But it's always exciting, and a great day to come out and see friends.

Congratulations, Mark. Keep the trophy safe, and join a long list of past pilots who've braved the cold and emerged victorious!



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

Modeling legend Hal Parenti will be providing an informative presentation at our club meeting this month. Member Emeritus **Bob Walker** is busy setting up other guest presenters for our monthly meetings, too. There's a lot of knowledge out there, and our area is especially rich with R/C experts. Be sure to come to the monthly meetings, not only to stay abreast of the club's latest goings-on, but to meet and learn from these experts in various areas of our hobby! The meetings are a lot of fun, too!

Be there!

A long-standing FVAC tradition saw another New Year, and we have a 2003 First Flyer as a result.

It was an extremely windy and chilly morning on January 1st, and many members in attendance covered in their

cars to avoid the biting breeze. As the magic hour of 10:00 am approached, however, a brave line-up of intrepid flyers carried their planes out to the flight line and prepared to race for the sky. The horn blew, and all the planes raced forward with the pilots leaning hard on the elevator.

January Highlights

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Battery Care

Winter is tough on all of us, but the long lay-off between seasons is especially hard on your rechargeable batteries, if you don't maintain them. It's a good idea to cycle your Rx and Tx packs every once in awhile, and make a note of any changes in capacity. No use getting an unpleasant surprise on the first nice day of Spring!



TIPS AND TRICKS

LIGHTER FLUID IS A GREAT ADDITION TO YOUR FLIGHT BOX IN COLD WEATHER. ONE SQUIRT IN THE INTAKE CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENDLESS FLIPPING AND A QUICK START. ALSO, MAKE SURE YOUR GLOW PLUG IS GOOD AND CLEAN, AND YOUR NI-STARTER IS CHARGED AND READY TO GO. THEY DON'T FLY SO WELL IF YOU CAN'T GET THEM STARTED!

December '02 Club Meeting Minutes

by Kevin Hersey

Fox Valley Aero Club General Business Meeting Minutes December 13, 2002

The general business meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Christmas party held at the Fisherman's Inn.

Paul Douds opened the festivities by recognizing a number of members for their contribution throughout the year. At the risk of forgetting someone Paul recognized:

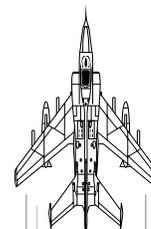
Randy Rhodes for Festival of Giants Contest Director
Mel Ziska for BiPlane Event
Mike Kostecki for Cub Fly Day
Domonic Saverino and **Cindy Fuchs** for the helicopter event
Jim Hagner and **Mike Kostecki** for Pylon Racing
Ken Massett and **Jack Hendsen** for Fun Fly Events
Bob Walker and **Mark Nyman** for the Glenwood School for Boys
Lee Patterson for Kids Fly Day
Steve Baker for managing the

Swap Meet
Jack Henderson and **Ken Massett** for the Flypaper and Photographs
Jack Henderson and **Eric Karl** for the website

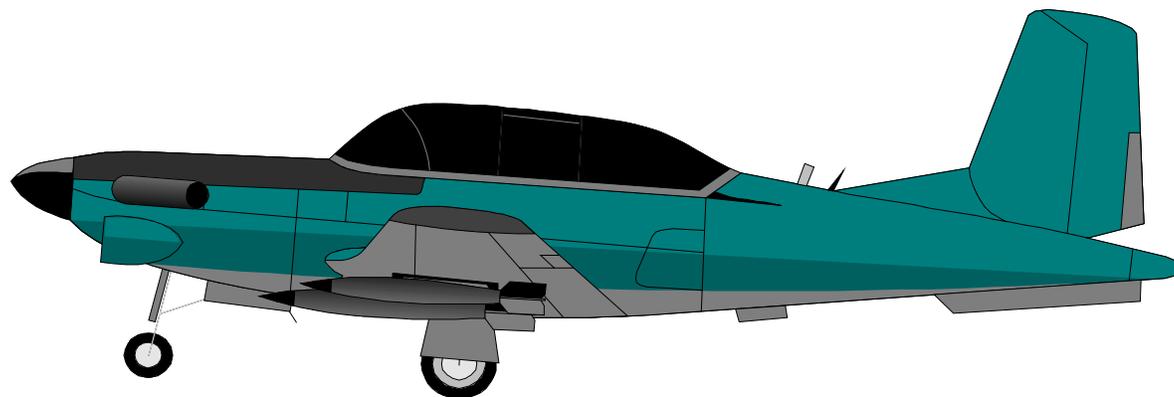
A special "TOP GUN" trophy was awarded to one of our most active members. **Dan Compton** was recognized for his tireless efforts to train and assist novice pilots as well as participation in events throughout the year. Dan is certainly deserving of this award, congratulations Dan!

President **Dave Gustafson** chaired the business portion of the meeting. The first order of business was to vote on the Constitutional amendment to increase the number of Board of Directors from 3 to 6. The general membership voted

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"A special 'Top Gun' trophy was awarded to one of our most active members..."



December 2002 Meeting Minutes, continued

(Continued from page 2)

unanimously to amend the Constitution. With a favorable vote, the election ballots could be tabulated.

The new slate of officers for 2003 is as follows:

President

Mel Ziska

Vice President

Greg Bohler

Treasurer

Bill Simmons

Secretary

Kevin Hersey

Safety Officer

Dan Compton

Board Members

Bob Walker

Ken Kaiser

Mike Kostecki

Paul Douds

Don Bennish

Doc Yocke

Incoming President Mel Ziska provided comments on activities and events scheduled for 2003. The most important and immediate event is the FIRST TO FLY IN 2003. It is tradition that on the first of the new year at 10:00 A.M. a contest is held to determine who will be the first to be airborne

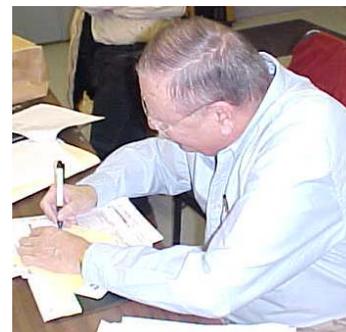
in the new year.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party had to be the best ever. Well over a 100 members, spouses, guests and family members were in attendance. The dining room was spacious and the food was great. As advertised, there was pickled herring as an appetizer and cheese cake for dessert!

There were buy-in raffles for R/C related materials as well as craft type materials. A special thanks to **Julie Rhodes** for organizing and managing the craft raffle. Unlike the R/C buy-in raffle, everyone receives a nice gift with Julie's raffle. All of her gifts are donated and the proceeds from the raffle go into the Club treasury.

A special thanks to **Paul Douds, Gary Ernst and Lee Patterson** for organizing and promoting the Christmas party.

Kevin Hersey**Wanted**

Lee Patterson is looking for the older, now-discontinued Deluxe version of the RealFlight Simulator. Just the controller would be fine (I wore mine out, too!), but the full package is also of interest. Give Lee a call at (630)377-7192, or write him at leepat45@aol.com.

**TIPS AND TRICKS**

WATCH THOSE FUMES!

MODERN ADHESIVES AND PAINTS ARE GREAT, BUT YOU REALLY NEED TO BE CAREFUL WITH THEM. A LOT OF US HEAT UP OUR EPOXY TO THIN IT OUT, USE CA FOR SHEETING LARGE AREAS, AND DO QUICK "TOUGH UPS" WITH SPRAY PAINT WITHOUT PROPER VENTILATION.

OPEN A WINDOW, AND WEAR AN EFFECTIVE MASK WHEN YOU WORK WITH THESE MATERIALS. THE LUNGS YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN!

Remember Being a Beginner?

Some thoughts from someone who's been through it... four times

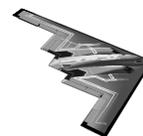
I actually have been a beginning R/C flyer four separate times. Once when I was 17, then again when I was 19, again when I was 24, and once more at 35. I'm sure a lot of you have been through the same thing; after a layoff of a few years, starting to fly R/C again is just like starting over, and starting over hasn't always been a pleasant experience.

some stick time. One guy finally came over and started looking at my plane. I thought things were looking up, then he shouted to his friends, "Hey, you got to get a load of this!" Apparently, my building and finishing job didn't meet his standards, and he wanted to share his amusement with his buddies. After several minutes of chiding, they sent me home to redo my hinging and radio installation. I still didn't know anyone's name, and I was a pretty embarrassed 17 year old. But I came back anyway, and was eventually able to get a few lessons in, when the good pilots at the field had nothing better to do. Just as I was starting to land, off to college and a 4-year R/C layoff.

instructor. Students generally came last, after the expert pilots had had their fun for the day. It was a real relief when I finally didn't have to "bother" anyone to help me take-off and land.

The fourth (and I hope final) time I relearned to fly was right here at the Fox Valley Aero Club. From the first day I came out, the members made me feel like one of them. Guys were actually coming up to me, introducing themselves, and asking if I needed any help. The members obviously realized that we were all out here to have fun, plain and simple. Flying is fun. Teaching someone to fly is fun. Being a member of this club is fun. Now that was the right idea.

If you've got your trainer put together, but have been trying to work up the nerve to bring it out to the field, come on down. Believe me, this is a great place to learn how to fly.



"After 6 or 7 planes and many frightened cattle, I decided to try to find a club in my area so I could get a real

The first time, I tried to teach myself to fly. We lived way out in the sticks in Missouri, so there was a lot of open space. And I used every bit of it. Finally, after 6 or 7 planes and many, many frightened cattle, I decided to try to find a club in my area so I could get a real instructor.

This led to my second R/C learning experience. I did find a club, 30 miles away in Southwest Missouri. I went out 3 Saturdays in a row, and even though I was obviously a new guy, with a trainer-type airplane, I had a very hard time getting anyone to help me check out my plane and get

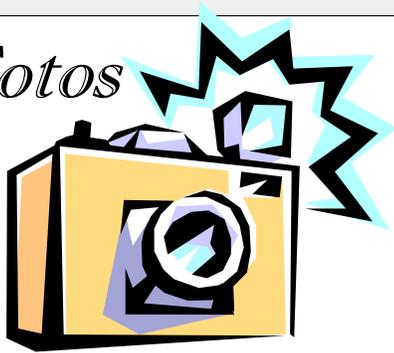
The third time was the charm. By the time I had the chance to start flying again, I was 24 and living in New York. I built a trainer and drove out to Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. They have a huge club there, the PARCs, and for the most part, they were a great bunch of guys, once you got to know them. This is where I really got past the beginner stage, but it was still very difficult to get an



The *Flypaper* is always looking for articles, tips, news items, for-sale notices, and other contributions from FVAC members!

Send to: Jack Henderson, 26 W 586 Embden Lane, Wheaton, IL 60187 jackhenderson@covad.net

Fox Fotos



January 1, 2003 was a windy one! (The flag and windsock were getting a real workout.) Left, you see Mike Kostecki battling the breeze as he takes his "Not for Sale" back to the pits for a secure tie-down. Above, Paul Douds braves the wind-chill in his FVAC jacket. And below, board members Kevin Hersey, Mel Ziska and Steve Baker cogitate on the coming year's club events...



Fox Fotos



Ken Massett
2003



Fox Fotos



2003 First Flyer, **Mark Nyman**, receives the coveted trophy from last year's winner, **Ken Massett**. This was an easy shot to get, as the guys were frozen in this position for around 20 minutes...



The Preflight Check

*Don't Leave the Ground
Without It*

One of the statements that's always bothered me (and which has probably kept a lot of people out of the hobby) is, "If you fly 'em, you're gonna crash 'em!" I've seen some modelers who seem to look at things that way, as if it's just a matter of time before their plane becomes one with the Earth. I've also noticed that there are lots of guys who never seem to have so much as a hard landing. Ever. Some of them have flown the same plane for years. What I noticed about these pilots was that they treated their models like real airplanes, with a thorough, honest-to-goodness preflight check.

Here's an example of a preflight checklist for new R/C planes:

Weight ✓

How many of us weigh our models? True, there's not much you can do about an overweight plane once it's finished, but it's still good to know if you're within the kit's design specs before you take off.

Balance ✓

This is, of course, the big one. The best builders say that lifting the plane at the wingtips to check CG just isn't good enough. Mark the CG from the plans on your wing on each side of the fuselage, then balance the model on two upright 1/4" dowels with those pointy pencil erasers on the tips. You'll be

able to tell exactly where your plane balances, within a 1/16". Don't forget to balance the plane from side-to-side, too!

Alignment ✓

Are all flying surfaces at the proper angle relative to each other? Check the incidence angles in the plans, then check your plane with a Robart Incidence Meter. How about wing or stab warps? Use your meter at the root and the tip of these surfaces to make sure.

Control surfaces ✓

Do all surfaces operate without any servo strain? When deflected, can you push the elevator, rudder, or ailerons back toward neutral? (If you can, the air resistance will, too.) Are your hinges firmly glued in place? Have you sealed your hinge lines? Are all control throws in the right direction, and set to the proper deflection?

Control linkages ✓

Have all linkages (Z-bends, EZ-Connectors, clevises, snap-links, etc.) been checked to make sure they are secure? Are all clevises closed and secured with a 1/4" of fuel tubing? Have all screws holding the servos and servo arms been tightened?

Engine and fuel ✓

Has the engine been broken-in according to its instructions? Are all mounting screws tightened up? Will the engine maintain RPMs at full throttle with the plane's nose straight up in the air? Is the idle

reliable? Can you kill the engine with low trim on the throttle stick? Is the tank at the proper height relative to the carb? Is the fuel tank clunk at least 1/4" from the back of the tank, and moving freely?

Radio ✓

Has a full range check been performed with the antenna down? Has the flight pack charge been checked with an ESV? Are your receiver and battery pack protected from vibration and shock, and held in place in the plane? Is the receiver antenna fully extended and protected from strain? Have you eliminated metal-to-metal contact in your plane that could cause interference?

General ✓

Is your wing well secured, with new rubber bands or bolts? Is your propeller balanced, free of nicks or cracks, and firmly attached? Are your wheels rolling freely, and aligned properly? Are your trims and dual rate switches set as they should be? Does each control surface respond correctly to your sticks? Is your transmitter antenna extended?

Whew! It's easy to forget how complex these flying machines of ours really are!



FVAC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Initiation Fee: \$100.00 (For new memberships only.)

- Dues for Senior Members (18 years and over) \$75.00 per Member
- Dues for Junior Members (17 years and under) \$25.00 per Member

PLEASE PRINT

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

Your Complete Mailing Address:

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

What is Your Occupation?
(Please provide details)

Your Phone Number:

Your E-mail Address:

Total Payment Enclosed:
\$ _____



Complete and mail this form to:



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

**Alfred Zabel
FVAC Membership Chairman
1231 Averill Drive
Batavia, IL 60510**

Signature

Date

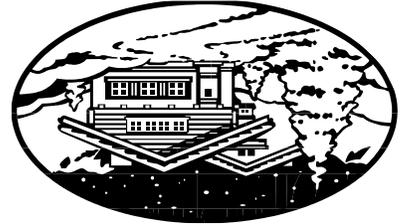
In This Issue...

The Latest Club News, and Holiday Gift Ideas!

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!

Winter Flying is Fun!



Bundle up and keep your thumbs in shape for next season!