

FLY PAPER



Election 2023

The Flypaper is a monthly publication of

The Fox Valley Aero Club

An Illinois not-for-profit Corporation

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AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics
Charter Club #252

Special Edition:

ELECTION 2023



This "extra" is dedicated to the upcoming election for the Officers and Directors who will lead our club in 2024.

The voting is again happening by e-mail ballot this year. You will receive an e-mail from Dale with the voting instructions and link to the ballot on or about Saturday, November 25th. Simply make your selections, and then submit to electronically cast your ballot. Voting will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 1st.

This issue is intended to make you familiar with the candidates vying for your vote. The individual statements are in order by position, and second, alphabetically.

Paul Martin, Editor

Candidates:

President

Dale Gathman (incumbent-unopposed)

Vice President

Dave Murray (incumbent-unopposed)

Secretary

Armin Weber (incumbent-unopposed)

Treasurer

Scott Stampfli (incumbent-unopposed)

Director-At-Large (six positions available)

Steve Haas (incumbent)

John Howe

Jeff Mrachek (incumbent)

Jeff Peca

Rob Sampson (incumbent)

Scott Schilling (incumbent)

Bill Suhr (incumbent)

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Dale Gathman

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

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Newsletter Editor

Paul Martin

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Dale Gathman for President (unopposed)

I thank you for nominating me once again to serve as president of our great club in 2024. If you are new to the club and would like to know a little about my history before FVAC, see the Meet the Members section of our September 2011 Flypaper, available on our website. Since joining the club in 2011, I have served one year as an At-Large Director, four years as Secretary, and the last seven years as President.

A heartfelt Thank You goes to our 2023 board members and all of the members who volunteered during the year. No one person could possibly run a club of this size, and between our board members and all of the additional volunteers who step up and help, the club has been and will be in great hands once again.

I am looking forward to 2024, starting with our Frozen Fingers event on January 1st and our SWAP meet in February. We will be following up with another full slate of events and activities. We look forward to bringing back Windy City Warbirds & Classics this year, and John Howe will be the new WCWC Chairman. The full calendar will be available soon.

As a board, we strive to make decisions for the club based on what is best for the club and the majority of our members. Please let us know your thoughts and wishes for the direction of the club. Also, keep in mind that we cannot make everyone happy all of the time, and as we have over 200 members, there will be some members who disagree with some decisions.

We realize this and welcome all opinions and questions.

Our club is very strong, with new members joining every year. The RC Flying hobby in general has seen vendors decline over the past few years. Some vendors have combined several brands and when that happens, some of the brands are eliminated. We can still, however, get all the items that we need to keep our hobby going and many vendors have actually increased their offerings. The new technology that keeps advancing is marvelous, and it keeps me excited and wondering what they will come up with next.

I stated last year that we expected to have our field designated as a FRIA site this year. Unfortunately, the FAA has rejected our first application, and is now reviewing our second application after asking the AMA for more details on our field. We will keep after this and fully expect to get our field approved. One good thing is that the deadline for Remote ID has been extended to March 16, 2024, so we have a few months yet to get our approval.

I will do my best to stay informed of regulation changes and the state of the hobby and will keep you, our members, informed about what you can do to help our hobby. Obviously, we are stronger as a group than we would be individually, so thank you all for being members of our great club. Together, we can keep the Fox Valley Aero Club one of the best RC flying clubs in the country. Let's plan to have another fantastic year of Flying, and please remember our goals of Fun, Safety, Camaraderie and Unity.

I count it a privilege to have you as FVAC members and look forward to spending some time with you in 2024.

See you at the field,
Dale

Dave Murray

for Vice President
(unopposed)



I have been a member of several clubs over the years and have served in various positions. I have spent over 25 years with FVAC, and consider it to be one of the finest clubs in the Midwest. I have been a contest director for many years and have helped organize past Kids Day and Festival of Flight events. I served as contest director for the 2014 - 2022 Warbirds & and Classics events. I am a member of the Warbird and Classics Alliance and attend several of the Warbird and Classic flying events.

My goal as an FVAC officer is to:

- Support the board in promoting a safe and welcoming environment for the membership, guests, and spectators.
- Support, and promote activities that engage our neighbors, and the local communities.
- Represent FVAC at flying events
- Balance the considerable need for safety, with the primary goal of this hobby, which is.... to have fun!

Thank you for your consideration for FVAC Secretary.

Armin Weber

Armin Weber

for Secretary
(unopposed)



Hello FVAC Members. My name is Armin Weber.

I currently serve on the FVAC board as Club Secretary and am running for the same position in 2024.

I retired this year after 44 years in Software Development. I saw my first RC airplane fly in the early seventies and have been hooked ever since. I build and fly many types of models, but my primary interest is large scale models, WW2 aircraft being my favorite.

The viewpoints in this publication 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.

Scott Stampfli

for Treasurer

(unopposed)

Hi my name is Scott Stampfli. I am your currently appointed 2023 treasurer. I am running for 2024 FVAC treasurer, my second term.

I have been a member of Fox Valley Aero since 2015 and fly electric, glow and gas. I am a Dad to two super cool teenagers. When I'm not at my day job I enjoy flying at the field, volunteering at various FVAC events, travelling to local and out of state fly-ins, camping and the great outdoors. I appreciate the faith and trust you've had in me and I've enjoyed taking on the tasks of the treasury this year.

I look forward to a new year of flying, fun and camaraderie in 2024 and I would appreciate your vote. See you at the field!



DOING THE
MOST GOOD™

Angel tree

The Club is once again collecting donations to support the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Donations will be collected on two occasions: December 9th, at the Christmas Party at Nick's, and December 16th, at FVAC Field from 9 am until noon. Cash and gift cards are helpful in supplying gifts for older kids, who the Salvation Army normally struggles to find gifts for.

Steve Haas for Director-At-Large



My name is Steve Haas and I am running for the Board. I have been involved with RC flying since 1979. I have been a member of the Fox Valley Flying Club for over 9 years and have been on the board for the last 4 years.

I have helped out at the Warbirds and Classics, Windy City Jets and the Festival of Flight. What I like about the Fox Valley Club is that it is a very well run and organized club. It has great club members who volunteer when needed. Without them this club would not be the great club that it is.

John Howe for Director-At-Large

My name is John Howe, I am running for a Director at Large position for 2024.

I have been in the hobby since I was 14 years old and am now 52 and have loved every minute of it. I am very lucky that my wife (Debbie) and daughter (Katie) love and participate in the hobby with me, so we are a flying family.



This year I (with my family) will be the event chairman for our Windy City Warbirds event which I am excited to keep the event going and enjoy it with all our club members and guests. We travel during the year representing our club to Warbird and Classic events in many different states, IL, IN, OH, WI, MI, IA, MN and SC, where we have met many great friends along the way and have found that there is a wealth of knowledge to be learned from so many different pilots and I enjoy bringing back and sharing this with our FVAC club.

I hope to sit on the board this year and to work closely with everyone to make this year a great year and fun for all. We will hope to see everyone at the FVAC Christmas Party. Our family wishes a very Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all the FVAC family.

Jeff Mrachek for Director-At-Large



My name is Jeff Mrachek

I joined Fox Valley Aero Club in 2016. I'm currently a Director At Large and running for the same position.

Throughout the year I enjoy attending FVAC flying events, meeting other flyers, helping others, and flying planes. I consider myself an all-season flyer logging flights every month of the year and fly several different types of planes.

I ask for your vote and would be honored for the opportunity to serve as a Board member this coming year.

Jeff Peca for Director-At-Large



My name is Jeff Peca and I am running for a Director at Large. I have been a member of FVAC since 2015 and held the Safety Chairman position for the club from 2015 through 2021. I have run the sanctioned Night Flys for several years and I also ran the Fun-Flys in 2021. I have been flying RC since 1983 and have an interest in all type of planes from small indoor electric to giant scale. I am a retired engineer from the State of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. After taking a "break" in 2022 I am ready to become more involved with the club again. If you think I would help guide the club into the future I would appreciate your vote.

Rob Sampson for Director-At-Large



I'm Rob Sampson. I attended the University of Illinois Institute of Aviation where I earned most of my pilot certificates, Airframe and Power-Plant mechanics license and graduated with a degree in Marketing.

During my 40 years in aviation I've been a mechanic on WWII aircraft and worked in a simulator factory. I did flight instruction, charter flying, corporate jets and flew 34 years with the airlines, retiring 12 years ago.

Like many of you, I started building and flying u-control models in the 60's. I enjoy flying all types of aircraft, large, small, gas, electric, sailplanes, and float planes. I enjoy building both kits and from scratch, but I also have many ARFs in my hanger.

I've been a member of FVAC for 21 years and I have served on the Board in the for several years. I'm constantly impressed by the talent and professionalism of our club members and how the club presents itself to the community. We have been blessed with insightful, hardworking, talented, dedicated, and skilled leadership. The icing on the cake is the friendly, helpful members that make this club better each year.

I strive to be an actively involved member, helping on work days, festivals, family fly events etc. I also enjoy the social events and attending the monthly meetings.

It would be an honor to once again serve on the Board of such a great organization.

Thank you,
Rob Sampson

Scott Schilling for Director-At-Large



Hi, my name is Scott Schilling. During the day I spend my time as a Director of IT Security at a great company, WeatherTech. I have been involved in this hobby since I was 15 years old and a FVAC member now for 5 years.

As most of you know, I truly love all types of model aviation, from flying my foam Turbo Timber, the big green Ultra Stick, or even one of my scale jets, they all put a smile on my face. Building is my second love and makes the winter months fly by.

I love spending time at the field with all the members and I have made friends that I would not had the opportunity to make if I was not a member. I also strive to do my part in participating in club work days and enjoy flying in the club events.

My goal as a Director at Large would be to:

1. Maintain, grow, protect, and promote the club that the members have worked so hard to establish.
2. Promote a culture of respect and courtesy where all members have a voice and are valued no matter their flying interest.
3. Unify the membership
4. Be transparent in my beliefs
5. Be of service!

It would be an honor to participate.
Thank you,
Scott Schilling

Bill Suhr for Director-At-Large



I have been nominated for and am currently a Director at Large for FVAC. I have been a club member for the last 12 years flying everything from small foamy's, warbirds, large electrics and turbines.

For my full time job I am a Captain flying a Hawker 4000 Executive Jet based at Chicago Executive Airport for the past 12 years and various other jets for the past 27 years.

I bring experience with working with the FAA and understand the airspace that our field is within. Having worked all of the FVAC airshows as a shooter, retriever, and air boss I know how to keep things safe and fun.

Thanks again for the nomination.