

December 2023

FLY PAPER



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

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FVAC Christmas Party



Dale Gathman Photo



President's Message

Dale Gathman

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

Merry Christmas – While this season of the year is very busy, it is my favorite holiday of them all. The decorations and music are awesome. And everyone seems to be in a much better mood than at any other time of the year. I love how much of the music talks about the reason we celebrate Christmas, which is the birth of Jesus Christ, God's only Son. I spend considerable time contemplating that every Christmas season. I wish Joy and

Happiness to you and your families this Christmas, and I pray that you would experience the Peace that only God can provide through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

FVAC Election for the 2024 Board of Directors – The election has been completed, and the election results have been emailed to our members. Thank you to all who entered the race. Your willingness to serve the club is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with the new board during the upcoming year.

FVAC Christmas Pizza Party – We had a great time at our 2023 Christmas Pizza Party at Nick's Pizza & Pub. I received reservations for 104 of our members and spouses, and a total of 92 actually showed up. The room was set up much better this year. They had all seating in the party room, and the food was on tables just outside the room. They also reserved a few tables outside the room for overflow. Photos of the event are in this issue as well as on the website.

Frozen Fingers – I am looking forward to our annual Frozen Fingers– First in Flight event on January 1st at 10:00am. This is a fun event, as at the starting signal we see which of our pilots is able to take off first and fly at least one pattern flight and successfully land again. You will be receiving details about this event via email soon.

Swap Meet – We are looking forward with great anticipation to our Swap Meet, coming up February 17th. Look for details on our website and emails. You can also contact John 'JT' Turner, our swap meet coordinator.

FRIA Status – Our flying site is now an approved FRIA site. AMA members flying at our site will NOT need to have remote ID modules in their aircraft. Thanks to the AMA and the FAA for getting our field approved before the deadline.

Remember that we do not have meetings in December, so I hope to see you all at our first meeting of the year on **Monday**, January 8, 2024, at 7:30pm at the St. Charles Township Building. Note that the meeting day is being changed to the second Monday of each month for the coming year.

Dale

FVAC in the Community



Dale Gathman, Major Joel Harmon and John Turner



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

Angel tree

A big thank you to the FVAC and its members who donated this year to the Angel Tree Program!

Our annual Christmas party at Nick's Pizza brought members together for holiday cheer and thanksgiving in December. During this event, members gifted a total of \$2,655.00 from cash/checks and gift cards to the Angel Tree Program. Plus, we had several members stop by the field during the past weekend to offer donations and thanked the club's continued commitment. Both Dale Gathman and JT met with the Major Joel Harmon at the Salvation Army in St. Charles, IL to present our annual gifts on behalf of the FVAC. Major Harmon and his staff extended his appreciation to the club and says "thank you" to the club's continued support.

John "JT" Turner
jturner@aquatrols.com



Secretary's Report

Armin Weber contact@foxvalleyaero.com



Fox Valley Aero Club
Member Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023 at
St. Charles Township Hall

1. **Welcome Members and Guests** – Dale Gathman.

Dale Gathman called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

2. **Approval of Member Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2023** – Armin Weber.

Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the October Meeting minutes. Motion made by Bill Suhr, second by Tracy Wienrich. All approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report** – Scott Stampfli.

Scott reported we are about \$10,000 higher than this time last year.

Recent income: Dues from new members. Recent Expenses: Shirt Order. Upcoming Expenses: Christmas Party.

Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Treasurers report. Motion made by Alvin Cole, second by Bill Suhr. All approved.

4. **Safety Chairman's Report** – Jim Thompson.

Jim is preparing documents & training materials for spotters. Training will be held at the Berm/Tree Line orientation day in 2024. Additional training during the June meeting held at the field.

Jim has stored the AED for the winter and is refreshing the First Aid kit. The First Aid kit will be available at the field during the winter season.

5. **Open Floor for Board Position Nominations** – Dale Gathman.
Dale asked for additional nominations. There were none.

6. **Government Relations Chairman's Report** – Tom Spriet.
Tom reported we have not received an update from Saint Charles yet. The previous lease was finalized on 11/8. We expect to be notified soon.

7. **Membership Chairman's Report** – Dale Gathman.
a. Member count at 213.
b. New Members – Chris Voegeli.

Welcome guests Cole & Bill, they are interested in flying.

8. **Field Chairman's Report** – Dale Gathman.
a. Field ready for Winter.
b. Please check LP tanks before the weekend. If 1 or 2 empty tanks, please take to St. Charles Rental Max and get them filled. Have them charged to the club. (Rental Max may be closed on Saturdays soon).

Dave Jacobson mentioned the tall heater in the pavilion is broken and should not be used. It will be moved into the barn.

9. **Flypaper Editor's Report** – Paul Martin.
Dale mentioned that the 20th anniversary of the current field is coming up. Paul is preparing an upcoming article documenting the construction of the field.

10. **Public Relations Chairman's Report** – Todd Culbertson.
Todd will work with JT on printing needs for the upcoming FVAC Swap.

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11. **Christmas Party Report** – Dale Gathman
 - a. Nick's Pizza, December 9 - Pizza, Pop, Beer & Wine will be provided. Emails will go out shortly, we will need a head count.
 - b. Donations to Salvation Army Angel Tree program will be collected (Gift Cards or Cash that will be turned into gift cards).
 - c. Toys/Gift Cards/Cash will also be collected at FVAC field on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 9:00-11:00am.

12. **Frozen Fingers Report** – Dale Gathman
January 1, 2024, 10am First Flight event and Tree Burning. Bring your crashed models for the burning (No Foamy airplanes).

13. **Swap Meet Report**– John Turner.
Swap will be February 17, 2024. Emails will go out soon for Table sales. Reservations and payment can be made online. Indoor fly-in for Micro planes will follow the Swap.

14. **Calendar 2024 Report** – Dale Gathman.
The calendar will be finalized and published by January 1, 2024. Dates are similar to last year except for:
 - a. Warbirds & Classics July 11-13, 2024.
 - b. Family Fly. – May 11. Need to check with Todd.
 - c. Cub Scouts Rocket Fest. – May 11. Need to check with Todd.
 - d. Festival of Flight June 1.

15. **Close Floor for Board Position Nominations** – Dale Gathman.
Nominations were closed.

Show & Tell

Mark Beezhold - Brought a large box-cover from his new Top Flite Cessna 182 ARF. The 81" model is now available from Tower Hobbies. Mark plans to install a DLE 20 gas engine.

Jeff Mrachek – Showed a landing light from ElectroDynamics RC. The light kit includes the light, wiring harness, and controller. Jeff plans to install the light in the nose of his new Ercoupe.

Jeff Mrachek showed his foam RV-8 after he sealed the model with "EZ-Kote" from Deluxe Materials.

EZ-Kote is water based and can be brushed directly from the bottle. EZ-Kote sealed the paint and gave the model a nice shine. The product can also be used for applying fiberglass cloth.

Todd Culbertson (Rocket Man) – showed a new Hi-def camera plus some large rockets with F & G class motors. Todd recently launched three new rockets:

1. First rocket ended up drifting into the Boys home and is still being retrieved.
2. Second rocket launched successfully. The parachute ejected shortly after the model hit the ground like a lawn dart.
3. Third rocket resulted in a perfect flight.

Dale Gathman demonstrated some new Spektrum servos that now have a Slow-Start feature. These servos will return to neutral slowly after turning on the radio rather than quickly snapping to neutral.

Dave Murray brought his new Top-RC L-39 Albatros. This is Version 2 with a stunning tri-color blue finish. Dave also demonstrated the UNI Lights that will be installed. The model weighs 42 lbs RTF and carries 7 lbs of fuel.

Motion to adjourn by Steve Haas, second by Bill Suhr. All approved.

Meeting was adjourned by Dale Gathman at 8:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Armin Weber–Secretary



From the Editor

Paul Martin

contact@foxvalleyaero.com



‘Twas the night before Christmas, when all across the field
Not an airplane was stirring, not even a wheel;
The windsocks were hung by the pavilion with care,
In hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The flyers were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of warbirds flew loops in their heads;
And Mamma in her flight suit and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winters nap,

When out on the runway there arose such a sputter,
I sprang from the bed, I did not know what to utter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the taxiway lit a new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to the airplanes below.
When, what brings my eyes to attention,
But a miniature plane pulled by eight tiny engines!

With a little fat pilot, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than turbines his motors they came.
And he whistled, and shouted and called them by name;

Now, Magnum! Now Enya! Now Wen-Mac and OS!
On Jet-Cat! On KingTech! On Rossi and YS!
To upwind to crosswind to downwind and Final!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!

And then, my eyes twinkling, my heart thumping with zeal
I heard the squeaking and squealing of each tiny wheel.
I was looking aloft while raising my hand
Down the chimney he came, on his feet he did land.

He was dressed in a flight suit from his head to his foot,
The leather was tarnished with ash and with soot.
A bundle of kits he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a Hobby shop owner just opening his pack!

He had biplanes and triplanes, rockets and gliders
He had building supplies, work tables, jigsaws and mitres.
More boxes and kits and tools in his sack
Enough to fill up my shop and garage to the back!!

He then sprang to his plane and gave the motors a whistle,
Then Away they all flew like a Tomahawk missile.
Then I heard him exclaim, as the engines screamed out of sight,
“Merry Christmas to All, And to all a Good Night!”

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!
Paul

FVAC Christmas Party at Nicks Pizza & Pub December 9, 2023





Dale Gathman Photos

Top Flite Giant Scale F4U Corsair Build

Submitted by Armin Weber

Attached are some photos of my winter project.

I purchased this Corsair from the estate of Mike Kostecki. The model is built from the old TopFlite Giant kit.

According to notes on the plans, Mike started the model in November 1999, worked on it for about two years and set it aside. The wing was nearly complete and the fuselage was about 80% complete.

I have been working on it for a little over a month, and have completed the fuselage construction, installed all equipment and started fiberglassing.

I plan to paint the model and add surface detail. Engine will be DA 60 and Robart retracts.

-Armin



Lipo Battery disposal

submitted by Walt Thyng



Friends, Romans, Flite-Testers, lend me your ears, I come to bury salt water LiPo disposal, not to praise it. Yes, my friends, salt water LiPo disposal is a bad, bad idea....

Where did this recommendation originate?.....a very smart gentleman named Fred Marks (who went on to found FMA Direct, and designed the excellent Cellpro series of chargers) wrote a disposal document. In this document he recommended disposing of the batteries in salt water. Fred Marks no longer recommends using the salt water bath with cell slashing. And he's always been adamant about the fact that a salt water bath without cell slashing is worse than useless, because the cell tabs will dissolve long before the pack is fully discharged. So, there is no good reason to use a salt water bath to dispose of LiPo batteries.

Hopefully this has dispelled the myth of salt water LiPo disposal,
(Source: Robart web site 9/2014)

So, Club Members, in consideration of my frozen fingers and wet carrier deck, please don't fill the dead Lipo bucket with salt water !
Walt Thyng
(semi-official lipo disposal guy)

Fox Valley Aero Club presents 19th Annual Radio Control SWAP Meet

Saturday, February 17, 2024, Kane County Fair Grounds

525 South Randall Road, Saint Charles, Illinois, 60174

Buy, Sell, and/or Trade RC Aircraft, Helicopters, Radios, Equipment, Cars, and Boats
Over 15,000 sq ft. of tradeshow space, Food Vendor available during the SWAP

Admission \$5.00 per adult, Children 12 and under Free, SWAP open from 8:30am to 1:00pm

Table Setup at 7:30am

**AFTER 1:00pm, the space will be open to
FOAMY AND LIGHT ELECTRIC
INDOOR FLYING**
AMA cards required for pilots

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION:

John Turner 630-215-6110
jtgrassroots1@yahoo.com

Register on-line at: www.foxvalleyaero.com
or Checks Payable to: Fox Valley Aero Club,
PO Box 837, St. Charles, IL 60174-0837

Early-pay table rental discount if paid by February 1st

One table	\$30.00 each
Two or more tables	\$29.00 each
All table rentals after February 1st	\$32.00 each

All table rentals include one free admission

— TABLES READY FOR SET UP AT 7:30am —

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 Regular Members (19 years and over) \$150.00 per Member
- Dues for Junior Members (18 years and under) \$ 25.00 per Member
- Family Membership \$150.00 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:

\$ _____



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 _____