

FLY PAPER



January/February 2024

VOCAL DECLARATION OF TAKEOFF & LANDING INTENTION IS REQUIRED.

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

www.foxvalleyaero.com

AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics
Charter Club #252

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Frozen Fingers 2024



Dale Gathman photo



President's Message

Dale Gathman

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

Frozen Fingers 2024 – We started the year off right – flying. See coverage of our Frozen Fingers – First-in-Flight event in this issue. Also, all the photos are on our website.

FVAC 2024 Event Calendar Is Set – Our calendar for the year has been set by our board and is available in this issue and on the website. We are looking forward to a fun year.

Swap Meet – We are anxiously awaiting our annual Swap Meet, coming up February 17th at the Kane County Fairgrounds. Look for details on our website and through email. Tables are still available but we usually sell out, so make sure to register for a table soon if you need one. You can also contact John 'JT' Turner, our swap meet coordinator.

We are still looking for a Field Chairman for 2024 – Last year I served as interim Field Chairman, which I could not have done without the help of many of you who spend more time at the field than I am able to. My sincere thanks go to the mowing crew, and all those who go out of their way to keep our field looking great. If you would be able to serve as our Field Chairman this year, please see me to discuss.

Sincere Thanks – It takes more than the board members to keep a club of this size running, and thanks go to you, the members and spouses who volunteer to help out with the many tasks that are necessary to keep things running. Many of you do not get recognized nearly as much as is deserved, but your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you all for your help.

Words to Remember – At the January meeting, I reiterated the 'words' that are goals and strengths of our club. This year, as last year, the words are **Courtesy, Safety, Fun, Camaraderie, Mentorship** and **Unity**. I sincerely ask you all to keep Unity in the forefront of your minds this year. We had a few things come up last year that caused one or more of our members to bad-mouth our club at some of the outside events. This is unacceptable behavior for any club member, and it serves no purpose other than to damage the club. It is possible that these members who air their grievances to outsiders are looking for support, but the long-term effect just damages their own club and gets them nowhere. The better response to a situation that someone disagrees with is to meet with those fellow club members and discuss the issues. If you have been one of our members who has bad-mouthed our club, please understand that in a club of over two hundred members, we are going to have differences of opinion on occasion. If those differences bother you so much that you have to talk to outsiders about our 'perceived club problems', then maybe another club would be a better choice for you.

At the start of every January Board meeting, I charge the board with practicing the Golden Rule, basically to 'Treat others as you would have them treat you'. Sometimes this takes a lot of giving and sacrifice, as human nature is 'Me First'. I now ask that all of our members do their absolute best to practice this Golden Rule. As we all do our best to keep the Words to Remember in our minds and hearts, and to always strive to maintain them with our words and actions, we will all benefit from a stronger, unified club, whose members all share in a common goal of keeping our club strong, one of the best in the country, promoting and enjoying RC flying and a passion for aviation of all types.

I hope that you can make it to our Member Meeting on Monday, February 12 at 7:30 at the St. Charles Township Hall. I look forward to seeing you there. Make sure to bring any projects you have been working on. Your fellow members would love to see them. Show and Tell is always the highlight of the evening.

Dale

From the Editor

Paul Martin

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I know I speak for many of us when I say that I am happy to see the temps warming into the upper 40's and low 50's. The Chicago winter is slowly coming to an end. Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow on February 2, so that certainly means only 4 more weeks of winter - Right!?

I am looking forward to blowing the winter dust off of my models and heading out to the field. In the same breath I would like to applaud all of the cold weather fliers who have chosen to brave the elements and get aircraft flying over the past several months!

When I put my models away for the year last fall, I went through all of them, checking batteries, linkages, flight controls etc. Before I take each one out as the weather warms I will again check them all, especially the batteries. As we all know, it is interesting to see what might happen to a model airplane when it sits for months or in some cases, years between flights. I encourage everyone to exercise the same caution as the weather warms

Of Course, our next big event is the Swap Meet on February 17. Fortunately this year, I will be able to attend. I look forward to seeing everyone who makes it to the event!

Paul



Watcha got?

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

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.



Secretary's Report

Armin Weber

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

**Fox Valley Aero Club
Member Meeting Minutes**
January 8, 2024 at
St. Charles Township Hall

1. **Welcome Members and Guests** – Dale Gathman.
Dale Gathman called the meeting to order at 7:45pm
2. **Announce Confirmation of President appointed board positions** – Dale Gathman:
 - a. Membership Chairman – Jeff Peca.
 - b. Public Relations Chairman – Todd Culbertson.
 - c. Flypaper Editor – Paul Martin.
 - d. Field Chairman – Open. (Dale asked for volunteers).
 - e. Safety Chairman – Jim Thompson.
 - f. Government Relations Chairman – Tom Spriet. Dave Murray will step in for Tom Spriet while he is traveling.
3. **Approval of Member Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2023** – Armin Weber.
Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the November Meeting minutes. Motion made by Steve Gawlik, second by Bill Suhr. All approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – Scott Stampfli.
Scott provided a summary of income and expenses for the previous year. Income for 2023 was \$4800. 2024 dues are coming in. Scott recommended we pay close attention to expenses this year. Mostly due to rising costs, and an anticipated increase in the field lease. Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Treasurers report. Motion made by Bill Suhr, second by Steve Haas. All approved.
5. **President's Address** – Dale Gathman.
 - a. 2023 – We had a successful year, lots of fun, full slate of events, and positive bank balance.
 - b. 2024 – Looking forward to having a great year. Please remember Courtesy, Safety, Fun, Camaraderie, Mentorship and Unity.
 - c. This club is a great club and can only be so because of its fantastic members. Thank you all.
6. **Frozen Fingers 2024 Report** – Dale Gathman.
 - a. 13 pilots, and the usual great spectator attendance and tree burn.
 - b. Frozen Fingers Winner – Steve Haas.
 - i. Scott Stampfli second, Jeff Hughes third, Jeff Mrachek fourth, Dan Vancura fifth, Rob Sampson sixth, Johnny Gago seventh, Sebastian Kowalski eighth, Dave Jacobsen ninth, Tony Bagnola 10th, Michael Weber 11th. Armin Weber and Carl Will were disqualified.
7. **Christmas Pizza Party at Nick's Report** – Dave Murray, Dale Gathman, Debbie Howe.
The Christmas party was a success. 104 RSVP, 98 attended. John Turner reported – FVAC collected \$2655 in gift cards and cash plus toys for the Salvation Army Angel Tree program.

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8. **Fun Fly Report** – Dale Gathman.
Fun Fly plan for 2024 – Two Events will be held. Dale asked for a volunteer to run the Fun Flies. (following the meeting, Dan Vancura volunteered to coordinate the Fun Flies).
9. **Safety Chairman's Report** – Jim Thompson.
Spotter training will be incorporated into the Tree Line/Berm Orientation (Field Boundaries) day.
10. **Government Relations Chairman's Report** – Tom Spriet.
No change. Tom spoke with Saint Charles officials and there are no issues, the Lease is still with the Legal department. Dave Murray volunteered to step-in for Tom while he is traveling.
11. **Membership Chairman's Report** – Jeff Peca.
Jeff will update the member packet to include a summary of how the initiation fee and dues are used.
Member count at 214. Welcome New Member - Scott Adair.
12. **Field Chairman's Report** – Dale Gathman.
Dale reported: We will evaluate the runway condition in early April and will paint the pavilion roof in the spring.
13. **Flypaper Editor's Report** – Paul Martin.
Paul is working on a special issue to cover the past 20 years at our current field location, followed by a special issue around mid-year to cover the 50th anniversary of our club (FVAC Incorporation).
14. **Public Relations Chairman's Report** – Todd Culbertson.
No report.
15. **2024 Calendar** – Dale Gathman.
Dale reported the calendar has been finalized. The FVAC cookout has been moved from April 27 to June 15.
16. **Swap Meet Report** – John 'JT' Turner.
JT reported the Swap is coming up on February 17. 64 tables have been sold (about half). This event typically sells out. Tables can be reserved on-line, \$30 each, \$29 for multiple tables. Price goes up to \$32 on February 1st.
17. **Festival of Flight Report** – Jim Thompson.
The event will be the same as previous events, except we will invite FVAC members to bring classic cars.
18. **Windy City Warbirds & Classics Report** – John Howe.
John reported the Sanction has been approved for July 11-13.
The 40x80 storage tent has been reserved.
20x20 tents can be reserved for personal use by participants directly through Affordable Party Tent Rentals at \$542 each.
19. **Gold Leader Club Application** – Dale Gathman
Jeff Peca will once again complete our Gold Leader Club application.
Thank you, Jeff.
20. **Flight Trainers** – Dave Jacobsen Chief Flight Instructor.
Tom Blassick, Paul Martin, Matt DiPietro (ducted fan).
21. **Sanctions Needed** – Dale Gathman.
 - a. Festival of Flight – 6/1 - Jim Thompson.
 - b. Windy City Warbirds & Classics – 7/11-7/13 - John Howe (sanction approved).
 - c. Electric Only Fly – 7/6 - Jim Thompson.
 - d. Cub Fly – 8/3 – Dale Gathman.
 - e. Night Fly – 8/3 – Dale Gathman.
 - f. Tailgate Swap – 9/14 – Dale Gathman.

Rich Gabrys raised an issue of members making defamatory remarks about FVAC while attending outside events. The board will review and make necessary changes to the By-laws and/or Constitution regarding the Code of Conduct expected of our members.

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Show & Tell

Jeff Mrachek showed the scale Continental engine for his Clipped Wing Cub. This great looking engine is available from Top Notch Kits. It's built using Laser cut parts making it very lightweight.

Jeff also mentioned that Sig Manufacturing has relocated to Desplaines IL. It is possible to order on-line and pick up your items.



Armin Weber brought his Top Flite Giant Corsair. The 86" model has been fiber-glassed, detailed and is nearly ready for painting. Armin described the steps for creating panel lines, rivets, and rib stitching.

Steve Gawlik showed a very cool helicopter model from Ugears Mechanical Models. The laser cut kit is made up of 438 pieces with a 118-page instruction manual. All parts fit together without glue and require about 18 hours to complete.



John Turner brought his Ryan ST from Tower Hobbies. The great-looking electric model has a Rimfire 32, 75A ESC and uses a 3300 6S LiPo.

Dave Murray brought a very impressive Top RC F4 Phantom Jet. Dave is building the model for Mike Mueller. The completed model uses a 190 turbine, weighs 50Lb and holds 150 oz fuel. Dave mentioned it's a great looking model but very challenging build.



Jim Clousing showed his recently completed Phaeton II built from the Balsa USA Kit. The Great looking biplane has OS .61 FX and is covered with UltraCote.



Dave Baker brought his next project, a Gloster Gladiator from Dura-fly. The 43" biplane includes motor, ESC and servos. Dave was looking for some guidance with the assembly. Several of the members offered suggestions, and help.



Motion to adjourn by Mike Maciejewski, second by Debbie Howe. All approved.

Meeting was adjourned by Dale Gathman at 8:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Armin Weber—Secretary.

FVAC Frozen Fingers 2024

First in Flight Fun Fly

by Dale Gathman

Our annual First-In-Flight event, titled 'Frozen Fingers 2024' was held on Monday, January 1st at 10:00 am at the field. The weather was overcast, with the temperature hovering around freezing. The wind was moderate out of the North-West. The runway and field were clear of snow, so conditions warranted a plane with wheels.

The goal of the event is to be the first pilot to have your airplane leave the ground once the starting signal is sounded. The pilot must then complete a minimum of one 'pattern' flight approximately the length of the runway (800'), and land successfully. The winner of the annual event gets his name plate added to our Frozen Fingers 'First in Flight' Champions plaque. The plaque is a perpetual plaque, and it contains the names of past winners along with the year of their victory.

In preparation for our annual tree/crashed airplane burning, I scoured my neighborhood on Saturday evening, hoping to find the elusive discarded tree. I covered much of the west side of Elgin with no luck. I finally spotted a discarded tree about two blocks from my house, and I threw it on my car and took it home. On Sunday I tied the tree to the top of my car and brought it out to the field to mount in our tree burning stand. This year was much calmer as far as wind, and I was able to put the tree in the shed to await the event the next day. On Monday, the members arrived, some with planes to compete with, some with broken plane parts to put on the tree, and many just to enjoy each other's company and watch the action. We had a good turnout of members who showed up. A total of 13 pilots signed the log sheet to compete and we had many additional members and a few spouses who came to watch the fun. We all got to wish each other a Happy New Year and catch up on things.

Because of the wind coming out of the North-West, the pilots lined their planes up across the runway facing west.

The final starting line-up was as follows (North to South):

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1. | Johnny Gago | Unknown – 7th Place |
| 2. | Jeff Hughes | EFlite Turbo Timber 1.5 – 3rd Place |
| 3. | Scott Stampfli | Slow Stik – 2nd Place |
| 4. | Armin Weber | EFlite Conscendo – Disqualified (Wheels not attached to plane) |
| 5. | Dan Vancura | Eratix – 5th Place |
| 6. | Jeff Mrachek | Park Zone Artizan – 4th Place |
| 7. | Carl Will | Simple T Electric– Disqualified (crash) |
| 8. | Tony Bagnola | EFlite Maule – 10th Place |
| 9. | Dave Jacobsen | EFlite Timber X – 9th Place |
| 10. | Steve Haas | EFlite Turbo Timber – 1st Place - Winner First-in-Flight 2024 |
| 11. | Rob Sampson | Yak 54 - 6th Place |
| 12. | Sebastian Kowalski | Carbon Cub SS – 8th Place |
| 13. | Michael Weber | EFlite Commander – 11th Place |

This year, Doug was under the weather, so I shot the high-speed time-lapse photos of the start that we use to determine the winner. Tracy Wienrich also volunteered to shoot a video of the takeoff. John Turner manned the airhorns.

I announced "Pilots Make Ready". I did not tell them how long it would be before JT sounded the air horns. This new start method was initiated to prevent pilots from 'jumping the gun'. After a few seconds JT blew the air horns. At the horn, all the pilots attempted to take off and fly their pattern. This year, we had one plane wing over and crash, and one plane using wheels on a dolly had the wheels not leave the ground. Another was not able to take off. The remaining ten planes had a successful flight and landing.

Following the action, Tracy and I went over the time lapse photos and video to determine the winner. This was the closest result we have ever had. My camera shoots eight frames per second, and from one frame to the next (0.125 second), three planes were off the ground. Luckily, between the photos and the video, we were able to determine the winner by a very small margin.

Steve Haas was first in the air, followed very closely by Scott Stampfli and Jeff Hughes. What a great competition. Once the winner was determined, I presented Steve with the First in Flight Plaque, which will have his name added to it before spring.

After the trophy was awarded, we lit the tree. It was adorned with a beautiful Fly Baby as well as what looks like a trainer wing. Our Master Tree Lighter, Rob Sampson, did the honor of lighting it up with a customary road flare. Once the flame caught, the tree went up very quickly. It is always fun to watch the plane parts burn as the members say goodbye to their damaged planes.

As always, our January 1st First-in-Flight was another great FVAC first event of the year. It is such a blessing to have so many FVAC family come to the field on the first day of each year to spend a short time together and kick off the new year with each other. As in previous years, we started the year off right, doing what we love to do – fly and fellowship with our friends. If you were not able to make it this year, check out the photos to see what you missed. I hope that you will be able to attend next year so you can experience what this fun event is all about.



Congratulations to Steve Haas!
First in Flight 2024



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Tips & Tricks

Pilot Figure Painting Techniques by Armin Weber

Here is a brief review of the steps used on the pilot figure for my TopFlite F4U Corsair.

The pilot figure is from Lyle Vasser of Best Pilots. His pilots are 1/5 Scale and historically accurate. His scale reproductions are of actual WW II pilots including Bob Sweeney and Pappy Boyington. It takes about 1 day to paint a figure.

1. Use small file to clean any burrs.
2. Using the airbrush I sprayed the figure with Vallejo acrylic beige and a flesh tone on the face.
3. Use pastel chalk to add color and details to the face.. Use a Dremel sanding drum to grind some chalk to a fine powder. Apply the powder with a small makeup brush. Some red on the cheeks and between the lips. Brown under the nose, eyes and mouth to create shadows. Highlight other areas with white.
4. Paint the rest of the pilot with acrylic craft paints.
5. Dry brush with light or dark colors to breakup the high and low areas on the flight suit.
6. Spray a coat of flat clear like Testors Dullcote to even out the colors.

Thanks,
Armin Weber





Gregory "Pappy" Boyington (December 4, 1912 – January 11, 1988) was an American combat pilot who was a United States Marine Corps fighter ace during World War II. He received the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross. A Marine aviator with the Pacific fleet in 1941, Boyington joined the "Flying Tigers" (1st American Volunteer Group) of the Republic of China Air Force and saw combat in Burma in late 1941 and 1942 during the military conflict between China and Japan.

In September 1942, Boyington rejoined the Marine Corps. In early 1943, he deployed to the South Pacific and began flying combat missions in the F4U Corsair fighter. On August 14, 1943, he took command of Marine fighter squadron VMF-214 ("Black Sheep").

In January 1944, Boyington, outnumbered by Japanese "Zero" planes, was shot down into the Pacific Ocean after downing one of the enemy planes. He was captured by a Japanese submarine crew and was held as a prisoner of war for more than a year and a half. He was released shortly after the surrender of Japan.

Photo and Article from Wikipedia

January 1	Fun-Fly — Frozen Fingers	10:00 am FVAC Field
January 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
February 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
February 17	FVAC Annual Swap Meet	8:30 – 4:00 - Kane County Fairgrounds
March 11	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
April 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
April 20	Field Workday	9:00 – FVAC Field
May 4	Tree Line/Berm Orientation Day	9:00 - 1:00 - FVAC Field
May 11	Cub Scout Rocket Fest	9:00 - 1:00 - FVAC Field
May 11	Family Fly Day	1:00 - 4:00 - FVAC Field
May 13	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
May 27	St. Charles Memorial Day Parade	TBD
June 1	Festival of Flight	09:00 - 5:00 – FVAC Field
June 9	Fun Fly #1	11:00 - 1:00 - FVAC Field
June 10	FVAC Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
June 15	FVAC Cookout - Awards and Raffle	12:00 – FVAC Field
July 6	Electric Only – AMA Sanctioned	9:00 - 3:00 Electric Only – FVAC Field
July 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
July 11-13	Windy City Warbirds & Classics	9:00 - 5:00 - FVAC Field
August 3	Cub Fly - AMA Sanctioned	9:00 - 1:00 Cubs Only - FVAC Field
August 3	Night Fly - AMA Sanctioned	6:00 - Midnight - FVAC Field
August 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
August 24	Retro Fly	9:00 - 3:00 - FVAC Field
August 25	Fun Fly #2	9:00 - 3:00 - FVAC Field
Sept 9	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
Sept 14	FVAC Tailgate Swap Meet - Sanctioned	9:00 - 1:00 - FVAC Field
October 12	Turkey Fry	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 7	Christmas Pizza Party	6:00 Nick's Pizza & Pub - Elgin

Note that starting this month we are back to meeting at Township Hall!

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 _____