

# FLY PAPER



January/February 2025

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](http://www.foxvalleyaero.com)

AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics  
Charter Club #252

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## FROZEN FINGERS 2025



Doug Swanson Photo



## President's Message

Dale Gathman

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

**Frozen Fingers 2025** – As is our tradition, we started the year off getting together with our fellow members, and some of us even flew in the competition. See coverage of our Frozen Fingers – First-in-Flight event in this issue. Also, all the photos are on our website.

**FVAC 2025 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 another full and fun year of events. Two new events you will notice are the 'Chicagoland IMAC Cup' in June, and the 'EDF Jet Event' in September. Details for these events will be sent out once they get closer.

**Swap Meet** – We are anxiously awaiting our annual Swap Meet, coming up February 15th 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.

**Sincere Thanks** – My sincere thanks go to all of our members and others whose volunteer help during the year keep this club running smoothly. Our club is a great club because of you. Many times, our volunteers go un-recognized, but please know that your efforts do not go unnoticed.

**Words to Remember** – At the January meeting, I once again reiterated the 'words' that are goals and strengths of our club. These words are Courtesy, Safety, Fun, Camaraderie, Mentorship and Unity. I ask that we all keep these words in the forefront of our minds as we interact with each other during the upcoming year. I also ask that we practice the Golden Rule, basically to 'Treat others as you would have them treat you'. 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 10 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



## Secretary's Report

**Armin Weber**

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

**Fox Valley Aero Club  
Member Meeting Minutes**  
January 13, 2025 at  
St. Charles Township Hall

1. **Welcome Members and Guests**

– Dale Gathman.

Dale Gathman called the meeting to order at 7:50pm.

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 – Dominick Silvestri.
- e. Safety Chairman – Jim Thompson.
- f. Government Relations Chairman – Dave Murray (acting).

The board approved the President appointed board positions.

3. **Approval of Member Meeting Minutes from November 11, 2024** – Armin Weber.

Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the BOD Meeting Minutes from November 11, 2024. Motion made by Bill Suhr, second by Tracey Wienrich. All Approved.

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

We show an increase of \$3,000 compared to the 2024 ending balance. Membership Dues are beginning to come in.

We will only keep one porta-potty during the 2025 winter season, a savings of approximately \$800.

Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Steve Gawlik, second by Jeff Mrachek. All Approved.

5. **President's Address** – Dale Gathman.

- a. 2024 – We had a successful year, lots of fun, full slate of events, and positive bank balance.
- b. 2025 – 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 2025 Report** – Dale Gathman.

- a. 11 pilots, and the usual great spectator attendance and tree burn.
- i. Frozen Fingers Winner – Scott Stampfli, Armin Weber second, Jeff Hughes third, Rob Sampson fourth, Dave Jacobsen fifth, Dominick Silvestri sixth, John Anzalone seventh, Jacob Olef eighth, Tony Bagnola ninth, Art Alvarez tenth, Jeff Mrachek Crash. 0.43 seconds first to second. 3.14 sec. first to last.

7. **Christmas Pizza Party at Nick's Report**

– Debbie Howe, Dale Gathman, Dave Murray.

89 Pre-registered, 82 Attended. The event was a success. The restaurant, service and food at Nicks was very good.

John Turner - Angel Tree - \$2000 in gift cards and cash plus toys.

8. **Fun Fly Report** – Dale Gathman.

Fun Fly plan for 2025 – Two Events – Please contact Dale if you would like to volunteer to organize the two Fun Flies.

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9. **Safety Chairman's Report** – Jim Thompson.  
Jim reminded pilots to do pre-flight checks.
10. **Government Relations Chairman's Report** – Dave Murray.  
Nothing to report.
11. **Membership Chairman's Report** – Jeff Peca.
  - a. Member count at 216. New Member – John Vitellaro.
12. **Field Chairman's Report** – Dale Gathman.
  - a. Dominick Silvestri new Field Chairman.
  - b. Plan to crack fill and seal cote runway in April.

Dale met with Moses Sealcoating.  
Quoted \$12,000 to repair the Runway, Taxiway and Parking Lot (all the way to the Gun Range).  
The field may be closed for up to 1 week. Work is expected to be done in April. The repair will probably need to be repeated in three years (for ongoing maintenance) but will require less material, effort and cost.
13. **Flypaper Editor's Report** – Paul Martin.  
No Report.
14. **Public Relations Chairman's Report** – Todd Culbertson.  
Todd is planning flyers for the upcoming season.  
Jacob Olef expressed interest in reviving the FVAC Facebook page.  
We will probably need to delete the current one and create a new page that we have full control over.
15. **2025 Calendar** – Dale Gathman.
  - a. EDF Only set for Sept. 6.
  - b. Proposed IMAC Event at the FVAC field:  
Johnny Gago – Event Director, proposed holding an IMAC event at our field. June 28 – 29.  
Saturday 7am until 5 or 6 pm.  
Wrap up early Sunday afternoon.  
Participant run - no volunteers will be needed.
- No financial burden on the club. All costs will be covered by Johnny Gago. Pilot fees will be donated to the club. The prior IMAC events had 15 – 18 pilots. More are expected if held at our field.  
Membership was asked to vote whether to have this event. 30 members voted YES. 0 members voted NO. All Approved.
16. **Swap Meet Report** – John 'JT' Turner.  
67 of 114 available tables sold so far. Tables typically sell out for this event. Kevin Hersey reminded members to contribute to the club table. This is a great source of revenue.
17. **Festival of Flight Report** – Jim Thompson.  
Jim asked for suggestions to "Spice Up" the event. We added full size car shows in the past.
18. **Windy City Warbirds & Classics Report** – John Howe.  
Sanction is complete and planning is underway.  
Tom Flint presented the artwork for the 2025 WCWC Event shirts.  
The shirts will feature Classic and Liaison Aircraft.
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.
  - a. Art Alvarez, Tom Blassick, Matt DiPietro (ducted fan), Paul Martin, Jim Thompson.
21. **Sanctions Needed** – Dale Gathman.
  - a. Festival of Flight – 6/7 - Jim Thompson CD.
  - b. Electric Only Fly – 7/5 - Jim Thompson CD.
  - c. Windy City Warbirds & Classics – 7/10-7/12 - John Howe CD.
  - d. Cub Fly – 8/2 – Dale Gathman EM, (Kevin Kessler Organizer).
  - e. Night Fly – 8/2 – Dale Gathman EM.
  - f. EDF Only – 9/6 – Jeff Peca CD.
  - g. Tailgate Swap – 9/20 – Dale Gathman EM.

**22. Status of all members who are CD or EM.**

Dale will be requesting member status via email. We would like our roster to show if our members are any of the following:

- Contest Director
- Event Manager
- Leader Member
- Intro Pilot Instructor

Please reply to the email with your status when you receive it.

**Show & Tell:**

Dale Gathman showed his new Medicare Part A and B Card. Congratulations on your retirement Dale!

Armin Weber Showed his recently completed Horizon Hobby MB 339 Turbine Jet. The Hanger 9 ARF comes complete with Retracts, Brakes, Fuel Tank, and Thrust tube. The 85" model is powered by a Kingtech 85 and contains all recommended Spektrum equipment.



Steve Gawlik showed the progress on his Giant Shoestring build. Steve enlarged the plans from the original Goldberg kit from 54" wingspan to a 108" span. The wing is two panels with an aluminum joiner. The model will be covered with fiberglass and painted.

John Howe showed his framed-up "Stingray" built from the Balsa USA kit. The 1.20 sized model will serve as a test bed for new engines. John also described "Super Phatic" glue from Deluxe Materials as an alternative to CA glue. It's similar to Tite Bond but much thinner, sets up in about 20 minutes.



Jacob Olef brought his new 80" Seagull Mosquito twin. The model has two 10CC equivalent electric motors and electric retracts. Power will be (2) 6s LiPo batteries.



Kevin Hersey showed the progress of his latest build. The "Spook" is a free flight model from the 1930's. The kit from Hanger 1 was delivered in 8 days from New Zealand. The 3-Channel model has a Saito.40 and lightweight Kavan inflatable wheels.

Scott Adair brought his recently completed T6-Texan. Built from Kit/Plans. The small model is electric powered and currently fitted with Skis for winter flying.



Motion to adjourn by Dave Brustle, second by Jeff Peca. All approved. Meeting was adjourned by Dale Gathman at 9:00pm. Minutes submitted by Armin Weber—Secretary

## From the Editor

Paul Martin

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

I am looking forward to the Annual Swap Meet on the 15th of this month. Certainly it is a great time to buy, sell and trade new treasures. It is also the first opportunity of the year to visit with fellow modelers from all over the area. We also have another great opportunity to display what an awesome club we have! I also look forward to the Annual Swap Meet as an indicator that we are approaching the end of the long Chicago winter!

The most recent Model Aviation magazine had a great article regarding successful RC clubs. The article discusses characteristics of successful clubs such as welcoming and involving new members as well as community outreach events. It was great to realize that our club is doing many of these things in a great fashion. If you have not read the article, it is worth the time.

See ya at the Swap Meet!

Paul



## Watcha got?

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

## Did You Know!

If you sponsor a new member that joins Fox Valley Aero Club you will receive a \$50 discount off of your annual dues. This applies up to 3 new members annually, for a potential total of \$150.

# FROZEN FINGERS 2025

## First-In-Flight Fun-Fly By Dale Gathman

Our annual First-In-Flight event, titled 'Frozen Fingers 2025' was held on Wednesday, January 1st at 10:00 am at the field. The weather was overcast, with the temperature hovering around freezing. The wind was pretty strong out of the 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 burning, I scoured my neighborhood looking for a discarded Christmas tree. This year, I was lucky to find one only three blocks from my house. On Tuesday before the event I tied the tree to the top of my car and brought it out to the field to mount in our tree burning stand. Doug Swanson donated a brand-new stand this year, so I removed the old burned up one and installed the new one. It was beautiful. The tree was left in the shed overnight. On Wednesday, I got to the field about 9:05am. To my surprise, there were already about 12 people in the pavilion. More members and spouses continued to arrive, and before the final countdown, we ended up with 11 members participating in the flight. We all wished each other a Happy New Year and caught up on things (and enjoyed some goodies brought by a couple of our members).

Because of the wind coming out of the West, the pilots lined their planes up across the runway facing west. The final starting line-up was as follows (North to South):

- |     |                    |  |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1.  | Dominick Silvestri | Flex Innovations Extra 300 – 6th Place                         |
| 2.  | Art Alvarez        | Hobbyzone Aero Scout – 10th Place                              |
| 3.  | Jeff Hughes        | E flite Turbo Timber 1.5 – 3rd Place                           |
| 4.  | John Anzalone      | Hobbyzone Aero Scout – 7th Place                               |
| 5.  | Armin Weber        | E flite Conscendo – 2nd Place                                  |
| 6.  | Dave Jacobsen      | E flite CAP 232 – 5th Place                                    |
| 7.  | Jacob Olef         | E flite Stick 25– 8th Place                                    |
| 8.  | Jeff Mrachek       | E flite Mini Ultra Stick – Disqualified (crash)                |
| 9.  | Rob Sampson        | Yak 54 – 4th Place   |
| 10. | Tony Bagnola       | Hobbyzone Aero Scout – 9th Place                               |
| 11. | Scott Stampfli     | E flite Turbo Timber – 1st Place - Winner First-in-Flight 2025 |



Scott Stampfli - 2025 First Inflight Winner with his wife Jessie and Dale Gathman. Congrats Scott!

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Doug Swanson manned the camera and took the high-speed time-lapse photos of the start that we use to determine the winner. Paul Martin also shot 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'. Almost immediately following the make ready, JT blew the air horn. At the horn, all the pilots attempted to take off and fly their pattern. All eleven planes took to the air, and all but one made a successful flight and landing.

Following the action, Doug and I went over the time lapse photos and video to determine the winner. This year there was a clear winner, Scott Stampfli. His plane was in the air 0.43 seconds before any others. The period of time between Scott's plane leaving the ground and the last plane leaving the ground was only 3.14 seconds. Once the winner was determined, I presented Scott 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 wings and fuselages from the year's crashes. Our Master Tree Lighter, Rob Sampson, did the honor of lighting it up with the customary road flare. Once the flame caught, the tree was engulfed in a few seconds. 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 of our 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.







Jeff Mrachek



Jeff Hughes



Dave Jacobsen



Rob Sampson



Art Alvarez



Armin Weber



Dominick Silvestri



John Anzalone



Jacob Olef



Scott Stampfli



Tony Bagnola



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*Flooding at the FVAC Field put to good use!*

John "JT" Turner used the recent flooding at the FVAC field to have his own personal January float fly! Way to go John! Awesome pics!



Flood at peak on January 31, 2025



John Turner photos

## BUILDERS CORNER

### *1/5 scale Byron Staggerwing Beechcraft G-17S*

By Armin Weber

The Staggerwing is an American biplane with an unusual negative wing stagger (the lower wing is farther forward than the upper wing).

The Byron kit with the retractable gear has become very rare. I found this one at our FVAC swap last year. The unusual airplane is rarely seen at the flying field or flying events.

The fuselage is fiberglass, wings are foam. Power will be DA50. The wings will be covered with fiberglass and the model will be sprayed with Latex paint.



January 1	<b>Fun-Fly — Frozen Fingers</b>	10:00 am FVAC Field
January 13	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
February 10	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
February 15	<b>FVAC Annual Swap Meet</b>	8:30 – 4:00 - Kane County Fairgrounds
March 10	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
April 14	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
April 19	<b>Field Workday</b>	9:00 – FVAC Field
May 3	<b>Tree Line/Berm Orientation Day</b>	9:00 – 1:00 – FVAC Field
May 10	<b>Family Fly Day</b>	10:00 - 2:00 - FVAC Field
May 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
May 26	<b>St. Charles Memorial Day Parade</b>	TBD
June 7	<b>Festival of Flight - AMA Sanctioned</b>	9:00 - 5:00 – FVAC Field
June 8	<b>Fun Fly - #1</b>	11:00 - 1:00 - FVAC Field
June 9	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
June 21	<b>FVAC Cookout - Awards and Raffle</b>	12:00 - FVAC Field
June 22	<b>Geneva Swedish Days Parade</b>	TBD
June 28-29	<b>Chicagoland IMAC Cup - AMA Sanctioned</b>	8:00 - 6:00 - FVAC Field
July 5	<b>Electric Only – AMA Sanctioned</b>	9:00 – 3:00 Electric Only – FVAC Field
July 10 - 12	<b>Windy City Warbirds &amp; Classics - AMA Sanctioned</b>	9:00 - 5:00 - FVAC Field
July 14	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
August 2	<b>Cub Fly - AMA Sanctioned</b>	9:00 – 1:00 - Cubs Only - FVAC Field
August 2	<b>Night Fly - AMA Sanctioned</b>	6:00 - Midnight - FVAC Field
August 11	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
August 23	<b>Retro Fly</b>	9:00 – 3:00 - FVAC Field
August 24	<b>Fun Fly #2</b>	11:00 - 1:00 - FVAC Field
Sept 6	<b>EDF Jet Only - AMA Sanctioned</b>	9:00 - 3:00 - FVAC Field
Sept 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at <b>Township Hall</b>
Sept 20	<b>FVAC Tailgate Swap Meet - Sanctioned</b>	8:00 - 1:00 – FVAC Field
October 11	<b>Turkey Fry</b>	12:00 - FVAC Field
October 13	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
November 10	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
December 6	<b>Christmas Pizza Party</b>	6:00 Nick's Pizza & Pub - Elgin

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

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

What is Your Occupation: (Please provide details)

Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



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**Make checks payable to:  
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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