

# FLY PAPER



March 2025

The Flypaper is a monthly publication of

## The Fox Valley Aero Club

An Illinois not-for-profit Corporation

P.O. Box 837  
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[www.foxvalleyaero.com](http://www.foxvalleyaero.com)

AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics  
Charter Club #252

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## EVAC ANNUAL SWAP MEET 2025



Paul Martin photo





## President's Message

**Dale Gathman**

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

**Swap Meet** – We once again had a very fun and successful February Swap Meet at the Kane County Fairgrounds. A huge thank you goes out to John 'JT' Turner and Joe Pedone, for the months of work organizing the swap, and to all of our members who helped out setting up, working the gate, doors and club table, tearing down tables and chairs, and cleaning up the room. Also thanks to Doug Swanson for overseeing the foamy fly afterwards. See coverage of this event elsewhere in this issue.

**FVAC 2025 Events** – Our calendar has been finalized and is available in this issue as well as on our website. We have been busy getting AMA sanctions for our sanctioned events, and everything is shaping up to be a fantastic year.

**Gold Leader Club** – This is the 9th consecutive year that FVAC has been awarded the status of AMA Gold Leader Club. We were also a Silver Leader Club for five years prior to that, so this is our 14th year of being a Leader Club. Thanks to Jeff Peca, who sends in our Leader Club Application every year.

When we announced at the February meeting that we were awarded the Gold Leader Club Status for this year, some members questioned what being a Gold Leader Club means. The following will help all of our members know what it takes for our club to get the Gold Leader Club Status.

### AMA Leader Clubs:

The AMA has established 6 goals and nine electives for clubs wishing to be a Leader Club.

- Bronze Leader Clubs must meet five of the goals and three of the electives.
- Silver Leader Clubs must meet five of the goals and six of the electives.

Gold Leader Clubs must meet all of the goals and electives.

### AMA Leader Club Goals

1. Be an AMA chartered club for a minimum of five years.
  2. Club membership must be open to all AMA members and is not limited to a certain number.
  3. Club has developed and posted Safety and Operational Rules at its flying site.
  4. Club has filed a copy of its Safety and Operational Rules at AMA Headquarters.
  5. Flying field has separate areas for fliers and spectators, clearly marked as such.
  6. The AMA Safety Code is posted and visible at the club field.
- Program Requirement Modification: In order for a deserving club to be considered for Leader Club status, the club's district vice president may waive one of the above requirements for participation.

### Leader Club Electives:

1. Club has implemented and enforces a frequency control plan that allows all 50 RC channels to be used at its club flying site where RC is allowed.
2. Club donates to the AMA Scholarship Program or donates Model Aviation or Park Pilot magazines to a local school or library.
3. Club conducts a review of the AMA Safety Code at a club meeting at least once a year.

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4. Club sponsors an annual public event, such as a mall show, flying show, or demonstration.
5. Club monitors noise levels and/or institutes club field rules, such as a requirement that models be operated at a maximum of 90 db at 9 feet.
6. Club has created an informational handout and provides it to the general public.
7. Club participates in charity programs or public fund-raising events.
8. Club has a formal lease or agreement for use of its flying site or owns its site.
9. Club participates in the AMA Introductory Pilot Program or has its own instruction program.

Congratulations to all of our members for helping us maintain Gold Leader Club status year after year.

I hope that you can make it to our Member Meeting on Monday, March 10 at 7:30 pm 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**  
February 10, 2025 at  
St. Charles Township Hall

1. **Welcome Members and Guests**  
– Dale Gathman.  
Dale Gathman called the meeting to order at 7:35pm
2. **Approval of Member Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2025** – Armin Weber.  
Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Member Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2025.  
Motion made by Bill Suhr, second by Dominick Silvestri. All Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Scott Stampfli.  
Recent income includes Dues & Swap Table sales.  
Scott reminded the members that Dues are due by 3/1/2025.  
Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Rob Sampson, second by Dave Cotton.  
All Approved.
4. **Safety Chairman's Report** – Jim Thompson.  
Nothing to report.
5. **Government Relations Chairman's Report** – Dave Murray.  
Nothing to report.
6. **Membership Chairman's Report** – Jeff Peca.
  - a. Member count at 218. New Member – Michael Crosta.

Welcome guests:  
John Zingale – Recently retired and looking to get back into the hobby.  
Albert Dyer – Was an active flyer but put the hobby on hold. Will retire soon and looking to get back into the hobby.
7. **Field Chairman's Report** – Dominick Silvestri.
  - a. Plan to crack fill and seal-cote runway in April. The field will be closed for about a week. Date to be determined.
8. **Flypaper Editor's Report** – Paul Martin.  
Paul reminded members they can submit articles.
9. **Public Relations Chairman's Report** – Todd Culbertson.  
Todd showed sample posters/flyers for all 2025 events.
10. **2025 Calendar** – Dale Gathman.
  - a. Tailgate Swap changed to September 27, 2025.
11. **Swap Meet Report** – John 'JT' Turner.  
We are ready for the event on Saturday. JT asked for volunteers to help set-up Friday afternoon.  
Foamy fun-fly will begin around 1pm. Lil Debs will be selling food.
12. **Festival of Flight Report** – Jim Thompson.  
Imran is willing to display his cars again. We may ask the Model T club to display cars as well.
13. **Windy City Warbirds & Classics Report** – John Howe.  
Tom Flint showed his new hat and shirt designs. WCWC Event Hats and shirts will be available for sale as we get closer to the event.



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14. **Gold Leader Club Application** – Dale Gathman.
  - a. Jeff Peca – Gold Leader Club application completed and confirmed.
15. **Flight Trainers** – Dave Jacobsen Chief Flight Instructor.
  - a. Art Alvarez, Tom Blassick, Matt DiPietro (ducted fan), Paul Martin, Jim Thompson.
16. **Sanctions Needed** – Dale Gathman.
  - a. Festival of Flight – 6/7 - Jim Thompson.
  - b. Chicagoland IMAC Cup – 6/28-6/29 – Johnny Gago CD - Approved.
  - c. Electric Only Fly – 7/5 - Jim Thompson.
  - d. Windy City Warbirds & Classics – 7/10-7/12 - John Howe CD - Approved.
  - e. Cub Fly – 8/2 – Dale Gathman EM - Kevin Kessler Organizer - Approved.
  - f. Night Fly – 8/2 – Dale Gathman EM – Approved.
  - g. EDF Only – 9/6 – Jeff Peca CD - Approved.
  - h. Tailgate Swap – 9/27 – Dale Gathman EM – Under Review.

### Show & Tell

Dave Murray showed his new Skymaster F4 Jet. The impressive model features a factory painted camo scheme. The nomenclature and weathering was factory applied. The completed model will have all the bombs, rockets and ordinance. This updated version is 4lbs lighter than previous versions. Power will be a P220 Turbine.



Dave Murray also showed his new Futaba 16iz Radio. The radio features dual redundancy and 900 MHz backup.

John Howe showed his now completed Stingray 120 from the Balsa USA Kit. The model will be primarily used to test engines. John also described how Minwax Polycrylic can be used as an adhesive for iron-on coverings. (Similar to Balsa Rite which is now unavailable).



Armin Weber showed Wing bags from Penn Bags. The custom wing bags are available from Pennhobby.com. They can be ordered to size or for specific models. Similar to Revoc, you can choose from many colors and options.

Jeff Mrachek showed his new Freewing Avanti S 80mm V2 EDF. The model comes ready to fly with servos, ESC, and retracts. You must add your own receiver. Jeff is getting 7-minute flights with 6s - 6000. Jeff sealed the model with Eze-Kote from Deluxe Materials, giving it a hard-shell glossy finish.



Jacob Olef showed two vintage Parkzone Stryker flying wings. One was purchased at a swap. The other was flown by Jacob's father and has been restored to flying condition. They have a pusher prop and use 3S 2600.



Motion to adjourn by Tom Flint, second by Jeff Peca. 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

I always look forward to the February Swap Meet. It is a great time to get together and visit with fellow club members and modellers from the area. The Swap Meet is also a great event to display to the modelling community what a great club we have! Thanks go out to JT and Joe Pedone for organizing another successful Swap Meet!

I always enjoy the setup and takedown of the tables and chairs. After the Swap Meet tear down, there was plenty of space for the micro RC planes, helis, drones and FPV craft. About 10 to 15 fliers enjoyed the indoor space to fly around and make attempts to land on the folding table "Aircraft Carrier". Thanks go out to Doug Swanson for running this event.

As always at this time in the year, I am looking for cold days to make way for sunny skies and warmer temps at the flying field.

I'll see you out there!  
Cheers!,  
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.



# FVAC ANNUAL SWAP MEET 2025

The 20th annual Fox Valley Aero SWAP was another success. Even with the major snowstorm, our event was sold out! Thanks to many of our member/volunteers behind the scenes from registrations, advertisement, set up and take down. More importantly, our club table continues to be a highlight for donations and great deals during the day. The foamy flight continues to be well received and thanks to Doug "Magic" Swanson for helping to CD the event.

Mark your calendar for February 14, 2026, for next year's event.

Again, thank you for the help and positive feedback for this year's SWAP. See you at the field and happy flying

JT



Swap Meet Setup Crew

The setup crew

Turned This----->



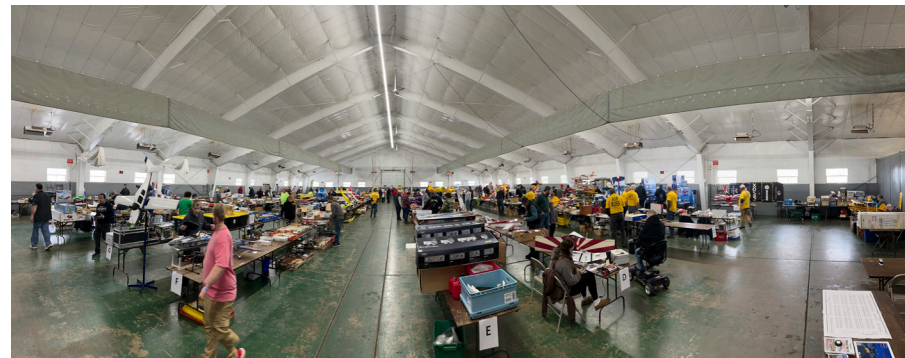
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## FVAC ANNUAL SWAP MEET 2025



Dale Gathman and Paul Martin photos



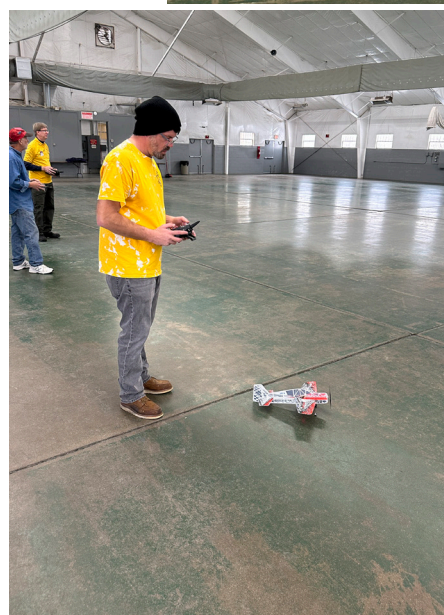
# 2025 Indoor Fun Fly



Doug Swanson



Paul Martin photos

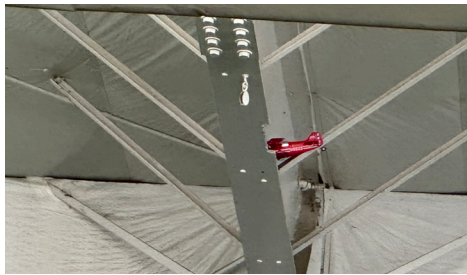


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# 2025 Indoor Fun Fly





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 27	<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:

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



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

**Complete and mail this form to:**

**FOX VALLEY AERO CLUB  
 P.O. BOX 837  
 ST. CHARLES, IL 60174-0837**



Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_