

AIRPORT DIAGRAM

AL-252 (AMA)

FOX VALLEY AERO (FVA)
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

88°22.5'W

May 2026

FLY PAPER



ELEV
747

7.0°

800 X 50

28

ELEV
739

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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FIELD WORKDAY 2026



Dale Gathman photo



President's Message

Dale Gathman

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

Field Workday – Thanks go out to all the members who helped during our Field Workday. A lot was accomplished, and Greg did a great job organizing the day. Almost all of the items on the project list were completed, 4 of the 8 starting tables were rebuilt, (the remaining 4 were rebuilt the following Saturday), and we got a good start to taking 6 inches off of the chain link fence. See photos from the Workday in this issue.

Family Fly – We have Family Fly coming up on Saturday, May 9 and always have a fun time while visitors take a turn flying one of our pilot's trainer airplanes. Todd will once again head up the check-in and pre-flight training, and we have a good number of pilots with training aircraft and spotters planning to attend. Come out and see the fun.

Treeline/Berm Orientation Day – We had a very successful day with around 20 pilots participating. Many of the pilots expressed that they were very surprised and enlightened as our volunteers called out how many feet away from the Treeline and Berm they were as they made their turns. We will be scheduling a few additional Treeline/Berm Orientation days in the near future. **It is very important that all of our pilots participate at one of the upcoming days if you haven't already.** Also, if you would like to schedule a specific time and day with our spotting crew, please let me or Dave Jacobsen know, and we will get spotters out to the field when you are available. **NOTE: Representative(s) from the Kane County Forest Preserve will be at our May 11 Meeting to answer all of our questions in regard to the new Archery Range. Please bring your questions to the meeting.**

Memorial Day Parade - On Memorial Day May 25, we will once again be participating in the St. Charles Memorial Day Parade. This is a great opportunity to honor our veterans and those who gave it all in defense of freedom with our parade float. Please consider joining us as we walk along with the float down Main Street in St. Charles. The parade is only about seven blocks long, and the spectators really enjoy seeing our float full of planes. Look for details to be sent to you via our club email.

Fun Fly #1 and Spring Cookout – On June 14, we will have our first Fun-Fly of the year, and on June 20, we are looking forward to our annual Spring cookout. Mark your calendars for these fun events.

Windy City Warbirds & Classics 2026 is only 2 months away. We always need a large number of volunteers for this event, so look for the emails and please volunteer as you are able.

I hope that you can make it to our Member Meeting on Monday, May 11 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

Watcha got?

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



Secretary's Report

Armin Weber

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

Fox Valley Aero Club

Member Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026 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 March 09, 2026** – Armin Weber.
Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Member Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2026.
Motion made by Bill Suhr, second by Jeff Mrachek. All Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Scott Stampfli.
Income: A small amount remains in Paypal from dues.
Expenses: No significant expenses. Taxes have been filed.
Scott suggested we review our trash pickup contract.
Cost is \$425 per month.
Consider bi-weekly pickup instead of weekly. Also possibly suspended during the winter months.
We are getting quotes for trash pickup and Porta Pottys.
Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.
Motion made by Steve Gawlik, second by Jeff Peca. All Approved.
4. **Safety Chairman's Report** – Jim Thompson.
The AED is back in the pavilion. A corrugated aluminum bin is now available for LiPo disposal.
5. **Government Relations Chairman's Report** – Dave Murray.
Dave will schedule a visit with Zach from the Forest Preserve to review the archery range.
6. **Membership Chairman's Report** – Jeff Peca.
 - a. Member count is 215
 - b. 25 adult, 4 junior/family have not renewed.

Welcome Luke Broman. Luke is a 13-year-old pilot and will be flying with his Grandpa, Ralph Robinson.
7. **Field Chairman's Report** – Greg Bohler.
 - a. Field Workday – April 18.
 - i. Clean Pavilion.
 - ii. Wash Pavilion Windows.
 - iii. Clean out Shed.
 - iv. Level patio blocks under starting tables.
 - v. Rebuild Starting Tables.
 - vi. Cut down brush behind shed, make a 3-foot path.
 - vii. Cut down brush/trees in the Wi-Fi tunnel.
 - viii. Prepare hand wash station.
 - ix. Work on Chain Link fence.
 - b. Tools Needed:
 - i. Shovels/rakes for leveling sand under starting table blocks.
 - ii. Chain Saws.
 - iii. Pole Saws.
 - iv. Battery Powered Drills/Screwdrivers.
 - v. Paper Towels/Window Cleaner.
8. **Flypaper Editor's Report** – Paul Martin.
Paul presented Jeff Mrachek and Kevin Kessler \$10 Starbucks gift cards for participating in the Guess-The-Plane contest.
9. **Public Relations Chairman's Report** – Todd Culbertson.
Todd provided new handouts for the WCWC.

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10. **Chief Flight Instructor's Report** – Dave Jacobsen.
Dave created a Solo Certificate. Todd Culbertson will provide fancy paper and printing services.
11. **Treeline/Berm Orientation Day** – Dale Gathman/Jim Thompson.
 - a. May 2. Important for members to attend.
12. **Family Fly Day** – Dale Gathman.
 - a. May 9. We will need 6 or 7 trainers and spotters for Family Fly Day.
13. **Memorial Day Parade Report** – Dave Murray.
 - a. May 25. Dave is preparing the float.
14. **Windy City Warbirds & Classics Report** – John Howe.
 - a. July 9,10,11. The minimum wingspan is being reduced from 80 to 70 inches.
15. **Festival of Flight Report** – Jim Thompson.
 - a. August 29.
The food truck will not be available for the event.
Still expecting exotic cars and classic motorcycles.

Show & Tell:

Armin Weber showed 1/3 Scale Sig Spacewalker. Originally built in the 90's and restored to flying condition with fresh paint and new electronics. The model has a 104" wingspan and powered by a DLE 35.



Dale Gathman showed the new Spektrum XBC200 battery checker. The new unit includes IC2, IC3 and IC5 connectors.

Dale also showed his completed Habu 32x. This is the older fiberglass version of the Habu, now discontinued. Dale installed a newer 12 blade fan and will use 6S.

Steve Gawlik showed his B24 from the Brodak Laser Cut kit. The 60-inch model has 4 electric motors, weighs 2 ¾ pounds and is powered by a single LiPo battery.



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Jacob Olef showed two new EDF's. First a Freewing Venom. The foam model has an unusual camo scheme from the 1956 Invasion of Egypt. It has a 90mm fan and uses 6S battery.

Next a Freewing A10 with twin 80mm fans and a desert mask paint scheme. This will use two 6S batteries.



Rob Sampson showed his recently completed Stinson R-9 built from the Top Flite kit. The model is covered with Oratex fabric and painted in a British Grey camo finish. The 100" model uses a DLE 30.



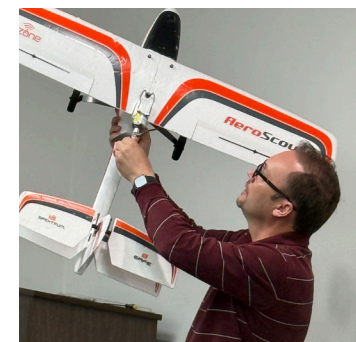
Rich Gabrys showed his new Sebart Extra XS. The 61" ARF uses a DualSky electric motor with a 6S battery.



John Zingale showed his Hobby King Night Walrus glider. The model has custom graphics by Jeff Hughes and homemade water slide decals made by John.



Jeff Hughes showed the latest version of his Aero Scout. Jeff installed a motor from an A900 pushing the model to 104 MPH. Jeff added a second elevator in an attempt to get the model to hover.



Paul Martin showed his recently completed Smith Mini Plane built from a vintage Sig kit. It has a red and white finish, weighs 5 ¼ pounds and uses an O.S. 46 glow engine.

Paul also showed some incredibly realistic miniature baseball caps complete with logos. He made them from paper.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Peca, second by Mike Maciejewski. All approved. Meeting was adjourned by Dale Gathman at 8:35pm.

Minutes submitted by Armin Weber—Secretary

FVAC FIELD WORKDAY 2026

Dale Gathman Photos



FVAC FIELD WORKDAY 2026

(Continued)



CUB SCOUT ROCKET LAUNCH

Dale Gathman Photos



CUB SCOUT ROCKET LAUNCH



January 1	Fun-Fly — Frozen Fingers	10:00 am FVAC Field
January 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
February 9	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
February 14	FVAC Annual February Swap Meet	8:30 – 4:00 - Kane County Fairgrounds
March 9	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
April 13	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
April 18	Field Workday	9:00 – FVAC Field
May 2	Tree Line/Berm Orientation Day	9:00 – 3:00 – FVAC Field
May 9	Family Fly Day	10:00 - 2:00 - FVAC Field
May 11	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
May 25	St. Charles Memorial Day Parade	TBD
June 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
June 14	Fun Fly - #1	11:00 - 1:00 - FVAC Field
June 20	FVAC Spring Cookout	12:00 - FVAC Field
July 4	Electric Only – AMA Sanctioned	9:00 – 3:00 Electric Only – FVAC Field
July 9-11	Windy City Warbirds & Classics - AMA Sanctioned	9:00 - 5:00 - FVAC Field
July 13	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
August 1	Cub Fly - AMA Sanctioned	9:00 – 1:00 - Cubs Only - FVAC Field
August 1	Night Fly - AMA Sanctioned	6:00 - Midnight - FVAC Field
August 10	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at FVAC Field
August 22	Retro Fly	9:00 – 3:00 - FVAC Field
August 23	Fun Fly #2	11:00 - 1:00 - FVAC Field
August 29	Festival of Flight	9:00 - 5:00 - FVAC Field
Sept 5	EDF Jet Only - AMA Sanctioned	9:00 - 3:00 - FVAC Field
Sept 14	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
Sept 26	FVAC Fly Market Swap Meet - AMA Sanctioned	8:00 - 1:00 – FVAC Field
October 10	Turkey Fry	12:00 - FVAC Field
October 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
November 9	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
December 5	Christmas Party	6:00 - West Chicago VFW Hall

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

2026 EVENTS

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



Fox Valley Aero Club Membership Form

New **ADULT** member assessment fee: \$300 (does not include dues)

Yearly dues

ADULT members (19 years old and over): \$150.00 per member

JUNIOR members (under 19 years old): \$25.00 per member

FAMILY membership: \$150.00 for primary member

\$25 for each additional household member
(A.M.A. membership required for flying privileges.)

Make checks payable to "Fox Valley Aero Club"

Mail this completed form to:

Fox Valley Aero Club
P.O. Box 837

St. Charles, IL 60174-0837

Primary Member PLEASE PRINT New member New ADULT member assessment fee \$300

FULL NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____ Send club notices

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BIRTHDATE _____ A.M.A. NUMBER _____ Dues amount (See above): \$150.00 \$25.00

I am a current turbine waiver holder

I agree to abide by the FVAC Constitution and By-laws & the Field Rules of Fox Valley Aero Club.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
(signature of guardian if Junior Member)

Additional Household Family Member PLEASE PRINT New member

FULL NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____ Send club notices

BIRTHDATE _____ A.M.A. NUMBER _____ Dues amount (see above): \$25.00

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SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
(signature of guardian if Junior Member)

Additional Household Family Member PLEASE PRINT New member

FULL NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL _____ Send club notices

BIRTHDATE _____ A.M.A. NUMBER _____ Dues amount (see above): \$25.00

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SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
(signature of guardian if Junior Member)

Were you referred by an existing member?

If so, please list their name here: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____