

# FLY PAPER



June 2026

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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## Memorial Day Parade

Dale Gathman photo



## President's Message

Dale Gathman

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

**Family Fly** – We had another very successful Family Fly Day on May 9, with around 50 visitors attending. We had a very strong wind, but once again, our fantastic pilot/spotter teams made all the flights that were required, and we actually had zero mishaps all day. Thanks to all of our teams and of course to Todd Culbertson for handling the training session before flight. Also, thanks to John Zingale for donating three drones which

we used as raffle prizes for the guests.

**Memorial Day Parade** - On Memorial Day May 25, we had a great turnout for the St. Charles parade. 17 of our members joined in the parade, and Dave Murray once again had his F-16 turbine jet blowing smoke from the back of the float, which always elicits lots of shouts and applause. A new highlight this year was Imran's Air Force One 747, painted by Jim Thompson and it adorned the top of the float. This is a ten foot long FOAMY, hard to believe. Make sure to check out the pictures in this issue.

**Fun Fly #1, Spring Cookout, Electric Only** – 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. These are followed on July 4 with our Electric Only Fly. Mark your calendars for these fun events.

**Windy City Warbirds & Classics 2026** is only 1 month away on July 9,10,11. We always need a large number of volunteers for this event, so look for the emails and please volunteer as you are able.

**Kane County Forest Preserve Archery Range News** – A big thank you goes out to Ben Haberthur, Executive Director of the Kane County Forest Preserve. He visited our May Member meeting and answered all of our questions in regard to the new Archery Range. They will be having an open house on June 6, from 11:00am – 1:00pm. The range will be officially open following the open house. Please see Armin's minutes of the May meeting in this issue for answers to questions we asked. **NOTE – We are closing the field to all flight during the open house from 11:00am – 1:00pm on Saturday, June 6.** A few of us will be manning a table at the open house, explaining what we do and handing out flyers for the club.

We have four new members just in the past couple weeks, so please look for new members at the field and introduce yourself. Let's make them feel welcome.

I hope that you can make it to our Member Meeting on Monday, June 8 at 7:30 at the FVAC FLYING FIELD. 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](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.

## Vice President's Message

Dave Murray

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

At the May meeting we had a guest speaker, Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director of the Kane County Forest Preserve. In early April, Dale had submitted a list of questions from the membership to the Forest Preserve board. The response from the Forest Preserve Board was not what we expected. My opinion was that the response contained an adversarial tone. Mr. Haberthur's presentation at the May meeting was the complete opposite and was optimistic and supportive. He apologized in the meeting for the adversarial tone that was previously expressed. He acknowledged that Fox Valley Aero Club has been in its current location for 20 years. It is the opinion of Dale and myself that Mr. Haberthur is a strong and supportive asset for FVAC.

In regard to the overflight boundary to the west, it has always been there but not strictly enforced. In general, when considering our field flight boundaries to the West and East, we currently have an unwritten rule that all maiden flights should take off to the west. However, with our new neighbors to the west and heightened awareness of the tree line, common sense should prevail. We can certainly discuss this issue at the meeting, so please bring your questions and comments!

That's it for now – see you at the field! By the way, the photo on this page is AI generated!  
Dave



VICE PRES



## Secretary's Report

**Armin Weber**

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

### Fox Valley Aero Club Member Meeting Minutes

May 11, 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 April 13, 2026** – Armin Weber.  
Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Member Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2026. Motion made by Bill Suhr, second by Mark Mrachek. All Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Scott Stampfli.  
Expenses: Field workday. The mowers will need some maintenance. Routine summer field expenses are starting. May need a new grill. We have switched to Flood's Royal Flush for Porta Potties, saving us \$600 per year. We will switch to Flood Brothers for trash pickup beginning August 1. Significant savings. Will begin trash pickup every two weeks during the summer and monthly during the winter. Going forward, no personal items in trash. Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Greg Bohler, second by John Howe. All Approved.
4. **Kane County Forest Preserve Representative – Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director reviewed the new Archery Range.**  
  
Key Takeaways:
  1. Grand opening will be 6/6/2026.
  2. Annual pass is required. They expect a few hundred shooters to apply.
  3. Occasional School groups will train.
  4. No permanent Range officer.
  5. If airplane retrieval is necessary - At least two members must drive to the range and coordinate the retrieval with the shooters (when they retrieve arrows). One member will stay at the area where they shoot from and let other shooters know there is a person down range.
  6. The range will be mowed and maintained Tuesday Mornings.
  7. Airplanes must stay on our side of the tree line at all times (no overflight of the Forest Preserve property).
5. **Safety Chairman's Report** – Jim Thompson.
  - a. Drone flight using video screen must be treated same as FPV (must have spotter).
  - b. Spotters are required if flying any drone using a screen (phone or computer). Spotters must keep the drone in sight. These are AMA and FAA regulations.
6. **Government Relations Chairman's Report** – Dave Murray.  
Nothing to report.
7. **Membership Chairman's Report** – Jeff Peca.
  - a. Member count at 187.
8. **Field Chairman's Report** – Greg Bohler/Dale Gathman.
  - a. Field Workday Report. All work was completed over two weekends, including 8 new starting tables.
  - b. Pop Machine?
    - i. Pop machine sometimes won't accept credit cards.
    - ii. May replace with a refrigerator and use honor system for payment.

(Continued from previous page)

- iii. Dave Murray will check on repair costs or maybe change from credit to cash only.
    - iv. Possibly sell the machine back.
  - c. Porta Potty Report. Switched to Flood's Royal Flush.
  - d. Garbage Service Report. Will change to Flood Brothers as of August 1. Will begin trash pickup every two weeks during the summer and monthly during the winter. Going forward, no personal items in the trash.
- 9. **Flypaper Editor's Report** – Dale Gathman.  
Paul is temporarily unavailable, Dale stepped in for the May issue.
- 10. **Public Relations Chairman's Report** – Todd Culbertson.  
Todd reviewed advertising for Family fly day and upcoming events.
- 11. **Chief Flight Instructor's Report** – Dave Jacobsen.  
Training continues.
- 12. **Treeline/Berm Orientation Day** – Dale Gathman/Jim Thompson.  
About 30 members attended. We will hold more sessions in upcoming weeks.
- 13. **Family Fly Day** – Todd Culbertson.  
Family day was a success, about 50 kids and adults attended. Picked up a potential new member.  
John Zingale donated three drones for raffle prizes.
- 14. **Memorial Day Parade Report** – Dave Murray.
  - a. May 25. The float is being prepared. May not run the turbine and smoke on the jet this year.
- 15. **Spring Cookout** – Debbie Howe.
  - a. June 20. Planning is underway.
- 16. **Windy City Warbirds & Classics Report** – John Howe.
  - a. July 9, 10, 11.
  - b. Registration will open soon.

17. **Festival of Flight Report** – Jim Thompson.

- a. August 29. Exotic cars and motorcycles are scheduled. Still searching for a food vendor. (Note: After the meeting, Lil' Deb's was contacted and will be the food vendor from 11:00-2:00).

Motion to adjourn by Dave Murray, second by Scott Schilling. All approved.  
Meeting was adjourned by Dale Gathman at 8:50pm.  
Minutes submitted by Armin Weber–Secretary

# Tree Line - Berm Orientation



Dale Gathman



Archery Range Facilities as seen from the other side of treeline at the extended runway centerline to the west.



Archery Range Close-up Picture



Paul Martin Photos

## FAMILY FLY DAY



Family Fly Day Raffle Winners

# Memorial Day Parade



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

*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



# 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

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

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)

Were you referred by an existing member?

If so, please list their name here: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_