

FLY PAPER



September 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

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AMA Gold Leader Club



Academy of Model Aeronautics
Charter Club #252

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Wings & Wheels Festival of Flight 2026

August 29



Dale Gathman Photo



President's Message

Dale Gathman

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Muncie – Home of the AMA – I just got back from the Warbirds & Classics over the IAC, which was held on the AMA site 4 in Muncie, Indiana. I was able to spend time with a few friends from some of the other Warbirds and Classics Alliance fly-ins, as well as meet a few new pilots. I also got to see some amazing airplanes built by these pilots. In my opinion, the stand-out plane was a Riley Model B, built by the owner of National Balsa. This was the

most beautiful R/C plane I have ever seen. The flying fields were great; the AMA property consists of 1100 acres of land. I arrived there Tuesday so that I could spend Wednesday going through the AMA's National Model Aviation Museum. What a treat. It covers everything from the beginning of model flight until now. They also have a large library of books and magazines related to our hobby. If you need a copy, they have a copy machine that can be used to copy pages. If you are ever in the area, I encourage you to visit the museum.



Riley Model B

Retro Fly – This year, our Retro Fly on August 22 was another great day at the field. I would say that we had more pilots and planes than any previous Retro Fly.

Fun Fly #1 – Loop, Roll, Touch-n-Go – Our first fun fly was a good time had by 11 pilots. This was the first fun fly we held with these requirements. See coverage elsewhere in this or a future issue.

Wings & Wheels Festival of Flight 2026 – Jim Thompson coordinated another fantastic Festival of Flight. A good number of pilots and planes were in attendance, as well as over 30 exotic cars brought by Imran and friends. We also had four beautiful antique motorcycles brought by the St. Charles Motorcycle Museum. Jim says they have many more at the museum. My thanks go out to our great volunteers who make this event possible each year. We couldn't do it without your help.

EDF Jet Only Fly – Jeff Peca and helpers hosted another very successful EDF only event. Unfortunately, I missed it as it coincided with the Muncie WCA event. I was however able to watch the festivities through our awesome field cameras. Look for coverage in this issue.

Future Events – Our Fly Market Tailgate Swap is coming up on Sept. 26. This event has grown every year, and it promises to be another fantastic event. We also have Fun Fly #2 coming up on Sept. 27, and our Turkey Fry on October 10.

Our full calendar is available on the website, as well as published in our Flypaper issues.

Please remember to look for new members at the field and introduce yourself. Also watch for new flyers who may need your help or advice.

I hope to see you at the September Member Meeting on the 14th at the St. Charles Township Building, and please bring your new planes and projects to show to the group.

Dale



Secretary's Report

Armin Weber

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Fox Valley Aero Club

Member Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2026 at
St. Charles Township Hall

1. **Welcome board** – Dale Gathman.
Dale Gathman called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
2. **Approval of Member Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2026** – Armin Weber.
Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the BOD Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2026.
Motion made by Bill Suhr, second by Jeff Mrackek.
All Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Scott Stampfli.
Expenses: Routine summer field expenses.
Income: Some dues. Anticipated income from Festival, and Swap.
Scott projected income and expenses thru the end of the year. We are in good shape.
Dale Gathman asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion made by Dave Cotton, second by Greg Bohler. All Approved.
4. **Safety Chairman's Report** – Jim Thompson.
Jim delivered 80 discarded batteries to the Kane County Township Center for disposal/recycling.
5. **Government Relations Chairman's Report** – Dave Murray.
Nothing to report. Dave will notify the Town of Saint Charles about the filming on 8/13.
6. **Membership Chairman's Report** – Jeff Peca.
 - a. Member count at 204.
 - b. New Member – Doug Fick.
 - c. Guests: Scott Seversen & Lou.
7. **Field Chairman's Report** – Greg Bohler.
Greg will convert the old Frequency Pin Board into a bulletin board with a plexiglass face.
8. **Flypaper Editor's Report** – Paul Martin.
Paul would like to eventually step down as Flypaper Editor. Paul will train the replacement. Please let us know if you are interested.
9. **Public Relations Chairman's Report** – Todd Culbertson.
 - a. Request from Colin Olsen to use our west parking lot for staging for a film shoot.
 - Colin Olsen – Independent Film Producer will be producing a film near the FVAC field.
 - Field operations will NOT be impacted.
 - Filming will be on Thursday 8/13 between 9pm and 4am.
 - They will use the West lot for parking.
 - They have permission from the farmer.
 - The Campton Hills police will be on site.
 - All permits and insurance are in place.
 - The scene involves actors running through the Corn.
 - FVAC may receive a small donation and be listed in the Film Credits.
 - b. Todd produced a flyer for the upcoming Wings & Wheels Festival of Flight and the Fly Market Tailgate Swap. Copies are available for handout.
10. **Chief Flight Instructor's Report** – Dave Jacobsen.
Several young students are nearly ready for solo.

(Continued from previous page)

11. **Cub Fly Report** – Dale Gathman - Event Cancelled due to weather. Walt Thyng recommended that we change the name of the Cub Fly to Cliff Fullhart Annual Cub Fly. The board approved.
12. **Night Fly Report** – Dale Gathman – Event cancelled due to weather.
13. **Retro Fly** – Dale Gathman.
 - a. August 22 - 9:00-3:00. Not Sanctioned.
 - b. The field will be open for flying as usual. Bring your retro airplanes and equipment.
14. **Fun Fly #1** – Dale Gathman.
 - a. August 23 – 11:00-1:00. Loop/ Roll/ Touch-N-Go. Will be judged by the pilots.
15. **Festival of Flight Report** – Jim Thompson.
 - a. August 29 - 9:00-5:00 (sanctioned).
 - b. We are expecting 30 exotic cars and some vintage motorcycles. Lil' Deb's Food truck will be on site.
16. **EDF Jet Only Event** – Jeff Peca.
 - a. September 5, 9:00-3:00 (sanctioned). \$5 landing fee for pilots and lunch will be provided.
17. **Fly Market Swap Meet** – Glenn LaRocco.
 - a. September 26 from 8:00-1:00 (sanctioned).
 - b. Bring your unwanted items to sell or donate to the Club Table.
18. **Fun Fly #2** – Dale Gathman.
 - a. September 27 – 11:00-1:00. Topic TBD.
19. **Turkey Fry Plan** – Dale Gathman.
 - a. October 10 – 12:00- ????. Karl Griesbaum will be planning this event once again.

Show & Tell:

Greg Bohler – Showed his Liberty Sport biplane built from the Sig kit. The model has been framed up and ready for radio, engine and covering. The 58" model will have a O.S.70 FS motor and should be ready for flight by next spring.



Dave Jacobson – Showed his 1937 Denny Plane. The model was designed in 1937 by Reginald Denny a British actor, aviator and UAV pioneer. The model was originally intended for free flight. Dave's version uses 3 channel RC and 3S electric power.

Jacob Olof – Showed his recently purchased FMS A4 Skyhawk. The 80mm EDF was repainted in the Aggressor scheme flown by "Viper" in the Original Top Gun film.



John Zingale – Showed his recently purchased L39 from HSD. The model has a 110mm fan and will use 2 6s Batteries.

Motion to adjourn by Tracey Wienrich, second by Jeff Peca. All approved. Meeting was adjourned by Dale Gathman at 8:25pm. Minutes submitted by Armin Weber—Secretary

Paul Martin photos

From the Editor

Paul Martin

contact@foxvalleyaero.com

It certainly has been a busy summer for the club. What a great group of members we have to contribute to and enjoy the great hobby of model aviation! Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the club and the hobby.

I have not been able to get out to the field nearly as much as I would like as my schedule has become more full in other areas of my life. Because of that fact I would like to hand off the position of Flypaper Editor to someone who may be interested in contributing to the club.

The position does require some basic familiarity working with computers and images; but I can provide any instruction/training that may be needed to get you up to speed. Right now the Flypaper is published using an Adobe product called Indesign. However, the Flypaper can be published using other formats - You can "make it yours" in that regard.

The Flypaper Editor position is a great way to meet people and become more involved in the club. If you have any desire to contribute your knowledge, skill and creativity/imagination to the club in this position please reach out to me and I will be able to give you more details.

Thanks!
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

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.

Retro Fly

August 22, 2026

submitted by Dale Gathman

Our annual Retro Fly Day was held on Saturday, August 22nd. This has always been an informal, relaxed event, with the purpose of having members bring out some of their Retro' equipment and airplanes. Doug Swanson created this event years back, stating that if it is Retro to you, bring it. This year, I believe the number of pilots and planes was higher than it has ever been.

It is always interesting to see some of the crude equipment that RC pilots had to use 'in the day'. One thing I noticed is that over the years, electronics have changed significantly, but planes have not changed all that much. Obviously, the advent of EDF power and Turbine power added many new and very different airplanes, but many of the propellor driven airplanes could not be differentiated from their modern-day counterparts. One thing I noticed at the AMA National Model Airplane Museum is that EDF power is not all that new.

It is neat to see the different apparel designs from the past. We had a fairly large collection of old transmitters and some of these radios have been converted to 2.4 GHz so that they can be used with current receivers, although some of them still only had one joystick. Jeff Peca even has one that has a single joystick with a rotating know that can be used for the rudder.

If you have never attended our Retro Fly Day, it is definitely worth looking into.



Dale Gathman Photos

Paul Martin Photos

Fun Fly #1

Article submitted by Dale Gathman

LOOP, ROLL, TOUCH & GO

Our first Fun Fly for 2026 was held on Sunday, August 23. This fun fly was called Loop, Roll, Touch-n-Go. This was a new one, and each contestant was judged by the group of competing pilots, and we also had an additional judge, Paul Martin, who was our 'roving' judge who stood in for each pilot as they flew their rounds.

After the first circuit was flown, the pilot was required to do a perfectly round loop, then an axial roll while maintaining altitude (or a barrel or military roll based on plane type). Then on the next circuit do a perfect touch-n-go where wheels touch down on the centerline, without bouncing, and roll for at least 10 feet, then take off again. Each pilot was judged on their performance by the judges holding up a number between 0 and 5. The two highest and the two lowest judge's score for each pilot's round were discarded. There were penalties for touch-n-goes on the grass and for aborting the touch-n-go.

The pilots who competed in the event were:

Jeff Mrachek.	Jeff Hughes.
Dave Jacobsen.	Dan Vancura.
Armin Weber.	Gary Koester.
John Zingale.	Jacob Olef.
Nathan Bush.	Dale Gathman.
David Baker.	

The wind was fairly strong as typical for this year, so these pilots are to be commended on their fantastic flying. None of the pilot's planes were damaged throughout all three rounds of the event.

The competition was very close, with a tie for first place between Jeff Mrachek and Dan Vancura, both scoring 54 points. Jacob Olef came in 2nd with 53 points and Armin Weber 3rd with 52 points.

We ended the event with four raffle prizes (randomly drawn) of Hobbytown Gift Cards, one donated by Jeremy from Hobbytown, and a hot dog lunch, cooked by Dave Jacobsen. Everyone had a fun time.



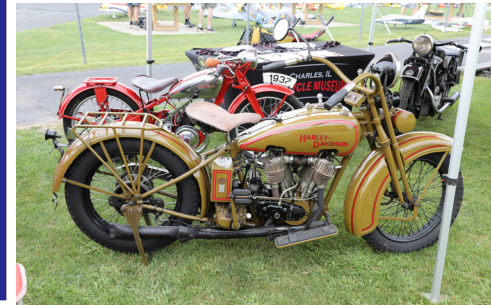
Wings & Wheels Festival of Flight 2026

August 29



Wings & Wheels Festival of Flight 2026

August 29



EDF Only Event

Article submitted by Jeff Peca

The Fox valley Aero Club hosted the second annual EDF JET EVENT on Saturday September 5th. We wanted this years event to be bigger and better than last years and we weren't disappointed. We topped last years attendance by 33%, at 41 registered pilots. There were multiple planes flying at all times. One thing I noticed is that the EDFs are getting bigger!

At lunch time we feasted on Italian sausage, hamburgers, and hot dogs grilled up by Glenn LaRocco. There was also baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, and chips. If you left hungry it was your own fault. As usual we invited any spectators to partake in our lunch.

A special thanks Ron and Alice Edwards for providing 2 HUGE cookies and milk for desert and Dan Vancura for the ice cream cups. Also served was a marble sheet cake decorated with our club name.

With full bellies we held our pilots raffle for prizes that were generously donated by Horizon Hobby. The winners were:

Rey Ortiz-RealFlight Evolution Simulator w/interlink DX Controller

Bill Suhr-E-flite Habu SS 50mm EDF Jet BNF Basic w/AS3X+ and SAFE

Glenn LaRocco-Spektrum Synapse AS3X+ & SAFE Stabilization Module

Scott Adair-Spektrum SMART Airfield Windsock
Congratulations to all the winners.

I would like to thank all of the pilots that flew, the club members that came out to support the event and the Real Housewives of Fox Valley West that did most of the work.

Jessie Stampfli, Paul Martin Photos



Warbirds & Classics Over the Midwest Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin

August 13-15, 2026

Kevin Kessler and Jessie Stampfli Contributed some photos showing the Fox Valley Aero Club's representation at Fond Du Lac this year.



Todd Culbertson's SR-71

Todd brought his awesome SR-71 out to the field on August 21. Although he didn't end up flying it due to a technical issue, the photos show the impressive scale of Todds craftsmanship.

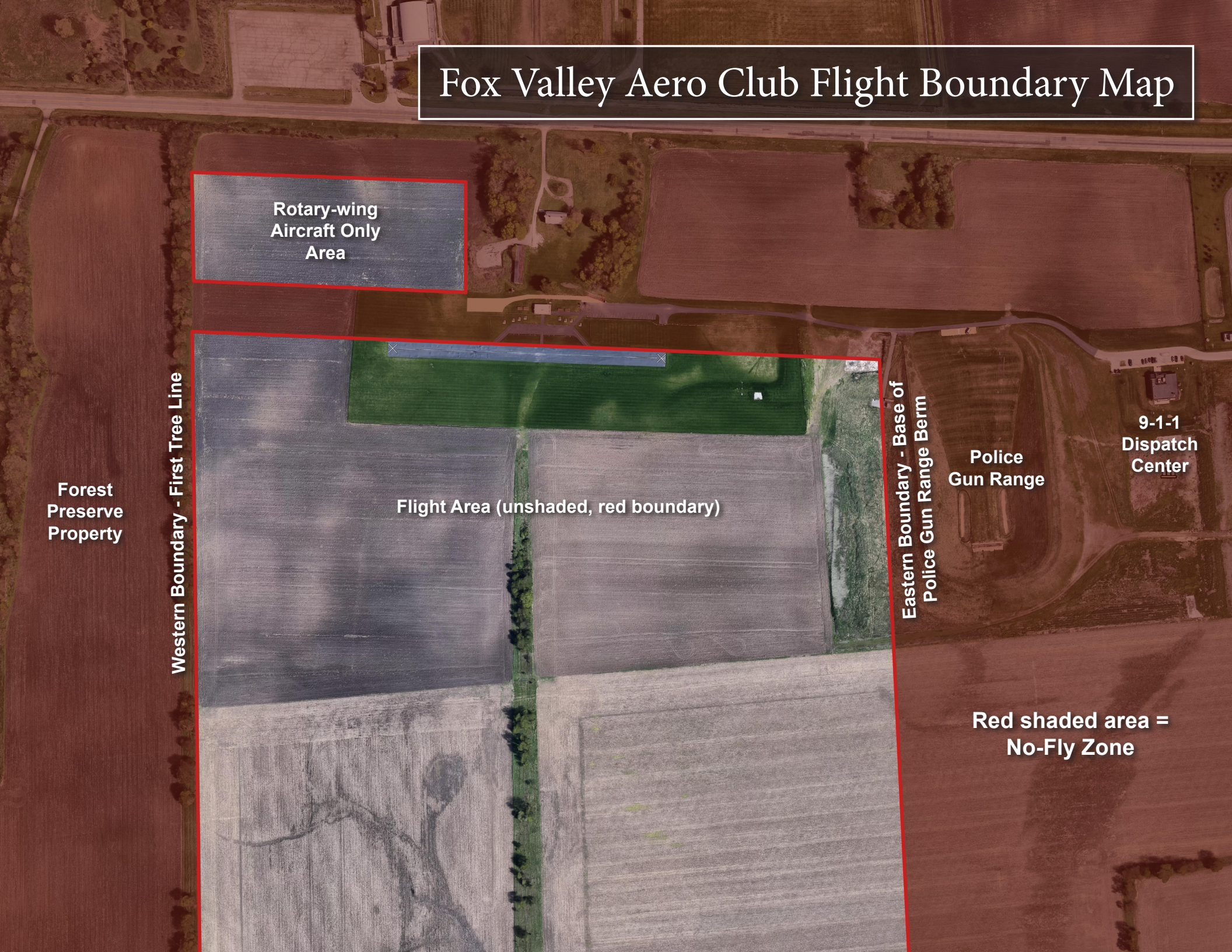
Photos submitted by Jessie Stampfli



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 Postponed	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 Cancelled	9:00 – 1:00 - Cubs Only - FVAC Field
August 1	Night Fly - AMA Sanctioned Cancelled	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 #1 - Loop, Roll, Touch-n-Go	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
Sep 27	Fun-Fly - #2	
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!

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



Mail this completed form to:

Fox Valley Aero Club
P.O. Box 837
St. Charles, IL 60174-0837

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"

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

(signature of guardian if Junior Member)

DATE

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
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Field Rules of Fox Valley Aero Club.

SIGNATURE

(signature of guardian if Junior Member)

DATE

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

(signature of guardian if Junior Member)

DATE

Were you referred by an existing member?

If so, please list their name here: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____