

# Fox Valley Aero Club

## Member Meeting

January 09, 2014 @ St. Charles Township Hall

**President Alvin Cole** called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm, welcomed everyone, and thanked them for making the journey to the meeting. He then asked the board members to stand, so that the members could see who the 2014 board members are. He announced that the President appointed board positions (Field Chairman, Safety Chairman, Membership Chairman, and Flypaper Editor) had been confirmed at the Board of Directors meeting on January 7, 2014. Tom Siwek was appointed to the Safety Chairman position, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Karl Griesbaum. The Government Relations Chairman, also an appointed position, is currently vacant.

**Secretary Dale Gathman** asked for any additions or corrections to the November 14, 2013 Member Meeting Minutes. None were voiced and the minutes were accepted as presented.

**President's Address Alvin Cole** acknowledged **Tom Spriet** for his service as president to our club, stating that Tom basically “gave him a cart that was moving full-speed-ahead and said ‘you drive now’”. The club’s appreciation of Tom’s service was recognized with a rousing round of applause. Alvin then presented his vision for the 2014 club year. He said that there are three things he wants us to focus on this year:

1. **Courtesy** – Not just to the people we know, but everyone at the field. At this point, Alvin called on several members to tell us about a new person they met tonight, along with that person’s favorite airplane (Alvin handed out cards to each attendee as members arrived to facilitate getting this information).
2. **Safety** – We need to ‘try’ to be safe, and really focus on safety this year, by being very mindful of what we are doing.
3. **Fun** – Have fun this year. It is great to be around people that are having fun.

**Treasurer Paul Jacobs** reported that the checkbook is pretty low for this time of year, but he hasn’t made all of the deposits yet. **Dorie** is accepting dues tonight, and we now have the FVAC 2014 Member stickers for those who have paid their dues. Paul, Dale Gathman and Tom Flint have the stickers, and members may get their sticker from one of them. Paul stated that the board went over the banking summary for 2013, and that any member may see the statement by contacting Paul. Bob Boen moved to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented, seconded by Sal Perno. Motion passed.

**Christmas Party Organizer John Turner** reported that this past year, he and his wife Pam were in charge of organizing the Christmas Party. He felt that all who attended enjoyed it. We had raffles, a good dinner, and the dancing was phenomenal. Mark Knoppkie mentioned that ‘the music wasn’t bad either’, which elicited a round of applause for Alvin and his band who provided the music. John asked whether everyone liked the Hilton Garden Inn location, which everyone responded they did. John then stated that he will reserve the same location for the 2014 Christmas Party, and that he would need to pay a \$250.00 down payment to hold the room. Paul will provide a check for the down payment. John may look into getting a comedian as the entertainment next year, to give Alvin a break. He then mentioned that Cindy McFarlane from Al’s Hobby Shop donates part of the money that the club members spend at her store back to the club to purchase raffle prizes for the party. Hobbytown in St. Charles also discounted raffle

prizes that were purchased there. John reminded us to remember to support Al's and Hobbytown when making our hobby purchases.

**Field Chairman Mark Knoppkie** announced that the field is going pretty well. We will basically maintain what we have this year. Steve Baker will continue with the rolling as he has in the past. The gravel is working and the grass is fine. One project we will complete this year is to fix the holes in the pavilion roof and coat the roof. Mark also said that we would do something with the bench tops to seal them, or we may replace the top boards. The field workday will be April 12<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of April 19<sup>th</sup>. Mark will get bids for the mowing, and recommended that we stay with the same mowing service if they hold the same price as last year. We will try to work with the city to get the two large sinkholes on the west end of the field repaired. One item that we may consider in the future is to fix up the west storage building so that we could use it for airplane storage at our events, eliminating the need to rent a tent. JT mentioned that the University may help us with the cost of roofing that building. John Fischer moved to accept the Field Chairman's report as presented, seconded by Sal Perno. Motion passed.

**Past President Tom Spriet** explained that he and Alvin went to visit our neighbor to the north (Tim White) in December, to give him a \$200.00 gift certificate to Fresh Market. He refused the certificate, asking Tom to cash it back in and donate the money to Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, where he works as a nurse (Tim actually took care of Dominic Saverino when he was at Marianjoy). Tom told him that the club would gather a donation in addition to the \$200.00 to give to Marianjoy in Tim's name. Tom explained to the members present that there is an anonymous club member who donated \$500.00 to this fund, bringing the total so far to \$700.00, and Tom asked any member who can contribute to this fund to do so. Bob Boen suggested that we create a donation jar to collect additional donations at our February club meeting, and we also have it at the registration table at the swap meet. At the conclusion of the swap meet, we can make out a check to Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital for the total amount collected in addition to the \$700.00, and deliver it to Tim White, so that he can present it to Marianjoy. Dale Gathman will come up with a jar to use for the collection.

Tom also stated that he and Alvin asked Tim what his preference would be in the event one of our planes landed on his property. Tim explained that he would really like to know before someone comes onto the property to retrieve their plane, as he has a dog that he needs to control. Tom will give Tim's phone number to all of the board members, and a few of the 'regulars' at the field. ***Any member who has a plane land on the neighbor's property to the west must contact a board member, Cliff Fullhart or Dan Compton, before retrieving their plane. The neighbor (Tim White) must be contacted before the plane is retrieved.***

**Flypaper Editor Dennis McFarlane** explained that he just got the software for publishing the newsletter, and he will need some time to get familiar with it. He doesn't plan on trying to 'fill Doug's shoes', who produced an outstanding newsletter for the last three years. All news articles, photos, etc. can be submitted to Dennis at 'hobbypub@aol.com'.

**Safety Chairman Tom Siwek** mentioned that he is taking over for **Karl Griesbaum**, who has done an admirable job as Safety Chairman for many years. Tom works as a safety professional, so safety is very familiar to him. He stated that it is important for us to put an emphasis on safety. Over time, we become familiar with our hobby, and familiarity breeds complacency, and that is when accidents can happen. Tom plans to bring a topic and discussion to us each month at our member meeting, so that safety can remain at the top of our minds while we are enjoying our hobby. Tom then presented our topic for tonight, 'Safety Aspects Associated with Electric Airplanes' (See Tom's article in the newsletter). Tom stated that he will cover the topics in expanded form in articles he submits to the Flypaper each month.

Also, he asked anyone who has ideas or topics they would like to see covered to email him with the suggestion.

**Swap Meet Organizers Joe Pedone and John Turner** mentioned that the Swap meet will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. They have about fifty tables sold so far. Tables are \$18.00 for one or \$15.00 each for two or more if reserved by February 1<sup>st</sup>. After that they are \$20.00 each. They will need help on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> to help set up for the swap.

**Show and Tell – Tom Flint** had a question on a sheeted wing that he is building for his 81” Beech Bonanza V-Tail. After gluing it and removing it from his board, the wing had a twist to it. He asked if anyone knew how to remove the twist. Bob Boen explained that one method is to ‘spritz’ the hell out of both sides of the sheeting with a 10% ammonia 90% water mix. Lay the wing flat on the board, and weight it down. Leave until it is completely dry, and the twist will be gone.

**Membership Chairman Tom Flint** then reminded attendees that he now has the 2014 FVAC Member stickers for everyone who has paid their 2014 dues. Alvin asked if there were any new members present. Alan Fields, a friend of Rob Sampson, was introduced, and stated that he is interested in joining the club. Welcome Alan.

**Dale Gathman** announced that the board has appointed a Constitution Rewrite Committee. The committee will consist of Dale Gathman, Joe Pedone, and Tom Siwek. The committee will be cleaning up errors, adding procedures that are not covered, and making sure that everything in the Constitution is in agreement with how we actually operate. Anyone who has suggestions for modifications should see one of the committee members.

**Alvin Cole** announced that the board has appointed Doug Swanson to handle our web site photo administration. Anyone who has photos that they would like to see posted on the club web site should forward them to Doug for posting. Also, Paul Makowski has volunteered to handle our You Tube video channel. Anyone who has videos that they want to see posted on our site should contact Paul Makowski for editing and posting. Alvin then announced that will be re-instituting Fun-Flys this year. Alan Galle has volunteered to be the Fun-Fly coordinator for 2014. The Fun Flys will be in May, July, and September, with dates and details to be announced.

**Show and Tell – Rich Gabrys** explained that he is a biplane lover, and one that he is fond of is Sean Tucker’s Oracle Challenger. Rich wanted to build an Oracle Challenger to certain specifications – basically he wanted to build it to be exactly 8 feet long to fit perfectly in his truck. Rich taught himself to do CAD drawing, then contacted Sean Tucker and the guy who built Sean’s airplanes. He also took things off of the web, and then drew his own set of plans. The spinner came out 6” in diameter. Rich started making the custom sized cowl by gluing a piece of his drawing to a piece of plywood. He used wood and foam to glue up and sand a cowl plug, and then covered it with epoxy and fiberglass. The resulting plug is gorgeous. He now needs to make a mold from the plug, and will use the mold to form his cowls. Rich then displayed some of the ribs that he created during the design testing phase. He will power the plane with a DA-170 engine. The scale of his plane came out to 43%. We are looking forward to seeing the completed project sometime in 2014 or 2015.

**Joe Pedone and Dennis McFarlane** came forward to show Joe’s DJI Phantom and Dennis’ Blade 350 QX quadcopters. Joe got his Phantom from his wife for Christmas. Both of the quads have GoPro cameras mounted to them. Dennis has a fully articulated arm for the GoPro,

which he hasn't had time to mount yet. The arm allows the camera to always point in the desired direction regardless of the orientation of the copter. Dennis added a couple of safety ties to his camera mount to keep the camera in place even during hard landings.

Dennis then showed his new Spektrum DX9 talking radio, which he is having a blast with. He has voice statements assigned to almost all of the switches.

Dennis then alerted us to the fact that there have been problems with GoPro Wi-Fi and 2.4 GHz radios. The GoPro Wi-Fi will interfere with the 2.4 GHz radio signal, and cause loss of control or loss of bind. This is a well known problem at this time, and Dennis stated that **Under No Circumstances should a pilot use the GoPro Wi-Fi feature when the camera is mounted to an aircraft running 2.4 GHz.**

Dennis next announced that the Fox Valley Aero Club 'Night Fly' will be held in conjunction with Al's Helicopter event this year. The Night Fly will be held on Saturday night June 21<sup>st</sup>, details to follow.

Joe stated that the Phantom has LEDs on the bottom so that the pilot can see where the front and back are. If orientation is lost, it has 'intelligent orientation', which, at the flip of a switch, basically changes the orientation of the Phantom to match the direction you are facing. At that point, the pilot just has to pull their right stick down to get the copter to return to them. Dennis said that the 350 also has something similar, and that the pilot can basically just 'fly the transmitter' and the 350 will respond to the required direction regardless of its orientation. Both quads have automatic homing also. **Mark Beezhold** asked if pilots flying planes at the field who fly on 2.4 GHz need to worry that another pilot's GoPro Wi-Fi will interfere with their signal. Dennis assured us that it would not, and explained that he believes the interference has to do with the proximity of the camera to the receiver.

**Alan Galle** showed us his 3D Spirit by Green RC Models. It has a 39" wingspan, a Park 480 1020kv motor, a Castle 36 ESC, and has an ARF weight of 9.4 ounces.

**Alvin Cole** then announced that the board has a few changes to the calendar for 2014 to propose. The first event of the year was the First-In-Flight 'Frozen Fingers' event. Joe Pedone has gotten the trophy upgraded, and it now sports an airplane on the top. Sebastian Kowalski was the 2014 winner, but he did not make it to the meeting to receive the trophy. Congratulations, Sebastian.

The biggest changes to the calendar this year will be the following:

1. Kid's Fly and Rocket Fest will both be held on the same day, June 7<sup>th</sup>.
2. We will be adding a 3-day giant scale event, called 'Windy City Warbirds and Classics', to be held June 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Festival of Flight will be changed to one day, and will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
4. The three Fun-Flys will be held in May, July and September (dates and details to follow).

**Cliff Fullhart** suggested that we start a tradition of having a 'Cub Fly' as a yearly event, on the day of our August Member Meeting. The Cub Fly will start in the afternoon, before the meeting.

**John Fischer** next talked about the new 'Windy City Warbirds and Classics' event, which he will pattern after the Warbird and Classic Alliance events. We will not be part of the alliance this first year, but may be able to join at a later time. Many of the large scale 'greats' will attend this event, as it will be limited to warbirds and classic planes that are IMAA legal. Monoplanes must be 80" minimum wingspan or ¼ scale. Multi-wing planes must be 60" minimum wingspan or ¼ scale. Warbirds may have been flown in any theater of war. Classics must be scale planes

modeled after a full scale plane that was flown in or before 1974. There will be a \$20.00 advance registration fee for pilots, \$25.00 at the door. Armin Weber has volunteered to be the C.D.. John is forming a committee of about eight people to plan the event. If you are interested, see John. John's goal and vision is to get our event into the Warbirds and Classics Alliance calendar in future years.

**Chuck Noyes** explained that he needs some help. He has an ARF that he is trying to get flying, but due to spinal surgery he had some years ago, his hands do not work like they used to. He would love to get it flying this season, and would greatly appreciate it if one of the members could help him get his plane finished and flying. If anyone has some time they could spare to help out, please contact Chuck.

Hearing no further business, President Alvin Cole asked for a motion to adjourn. Doug Swanson moved, and Dave Murray seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dale Gathman – Secretary FVAC