

The Fox Valley Aero Club Monthly Newsletter		
 Academy of Model Aeronautics Charter Club # 252 2008 AMA Gold Leader Club	President – <i>Dominic Saverino</i> Vice President – <i>Dennis McFarlane</i> Secretary – <i>Tom Spriet</i> Treasurer – <i>Paul Jacobs</i> Flypaper Editor – <i>Tom Siwek</i> – tsiwek@sbcglobal.net	P.O. Box 837 St. Charles, IL 60174-0837
		March 2009 Edition

Wheeling and Dealing At the FVAC \$wap \$hop



Editor's Message

Tom Siwek – tsiwek@sbcglobal.net



The first FVAC event for 2009 is under our belt. Bad weather couldn't deter both sellers and buyers from coming out (this bad weather talk is becoming a recurring theme for 09 thus far).

Jim Toth once again did an excellent job planning this event. Thanks goes out to all of the members who helped to set up, man stations and break down the room at the end of the day. When it was all said and done the club made a few bucks. We also received some nice feedback from some fellas at other clubs who rented tables.

There were plenty of deals to be had and many club members walked away with gems. I took home a 27% extra with "low miles" for 120 bucks. A 50cc engine, servos and a receiver and I'm in business. A little spit and polish will have it looking like new.

We're reaching the point in the year where we should be on the home stretch with our projects and are shifting focus on getting the rest of the fleet ready to fly. With that said, I'm just *starting* my project – my Top Flite P-51 – and will scramble to have it ready by May.

The next big club event to set sights on is the Kids Fly Day on May 16th. Armin Weber is working hard to make this a great event. We can always use both manpower and trainer airplanes. The more we have of both, we can let more kids fly longer periods of time. This event is always such fun for me. It's great to see the excitement of a kid who's flying an R/C plane for the first time.

One other scheduling note is that we will be adding one last spectator event to the calendar. August 21-23 will be Windy City Jets. Dave Murray received such strong feedback and support from last year's participants; it made a lot of sense to have the event again this year. Dave expects this year's pilot turnout to easily surpass last year's.

Ciao for now, Tom

Link to Archived Newsletters - www.foxvalleyaero.com/newsletters.htm

President's Message

Dominic Saverino – dominic@teamsaverino.com



Dom didn't have a report for this month.

Vice President's Message

Dennis McFarlane – highpd119@aol.com



Will Winter Ever End?

Will winter ever end? Well, it always does, but if you are anything like me it seems to be dragging on and on. There is some light at the end of my tunnel though. A couple of days after our club swap Cindy and I will be heading to Florida for our annual pilgrimage in order to be a part of "Bike Week" in Daytona. We really don't spend much time in Daytona proper, mostly just enough time to check out the crowd and pick up a couple obligatory event t-shirts. It's a break away from the cold dreariness of a Chicago winter and that's what I'm looking forward to.

Armin Weber, Steve Gawlik, and I rode down to E-Fest together and had quite the good time. It's amazing just how much room a few electric foamies and a very scale Antoinette take up in the back of an SUV, but somehow we got it all packed in. I got off on the wrong foot when I spilled a cup of coffee in my lap and that seemed to be the precursor to how the whole day was going to pan out.



Once in Champaign and set up I went to take my first flight, but had installed the wrong propeller on my bird. The manufacturer had recommended a 10X4.7 and the benchmark prop for the motor was also a 10X4.7 so that is obviously what I had mounted up front. Well, for outdoor flying I'm sure it's best but not indoors. I had either a bullet or an airplane that was falling out of the sky. I managed a few laps and decided I had to bring it in and change propellers.

The next flight started off great, and I could tell the now installed 9X6 was the prop of choice but the flight ended rather abruptly when I had a midair with a flying lawnmower – thank goodness for cyanoacrylate and hot melt glue. Flights 3 and 4 (my last) went well, but the APC propeller of choice kept cutting through the o-rings being used to mount the propeller to the electric motor. I had once again followed the recommendation of both the airframe and motor manufacturers but it wasn't working out. One of the first things I have changed is to a bolt on prop adaptor.

There is a moral to all this. Just because a recommendation is made doesn't mean it will work for you. Don't be afraid to experiment until you find the combination that is right for the way you fly. I often tell customers at Cindy's store if you ask five people a question you'll end up with 20 different answers.

Regardless, Armin flew all day, having 5 helicopter flights, and at least that may fixed wing flights. Steve had an extremely unfortunate midair while practicing for his scale round, but with some scotch tape and a little cyano he was able to put his Antoinette back together for the mandatory scale flight. Having lost my hearing I'm able to read lips fairly well, and while watching the scale judging I "heard" the judges comment on the shiny dummy engine on Steve's airframe. I passed this information along, and have a feeling Steve will be stopping in the train side of Cindy's store for some weathering chalk. Regardless Steve did really well in the scale competition.

That's about it for this month. I'm writing this about a week before our club swap meet as this is the only time I have before our trip. Jim Toth has done an outstanding preparation so that event should be a success. Hopefully the weather gods will cooperate this year so Cindy and I will have a chance to scoot over to "Florida Jets" while we are on vacation. If so I'll have a report on the jet event next month.

Dennis

Secretary's Report

Tom Spriet – tom@etglass.com



Minutes of the February 12, 2009 General Meeting

President Dominic Saverino called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M.

The township sent a letter to our club asking that we police the area after our meetings. Please pick up and dispose of all trash. Please put the chairs and tables back as you found them as depicted in the picture by the door! We do not want to lose this room so keep it clean and pretty.

At tonight's board meeting we voted on and made a decision to add one more spectator event in August – Windy City Jets. In our current schedule, if we have bad weather, we would have a back-up spectator event.

We have to insure that FVAC members are attending other area events. If we expect a strong pilot turnout for our events, we have to reciprocate.

Committee Reports

VP – Dennis McFarlane: Welcome back Dominic! (This feeling was shared by all.)

Secretary – Thomas Spriet: Tom requested a motion to accept the minutes as published in the Flypaper. The motion was made by John Fischer with a second by Tony Sokol.

Treasurer/Membership Chairman – Paul Jacobs: Paul reported a balance of \$25,000 plus in the club treasury. A motion was made to accept the treasures report. The motion carried. Doug Swanson was introduced as a new member. Welcome Doug!

Field Chairman – Greg Bohler: Frost is out of the ground so please restrict your movement to the asphalt. We wish to avoid ruts in the grass. John Griffith and Al Zabel are working hard at cleaning up the tennis poles for the field nets. Thanks to John and Al! If you have time, please lend them a hand. Please do not drive on the field/runway/taxiway, nor plow the runway. The resulting wind rows are a hazard to flying.

Safety Chairman – Karl Griesbaum: No safety issues to report. Karl is putting together a shirt order. An email regarding the upcoming order will be forthcoming. Stickers are available for your 2009 AMA card. If you've paid the renewal fee, see Karl for a sticker. Get those planes ready for the upcoming season.

Government Relations/Fun Fly Chairman – John Turner: Nothing to report at this time for the Government Affairs. John's working on the fun fly schedule / content. It will be ready next month.

Flypaper Editor – Tom Siwek: Member ID cards are a way to recognize you as a current member of FVAC and to help other members get to know you. See Tom if you don't have a card. The flying season is just around and now is the time to verify that your club and AMA memberships are current.

Event Reports

Pattern Contest CD – Rusty Dose: Rusty will be assuming the role of the pattern contest CD from Jason Walsh. Rusty's interested in anything that has to do with aerobatics and will be happy to help you with setup and procedures in this aspect of flight. Any questions see Rusty!

The Flypaper

Rusty also reported on E-Fest, Over 4000 attended this event. There were 58 aircraft launched at one time, 2.4 was mandatory. I recommend this event for all who are bored and have a little free time.

Swap Shop Coordinator – Jim Toth: The event is on Saturday, the 21st. We have 120 tables for our use with 90 presold. I will need help and support starting at 7:00am. Doors open at 9:00 for the general public. We will have coffee, donuts, hot dogs and a couple of raffles.

Windy City Jets Coordinator – Dave Murray: The Windy City Jet event is back on for this August 21-23. We will be streamlining the event by cutting unnecessary cost. We currently have 18 pilots signed up with more to come. Last year, WCJ's, grossed \$11,000.00 with a much greater potential for increased revenue this year.

Show & Tell

New planes were shown by the following members:

Dave Murray	Electric F-16. Composite with a 90 mm fan, 80 amp speed control.
Dave Murray	Electric Aviator with 100 mm electric fan unit.
Rusty Dose	"Click." It's a very light foamy at 118 grams.
John Turner	Decathlon by Great Planes powered by a .46 OS.

President Saverino adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

Treasurer's & Membership Chairman's Report

Paul Jacobs – paul_jacobs@att.net



Welcome this month to our newest member Doug Swanson. Renewals are going well and with the addition of the swap money, the checking account is over \$28,500 to start the maintenance season. Remember March 31 is the deadline for paying your 2009 dues to avoid the \$25 late payment penalty. If anyone has any difficulty paying on time be sure to contact me and I will work something out with you.

The FVAC Swap was a success and it was good to see all the volunteers helping set up and take down. I would like to thank one of our newer members Dan Morgan and his friend Donna who not only helped with the food concession but baked cupcakes to sell at the table as well.

My involuntary vacation or early retirement is over as I have started a new job this week and am now officially back in the game. Thanks to all who helped and offered advice...it was certainly appreciated.

Please remember Elmer Helfert in your prayers...he and I went back a long time. I first met Elmer at Al's in the 70's and he was always willing to help. He was a fixture at Al's for many years and ran the Al's Bi-Plane event at Fermilab. As an avid pattern flyer he knew what worked and in those days engines like the Supertigre Blue Head were hard to come by and I remember getting a call that some just came in and to get over her before they disappeared. He will be missed...

Three in the green and on final,
Paul

Field Chairman's Report

Greg Bohler – gbohler@sbcglobal.net



I was out at the field recently. I don't go there much this time of year. I find much warmer things to do. I was happy to see a few people flying. The field looks to be in excellent shape.

A well meaning person did try to plow the runway over the winter. The runway was undamaged, how ever there was a little turf damage where they came off the runway with the plow. The fortunate thing for us is that the damage is right where we will probably do a little damage when we replace the tennis poles this spring.

Speaking of tennis poles, Al Zabel and John Griffith did a fantastic job of cleaning and painting the tennis poles in preparation for installation this spring. Thanks Al and John for your hard work. I will be picking up the sleeves this Friday. We will need to make arrangements to borrow or rent a Bobcat and figure out how we want to work with the concrete to set the new poles. If the weather holds, we should be doing all of this in about a month. I am working on a plan but I will accept any ideas to make this go as inexpensively and smoothly as possible. Remember that we will be seal coating the runway when the weather breaks also. I will post the dates for that as soon as I know them.

I was unable to attend the swap shop. As you know, it snowed the night before so I had to plow at work. I understand that Jim did a fantastic job of planning and organizing and that everybody helped to run another successful FVAC event. Jim, great job and a big thanks for all you do for the club. It's almost time to be able to see everybody at the field.

Greg Bohler



Fun-Fly Chairman's Report

(A.K.A. John Turner) – john.turner@bayercropscience.com



March Madness

If you had not noticed during the snow and cold weather, the days are getting longer and the first day of spring is 21 days away. March is a great time to look at all your equipment and recycle your battery's before the season begins. I like to go start with the airplane and check all the linkages, engine and engine mounts, servos, and recheck all the wires making sure no wear or potential cracks. The transmitter should be cleaned including all the trim tabs and gimbals using a small light brush or cloth to remove dirt and the dust that may have accumulated over the winter.

You might want to consider doing a range check with all your models by setting your model out on the driveway and walking a distance of 50 feet or manufacturer specs making sure all the surfaces are moving with minimal flutter. Once all the specs are completed, now go inspect your flight box making sure you have removed all the burned out glow plugs, broken props, rubber bands, and CA that has hardened from last summer. Check your battery, fuel pump, starter, and glow plug and determine if you might need to replace old or broken equipment.

Also, you might want to put a few band aids in a plastic bag as a safety precaution and place within your flight box. We have a first aid kit at the club, but if you flying at another location, this will prepare you for the unexpected!

The Flypaper

This year's fun fly events will take place on Saturday afternoon's with some new challenges. Lasts year's "Race around the Park" was a big hit and I will bring this into one of the monthly events. Also, I have been contacted by several local associations such as Prop Masters (Naperville,), Crop Dusters (Plano) and Chicagoland (Schaumburg) for some friendly competition during the 2009 season. For those who missed last year's event, it was a lot of fun! If you have any fun fly recommendations for this year's event, please contact me so I can place this into the program for 2009. The events will be finalized next month and I will publish them in the April Flypaper.

Hope to see more of you at the field as the weekends are now looking better with warmer conditions.

Fly Safe,
JT

Chief Flight Instructor's Report

Dan Compton – trainu2fly@comcast.net



Dan didn't have a report for this month.

2008 FVAC Flight Instructors			
Name	Contact Information		Note
Dan Compton	Cell: 630-664-6426	trainu2fly@comcast.net	Chief Flight Instructor
John Fischer	Cell: 312-518-0075	jeffxx@comcast.net	
Cliff Fullhart	Home: 630-397-5033 Work: 630-668-0111	cfullhart@farmersagent.com	Prefers 24 hrs. notice during business hrs.
Alan Galle	Cell: 630-697-8464	ajgalle@comcast.net	
John Horvath	Cell: 630-440-7398	horvatsky@comcast.net	
Paul Jacobs	Cell: 630-908-9955	paul_jacobs@att.net	
Mike KostECKi	Cell: 630-373-2722	MkostECKi503@comcast.net	
Dennis McFarlane		Highpd119@aol.com	Not available Friday or Sunday.
Tom Siwek	Cell: 630-677-5855	tsiwek@sbcglobal.net	Available primarily on weekends.
Bill Sponsler	Cell: 847-323-6578	bsponsler@comcast.net	
Dave Taitel	Work: 847-537-8669	davet@venturehobbies.com	
Jason Walsh	Cell: 630-291-1872	jwalsh1@ameritech.net	

THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

By: Walt Thyng

Follow-up: I received some comments about “old technology.” They were specifically directed at my comments on types of e-power connectors. This is a perfect example of the old “which is better Piper or Cessna” debate. The only connectors that are truly useless for e-power are the Tamiya (whiteish/translucent) and automotive type un-plated bullet connectors. Other than those two, which you prefer (Anderson, Deans, Astro, gold-plated bullet) is entirely up to your personal preference.

I use Anderson/Sermos for a couple of reasons; first and most subjective is that they are what I started with, therefore all my motors, ESCs, chargers and battery packs use them and interchangeable without using adaptors. More objectively, the Anderson/Sermos connectors allow for arranging packs in series or parallel configurations without the use of adaptors.

If you prefer Deans connectors, by all means use them. One caution, DO NOT use the male connector on battery packs. Doing so will almost certainly lead to a short and a fire or at best a ruined pack. Don't laugh, I actually received some pre-wired LiPo packs from a never to be named supplier with male Deans plugs installed. In case you're not familiar with connector types, the contacts on the male Deans are exposed.

A hint for Deans users: they are sometimes difficult to separate, especially in tight situations. One solution is simply rough up the sides with coarse sandpaper or a hobby knife. Another is to glue sandpaper to the sides. Either way gives a bit better grip. You should NEVER do anything to loosen the contacts.

In the last issue I mentioned “nominal voltage.” My definition wasn't clear. Here's a better one: A value assigned to a circuit or system (or cell) for the purpose of conveniently designating its voltage class. The actual voltage at which a circuit operates can vary from the nominal within a range that permits satisfactory operation of equipment.

This explains why your 4.8 volt rx pack charges to about 5.6 volts. Li-Pos with a nominal cell voltage of 3.7 typically charge to 4.2 volts. For most R/C purposes when a pack approaches it's nominal voltage it's time to recharge (especially rx packs).

This seems like a good place to talk about chargers. NO you CANNOT use a NiMh charger for LiPos unless you have an electronic adaptor (SLK makes one). Li-Pos require a completely different charging algorithm. Most chargers today are capable of charging NiMh or LiPo cell chemistries. The better ones automatically detect which cell type you are using, but NEVER trust them. ALWAYS check (says the guy who didn't and almost burned down the canopy).

Both Li-Pos and Li-Fe (A123/M1) batteries need to be balanced (i.e. the cells must be kept within a specified voltage of one another). Li-Fe cells typically settle down after five or six cycles and then only need to be balanced occasionally. Li-Pos MUST be balanced EVERY TIME they are charged. Failure to do so is one of the primary causes of those legendary fires (overcharging is the other). At this time balancing is the wild west of battery technology – it seems like everybody has a different plug combination (see the RC Accessories site for a chart). By the way, for the true newbie, the balancing plug is that funny looking plug (usually white, but Thunder Power uses black) with one more wire than the number of cells going into it.

Many chargers include a balancing function. In some cases you can charge directly through the balancing plug (sometimes called a node). On others you charge through the power leads with the balancing plug also connected. You can also buy an external balancer for use with a charger that doesn't have a balancing function, again they can be used before, during or after charging. There are many types of these available, but again, most of them are designed for a specific plug type and will require adaptors for other types.

Well, this isn't where I intended for this article to go, but it's enough for this time. I will resume the lexicon next time.

The Flypaper

Hint of the month: pick a connector type that you are comfortable with and stick with it. Do the same for the balancing plug, too (in a future article, I'll explain how to modify them to a single type).

Site of the month: E-Fest coverage at: Bulletin@RCUniverse.com

E-mail me with your questions: thyng@att.net

2009 Calendar of Events

January 8	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
February 12 February 21	FVAC Member Meeting FVAC Annual SWAP	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall Kane County Fair Grounds
March 12	FVAC Member Meeting	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall
April 9 April 25	FVAC Member Meeting Member Work Day	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall FVAC Field
May 14 May 9 May 16	FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event Kid's Day Event	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall 4:00 PM, FVAC Field FVAC Field
June 11 June 13 June 26 & 27	FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event AI's Helicopter	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field 4:00 PM, FVAC Field FVAC Field
July 9 July 11 July 18 & 19	FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event Festival of Flight	6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field 4:00 PM FVAC Field FVAC Field
August 8 & 9 August 13 August 15 August 21-23	IMAC Contest FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event Windy City Jets	FVAC Field 6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at FVAC Field 4:00 PM, FVAC Field FVAC Field
September 5 & 6 September 10 September 12	Pattern Contest FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event	FVAC Field 6:30 Board, 7:30 Regular at Township Hall 4:00 PM, FVAC Field
October 8 October 10	FVAC Member Meeting Fun-Fly Event	6:30 Board 7:30 Regular at Township Hall 4:00 PM, FVAC Field
November 12 November 14	FVAC Member Meeting Last Fun-Fly & Turkey Fry	6:30 Board 7:30 Regular at Township Hall 11:00 AM, FVAC Field
December 4	Annual Christmas Party	Hilton Garden Inn

The Flypaper

Below are photos of club member Bob Walker's latest project – Fokker DVII



FVAC Membership Renewal 2009

Annual Dues remain at \$100

**Family Members are an additional \$25 each.
Must be an AMA member and live in the same
household. Children must be 18 or under.**

**Dues renewals must be in by March 31st to avoid
having to pay a \$25.00 late fee**

Make all checks payable to the FVAC and mail to:

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

Or mail to:

**Paul Jacobs
1010 Bankfield Ct.
Naperville, IL 60540**

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Sunday: Closed



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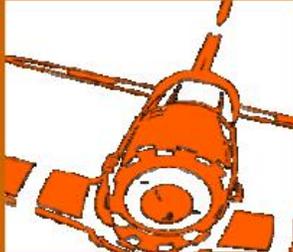
VENTURE HOBBIES
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PHOTO: A man in a dark shirt smiling in front of a store window. A sign in the window reads 'ADULT-DRIVEN RANGE FOR SIG MODELS'.

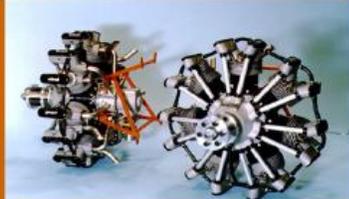
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This month's DOD offering!



Downonthedeck.com, my library for the babe o' lishious photo offerings is currently down. No eye candy to offer this month!