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AMA Gold Leader Club

Academy of Model Aeronautics
Charter Club #252
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dale Gathman
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Spring Flying. Even though we are flying under several restrictions due to the Covid-19 virus, it has been great to see many of our members out at the field getting flights in. As usual this time of year, the weather has been getting warmer but often accompanied by high winds. I was able to be at the field three days this past month, and I am always impressed by the skill of our member pilots. Many of you are able to handle just about any weather conditions...But sometimes, the wind gets the best of us (see Kevin Hersey’s Show-n-Tell article this month). The one thought I had is how much easier it will be to fly once we don’t have to wear the face masks anymore. The masks put a whole new level of excitement to your flight, especially when your glasses start to fog up in the excitement. You pilots are doing great, thank you for sticking to the new restrictions.

Berm Orientation Day. Well, we actually did have the Berm Orientation Day on Saturday morning, May 2. I was able to grab a walkie-talkie and set up my chair at the bottom edge of the gun range berm from about 9:00 – 1:00. The wind was out of the west, so the pattern was left to right. As pilots flew close to the berm, I radioed approximately how close to the berm they were. Most of the smaller electric and glow/gas planes did not even come close. Kevin Kessler even had a hard time getting close to the berm with his quarter scale Cub. I was happy that a lot of the turbine jet pilots were flying that day, and I was able to let them know exactly when they were at the berm. The gun range was not active, which was great for this activity. Almost all of the turbine pilots were easily able to keep from going past the base of the berm during their regular flight pattern laps. Not surprisingly, three of the pilots did encroach about halfway into the gun range on their landing approach. The best of the bunch did show that it is possible to land without going over the berm, so I think some more practice is in order, possibly turning final from a lower altitude and slower speed. If any of you would like to have someone spot at the berm for you in the future, please let me know and I will get someone to help you out. I think we will probably schedule another orientation day in the near future.

Field Work. I must send my appreciation out to the many members who have been working on the field, even though we have not had our official Field Workday yet. Mark Knoppkie has set up a great team of mowing volunteers, and they have already been busy mowing our short grass areas. I also know of some of our members who have been rolling the field and weeding the flower beds. Thank you all who have stepped up and done this work to keep our field in great shape.

Upcoming plans. As most of you know by now, we have cancelled all activities through July due to the small group restrictions that remain in place. We hope to be able to have our August activities, but will make that decision once we get closer. We may be able to hold those with some revisions from the norm. Please keep an eye on your email and our website, as plans will be updated via both methods. We will keep you updated as soon as decisions are made.

I hope to see you at our new Zoom May Member Meeting. This will be a first for the club - a ‘virtual meeting’. Hopefully it will go well. The board met via Skype last month, and we are meeting via Zoom this month. I have experienced great results with Zoom so far at meetings had with relatives. We also had a couple of great board member test meetings on Zoom.

I continue to keep you and your families in my prayers, and let’s all stay safe and healthy by following our field restrictions and CDC and government guidelines while they come up with a treatment or vaccine for this virus.
President Dale Gathman welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that in order to talk, please raise your hand and state your name. Members will be muted while the board talks and if members want to add to the discussion, please raise your hand.

Secretary Debbie Howe asked for a motion to approve the March member meeting minutes, a motion was made by Dave Cotton and seconded by Jeff Peca, all approved.

Treasurer, Joe Pedone said the checking account was looking good and we still have some money coming in from dues and we are going to be getting checks back from the deposits we did for the golf carts and the pilot’s dinner. A motion was made by John Fischer and seconded by Rob Sampson. All Approved.

Safety Chairman, Jeff Peca said we are now allowing guests as long as they are social distancing and wearing masks. We will be bringing back one porta potty with extra hand cleaning available with it. There will still be no bleachers, pavilion, and juice bar access. If needed, the pavilion can be opened just to get the first aid kit. We are asking that everyone follow the CDC guidelines and if you feel sick or have any of the possible signs please stay home. We have a new member Jay Ostrowski, I am sure we will find more out about Jay as the time goes by. Welcome Jay.

Tom Spriet will be replacing one of the cameras as soon as it gets delivered but it is taking the slow boat. We also want to thank Tom for replacing the blades and oil on the mower and Tom told everyone due to wet grass there was a lot of clumped grass on the underside of the mower, so he ran it over to a big puddle and while it made a mess, it did clean the underside of the deck.

Tom Flint told everyone that he was coming up with a hat that everyone can order that will have the front logo but he has also worked out they will put your name and nick name or call sign, embroidered on the side. So as an example the hat on the side could say Tom Flint and under it “Flintstone” or Dave Cotton and under it “Shooter”. Tom will be sending out an email about the hats with pictures. There will be two varieties of hat both low brim and high brim and they will cost $25. We will be taking orders and payment via PayPal before the orders are put in. So keep an eye out for an email about this.

WCWB Chair, John Fischer said that this year’s event has been cancelled but we have scheduled June 17-19th 2021 already and are making plans for that already. The theme for this year will be carried over to next year. A big thank you to Bob Boen is in order, we thought we were not able to get our deposit back from the tent company and they were not willing to budge but Bob stepped worded letter devised by him and his attorney, the tent company is now willing to carry our deposit over to next year’s event. Thank You Bob!

As of right now our fun flys for the year are cancelled due to covid. All events through the end of June are cancelled. As of now we are hoping to do the Cub Fly/ Electric Fly/ Night Fly and there is the thoughts of just having it be a club only event. We will give Hillary as much notice as possible for the chili cooking as well.

President Dale Gathman said we are having a problem with jets going over the berm and gun
We had a long conversation about what suggestions people have about keeping the jets in, (I am only giving a run down on what was said and not who it was said by, because people could not help talking and not saying their name and on a zoom call, I am not a mind reader to know everyone’s voice). All jet pilots need to be using spotters, heck everyone should be using spotters, pilots can ask anyone to drive down to the berm to give them a better judge on if they are getting close or over shooting it and that person can stay on the phone with the pilots spotter and get good info that way. Please be sure before you tell anyone that they are over shooting the berm. Drive or walk down there and take a pic because distance can be deceiving and you can mention it to the spotter but do not talk to the pilot while they are flying and talk to them the way you would want to be talked to. “Don’t be a jerk about it”. Lastly let’s get more of the jet pilots involved in the club so we know them better and they can be part of the discussions.

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Pedone and seconded by Bill Suhr. All approved.

FROM OUR TREASURER

Joe Pedone
treasurer@foxvalleyaero.com

I sincerely hope you and your families remain safe and healthy. Everyone seems to have their own opinion on the level of risk related to Covid-19, and how to best mitigate those risks. From the Club perspective, I’m very pleased with how the Board came together to establish rules around this to keep our field open. In recent weeks, some of those rules have been relaxed some due to further CDC guidelines. But more than anything else, I’m really thankful that our members have adopted these measures to keep one another safe. No one likes wearing a mask (yes, glasses always fog up!), but I’m thankful everyone does, as well as maintaining good physical distancing. Flying RC one of the really nice distractions from the daily news, so I’m personally thankful to be enjoying time at the field more than ever before.

From the Club treasury standpoint, we are in good shape thus far in this most unique year. Most 2020 member dues are now in, and we’ve paid up the field lease for 2020. Normally this time of year we are spending funds for the Windy City Warbird and Classic event, especially for items like t-shirts to be sold at the event. However, with the event being cancelled this year, we are not making those expenditures, and have recovered down-payments on items we had already paid for. We received refunds for the golf cart rental, and pilot’s dinner. Our tent rental company will apply our down payment to our 2021 event. So at this point our expenditures are continuing only for the normal monthly items such as mowing, trash disposal, porta potties, electric, etc.

As for a little show and tell, I just finished up the 61” AJ Slick 540 from AJ Aircraft that I mentioned in the last newsletter. Yes, I took a little detour from my warbird obsession, at least for now. I bought this just for a fun electric to punch through some aerobatics in the early mornings. The quality of the ARF is superb, and it is very lightweight with some carbon-Kevlar reinforced ply. I’m flying it with a 485KV motor branded by AJ Aircraft, 90amp Talon ESC and 6S 4000 mah Lipo. Maiden flight was yesterday, and it flew like on rails. Almost no trimming needed, and flies very true. I can tell this will be my “go to” plane for quite a while during electric flying hours.

Stay safe,
Joe
I must admit, putting together a paper during this unprecedented time brings its own share of challenges - but here I am. Once again, I hope you enjoy this edition of the flypaper as it once again is a bit different than the norm - we are also including show & tell in this edition which due to the continuing difficult times we are all experiencing hopefully brings a smile to your face. In all the reading that I have been doing, I find that when I am absorbed and focused on whatever I am doing, it helps alleviate the environmental stress that is going on right now. I hope in some small way that you find some happiness and peace and that while you read this paper, that it helps lessen your worries and stress with this virus that we continue to face. I keep all of you in my prayers too and hope you, your family and loved ones wherever they may be, are staying safe and healthy and are continuing to follow the guidelines of social distancing.

Stay well my friends.

Susan
2020 Fox Valley Aero Club
Calendar of Events

January 1  Fun-Fly — Frozen Fingers  10:00 am FVAC Field
January 9  FVAC Member Mtg  6:00 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
February 13  FVAC Member Mtg  6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
February 15  **FVAC Annual Swap Meet**  9:00-1:00 Swap, 1:00-4:00 Indoor Foamy Fly
             Kane County Fair Grounds
March 12  FVAC Member Mtg  6:00 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
April 9  FVAC Member Mtg  CANCELLED
April 18  **Field Work Day**  WILL BE RESCHEDULED
May 2  **Tree Line/Berm Orientation Day**  CANCELLED
May 14  FVAC Member Mtg  7:30 Zoom
May 16  **Cub Scout Rocket Fest**  CANCELLED
May 17  **Fun-Fly –#1 -**  CANCELLED
May 25  **St. Charles Memorial Day Parade**  CANCELLED
May 29  **2020 Media Day**  CANCELLED
June 6  **FVAC Cookout (formerly pig roast)**  CANCELLED
June 11  FVAC Member Meeting  6:30 Board, 7:30 Member Zoom
June 18-20  **2020 Windy City Warbirds & Classics**  CANCELLED
June 21  **Open Fly – All Scale**  CANCELLED
July 9  FVAC Member Mtg.  TBD
July 12  **Fun-Fly – #2 -**  CANCELLED
August 1  **Cub Fly - AMA Sanctioned - Open**  9:00-2:00 Cubs Only, 2:00 All - FVAC Field
August 1  **Electric Only - AMA Sanctioned - Open**  1:00-8:00pm FVAC Field
August 1  **Night Fly & Chili Dinner**  5:00 pm FVAC Field
August 1  **Night Fly - AMA Sanctioned - Open**  8:00 pm - Midnight - FVAC Field
August 8  **Retro Fly**  9:00 - 3:00 pm FVAC Field
August 13  FVAC Member Mtg  6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at TBD
August 22  **Family Fly Day**  10:00 am – 3:00 pm - FVAC Field
September 5  **Festival of Flight**  FVAC Field
September 10  FVAC Member Mtg  6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at TBD
September 12  **Tailgate Swap Meet**  9:00 - 3:00 FVAC Field
September 13  **Fun Fly #3 - ??**  1:00-3:00 FVAC Field
October 8  FVAC Member Mtg  6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at TBD
October 10  **Turkey Fry**  12:00 FVAC Field
November 12  FVAC Member Mtg  6:30 Board, 7:30 Member at Township Hall
December 5  **Annual Christmas Party**  6:00 Hilton Garden Inn - St. Charles
December 10  **Rookies Christmas Party**  7:00 Rookies Sports Bar & Grill-St. Charles

(Revised: 05/30/2020)
SHOW & TELL

John Fischer – Show and Tell – Yellow Aircraft P40 Warhawk

Here is my latest completed project: A Yellow Aircraft P40 Warhawk. 1/5th scale 86inch wing, 30 lbs. Powered by a DA 50 with Yellow gear. Spectrum electronics give the plane direction. Functional exhaust, flaps and retracts with a sliding canopy and of course, a pilot’s head that turns, round out this plane. It is very similar to the one I crashed in 2015. I have run the engine and it is balanced now I am just waiting for the maiden.
Up Next . . . . John Turner – Kaos (Ready to Cover) All Electric

Awaiting motor. 15 amp castle w 1300 mah battery
And last, Show & Tell from Kevin Hersey – Eflite PT17

The wind she was a blowin’. Into the wind, on final, power on, about three feet off the ground then a sudden gust of wind...my time worn E-Flight PT 17 did a backflip and smashed into the ground. Another pile of spare parts?

The fuselage was broken into three pieces, bottom wing was cracked, most struts were ripped out. Good news the motor survived, prop hadn’t broken (I always break the prop), electronics intact except for shelled rudder servo.

Although the damage was significant, the expensive bits survived. Perhaps it is time to rebuild? Two significant concerns. First, restore the structural integrity of the fuselage. Second, address the broken struts/mounts.

Using foam safe glue and rubber bands the three pieces of the fuselage were quickly pieced together. Foam has an irregular fracture pattern that is surprisingly easy to fit back together...keep the glued joints tight to keep the proper alignment. Smaller foam bits comprising the cabane strut mounts were next installed. It’s imperative to recover the small foam bits at the crash site! The struts were repaired by gluing and sleeving the fractures.

All told the repairs only required about three hours, a little glue (perhaps a smidge more than a little) and a used servo. I’m confident it will fly; however, the re-maiden flight will be done in accordance with Club rules. Although I have no qualms about flying the plane; to be safe the flight will be undertaken only when no one else is on the flight line.

Don’t trash that foamie, take a little time and FIX IT!

Epilogue, plane flew successfully today!
WHAT

THAT AIRPLANE TASTED
JUST LIKE PEAS
ONE DAY
YOU WILL ALL BOW BEFORE ME

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.
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