



## WAM Member Handbook

[www.woodlandaeromodelers.org](http://www.woodlandaeromodelers.org)  
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Welcome as a Member of Woodland Aero Modelers. WAM was founded in 1936 and is an AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) Chartered Club #279. We have about 85 members of all ages and always welcome new members of any age and of any experience.

Please read this document and attachments as it will provide you with lots of useful information, regardless if you are new to the hobby or a veteran flyer. Please speak to, call or email one of the Executive Committee Members if you are unsure of anything. All contact information is on our website.

This is your Club so please get involved where you can. Without enough volunteers we can't continue to run the Club. The Executive Committee loves to hear about new ideas whether they are about new Club activities, events, participation in non-Club events, reaching out to prospective members or anything related to the Club.

Have fun flying; read, understand and follow the Flying Field Rules, but please remember that above all SAFETY COMES FIRST, and that includes yourself, fellow WAM Members and pilots and the general public using the Forest Preserve.

### Field Access

Exit east off Lemont Rd onto Bluff Rd. In approximately half a mile you will come to a locked gate. WAM's padlock is #1113 and as a Member you will get a key. If when you arrive/leave the gate is open then leave it open, otherwise always re-lock the gate making sure to only link our padlock to one chain link. If there is someone behind you when entering, ask who they are; do not presume they are a WAM Member and just let them in. The padlock is changed once a year, usually the day after the March meeting. New keys will be available at the March meeting, or at any meeting after that, or from some of the Club Officers. To receive a new key your Club and AMA memberships must be current.

### Parking

Please drive slowly and considerately along Bluff Rd from the gate to the parking area. There are often pedestrians, cyclists, other vehicles and deer on the road. The railway is "live" and in use, although the trains are infrequent, short and travel slowly. Take care when arriving at the parking

area as the path that pedestrians and cyclists use merges with our parking area. If parking on the east side, park perpendicular to the wire rope fence, leaving access to the path to the flying field. If parking on the west side park parallel to the grass verge.

#### Access Hours

The following are rules laid down by the Forest Preserve. We can access the field from sunrise till an hour after sunset. However, we are only **permitted to fly from 9am** till an hour after sunset. This applies to all aircraft no matter how they are powered. The Club is currently in discussion with the Forest Preserve to see if electric planes can be flown earlier. We can fly seven days a week.

#### Pits Area

The pits, as detailed in the attached field layout diagram, is a NO flying or taxiing zone. In the pits you will find three flight stands, a large table, the storage unit with table top, two picnic benches, folding chairs and a fourth flight station. Members of the public are allowed in the pits but should be supervised around running engines and motors.

If using one of the flight stands or the large table to work on your plane, please remove the plane once you have finished using it to allow others to use the flight stand. Do not leave planes unattended on a flight stand, especially if it is windy.

Planes should be carried from the pits to the flightline and not taxied. The exception to this is for large scale planes that are parked at the far south or north ends of the pits. Gas and glow plane engines should be stored in the pits and then carried to the flightline.

#### Storage Unit/Table

Your gate key will also open the aluminum door to the storage unit. Inside you will find two pop up canopies, eight canopy leg weights, a large magnet (for finding dropped metal fasteners in the grass), and various bits in the pull-out drawer, including guy-ropes for the canopies for when it gets very windy. Remember to put everything away and lock the door when finished.

#### Metal boxes on the wind sock pole

There are two boxes mounted on the pole. The upper box is also opened with your gate key and most importantly contains a **first aid kit**. The kit is checked regularly and refilled but contact an Executive Committee Member should you use anything or find it is missing anything. The box also contains four walkie-talkies, which are useful should you need to go into the woods to locate and retrieve a lost plane. Printed on the side of the box are useful emergency numbers and information.

The lower box is the "Instructor's" box and your key will not open this. We keep a Futaba and Spektrum radio for buddy-box instruction and the plane finder in here.

### Frequency Pin Board

Mounted to the pole is the frequency pin board. If you are using an older transmitter NOT on 2.4GHz then you MUST use this board. When not in use radios should be left on the table and only used when your pin is attached to your radio's frequency.

### Flying Area

See the attached flying zone map (also on our website) which shows where we are permitted to fly and where we are not. These are Forest Preserve Rules and must be adhered to. The circle behind the pits is for control-line flying only and not for drones or helicopters.

### Flying Rules

Please read the Club's full set of flying rules (also on our website) and understand them and how they relate to planes, helicopters and drones. Up to five pilots may fly at any one time, but if more than one person is flying make sure to follow the correct flying pattern for the current wind direction. ALL pilots must make loud and clear calls to alert other pilots of their intentions, including: "Taking Off", "Landing", "Going Around", "On the Field", "Off the Field" and "Dead Stick". Other pilots on the flightline should acknowledge these calls.

There is a Forest Preserve path just off the south end of the main runway. Pedestrians and cyclists have right of way and no pilot should take off to the south or land from the south if anyone is on the path. If people have stopped in the middle of the path to watch, then politely ask them to move to either side, or come into the pits area to watch. **Do not yell at them; it's their Forest Preserve too.**

### Finder System

The Club has purchased a handheld receiver from Communications Specialists Inc. [www.com-spec.com/rcplane/index.html](http://www.com-spec.com/rcplane/index.html) . They offer three different transmitters (different power outputs/ranges) each with their own frequency. The one mile or three mile transmitters are enough. The transmitters cost approximately \$50. Full information, including battery life can be found on their website. Most pilots buy one transmitter and just transfer it to the plane that they are currently flying. Use of this finder system is obviously optional and is not a Club rule.

Should you lose a plane and need to use the handheld receiver please contact one of the following:

John Baderman	630.408.6668
Ed Niccum	331.625.0997
Stan Warden	630.956.2174
Paul Boburka	708.308.4515
Bill Brzostowski	630.805.3124
Don Myers	312.301.2599

### AMA Membership

It is both a Forest Preserve and Club rule that any pilot flying at our field must have a current and full membership of the AMA. An AMA Park Pilot Membership is not sufficient. Those 19 and under also need AMA Membership, but for them it is free, as is membership of WAM.

The AMA have introduced a new renewal system. For new members who join midway through the year, your renewal will now be on the anniversary of joining the AMA rather than at the end of December. Membership of the Club still expires at the end of December. If your AMA expires at any time other than 31<sup>st</sup> December, you must present a copy of your renewal to the Club Secretary to continue flying for the remainder of that calendar year.

### Forest Preserve Permit

The Forest Preserve rules state that pilots should have a valid model plane flying permit and that it should be available for inspection by a Ranger if asked for. Permits, both daily and annual are available on-line and at the Forest Preserve's head office. [www.dupageforest.org/things-to-do/get-outdoors/model-crafts](http://www.dupageforest.org/things-to-do/get-outdoors/model-crafts) or call 630-933-7248 or visit 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189.

### FAA Registration

The FAA and USA Government have introduced laws governing the use of UASs (Unmanned Aircraft). This applies to ALL flying models and not just drones and multi-rotors. Being part of WAM and the AMA you benefit from being able to register under section 336, rather than the much more onerous and expensive Part 107. Go to [www.faadronezone.faa.gov](http://www.faadronezone.faa.gov) to register. More info is also available at [www.knowbeforeyoufly.org](http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org) which is co-produced by the AMA. Under Section 336 you only need to register yourself once and are then permitted to own and fly as many aircraft as you want, if they are each under 55lbs. Registration is currently \$5 for three years. You must display your FAA registration number on the outside of your aircraft(s). The AMA continues to work on behalf of its members, liaising with the FAA and Authorities to try and eliminate needless legislation. Up to date information is on the AMA website at [www.amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov](http://www.amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov)

### Club Officers

The following Officers are elected every year at our December meeting: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations are accepted at the previous November meeting. One new Trustee is also elected each year. Appointed roles include: Executive Director, Junior Vice President, Safety Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. Full information on these roles and their duties are in the Club's Bylaws which is on our website.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved with the running of the Club or one of its various activities throughout the year. If you are interested in finding out more contact one of the Executive Committee who are listed on our website.

### Club Merchandise

The Club has WAM polo shirts and patches for sale. The current list and pricing are available on the website including details on how to order items.

### Membership List

The Club Secretary keeps an up to date list of all members and this is available to members upon request. Only members names and phone numbers are handed out; addresses and emails will not be made available. If you do not want your telephone number to be available to other members let the Club Secretary know and your number will be removed from the list. WAM does not make any membership data available to third parties.

### Reward Points

Our club has a “points system” designed to encourage members to get more involved in our various club activities. For example, members receive 10 points for each club meeting attended. Participation in club presentations, picnics, open house events, and the annual club swap meet are just a few other examples. Points accumulated during the year are then converted to “bidding tickets” for the auction held at our April Club meeting. Brand new items such as aircraft, building supplies and auxiliary support items will be available to bid on. Members with the greatest participation will be rewarded with the greatest “bidding power”.

### WAM Website

The Club’s website is at [www.woodlandaeromodelers.org](http://www.woodlandaeromodelers.org) and is regularly updated, especially with Club and non-Club events on the Calendar page. The website includes all Club documentation such as By-Laws, Flying Field rules and where we can and can’t fly. There is information for new and prospective members including trainer airplane recommendations and our information flyer. Contact the webmaster [wam@baderman.co.uk](mailto:wam@baderman.co.uk) if you want anything added or have ideas for new pages or sections.

### Club Events

The Club holds a monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at the VFW on Belmont Road just south of the train station. Meetings start at 7:00pm. We are always looking for Club and Guest speakers to talk on anything aviation related. Other Club events include picnics for members and their families, a Christmas lunch and our Swap Meet. Full details are on the website. Ideas for new flying and non-flying events are always welcome.

### Facebook

The Club has a Facebook page which is administered by Dick Zwiesler [rwiesler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwiesler@sbcglobal.net)

### Newsletter

The Club has a newsletter which is edited by Stan Warden [frenchstan@comcast.net](mailto:frenchstan@comcast.net)  
Please contact Stan with any ideas or content that you may have such as photos, articles, items for sale, hints & tips or anything that you think our Members may be interested in.

### Indoor Flying

When the weather gets too cold and we can't feel our fingers anymore there are several options for indoor flying over the winter months. The locations and times often change so look at our website for current information. If you know of any places that we have not included, let the webmaster know so that they can be added to the website.

### Drones/Quads/Multi Rotors

The Club follows all rules as set out by the AMA plus any additional ones in place from the Forest Preserve. Drones are not to be flown from the control line circle, but from the regular flight line.



# WAM Flying Field

