

# WINDY FLYER

AMA Charter | Club 279 | Downers Grove, Illinois

## From the President

By Tim Mercier

The weather seems to finally be working in our favor for flying and that means the grass is growing. These past few weeks I've been temporarily in charge of mowing. I tried to cut the field a bit more often to deal with the dandelions which seem to be in abundance this year. It has also been an issue because the field and especially the pit area have been a bit swampy. So, be careful out there. Going forward this year John Baderman will be handling the mowing most of the time and as a reminder the field gets mowed every 7 to 14 days depending on availability, weather, and growth. We have done our best to keep the grass as pristine as possible.

At this month's meeting we discussed the use of "SLACK".

"SLACK" is the easiest way for us to communicate when field

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Woodland Aero Modeler's Flying Field at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Lemont, Illinois

## Did You Know ?

### An Unbreakable Warrior's Tale

The story of Douglas Bader, a celebrated World War II fighter pilot, intertwines courage, resilience, and fate's unexpected turns.



In 1931's winter, Bader, an aspiring and accomplished Royal Air Force pilot, performing a bold aerobatic stunt in his Bristol Bulldog biplane, miscalculated, resulting in a catastrophic crash. This crash was so severe it led to the amputation of both his legs. His logbook entry after the crash was succinct, reading, "Crashed slow-rolling near ground. Bad Show"

Bader's journey to recovery was nothing short of remarkable.

See "Did You Know?" On the next page

(From the President  
continued)

maintenance and other events are occurring. If anyone needs help setting up "SLACK" or using the app, please don't hesitate to reach out. The tool is easy to use and very helpful to stay connected.

The Clow Cavalcade of Planes is coming up and we need volunteers to sign up to help on June 1st and 2nd. We need set up and take down help, members to talk to interested people, promoting model aviation, our Club and telling them about our Open House on June 8th. We will have flight simulators set up and will need members to assist those who want to give it a try. Finally, bring a plane for static display. We need more varied color schemes besides red and white!

Stay Safe and have Fun!

Tim Mercier, President

"Did You Know" continued

Fitted with tin prosthetic legs, he not only relearned to walk but also drove a car and even tried dancing - all within 6 months of the accident. His relentless determination didn't stop there. He soon proved his capability to fly again, although the RAF initially deemed him unfit for pilot service.

As war clouds loomed in 1939, Bader's passion for flying reignited. He successfully petitioned to rejoin the RAF and was soon piloting the iconic Supermarine Spitfire.

Bader's leadership skills shone as the commander of the 242 Squadron. He transformed the disarrayed unit into a formidable force, instilling confidence and teamwork.

Under Bader's command, the 242 Squadron achieved significant victories. Their remarkable performance during the Battle of Britain contributed to thwarting Germany's invasion plans. Bader with his unique "Big Wing" formation theory, played a pivotal role in these triumphs, despite controversy among military historians.

Bader's life took another dramatic turn on August 8, 1941, when he was shot down over France. In a strange twist of fate, his prosthetic legs may have saved his life. Trapped in his Spitfire, his right leg got detached, allowing him to bail out. His capture by the German's marked the beginning of another challenging chapter.

In enemy captivity, Douglas Bader's indomitable spirit shone as brightly as it had in the open skies. His tenure as a prisoner of war was marked by a series of daring escape attempts, where he cleverly utilized his prosthetic legs as tools in his audacious endeavors. This display of ingenuity and fearless spirit not only frustrated his captors but also brought them moments of unintended amusement. Even when faced with stark realities of his imprisonment, Bader's resolve remained unshakably strong.



Supermarine Spitfire circa 1940

Post-war, Bader emerged as a true British legend. His wartime record was impressive, with 22

German planes downed. Returning to a civilian life, he continued to inspire, actively working with charities and aiding fellow amputees. His efforts were recognized with a knighthood in 1976.



## Woodland Aero Modelers

### *Radio Controlled Flying Club*

#### **Club Officers**

President/membership	Tim Mercier
Vice-President	Brad TerMatt
Executive Director	Craig McKenzie
Secretary	Ed Miller
Treasurer	John Baderman
Safety Officer	John Horwath
Chief Instructor	Craig McKenzie
Instructors	John Baderman
	Ed Miller
	Brad TerMatt
<i>Control Line</i>	Mark Romowitz
<i>Helicopter</i>	Steve Zielinski

## Calendar

### **June 2024**

1st and 2nd Clow Cavalcade of Planes  
4th Monthly Club Meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm  
8th or 9th(rain day) Club Open House  
15th SAC Club Float Fly, Twin Lakes, Oak Forest, 8:00am-Noon.

### **July 2024**

2nd Monthly Club Meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm.  
20th SAC Club Float Fly, Twin Lakes, Oak Forest, 8:00am-Noon  
22nd-28th EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wi.

## Minutes from the May 7th Meeting

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:00 pm by President Tim Mercier

**Secretary's Report:** Report read, and approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Our checking account is at \$7070, savings account \$4024 for a total of \$11,094.

**Executive Director's Report:** Permits have been approved. We have permits for our Open House on June 8th and also June 9th (rain day).

**Chief Instructor:** We trained a new pilot this previous Saturday, 11 year old Myles Wiescinski, who actually landed on his 3rd flight.

**Safety Director:** The key locks at our gate are messed up. Our lock works, with some stretching involved. Worst case scenario, the combination lock works, the code is 1-9-4-2. Parts of the field are still soggy. Be careful. Best advice, wear boots.

Tim Mercier mentioned he picked up his electric plane, didn't have throttle cut engaged and ended up with some nice cuts on his chest area. Lesson learned, keep throttle cut engaged until you're ready to take off! Mark Romanowitz suggested using an arming plug.

### Announcements

- The first aid box has been replenished by Stan Warden. Brad TerMaat and Tim Mercier installed some weather stripping around the box to keep it dry.
- Our calendar has been updated on our website.
- Clow Cavalcade is June 1st and 2nd. We need volunteers for set up, take down, to talk to interested folks and tell them about our Club and Open House, bring model planes for static display. Try to bring something other than a red and white plane! John Baderman will send out an email with all the information and sign up sheets.



- Gate duty at our Open House gets extra points!
- Reminder: We will add a “Planes for Sale” segment to the Windy Flyer. Send Ed Miller what you want to sell, anything RC related, and we will put it in the newsletter.
- Sign up at the FAA’s website to receive NOTAMs. “NOTice To AirMen”. Also, the “Before You Fly “ app will have that information.
- One of our member’s email was hacked. Please don’t fall for the “send me some Amazon gift cards” scam.
- The communication app “SLACK” was discussed. Please contact Craig McKenzie or Tim Mercier if you need help setting that up.
- Long time member William (Bill) Byrne has passed.
- Tim Mercier is working on an updated Facebook presence.
- Mark Romanowitz, our control line instructor, will build a control line trainer in case anyone is interested in learning how to do C/L. Mark is also going to participate in the Control Line Nationals this year.
- **Planes for Points:**
- Mark Romanowitz brought in a Horizon Ultra Stick, new in box. Plans to make it electric.



Mark with his Ultra Stick

- Ed Niccum donated a Slow-Bee to the Club.
- **Model Building Hints and Tips:**
- Jim Fox suggested you take a look at your foam hinges. They weaken with time and may have to be replaced.

**New Members:** not present, but we welcome Myles Wiscinski.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:35 pm

## Photos



Tony Maitaitis with his Facet Mobile and his Dragon Kite.



The boys, planning flying or lunch?  
Stan Warden, Tony Maitaitis, Craig  
McKenzie

