

WINDY FLYER

AMA Charter | Club 279 | Downers Grove, Illinois

From the President

By Tim Mercier

Happy New Year to everyone and your families. I hope 2024 will be a great year for flying and also fewer plane repairs for me!



Our 2024 Executive Committee members have been confirmed. I would personally like to thank everyone who has stepped down from their roles. A special thanks to John Baderman and Ed Niccum who have worked so hard to make the Club what it is today. I only hope our new committee members can do the job that Baderman, Niccum and others have done so well.

The committee will be meeting next week to finalize

(See From the President on page 2)



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

Did You Know ?

German WWII aircraft with spirals



The Hidden Function of Spirals on WWII German Aircraft

World War II brought many innovations in military technology, including some less obvious but crucial features. Among these were the distinctive spiral patterns on the nose cones of German

(see Did You Know? on page 2)

(From the President
continued)

the 2024 calendar and discuss several topics. If there is something you would like to add please let me know. We will update the calendar on the website once everything has been finalized . We will review our recommendations at our February meeting.

Fly Safe and the best to all of you this New Year!

Tim Mercier

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(Did You Know continued)

aircraft. These spirals, often assumed to be mere decorations, actually played a vital role in the safety and efficiency of Luftwaffe operations.

The primary function of these spirals was to safeguard the ground crew. During WWII, airfields were busy with activity, filled with aircraft preparing for missions. Ground crews were responsible for fueling, arming, and supporting pilots in pre-flight checks. These tasks had to be performed quickly and efficiently, often in noisy and chaotic environments.

The dangers were real. The spinning propellers of piston-engine aircraft posed a significant risk. In the clamor of the airfield, it was easy for crew members to miss the movement of these blades. The spirals on the nose cones serves as a visual cue, alerting ground staff to active propellers and preventing tragic accidents.

Beyond safety, the spirals also helped streamline aircraft startup procedures. Some engines required manual spinning of the blades before fuel addition and ignition. The distinct marking allowed maintenance crews to visually communicate with pilots, coordinating the startup process without verbal communication.

There was also a belief, albeit less substantiated, that these spirals could deter bird strikes. While historical data from the war era doesn't fully support this, the concept has influenced modern aviation practices. Today, some commercial airlines use similar markings to prevent bird strikes, with studies showing positive results.

The most common German aircraft with these spirals were the Messerschmitt BF 109 and the Focke-Wulf Fw190. The patterns usually featured black and white colors, although variations existed. This design choice was unique to the Germans; Allied forces did not widely adopt it, even with access to captured German aircraft.

The spirals, often overlooked or misunderstood, were essential to the daily operations of the Luftwaffe. They represent a thoughtful approach to design, where even the smallest detail could have significant impact on the war effort.

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

January 2024

- 1st New Years Day and Frosty Finger Challenge
- 2nd Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm.
- 15th Wam Executive Meeting at the Woodridge Public Library 1:00pm

February 2024

- 6th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm
- 17th Fox Valley Flying Club Swap Meet at the Kane County Fair Grounds

March 2024

- 5th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm. This is Key Night! We replace the gate key.

Minutes from the January 2nd 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 \$6321, savings account \$4022 for a total of \$10,343.

Executive Director's Report: None

Chief Instructor: Craig McKenzie states we had some good flying at the Naperville Yard the last couple of weeks before Christmas. Again, be defensive, there were a couple of close calls.

Safety Director: John Horwath had nothing new to report.

New Business:

- It was suggested that perhaps we should have dual signatures for checks written against our Club checking account. This is something the Executive Committee will look into.
- Executive Committee meeting will be planned. We need to appoint an Executive Director (serves as a liaison between our Club and the Forest Preserve). Craig McKenzie has volunteered for this position. John Horwath has volunteered to continue as Safety Director. If anyone else has an interest in taking over those positions, please contact a Club Officer.
- It was suggested we look at the Westmont Yard to perhaps fly indoors. Much larger than the Naperville Yard.
- **Announcements**
- Key Night (we change the keys at the entrance to the field) will be the Wednesday after the monthly Club Meeting on March 5th 2024.
- Executive Meeting in January

- Brad TerMaat is revamping our point system.
- Tim and Brad will incorporate some low key Fun Flies. They will NOT be incorporated with the Club Picnic. Some possible ideas are how many aileron rolls in 2 minutes, taxi race, touch n' goes in 2 minutes, limbo, a William Tell contest (An arrow strapped to your plane and you have to break a balloon while taxiing, combat etc.
- We plan on increasing our presence on social media to increase our recruitment, and get the word out for our Open Houses.
- We need to discuss what to do about the Swap Meet? Keep it, cancel it, or rent a table at someone else's swap meet.
- Fox Valley Aero Club Annual Swap Meet is at the Kane County Fairgrounds in February. (See Calendar)
- We will try to get everyone on SLACK.
- **Planes for Points:** Tim Mercier brought in a winter transmitter "glove" which he used for the Frosty Fingers Fun Fly. Unfortunately, after hand launching his plane he couldn't get his hand back in to the "glove" and he had an "oops". He landed in one of our favorite trees at the south end of the field.
- Brand TerMaat, also using a transmitter glove, got his plane stuck on high rates and full throttle! His plane smashed into a building at Argonne and was returned in pieces.
- Bill Byan showed off his Fancy Foam Blender, E-Flite electric.



A so called transmitter glove for cold weather

Bill Byan and his Fancy Foam Blender.



Brad TerMaat and what's left of his Ultra Stick.

- **Model Building Hints and Tips:** None
- **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:47 pm

Frosty Fingers Winners



Dave Ford



Tim Mercier and Brad TerMaat



Tony Mataitis



Membership Application

Date: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month

7:00 PM at the VFW Hall (rear

Entrance)

5101 Belmont Road (Hitchcock and

Belmont) Downers Grove, Illinois

Info online at

**www.woodlandaeromodelers.org.** Note: WAM requires AMA Membership for Field

_____New _____Renewal _____Gate Access Key.

Last Name: _____ First Name _____

Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____ (just month and day)

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone _____

AMA Number _____ Expiration Date: _____

E-Mail (Please print clearly!) _____

Note: Emails and phone numbers are used for WAM business only.

AMA Classification and WAM Club Fee (Check all that apply)

_____19 years of age and under FREE

_____Open, ages 20+ (\$50.00)

_____Family Plan: One "Open" family member at full price, all additional family members' dues are half the above listed rates.

Need flight training? _____Yes _____No

"I agree to comply with Woodland Aero Modelers (WAM) Club Flying Field Safety and Operational Rules which includes abiding by Club Safety guidelines and proper flying protocols. I understand that my failure to comply with WAM rules, by-laws, or any activity deemed detrimental to the Club may constitute grounds to be dropped from the Club's membership roster."

Signature: _____

Officers Use Only: Amount Paid _____ AMA expiration date: _____