

WINDY FLYER

AMA Charter | Club 279 | Downers Grove, Illinois

From the Editor

By
Ed
Miller



Traditionally everyone makes a few New Year's Resolutions. I just have one, to get out to the field and fly as much as possible!

I go down to my basement shop and just stare at my planes hoping for a break in the weather and a chance to fly. I do make it to the Naperville Yard to fly my smaller planes and now that we've discovered that the MAX Dome in McCook allows indoor flying each week day, there's another opportunity to keep our skills up.

This last week John Baderman and I cleaned out a deceased member's (Ed Fijol) airplane stash and workshop. Considering the age and health of our members, I think it's a good idea to take a hard look at your airplane stable (see from the editor on the next page)

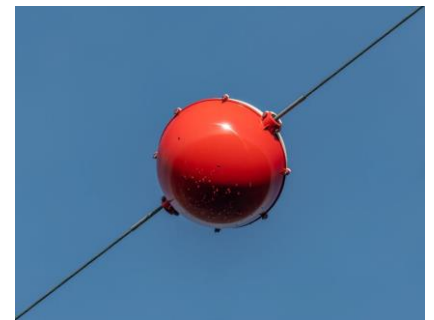


Woodland Aero Modeler's Flying Field at Waterfall
Glen Forest Preserve, Lemont, Illinois

Did You Know

What Are Those Big Colorful Balls You See On Power Lines?

Take a look at any overhead power line in the US and you'll perhaps see a number of big yellow, orange, red, or white balls gripping the wires. Some people have speculated that they are weights for the lines, weather sensors or even surveillance systems. However, none of these guesses are correct. Along with jazzing up an unattractive sight, the purpose of the colorful balls is to serve as visibility markers for pilots to make sure airplanes don't crash into the power lines.



(See Did You Know on page 2)

.....(From the Editor continued).....

and think about donating to the Club kits you will never get to or planes you are no longer interested in flying. The Club can then sell them at the Fox Valley Swap Meet (the Club gets the money). Another consideration is to put the Club in your will. I'm not suggesting your entire fortune, but why not a small amount considering all the enjoyment RC flying has given you?

In February we have our Executive Member meeting. This is when we decide what dates we will have our Open House, Club picnic, contests and other functions.

One thing we learned about the picnic, if we don't serve food you won't come! The Club will provide food!

May you all have a Happy New Year!

Stay Safe and Happy Flying!

Ed Miller

Club Secretary

WindyFlyer Editor-in-Chief



(Did You Know continued)

As explained by Edison International, the FAA requires these spherical visibility markers to be placed on power lines in certain places where there's a higher chance of a pilot not spotting the hard-to-see obstacle.

This is predominately in areas near busy airports, but you're likely to see them in mountain passes, in canyons, over bodies of water, open fields, and near major freeway crossings.

It's hard to discern their size from the ground, but the diameter of marker balls is typically larger than 36 inches, around the size of a very large beach ball, according to regulations set out by the FAA.



However, small 20 inch balls are allowed on power lines lower than 50 feet.

The flight authority also suggests that the balls are placed on the highest wire and spaced equally along the wire at approximately 200 foot intervals.

As for the colors, the FAA recommends "aviation orange, white, or yellow" balls be used on power lines, perhaps with an "alternating color scheme". International orange is one of the most used as it's a color commonly used in the aerospace industry because it clearly sets objects apart from their surroundings.

Despite their best efforts, it's still not unheard of for planes, helicopters, and drones to collide with power lines. Late last year, four people died after their business jet flew into a power line and crashed into a San Diego suburb.



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 2025

18th WAM Christmas Lunch at Chuck's Southern Comforts Cafe in Darien **2pm**.

February 2025

4th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm.

15th Fox Valley Swap Meet at the Kane County Fairgrounds 525 South Randall Road, St. Charles, IL. \$5 admission per adult at the door. Children under 12 free. Open to the public at 8:30am

March

4th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm. This is KEY NIGHT. To obtain a gate key you must have an active AMA membership and paid Club dues. Bring in your old key and exchange it for a new one. Mail service will be available.

Minutes from the January 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 \$5472, savings account \$18, CD \$5000 for a total of \$10,490 We have purchased a \$5000 CD at 4.25% for 7 months.

Executive Director's Report:

Nothing new to report

Chief Instructor: Not present

Safety Director: Dress warm! **New**

Business:

- We are accepting Club dues.
- You must have an active AMA membership to be a Club member

Announcements:

- 2025 Annual Dupage Forest District Permits available. Visit dupageforest.org. If you are a senior, active military, or retired military with honorable discharge the permit is free.
- Our annual Christmas Lunch will be on January 18th starting at **2pm**. We have chosen Chuck's Southern Comfort Cafe in Darien. More details to be sent out.
- John Baderman stated our mower and trailer are safely stored at Joe Dunovsky's daughter's house.
- Tony Mataitis mentioned there is indoor flying at MAX at 4750 S. Vernon Avenue McCook, IL. The charge is \$9. Tony says it has a very high ceiling and is larger than the Naperville Yard. Flying is available during the day on ANY weekday. Dave Ford mentioned that there is no flying at the Westmont Yard. We are continuing to fly Wednesdays at the Naperville Yard.
- Fox Valley Swap Meet is on February 15, 2025. Doors open at 8am. (7:30 for sellers) Our Club will have 2 (at least) tables. We will sell whatever has been donated to the Club. If you have anything you want to donate (money goes to the Club) we will be collecting items at the February meeting. They are hosting indoor flying starting at 1pm.
- Stan Warden won the Frosty Fingers prize!. Congratulations to Stan. He was the first and only participant.
- Rock River Aero Modelers have a Swap Meet on January 18th at the Rock County Fair Grounds, Craig Pavilion at 1301 Craig Ave Janesville, WI.
- Key night will be at our March meeting.

- Executive Meeting will be in February. That is where we determine the dates for our special events.
- Ed Fijol, an old-time member, passed away.
- **Model building hints and tips:**
- None

New Members:

-None

Planes for Points:

-Steve Zielinski brought in a Durably Auto-G2V2 Gyrocopter with Auto Start by Hobbyking. Steve thought the instructions were poor. He made several modifications to strengthen various areas of the gyro.

Steve and his Gyrocopter



-Mark Romanowitz showed off his laser cut Ringmaster designed by Pat King. It is a very high quality kit, control line, with an O.S. Max S.35 engine. Fuselage is 16 parts. Mark also started a website devoted to control line, controllineflying.org. He is very interested in getting young people to build and fly control line airplanes. He will be writing an article for the *Windy Flyer* in the near future detailing this endeavor.

Mark Romanowitz with his Ringmaster control line airplane.



Guests

President of the local EAA #461, Chad Carlson, was in attendance. He gave us a quick rundown of EAA activities at Clow.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15pm

If you haven't already paid your dues and cannot make a meeting, you may print out the renewal form on the next page and Zelle your payment or send a check with the form to Ed Miller, 2647 Newport Drive, Naperville, Illinois. 60565.



Phil Binter enjoying our January meeting!

Membership Application

Date: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month
7:00 PM at the VFW Hall (rear
entrance) 5101 Belmont Road,
Downers Grove.

Note: WAM requires AMA membership
for Field Gate access Key.

Info Online at www.woodlandaeromodelers.org

There are 3 payment options: 1. Cash, 2. A
check made out to Woodland Aero Modelers and
3. we now accept ZELLE payments. If using
ZELLE, scan the QR code below. Use the email
address wam@baderman.co.uk.

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ (month and date only)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

AMA Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

E-mail: _____



Note: E-mails and phone numbers are used for WAM business only.

AMA Classification and Woodland Aero Modelers Club Fee (Check all that apply):

☐ Youth 19 years or under up to July 1st of membership year FREE

☐ Adult \$50

☐ Family Plan: One adult member at full price, all additional family members' dues at half price.

Need free flight training?

☐ Yes

☐ No

"I agree to comply with Woodland Aero Modelers (WAM) Club Flying Field Safety and Operational Rules which includes employing/abiding by club safety guidelines and demonstrate proper flying protocols. I understand that my failure to comply with the WAM field 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

Treasurer: Amount Paid _____ Date: _____ Sec: AMA exp. Date recorded: Date _____