

WINDY FLYER

AMA Charter | Club 279 | Downers Grove, Illinois

From the President

By Tim Mercier

As we embark on 2024, there are several key points to note for the new year. At the executive



committee meeting held in January, discussions took place regarding both new and existing ideas. Among the most challenging decisions was whether to continue the Swap Meet tradition.

Reflecting on my initial impressions as a new member a few years ago, I found the idea of our Club hosting its own swap meet to be a significant selling point. However, upon attending my first WAM swap, I quickly realized that the event had evolved significantly over time. Despite still drawing a decent crowd, it was evident that the event had lost some of its former vibrancy. Over the past three years, we witnessed a decline in the number of tables

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

Did You Know ?

Tail Strike

A tail strike in aviation refers to an incident where the rear part of an aircraft's fuselage (the tail) comes into contact with the runway during a take off or landing. This can occur when the aircraft's pitch angle is too high, causing the tail to scrape or strike the ground.



Tail strikes are a safety concern and can result in various forms of damage and consequences, including:

1. **Structural Damage:** The tail of an aircraft is a critical structural component. A tail strike can cause damage to the tail section itself, potentially leading to structural weaknesses or even
- (See Did You Know? Continued on page 2)

(From the President continued)

and vendors participating, leading to the difficult but necessary decision to discontinue this long-standing tradition.

During the monthly meeting, I shared our plan to redirect our efforts towards supporting the Fox Valley Aero Swap at the Kane County Fairgrounds in 2025. Additionally, I intend to explore potential partnerships with other clubs for events such as swaps or auctions.

I am also collaborating with fellow members to reintroduce regular gatherings, such as Thursday night fly-ins followed by socializing over burgers and beers. These gatherings aim to revive the camaraderie that once characterized our club. Furthermore, I am thrilled to announce a fun fly event scheduled for September, which I believe will be a highlight of the year. I have never experienced such an event aside from a few competitions held during the open house in 2022.

Many aspects of our Club's activities have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. But, I remain hopeful that with time, we can return to a semblance of normalcy. While the "new normal" may differ from the past, let us endeavor to preserve the vitality of our Club.

(Did You Know continued)

structural failure in extreme cases .

2. Aircraft Systems Damage: Tail strikes can damage systems and components located in the tail, including hydraulics, control surfaces, sensors, and avionics, which are essential for safe flight.
3. Operational Impact: Following a tail strike, the aircraft typically must undergo extensive inspections and repairs, which can result in operational downtime and financial costs for the airline.

Tail strikes are a concern during take off, especially if the aircraft rotates (lifts its nose) too aggressively, and during landing if the flare (raising the nose before touchdown) is not properly executed. Pilots are trained to avoid tail strikes through careful control of the aircraft's pitch attitude. Aircraft manufacturers also design aircraft with features to reduce the risk of tail strikes, such as providing sufficient ground clearance for the tail when the aircraft is within normal pitch ranges.

EAA- The Spirit of Aviation

It is time to fly and today we fly with the EAA themed Breezy.

Inspired by Arnie Zimmerman, who flew a Breezy for many years at AirVenture, his legacy carries on, spreading the gift of flight. Arnie was a long time member of the Woodland Aero Modelers. He now lives in Missouri.



Woodland Aero Modelers

Radio Controlled Flying Club

Club Officers

President/membership	F[_ ? WU[W
Vice-President	4dSVFWP Sff
Executive Director	5dS[Y? U= Wl[W
Secretary	7V? [^W
Treasurer	aZ 4SWW S
Safety Officer	aZ : ad SfZ
Chief Instructor	5dS[Y? U= Wl[W
Instructors	aZ 4SWW S
	7V? [^W
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Calendar

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.

Pilot bedroom



Minutes from the February 6th 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 \$6339, savings account \$4023 for a total of \$10,362.

Executive Director's Report: None

Chief Instructor: no report

Safety Director: no report

From the Executive Meeting:

- We would like to have guest speakers at our meetings. Perhaps members from other Clubs, pilots, instructors, members etc.
- After meetings , perhaps ask the VFW Hall if we can have a beer or two at their bar.
- We have canceled the Swap Meet. The only reason we made money was because we sold all our donations. Vendor participation and renting of tables is decreasing each year. Other suggestions include renting a Club table at the Fox Valley Swap Meet or having an auction.
- Tim Mercier will be added to our Checking and Savings account. He will be able to monitor activity. This is just a good business practice and no reflection on our past procedures or Treasurers.
- Ed Niccum is doing well and back to building airplanes. He is donating a lot of his airplanes to the Club to be auctioned off. We hope to see him at the field, at meetings and at Clow.

- Clow Cavalcade will be June 1st and 2nd. We hope to have our usual spot.
- Open House: We will have one Open House Saturday June 8th with Sunday the 9th as a rain date. At our Open House we must have a spotter for each instructor.
- Facebook page: The current page cannot be accessed. The former Club administrator has passed and no one knows the password. We will look into setting up a new Facebook page.
- Recruitment: As much as we would like to have young folks as members, the ideal candidate is someone who is retired and has the time and money to join our Club. Recruit neighbors and friends!
- Christmas Party: We will go back to Saturday afternoon. Instead of having it in December, we are planning to have it in January. Pappa Passaro, Chucks, Home Run Inn Pizza were some of the places mentioned.
- Club Picnic: We will have one picnic, August 17th or 18th depending on the weather.
- Signage: We will put a sign up on the first aid box, giving information about the Club.
- Field Maintenance: We painted and repaired all the flight stands last summer. We might paint the bench and the boxes. We will move the stand with the vice that used to be used for breaking in engines, to the flight line.
- Burger night, on Thursdays, after flying we go out for a beer and a burger. Last year was lots of fun.
- We will get everyone on SLACK, probably at the April meeting. Points for signing up on SLACK.
- Fun Fly will be in September. Perhaps points for winning a contest, a traveling trophy etc. It will be simple skills like rolls, loops, limbo etc.
- Points will be recorded by Brad TerMaat: attendance, Open House, Clow, Newsletter, spotter etc. Different points for different jobs, more points for harder jobs. Next meeting we will have point values determined.
- **Planes for Points:**

Steve Zielinski presented a balsa fuselage buildup of an old stick-built kit, Pete-N-Poke. Steve epoxied the fuselage and then accidentally dropped it to the floor. The wood being over 30 years old was brittle and shattered. Lesson: check balsa if building an older kit.

Steve also brought in an older Raptor 30 Helicopter. He acquired this from someone getting out of the hobby. Powered with a nitro OS 60 heli engine. He looks forward to flying it once the weather breaks.

Important Note:

Key Night is at our March 5th meeting. To obtain your new key, your membership dues must be paid (\$50), possess an up to date AMA membership, and return your old key. A fee of \$5 will be charged for lost



Steve Zielinski with his Raptor 30 Helicopter

keys. Keys will be available at subsequent meetings or you can request them from Ed Miller. Send renewal form (at the end of the newsletter), a check for your annual dues and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ed Miller at 2647 Newport Drive, Naperville, IL 60565. Best practice is to tape the key to an index card or piece of paper.

Model Building Hints and Tips: Tim Mercier related an incident where he had trouble updating his Spektrum NX6, he sent it in to Horizon and they returned a brand new radio!

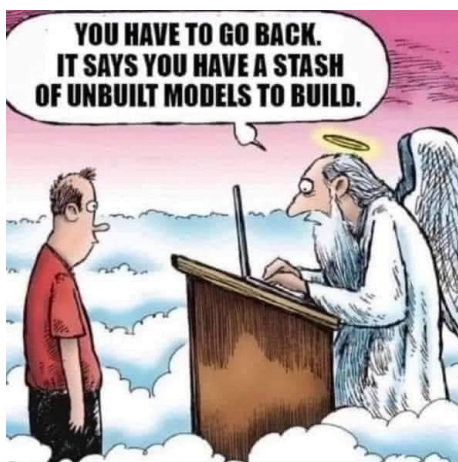
New Member: Mark Ebert. Mark was a member about 20 years ago and now that he has retired is getting back into the hobby. We are very pleased to have him rejoin.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm

RC Humor



HER: Did you buy more stuff for the airplane again?
ME:



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: _____