



Blue Max Aces

*The monthly newsletter of Blue Max
R/C Flying Club*

Every Flight is a New Adventure!
By Bruce Volocyk, President



As 2025 counts down its final days, we can reflect back on a great year. Blue Max members are the backbone of this strong club and we're proud to say our membership has reached 99 members!

Throughout the year we enjoyed our Spring Banquet, Fun Flies, the annual picnic and shared our flying, building, and battery expertise with one another. Our field continues to be our prize jewel, drawing not only our members but spectators and enthusiasts alike.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped maintain the field, the safety, flight instruction, the Fun Flies, events, newsletters, our website, officers and Board throughout the year, as well as all the members that keep Blue Max thriving.

Our next meeting will be a pizza party on Monday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. at Barnaby's Pizza Pub, 933 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights.

Pizza and soft drinks provided by the club.

See you there!

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President

Bruce Volocyk

Vice President

Al Valenzo

Secretary

Craig Brown

Treasurer

Jim Kaufman

Board of Directors

Chris Mays

Carl Will

Brian Sokol

Steve Gelman

COMMITTEES

Winter Banquet

Steve Gelman

Field Marshal

Carl Will

Flying Proficiency

Steve Gelman

Fun Fly

Steve Gelman

Noise

Open

Picnic

Steve Gelman

Programs

Open

Safety

Chris Mays

Noise

Leo Hanula

MEETING MINUTES by Craig Brown

Around the Hangar

November 17, 2025 Meeting

The meeting was held at:

First Presbyterian Church

302 N Dunton Ave.

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President, Bruce Volocyk, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Members & Guests: Three new members attended the meeting and introduced themselves:

- Lawrence Rapach
- David Rokusek
- Mark Falkenburg

Welcome to all!

REPORTS

President's Report – Bruce Volocyk

The following items were noted by Bruce:

- **Fall Elections** – Elections were held for the Blue Max Officers and Board of Directors

Nominations:

President: Bruce Volocyk

Vice President: Al Valenzo

Treasurer: Jim Kaufman

Secretary: Craig Brown

Board Member: Steve Gelman, Mike Anderson, Chris Mays, Brian Sokol

All positions were elected unanimously by the 25 members present and online.

Secretary Report – Craig Brown

The October 20, 2025 meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer Report – Jim Kaufman

\$2,266 was raised from the plane auction, less \$100 for trailer rental. No large checks were disbursed in the past month. It was noted that the club has grown to close to 100 members, making it one of the largest (and most affordable!) clubs in Illinois. Anyone with specific questions regarding club finances may contact Jim for more information.

Newsletter Report – Mike McTague

Mike is still looking for new model updates from club members as we enter the winter build season.

Webmaster Report – Brian Sokol

Website is in good shape. No issues to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Field Marshal – Mike Anderson

- Mike was not able to attend the meeting.
- Field looked great this past season!
- Future patches of the carpet may need to be done in larger sections to try and make the carpet stick better.
- The runway has been patched to fill in all cracks to try and prevent winter breakage.
- Over the winter consideration will be made to using some of the proceeds from the plane auction to replace the safety fence.

Proficiency/Certifications – Steve Gelman:

- There have been no new certificates since the picnic.
- There were 3 graduates for the '25 season.

Club Skill Challenge/Fun Fly – Brian Sokol

No report

Noise – Carl Will

No noise issues to report.

Training – Carl Will

Training will resume in the Spring

Safety – Carl Will

Chris Mays is resigning as safety officer. Carl Will will serve as the Safety Officer for 2026.

Crash Report

- David Rokusek mentioned he crashed his plane while flying with another individual. He was starting to become concerned that the other pilot was flying too far away from the field boundaries. While he mentioned this to him, he lost the orientation of his own plane and crashed.
- Steve Gelman had a mishap due to his heavy coat snagging the throttle while taxiing. The plane cartwheeled and sustained some minor damage, but he was able to repair it and continue flying.

Old Business

Plane Auction:

Jim Ackelson suggested that the club should donate a portion of the proceeds from the plane auction on behalf of the deceased individual whose estate donated the planes. A motion was passed to donate 10% of the plane auction proceeds to The Marfan Foundation on behalf of Frederick W. Keesy.

New Business

- Steve Gelman noted that picnic permits will be available Dec 1. Steve will try for a similar date in August to avoid conflicts with the Oshkosh air show.
- The December meeting will be a pizza party!
- Bruce has ordered 12 Blue Max winter hats. Please reach out to Bruce directly if you are interested in purchasing one. The hats will be sold to members at cost for \$18. More can be ordered if there is additional demand.

Show & Tell

- George Gruber showed his Stephens Aeromodel RV4. The prototype of this plane is a home-kit that is still currently sold in newer versions. The model is a balsa skeleton with a Solite skin. George reports that once the CG was established the plane flies very well. George also showed a homemade wood jig for temporarily mounting a wheel/strut assembly that makes it easier to bend landing struts back into place.
- Carl Will showed a modified Aeroscout 50mm EDF. The modification kit is made by KIN Additive. Carl reports about 3 minutes of flight time with the current set-up.
- David Rokusek showed his Conscendo glider. He reports that this plane flies great, even when it's too windy to fly anything else! He recommends taping the leading edge of the wings to protect them from getting cut-up from grass belly landings.

Raffle: The raffle was held with two winners.

- George Gruber
- Dave Rokusek

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, December 15th, at 7:00 pm at the following location:

Barnaby's Pizza

933 W. Rand

Arlington Heights, IL

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by all in favor at 8:06 pm.

Upcoming Events

Club Meeting

Monday December 15th - 7:00pm Barnaby's Pizza 933 W. Rand Arlington Heights

Indoor Flying

"Come Fly Indoors With Us"

If you want to learn how to fly RC airplanes, or if you are a seasoned veteran and want to hone your skills during the winter months, this is a class for you. Our "classroom" is the field house where we fly small to medium sized, electric RC planes in any weather. Most of our students are "repeat attenders" and have become good friends who enjoy sharing their knowledge with newcomers. So, if you are just starting out and need some help, or if you are looking for a comfortable place to fly during the winter, join us for fun and fellowship.

Location:

Forest View Educational Center : Field House

2121 S Goebbert Rd (Enter door 31 register)

Arlington Heights, IL 60005

(847) 718-7700

Mondays, (**Winter Spring Registration opens Dec 11th**) Contact: Warren Bjork 847-975-9517

3:30 - 6:30 PM

Canlan Sportsplex – 28156 W. Northpointe Parkway, Lake Barrington

Fridays 11am until 2pm. Cost is \$16 per session

For more info or directions call 847-382-3433

Plane Donation - Update

As we previously shared, we received a plane collection from the family of Fred Keesy which we auctioned to our club members. In his memory, Blue Max has made a donation of \$200 to The Marfan Foundation. We wrote to the Keesy family to advise this as well as express our condolences and appreciation for their donation of the planes which greatly benefited the club and so many of our members.

Below is the response we received back from the Keesy family:

Hello Mr. Volocyk,

I am so happy to receive your email and am so grateful for the club's donation to the Marfan Foundation in Fred's name. And I am also happy that the planes have found a good home. Please express the appreciation of the Keesy family to your club's members for their generous donation.

Again, thank you!

The Keesy Family

An Old Pilot's Trip Down Memory Lane by Steve C.

Our mild-weather flying days are coming to an end as November temps have quickly changed. Time to start thinking about winter flying and those projects you've been waiting to tackle". Wow, these are the exact opening remarks in the November 2025 newsletter from our club President Bruce Volocyk. And sure enough, as I sit at my kitchen table drinking a cup of hot coffee watching the snow fall as I write this article on Saturday November 29th 2025, our area is experiencing its first major winter storm of the season impacting the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend with prolonged accumulating snow reaching upwards of 10 to 12 inches in some areas.

The first official day of winter isn't until December 21st yet Bruce accurately predicted in November our mild-weather flying days were coming to an end and it was time to start thinking about winter flying. In my book that puts Bruce right up there with the most famous prognosticators in history for their uncanny ability to foretell or prophesy future events – names like Nostradamus, Baba Vanga, and perhaps the greatest prognosticator of all time Punxsutawney Phil.

I was checking my weather app throughout the week and debated whether "to charge or not to charge" my batteries (to paraphrase Shakespeare) for flying over the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. Wind predictions for Saturday morning November 29th at 7:30 AM were 8 to 9 mph out of the SSE, gusting to 18 mph. Temps were forecasted at 25 degrees Fahrenheit with wind chills a cool 18 degrees Fahrenheit. And snow was predicted to start falling.

As a young man in the 1980's during the Thanksgiving Holiday weekends my friend Dan and I would rent a Cessna 152 and fly to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for opening ski season. It became an annual tradition for a number of years, with one year in particular putting our piloting skills to the test as we had to navigate our way through a major snow storm – a storm like the one we had this past Thanksgiving Holiday weekend.

I no longer fly as a private pilot, and I have never made the journey back to the Upper Peninsula during the Thanksgiving Holiday weekends. Life had changed. Dan moved on. I

met a girl, got married, bought a house, and started a family raising two wonderful kids. Flying is expensive and something had to go.

I fly RC now to relive the glory days of my youth as a pilot. The stories of my numerous aviation misadventures as a young pilot are legendary (at least in my mind). And there are few things in life better than a bunch of old pilots sitting around drinking hot coffee and swapping tales of adventures from the good 'ole days.

This year's Thanksgiving Holiday weekend snow storm brought back fond memories of that day flying to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for opening ski season during that snow storm. Although I couldn't climb into the pilot's seat of a Cessna for a trip back up north anymore, I did the next best thing. I bundled up, loaded my Tundra, took six freshly charged batteries, and enjoyed a peaceful morning of RC flying in the cold, wind, and snow. All ended well. Great take offs, not so great landings. No crashes. No repairs. For me, that's a good day at the field.

Cheers to Bruce for his prognostication coming true. Our mild-weather flying days have come to an end and our winter flying season has begun. This old pilot certainly enjoyed a trip down memory lane on this year's snowy Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. Just one more thing to be "thankful for" as we enter the Holiday Season.

Happy landings and Happy Holidays. And to all a good night.



Anton S. wins the Fun Fly competition 2025 for the second straight year!



George G's RV4 build from a Stevens Aero kit. He also shared a tool he designed to help straighten out bent retrack struts.



Carl displays his 50mm EDF modified Aeroscout. The EDF kit is from KIN Additive



Ibrahim K's Elder 40 Topflite kit. The wing is done and now on to the fuselage



Bruce V's progress in covering the Ultra Sport 60.



Jim A's Mosquito. Kit is from CMP. 73" wingspan. Converted to electric using a 6S battery feeding two Power 46 motors. Counter-rotating 12-6, 3 blade props. Weight is around 11 lbs. Maiden expected in the Spring.



Mike M's Ready to fly: Need to install a pilot who is "still in training". Took 24 oz. of lead behind the prop to balance at 126 mm from leading edge at root.



Mike has also completed his “replacement clone” Something Extra.





David R's winter flying modifications...(Snowhawker and Coldsendo) Skies are tough in the snow 😊

And to finish... A beautiful early fall morning at the field by Frank H.

