



# Blue Max Aces

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

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



It's been a mild winter but I'm ready for spring! This month, we renewed our charter and insurance with the AMA and filed our Annual Not-for-Profit report with the Illinois Secretary of State. The Board also met to share ideas for the coming season which we'll discuss at our next club meeting. We want to hear your ideas as well!

If you haven't already done so, now is a good time to renew your Blue Max club membership. At the March meeting, we'll hold a raffle with the names of everyone who has paid their 2025 dues to date.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Ave., in Arlington Heights. As always, bring your show and tell.

## Inside This Issue

- Every Flight is a New Adventure 1
- Meeting Minutes 2
- Upcoming Events 3
- Indoor Flying 4
- Projects 5

- President  
Bruce Volocyk
- Vice President  
Al Valenzo
- Secretary  
Open
- 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



## *MEETING MINUTES* by Bruce Volocyk

### January 20, 2025 Meeting

The meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights.

### *Around the Hangar*

#### **REPORTS**

**President:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Al Valenzo, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**New Members & Guests:** No new members or guests present.

**Secretary:** Secretary still needed. Al will take notes for the meeting tonight. The December 16, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. No changes; minutes approved.

**Treasurer – Jim Kaufman:** Jim reported overall club current balance.

**Newsletter – Mike McTague:** Nothing new to report.

**Webmaster – Brian Sokol:** Nothing new to report.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Field Marshal – Carl Will:** No report. No student activity.

**Proficiency/Certifications – Steve Gelman:** No report.

**Club Skill Challenge/Fun Fly – Steve Gelman:** No report.



**Noise – Leo Hanula:** No report.

**Safety – Chris Mays:** No report.

**Crash Reports – Steve Gelman** – None to report.

**Training- Carl Will:** No activity.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Show & Tell** – None

**Adjournment** – All in favor; meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be at First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights.

### **Upcoming Events**

**Club Meeting** Monday February 17th 7pm First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights.



## **Indoor Flying**

**"Come Fly Indoors With Us" Winter Session in session - See School Dist 214 Adult Education.**

### **Registration is open for the spring session**

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, Contact: Warren Bjork 847-975-9517  
3:30 - 6:30 PM

Price: \$ **Ck website** (less with a gold card ie., District 214 resident)

**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



### **Groundhog Day by Steve Cerve**

**Let's face it ... Jan 2025 was, by most accounts, a brutal month weatherwise. Temperatures below normal, a Polar Vortex mid-month, and winds above normal. Even for the die-hard winter aviators in the club, the weather was mostly too extreme for those of us longing to get some stick time in. The good news is that February is usually considered the last month of winter.**

**One of the more well-known days in February is Groundhog Day. Groundhog Day occurs on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year and is the day when people watch a groundhog emerge from its burrow to predict the weather for the rest of the winter. Groundhog Day derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and sees its shadow, it will retreat to its den and winter will go on for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow, spring will arrive early.**

**In Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, people gather at Gobbler's Knob to watch a groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil emerge from his burrow. The prediction is made around 7:20 a.m. each year. I can't say I've ever seen a groundhog at the field in all my years flying there or trudging through the tall prairie grass in search of lost planes, but according to Google, groundhogs really do exist in our area and can be seen in February when they emerge from hibernation. I've never heard anyone in the club ever, and I mean ever, mention a groundhog sighting. But perhaps that's because the large, hairy creature some folks swore they saw was Big Foot walking among the tall prairie grass. It was, in reality, just a rather large, hairy groundhog and they were too embarrassed to fess-up to their mistake.**

**Because I've never seen a groundhog at the field, I planned to bring my T-28 Trojan to the field at 7:20 a.m. on Groundhog Day just in case a groundhog decided not to come out of hibernation. I wanted to see if the legend of Groundhog Day was indeed true. I was going to taxi the T-28 out to the runway, and park it there; believing it was just as fair a representation as if a groundhog had surfaced near the field looking for its shadow.**

**Groundhogs dwell in lowland habitats and prefer open country and the edges of woodlands. They can typically be found in small woodlots, low-elevation forests, fields and pastures, and hedgerows ... and they burrow into the ground.**

**There were times when my T-28, with its prop spinning at full throttle, nosedived uncontrollably into the ground on final approach to the field, and burrowed just as deep a tunnel in the ground upon impact as a groundhog burrows a tunnel through the ground using its short muscular front legs, and long curved claws. I'd usually find my crashed T-28 lying somewhere in the open country or on the edges of the woodlands on the outskirts of the field. The similarities between**



a groundhog burrowing a tunnel in the ground and my T-28 burrowing a tunnel in the ground were uncanny. So, I figured, if a groundhog didn't come out to see its shadow; using my T-28 was an acceptable substitute.

I had batteries charged and was ready to fly on Groundhog Day; but my wife and I went out Saturday evening Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary which was Monday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. I didn't wake up on Sunday morning in time to get to the field by 7:20 a.m. Instead, I rolled out of bed, poured myself a cup of hot coffee, looked out my window, saw a dusting of snow ... and with the grey overcast sky, decided not to go at all.

With an overcast sky, and my astute sense of observation, it didn't take a rocket scientist – or in our hobby an aeronautical engineer - to figure out I was not going to see any shadows.

Woodstock Willie did not see his shadow; and based on the 45-degree high and the sun coming out mid-afternoon that day, it felt as if spring had sprung, confirming the prognostication of an early spring.

I'll never know if that large, hairy creature folks swore they saw walking among the tall prairie grass was Big Foot; or just a rather large, hairy groundhog that came out of hibernation. The legend of Big Foot at the field remains a mystery.

But for those of us who remember the 1993 comedy film Groundhog Day starring Bill Murray who played weatherman Phil Connors, you can't beat his quote from the movie. "You want a prediction about the weather, you're asking the wrong Phil. I'll give you a winter prediction: It's gonna be cold, it's gonna be grey, and it's gonna last you for the rest of your life". That pretty much sums up the weather here in Chicago; but at least I get to dig out my Hawaiian shirts, cargo shorts, sunglasses and sun screen a bit earlier than planned.

Cheers to what hopes to be an early spring!

Steve Cerve

"Disclaimer: The content in this story was created on Groundhog Day for comic relief only. The author assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the prognostication made. Please don't sue me."

**Steve G. gives Mike L. a hand with his new acquisition...**



Melendy Skunkworks update. Looking good Mike!







**A RV-4 build from George G.**

I thought to share a picture of a balsa kit build I am working on this winter. The model is RV-4 from Stevens Aeromodel, out of Colorado Springs, Colorado. It has a 35 inch wingspan and weighs 17 ounces. 4 Channel REAAT.

Here I have just completed sanding the profile of the wing leading edge and dry fitted it to the saddle of the fuselage. It will be attached with blind nuts from underneath. I find that a good way to sand the wings is to glue various grit sandpaper to paint sticks I have lying around. They prevent uneven sand spots if you take your time.

