



# Blue Max Aces

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

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



As you know, our annual picnic was August 24 and was a huge success.

Be sure to read more about it further on in the newsletter. How can it be September already??!! That said, there's still plenty of flying season still ahead of us. A topic at hand is ensuring everyone is current with their AMA memberships and FAA registrations along with knowledge of the FRIA (FAA – Recognized Identification Area) designated geographic location – a map is located on the shed. Open discussion on this will be held at our September meeting. Our next meeting is September 15 at 6:30 p.m. and will be outdoors at the field. Bring a lawn chair and your show and tell!

See you on the field!

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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

### **August 17, 2025 Meeting**

The meeting was held as a Zoom call due to the presence of storms in the area.

### *Around the Hangar*

### **REPORTS**

**President:** The meeting was called to order by President, Bruce Volocyk, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**New Members & Guests:** Brian Gross introduced himself as a new member. Brian previously belonged to a flying club in Crystal Lake prior to moving away. He has recently retired and moved back to the area and is looking forward to getting back into the hobby.

**President's Report – Bruce Volocyk:** No specific notes from the President.

Members asked that Bruce pass along a big "Thank You!" to Joanne Volocyk for pulling a whole bunch of weeds from around the flying field!

**Secretary – Craig Brown:** Craig Brown has agreed to fill the position of Secretary.

The assembled members agreed that the July 21, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. No changes were noted; minutes approved.

**Treasurer – Jim Kaufman:** Jim reported the current bank balance. Anyone with specific questions regarding club finances may contact Jim for more information.

**Newsletter – Mike McTague:** Mike noted that Craig should forward meeting minutes to him for inclusion in the newsletter. It was also discussed that we should try and include more pictures in future issues of the newsletter. The picnic should provide plenty of good photo ops.

**Webmaster – Brian Sokol:** No specific topics of note.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Field Marshal – Mike Anderson:** Mike reported that 2-3 more pieces of carpet still need to be replaced to complete major repairs for this season. Bruce asked Mike to let himself or other members know if Mike would like assistance with the remaining repairs.

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

**Picnic – Steve Gelman:** Final preparations for the picnic were discussed. A total of 90 RSVPs for the picnic had been received as of the meeting time. Food will be planned for 120 people. There will be a donation jar available for guest attendees (\$5/person). The Blue Max Venmo code will also be made available to accept donations. It was suggested that a volunteer staff the donation table to remind attendees to pay for their guests.

Responsibilities (from previous minutes):

- Coolers/pop – Carl
- Ice – Bruce
- Grill – Gene Derbick and Carl Will will be grilling hamburgers, hot dogs and brats. Gene is renting a larger charcoal grill.
- Plates/forks/knives and condiments – Steve Gelman will handle

Setup – Setup will take place on Sunday (day-of) at approximately 8:30 am.

Raffle – Steve Gelman will run the raffle. In addition to the raffle prizes previously discussed, a donation of mostly new, in-the-box planes has been received, and will also be included as part of the raffle. It was also discussed that the Aero Scout was noted as intended for a beginner who will fly the plane at the club (versus reselling).

**Club Skill Challenge/Fun Fly – Brian Sokol:** The Bomb Drop will be held at the picnic. This will be the last Skill Challenge of the year.

**Noise – Carl Will:** No noise issues noted so far this year. Bruce asked that club officers help to enforce noise regulations and be vigilant for any unusually loud planes that may result in noise complaints.

**Training – Carl Will:** Carl has been working with two 10-year olds. They are progressing okay but there may not be enough time yet this year for them to be able to solo. Brian Sokol has also assisted with some of the new young members.

**Safety – Chris Mays:** No report from Chris....

In July one of the young members had an incident with the throttle cut switch on his electric plane that resulted in the need for stitches. Carl spoke with him after the incident to remind him of the steps that need to be followed prior to flying. Carl also reinforced to the young member that he must adhere to the pattern when others are flying. The young man's father expressed appreciation for all of the care his son received from club members at the time of the injury. It was noted that all adult club members must keep watch over the younger members to ensure their safety.

**Crash Report:** Ed Der reported the crash of his Extreme Flight Yak. The Yak is over 10 years old and it looks like the wing root rib separated from the wing causing the crash.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** – None

**Show & Tell** – Mike Anderson showed his garage “hangar” on the Zoom call.

**Raffle:** No raffle was held due to the Zoom call.

**Next Meeting:** The September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the field with a start time of 6:30 p.m. In the event the weather is poor, we will revert to a Zoom meeting.

Starting in October the meeting will be held indoors at the following location:

First Presbyterian Church

302 N Dunton Ave.

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned by all in favor at 7:50 pm.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Club Meeting**

**Monday Sept 15th - 6:30pm At the Field**

### **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, Fall Session Starts 9/8 Contact: Warren Bjork 847-975-9517

3:30 - 6:30 PM Registration Opens 8/12

**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



## Blue Max RC Flying Club Picnic 2025



Pictured here are 30 of the 41 Blue Max RC flyers in attendance.

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was indeed a great day for our summer picnic, and was “a phenomenal event” as noted by Club President Bruce Volocyk. It was a bit on the breezy side with crosswinds gusting 20+ mph, but at least there were no mosquitoes! Did you know that mosquitoes are weak fliers with a typical flight speed of only 1 – 3 mph? Winds above 10 mph are a natural deterrent for the little buggers. Come to think of it, I’m a relatively slow flyer with no need for speed, and winds above 10 mph are a natural deterrent for me. Maybe my call sign should be “Skeeter”.

The skies were blue and punctuated with white cumulus clouds providing a very picturesque background. And the extreme “heat dome” in July with its sweltering temperatures and high humidity bringing back memories of Chicago’s deadliest disaster – the 1995 heat wave that killed hundreds – had finally lifted. Instead of sweat falling in our eyes and feeling as if we were standing in a sauna, we got a taste of early autumn as many of us came dressed in sweatshirts, sweaters, and light jackets to enjoy the camaraderie and friendship of our fellow aviators and their families.

There’s nothing like a bunch of old pilots getting together swapping stories of their many misadventures at the field. And it’s even better swapping those stories with family and friends while enjoying a great barbeque.

Many thanks to Gene Derbick as our BBQ Master Chef and his crew for shopping and cooking all the food and keeping us well fed. The aroma of the food cooking filled the air, and the taste of fresh BBQ was, simply put, “delectable”. Once again, thanks to Steve Gelman for coordinating the event, including the raffle give-a-ways. Thanks to Brian Sokol for hosting the always awesome pilot and fan favorite “Bomb Drop”. And a special thanks to all our members and those who worked diligently behind the scenes - including their families, friends, and significant others - for their participation and support. No successful mission is accomplished without the support of its squadron leaders and their well-tuned flight crews.

Pilots, by nature, are “by the numbers” guys and gals. They like math because it’s an essential and practical tool for navigation, fuel consumption, weight and balance, weather adjustments, and performance. So, here’s a look at our picnic “by the numbers”:

- Over 80 attendees, including 41 club members and 15 spouses
- \$25 amazon gift cards given to all spouses as our way of saying “thanks”
- Raffle tickets given to every Club member for a chance to win great prizes
- An amazing amount of food cooked
  - 40 lbs. of burgers
  - 70 brats
  - An undisclosed amount of hog dogs
  - 80 ears of corn
  - And a smorgasbord of snacks and desserts

And speaking of “Bomb Drop” we had a squadron of 12 pilots participating in this Fun Fly event. Rules prevented the pilots from flying below the hard deck of 10 feet to drop their payload as close to the “X” as possible. And with the wind direction and gusts we had, I bet Tom Cruise and his squadron of top Naval aviators in the movie “Top Gun: Maverick” would have even been challenged to do so.

Yet we have to give it to Al Valenzo! Al dropped his payload **8.5 inches** from the target! Yes, an incredible test of his piloting skills considering the winds. Hmmm ... I wonder if Al was using one of those laser-guided targeting systems or perhaps a GPS system like that used to drop the MOAB (Mother of All Bombs). A GPS system allows

a pilot to fly at a higher and safer altitude and drop the bomb with no further involvement needed to guide it to the target. Only Al knows for sure ... and I'm sure it's a secret he's not going to divulge to anyone. Congratulations Al. Regardless of who finished 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> all participants were winners in our eyes!

- Al Valenzo 1<sup>st</sup> place - missing the target by an incredible 8.5 inches
- Jim Ackleson 2<sup>nd</sup> place – missing the target by 12 feet 1 inch
- Brian Sokol 3<sup>rd</sup> place – missing the target by 20 feet 5 inches
- Anton Sokol - overall 2025 Fun Fly winner for a second consecutive year. For a 15-year-old, this kid's got skills!



Pictured here are 10 of the 12 bomb drop participants

The picnic is somewhat of a bittersweet event. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations and the local community summer festivals are behind us. Schools are back in session. And the donning of warmer clothing was perhaps Mother Nature's way of gently reminding us that summer – and our flying season – is quickly coming to an end. But it was also a great time to connect and bond with fellow aviators in the club we normally don't see because our flying schedules are different.

Soon the leaves will turn, fall harvest festivals will be abundant, and the long cold drawn-out winter will set in. A time for putting planes in their hangers while repairing or building next season's models. And then there will be those few brave souls



dressed in layers of clothing, with eyes tearing, noses running, teeth chattering, fingers freezing, and cursing the bitter cold as they feed their compulsion to fly regardless of the weather. And then they'll tell everyone what a great time they had doing it. Yep ... I'm one of those guys!

Whether we were – or still are – general aviation pilots, or we just love building and flying model planes, flying RC feeds our passion for flying. Flying is a deep-seated passion, driven by an almost addictive desire to be in the air, to master the aircraft, and overcome the challenges of flight. Flying provides an unparalleled freedom of being in the sky.

***“When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return”***  
– Wilbur Wright.

Until the next Club picnic ... happy landings.

Steve “Skeeter” Cerve

**Al Valenzo set a bomb drop record that will be very, very, hard to break ... 8.5 inches!!!**























