



# Blue Max Aces

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

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



As March transitions us from winter to spring, let us be ready to take our first flights!  
March also brings us to the close of our 2026 membership dues campaign. If you have not already done so, renew your Blue Max club membership if you want to be included in the free raffle for 1 of 4 \$25.00 Amazon gift cards being held only at our upcoming March meeting. Only the names of those who have paid their 2026 dues by March 16 will be included.  
The next meeting will be Monday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Ave., in Arlington Heights. As always, bring your show and tell.

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President  
Bruce Volocyk

Vice President  
Al Valenzo

Secretary  
Craig Brown

Treasurer  
Jim Kaufman

Board of Directors  
Chris Mays  
Mike Anderson  
Brian Sokol  
Steve Gelman

COMMITTEES  
Spring Banquet  
Steve Gelman

Field Marshal  
Mike Anderson

Flying Proficiency  
Steve Gelman

Fun Fly  
Brian Sokol

Picnic  
Steve Gelman

Flight Instructor  
Carl Will

Webmaster  
Brian Sokol

Safety  
Carl Will

Noise  
Carl Will

## *MEETING MINUTES* by Craig Brown

### **February 16, 2026 Meeting**

The meeting was held at:

First Presbyterian Church

302 N Dunton Ave.

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President, Bruce Volocyk.

### ***Around the Hangar***

#### **New Members & Guests:**

New member John Colby was in attendance. Welcome John!

#### **Officer Reports**

##### **President's Report – Bruce Volocyk**

There will be a lot going on this year with improvements to the pit area and the flying field (see Field Marshall report).

Bruce also reminded everyone about the TRUST certification requirements and asked that all club members maintain compliance.

##### **Secretary Report – Craig Brown**

Craig was not present; however, the January 19th, 2026 meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

##### **Treasurer Report – Jim Kaufman**

Jim reported on current expenditures for the past month:

- \$146 AMA insurance
- \$10 to Illinois Secretary of State
- Club membership has reached 100 members
  - 95 paid members
  - 5 honorary members (Members with 25 years or more of membership are not required to pay dues)

Anyone with specific questions regarding club finances may contact Jim for more information.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Newsletter – Mike McTague**

The Newsletter has been looking great! Please continue to send winter build photos to Mike.

### **Webmaster – Brian Sokol**

The club meeting live stream has been changed from Zoom to Google Meet.

The new member flyer that was linked on the website was out of date. Brian has revised the flyer, and included a QR code that links to the club website. He has emailed the new flyer to the Northbrook Hobby Town, where it will be posted. Mike Anderson will be taking an updated flyer to the Schaumburg Hobby Town, and will also update the flyer in the glass display case on the side of the shed at the field. We are looking for a volunteer to get an updated flyer to the Batavia Hobby Town.

### **Field Marshal – Mike Anderson**

#### **Pit Area Discussion**

Mike brought samples of replacement turf carpet for the pit area. Mike estimates that the current carpet has lasted about 20 years. There are several thicknesses of turf/backing available. The thinnest backed carpet, similar to what is down now, is the most affordable.

Pricing from Menards (Home Depot is significantly more expensive)

- \$600 for 12' x 100' roll of thin backed carpet (3 needed)
- \$950 for 12 x 100' roll of thicker grass and thicker backing (3 needed)
- Indoor/Outdoor carpet glue is ~\$50 for a 3-gallon container (multiple needed). The 11% rebate on the purchase of the carpet would cover some of the cost of the glue.

It was suggested that Mike test the durability of the carpet by submerging a piece in plane fuel.

Mike will also try and get a price for replacing the mesh layer that is between the carpet and the ground.

No final decision about replacing the carpet was made at the meeting. The subject will continue to be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

#### **Flight Line Accessibility**

Mike suggested that the club should improve accessibility to the flight line by building a path from the pits to the flight line. Mike's idea is to dig out a 4' wide, 2'' deep path that is covered with crushed limestone.

This will be discussed with the Forest Preserve before proceeding with any work.

#### **Safety Netting**

Mike spoke with Midtown Athletic club about the possibility of obtaining used tennis nets to replace the flight line safety nets. The persons he spoke with said they thought there were surplus nets available that could be provided. Mike will check back with them in a few days.

#### **Other Items**

- Brian Sokil purchased a Blue Max club flag that he provided to Mike to replace the damaged one at the field.
- Mike would also like to get some pictures that can be posted on the shed.

### **Picnic - Steve Gelman**

Steve was not present; however, he reported to Bruce that the permit for the annual picnic has been received.

The date for the picnic will be on Sunday, August 9.

### **Flight Instructor – Carl Will**

Nothing to report.

### **Noise – Carl Will**

No issues to report.

### **Safety – Carl Will**

Carl's plan for this year's flying season is to focus on safety discussions with the electric flyers.

### **Crash Reports**

No current crash reports. For this year, the focus will be having a discussion of what caused the crash, rather than just reporting that a crash has occurred.

### **Club Skill Challenge/Fun Fly – Brian Sokol**

There was discussion at the last board meeting about whether or not to increase the number of Fun Fly events. For now the plan is to stay with 4 events, with the fourth and final Bomb Drop event scheduled for the day of the picnic. There may be an extra event in September, depending on the weather.

### **Old Business**

No Old Business to report.

### **New Business**

Bruce was contacted by RC Flight School, based in Wisconsin, about the possibility of offering flight instruction to our club. A virtual session with the flight school call is free of charge, with a donation suggested. In-person flight instruction requires a fee. Bruce will invite the instructor to attend an upcoming meeting via Google Meet.

A Blue Max member mentioned that he had spoken with Larry Erbach, president of the Chain O'Lakes Eagles RC Club. Larry reported that their field will be expanding. He also suggested he would be interested in some group events with the Blue Max club. More to come...

### **Show & Tell**

- Mike Melendy showed a Balsa USA 1/6 Scale Thomas-Morse S-4 Scout that he is building as a winter project.
- George Grueber showed an Old School Model Works Bat.
- Brian Gross showed a trainer plane used by RC Flight School.

### **Raffle**

Two raffle tickets were drawn for Amazon gift cards.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday, March 16th, at 7:00 p.m. 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 8:05 p.m.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Club Meeting**

**Monday March 16 th - 7:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 302 Dunton, 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, ( **Spring Session starts in late March**)      Contact: Warren Bjork 847-975-9517

3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

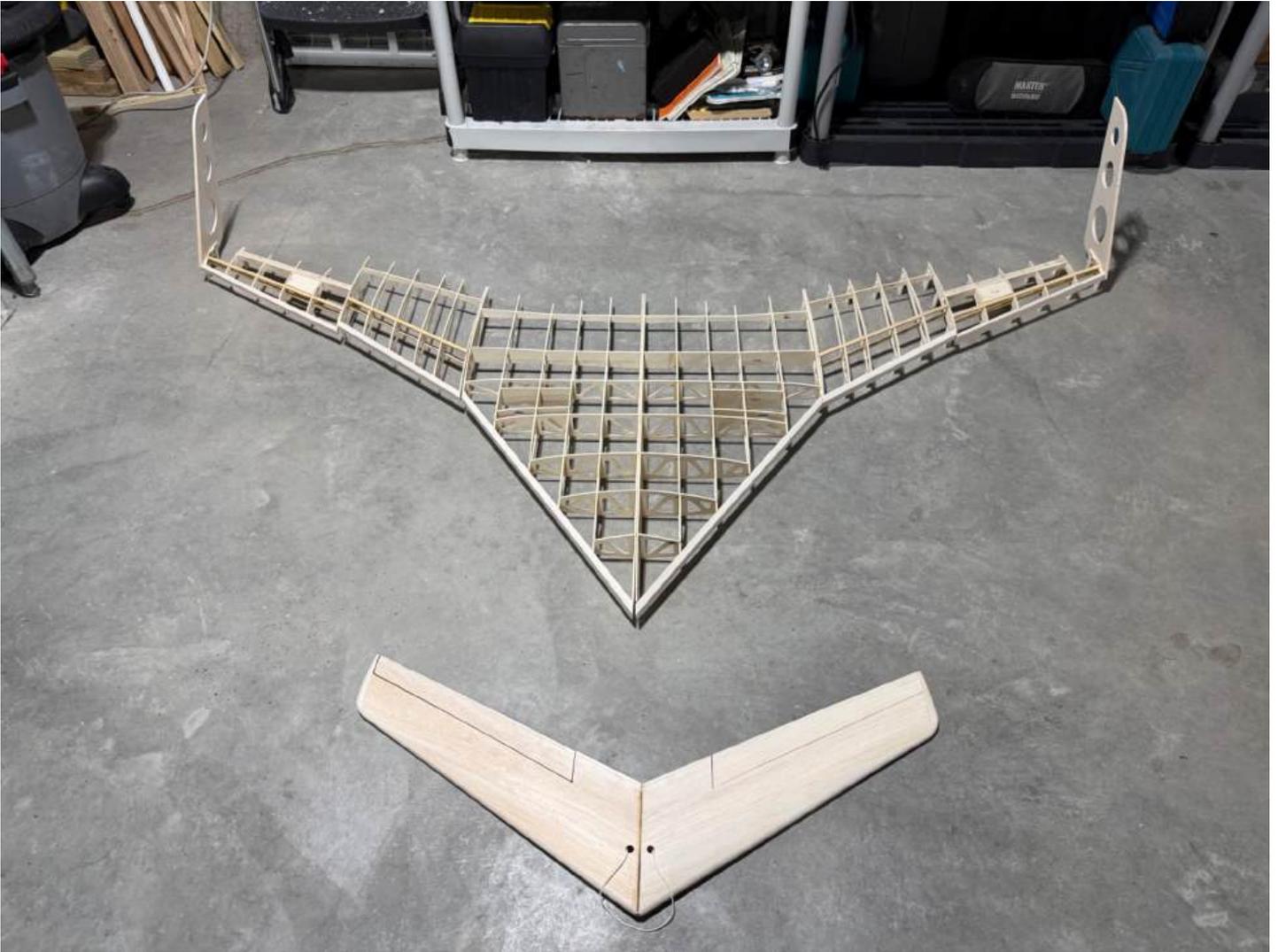
**Canlan Sportsplex** – 28156 W. Northpointe Parkway, Lake Barrington

Fridays 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$16 per session

For more info or directions call 847-382-3433



Ted N.- Shots of my ARF hack of a Sr Telemaster that I acquired from Carl this year. I removed the dihedral from the wing and converted it to a nylon screw wing from its old rubber band approach. Just finished the struts which took a lot of work. Ready to install an OS 91.



Jim A.-Finally started the build of the AMTN Beech Starship model.

Wingspan: 2m

Twin Pusher Props: 9x8 3-blades

Dual 60amp ESC and 820KV 750 Outrunners

Dual 4S 2700 mah LiPo

Approx Take-off weight: 11.5 lbs

Fwd Wing ready for final covering

Main wing ready for balsa skins.