



WINDY FLYER



From the Editor

By Ed Miller

We finally enjoyed our first successful Burger, Beer, and Fly Night of the season. (The next one is scheduled for August 20th.) As usual, the weather tried to interfere with our plans. Smoke from the Canadian wildfires rolled in, reducing visibility and making breathing a bit difficult. Nevertheless, we persevered, managed to get some flying in, and later enjoyed a meal and beer at Chuck's. There were plenty of laughs and stories of fine piloting.

This Saturday, we will hold our Club picnic. It is always a special occasion because it gives us the chance to meet the families of our fellow pilots. Our Club is about more than R/C flying; for many of us, some of our closest friends are fellow Club members, (see From the Editor next page)



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

Did You Know ?

RC Aircraft Reaches the Edge of Space

High-Altitude flight has always fascinated pilots, but one aircraft is now pushing the limits of what's possible. Mira Aerospace has successfully completed a groundbreaking test flight of its High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite aircraft reaching an altitude of 7.5 miles above the Earth. That puts this unmanned aircraft firmly in the stratosphere, well above commercial air traffic and most weather systems. The test flight took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and lasted 48 continuous hours, demonstrating not only extreme altitude capability but also long endurance performance.

One of the primary goals of the mission was to evaluate a newly developed optoelectronic gyrostabilized payload pod

(See *Did You Know* on the next page)

(From the Editor continued)

and that is what makes this group so special. I hope to have some photos to share in the next issue of the *Windy Flyer*.

We are also pleased to welcome two new members to the Club: Jeff Vinson and Miguel Doctor. They both joined in July. We are always happy to see new pilots join us, and we hope they solo quickly and thoroughly enjoy the Model Aviation hobby.

Happy Flying! Stay Safe!

Ed Miller

Chief Editor and Club Secretary



(Did You Know continued)

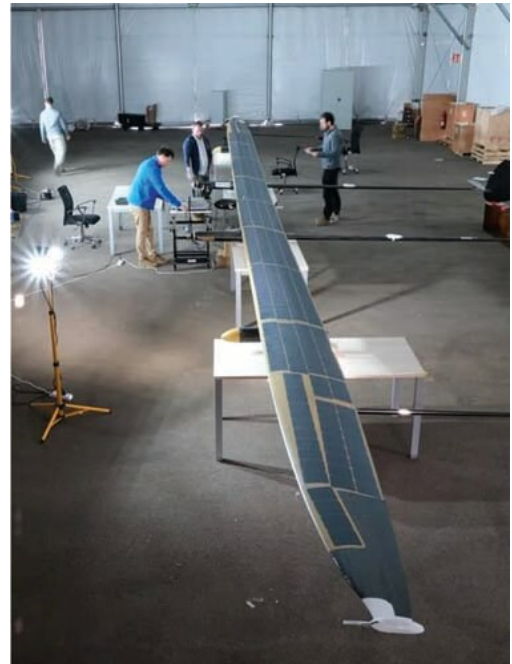
mounted beneath the aircraft. From its stratospheric perch, the system captured high-resolution imagery with precise geolocation data, achieving a ground sample distance of just two meters, a remarkable level of detail from nearly eight miles up.

Designed specifically for stratospheric operations, the payload system features an advanced thermal management system capable of heating and cooling sensitive electronics in temperatures as low as -70°C. At that altitude, air density is extremely low, creating challenges similar to near-space environments.

Despite these conditions, the system operated flawlessly while maintaining radio communication over distances exceeding 100 kilometers (62.1 miles).

Stratospheric flight offers major advantages, including freedom from storms and conventional air traffic, as well as continuous access to solar energy. For aerospace engineers and RC pilots alike, this airplane represents the cutting edge of what un-crewed aircraft can achieve.

While it may not be showing up at our airfield anytime soon, this aircraft proves just how far aircraft technology has come, and how RC style engineering is getting to the edge of space itself!



Mira Aerospace High Altitude Aircraft

Woodland Aero Modelers

Radio Controlled Flying Club

Club Officers

President/membership	Tim Mercier		
Vice-President	Craig McKenzie		
Executive Director	Gary Watson		
Secretary	Ed Miller	SecWAMclub279@gmail.com	630-745-1102
Treasurer	John Baderman		
Safety Officer	Scott Emmerling		
Chief Instructor	Craig McKenzie		
Instructors	John Baderman		
	Ed Miller		
	Ludwig De Mesa		
<i>Control Line</i>	Mark Romanowitz		
<i>Helicopter.</i>	Steve Zielinski		

Calendar

August 2026

4th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm
 8th Club Picnic Family and friends are all invited. 10am onwards
 15th SAC Club Float Fly
 20th Fly, Beer & Burger evening
 22nd AMA National Model Aviation Day at the Suburban Aeroclub of Chicago
 29th Chicago Air & Water Show

September 2026

1st Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7pm
 5th SAC Club Float Fly
 5th EDF Jet Event at the Fox Valley Aero Club 9am-3pm
 17th Fly, Beer & Burger evening, probably the last of 2026

September 2026 (continued)

26th Fox Valley Aero Club R/C Swap Meet 8:00am-Noon

Minutes from the August 4th Meeting

Meeting Called to Order:

- 7:00 pm by Tim Mercier

Secretary's Report:

- Briefly discusses Chief Ranger Marty Jandura's presentation. We will probably have to make our own signs but we will wait a bit and see if the Forest Preserve will make them

Treasurer's Report:

- Checking \$1691, Savings \$11,797 (approximately #20 interest/month) for a total of \$13,488.

Executive Director

- No report

Chief Instructor

- We have been training new members.

Safety Director:

- Scott Emmerling is organizing an Emergency Contact List. Should a member require emergency care, it would be helpful to the paramedics or Fire Department to know who to notify as to where our Club member is being taken. Send the name, relationship and phone number to Ed Miller at secwamclub279@gmail.com. This information will be posted in our First Aid cabinet. Your gate key opens this cabinet.

Announcements:

- Our Club Picnic is Saturday August 8th. The Club is supplying the food (Brown's Chicken), soft drinks and water. Food will arrive around 11:30 am. If you wish, bring a dessert or a dish to pass. You are welcome to arrive earlier, fly and visit with fellow members and their families. All are welcome; wives, grandkids, neighbors, friends etc. Instructors will be available to take any guest up for a flight.
- Jeff Pecca from the Fox Valley Aero Club informed us they are having a EDF Jet Event on Saturday, September 5th from 9am-3pm at their Club Field, \$5 landing fee, lunch included. On September 26th they are hosting a R/C Swap Meet from 8:00am to Noon. This is an outdoor event held at their flying field. Shoppers admitted free, vendor fee is \$15.
- The Suburban Aeroclub of Chicago (SAC) is celebrating AMA National Model Aviation Day on Saturday August 22nd. They are inviting area Clubs to participate by setting up a Club display, bringing an airplane for static display or to fly. Lots of entertainment, Drone Demonstration, aerobatic flying, EDF flights etc will be performed. Let Ed Miller know if you would like to participate or just be present at our Club table. Family and friends welcome.

Old Business:

- Dave Ford asked us to reconsider approaching the Forest Preserve to allow us to install a fabric runway. Marty Jandura, said he is looking into it.

Planes for Points:

- Ludwig De Mesa brought in his Cessna. Ludwig had some early crashes but the plane is now flying well.
- _ Cam Walker brought in his newly purchased Timber Turbo Evolution. It is waiting for its first flight.

**Model Building and Tips:**

None

New Members:

- We welcome Miguel Doctor. Miguel has experience flying drones and is looking forward to learning R/C planes. He has started training and is doing very well.

Meeting Adjourned:

- 8:09pm

Life Cycle Enhancing Best Practices

Submitted by Dave Ford

To Maximize Cycle Life and Performance:

1. Never fast charge cold packs, it causes permanent damage

- restrict charging temperature to between 70F/21C-86F/30C degrees
- reduce charging rates rates to 1C or less when near bottom of this temperature range (regardless of label specs)
- optimum charging temperature is 77F/25C degrees

2. Never discharge at high amps when packs are at low temperature, it causes permanent damage

- optimum discharging temperature is 77F/25C degrees
- real "C" maximum discharge levels should be avoided until pack temperature is > 86F/30C degrees

3. To enhance life even more, charge below 4.20v/cell and limit depth of discharge (DOD) as much as possible

- charging at 4.10 v/cell doubles cycle life
- limiting DOD <70% doubles life

4. Maintain pack running temperature below 131F/55C if you wish to avoid

5. accelerating the aging process

Immediately charge a pack to 3.7v if any cell has been discharged to 3.0v (or near)

Storage Facts:

- 1. Regarding maximum cycle life** there is little difference storing packs between 3.7v/cell-3.9v/cell if kept within 32F/0C-68F/20C degrees
- 2. Regarding reducing age related capacity reduction** store at 3.7v-3.75v/cell and maintain temperature between 32F/0C-68F/20C degrees
- 3. Long term storage** above 77F/25C degrees accelerates aging which becomes more pronounced the higher the storage charge is.
- 4. Storing packs at 3.7v-3.75v/cell** avoids the possibility of thermal runaway due to accumulated effects of abuse and/or aging which produce dendrites (Dendrites are microscopic crystalized mineral treelike whiskers responsible for non-crash related internal short circuits)
- 5. Always place packs in Lipo bags or other flame proof containers when not in use.**

*Fox Valley Aero Club
Presents*

EDF JET EVENT

*Sat. Sept. 5 2026 9-3pm
\$5 Landing Fee - Lunch Included*

**Fox Valley Aero Club Field
3831 Karl Madsen Dr. St. Charles, IL.
www.foxvalleyaero.com**

Questions Contact Jeff Peca 630-772-7246



A poster for the Fox Valley Aero Club Fly Market R/C Swap Meet. The background is a photograph of an outdoor event at a flying field with people, tents, and model airplanes. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts. The main title is in large yellow letters. The date and time are in black. Vendor information is in red. Logos for Gator RC and rebart are at the bottom. The address and website are in black at the bottom.

Fox Valley Aero Club
Fly Market
R/C Swap Meet
Airplanes, Helicopters, Drones, Cars, Boats, Tools...

Saturday, September 26, 2026
8:00am—12:00pm

*Flight Demos
(weather permitting)*

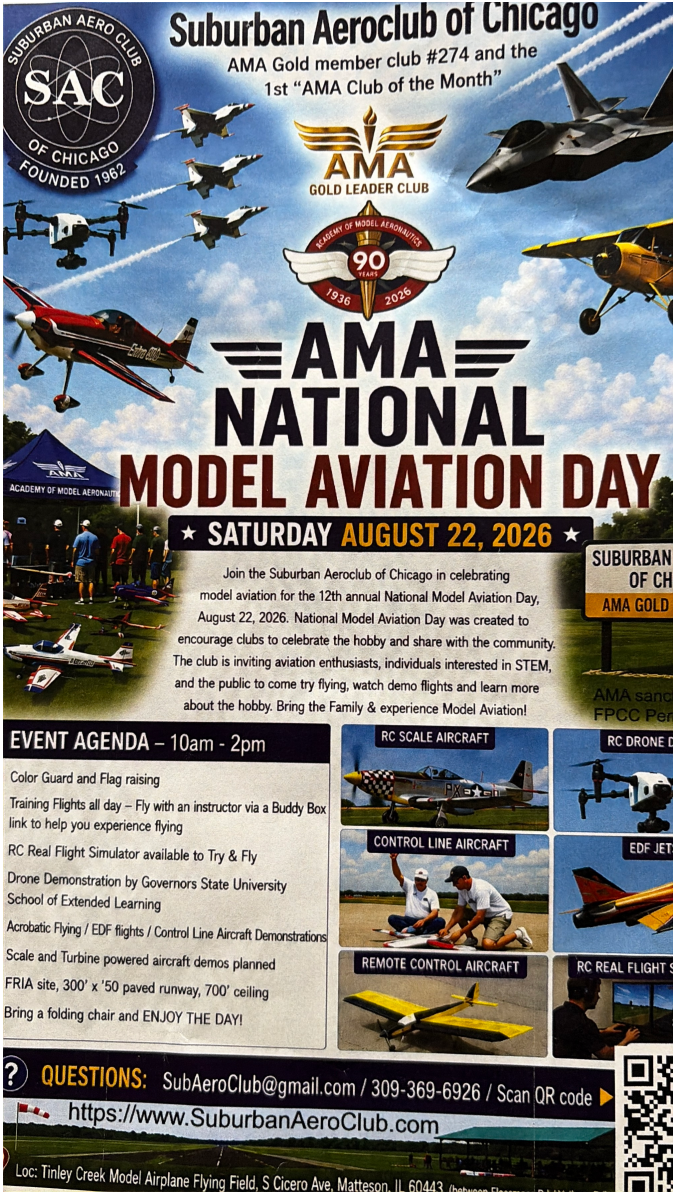
Vendor fee is \$15.00 per car or car/trailer.
**Bring your own tables or sell from your car/
trailer. No tables will be provided.**
Vendors may arrive at 7:30am.

*Coffee, Donuts,
& Beverages
Available for sale*

*Note that this is an outdoor event held
At our flying field. Please plan accordingly.*
Shoppers admitted free at 8:00am

rebart

FOX VALLEY AERO CLUB
FVAC Flying Field
3831 Karl Madsen Drive, St Charles, IL 60174
www.foxvalleyaero.com



Suburban Aero Club of Chicago
AMA Gold member club #274 and the
1st "AMA Club of the Month"

AMA
GOLD LEADER CLUB

90
1936 2026

AMA NATIONAL MODEL AVIATION DAY

★ **SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2026** ★

Join the Suburban Aero Club of Chicago in celebrating model aviation for the 12th annual National Model Aviation Day, August 22, 2026. National Model Aviation Day was created to encourage clubs to celebrate the hobby and share with the community. The club is inviting aviation enthusiasts, individuals interested in STEM, and the public to come try flying, watch demo flights and learn more about the hobby. Bring the Family & experience Model Aviation!

EVENT AGENDA – 10am - 2pm

- Color Guard and Flag raising
- Training Flights all day – Fly with an instructor via a Buddy Box link to help you experience flying
- RC Real Flight Simulator available to Try & Fly
- Drone Demonstration by Governors State University School of Extended Learning
- Acrobatic Flying / EDF flights / Control Line Aircraft Demonstrations
- Scale and Turbine powered aircraft demos planned
- FRIA site, 300' x '50' paved runway, 700' ceiling
- Bring a folding chair and ENJOY THE DAY!

RC SCALE AIRCRAFT

CONTROL LINE AIRCRAFT

REMOTE CONTROL AIRCRAFT

RC DRONE

EDF JET

RC REAL FLIGHT

QUESTIONS: SubAeroClub@gmail.com / 309-369-6926 / Scan QR code

<https://www.SuburbanAeroClub.com>

Loc: Tinley Creek Model Airplane Flying Field, S Cicero Ave, Matteson, IL 60443