WINDY FLYER

From the Editor

By Ed Miller

We had a very successful time at the Fox Valley Swap Meet and sold nearly all of the donated items. These donations come from a variety of sources: people who are leaving the hobby, those who can no longer fly due to physical limitations, our own members, and widows whose husbands have passed away and left behind planes and equipment. If you know of anyone looking to part with their gear, please let one of the Club officers know so we can arrange to receive it. Even if you're still in good health, if you have a plane you no longer use or enjoy, consider donating to the Club.

(see From the Editor next page)

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

Did You Know ?

The Joy of SAFE

In the December issue of Model Aviation, Dave Scott from the 1st RC Flight School, shares valuable insights on using SAFE technology to teach newcomers. Years ago, I tried to enroll in his program, but due to a long waitlist, I attended the 2nd RC Flight School in Arkansas instead. I'm not sure if they're still operating. The reason I chose to enroll in a flight school was because flight instruction at our Club when I started 20 years ago was, frankly, awful.

Dave's approach aligns with what I've always believed as an instructor: the most important goal is to make flying enjoyable and get newcomers excited about the hobby. Using SAFE and a buddy box allows beginners to learn without the frustration of constant crashes, ensuring their first flight is a positive experience. Get 'em hooked early !

(See Did You Know on page 2)

(From the Editor continued)

I continue to be impressed by the excellent work the Forest Preserve has done clearing the brush around our field. Let's hope those nasty thorn bushes are gone for good! Please remember, however, that the area south of field beyond the bike path, has not been cleared- so don't throw away that "finder" just yet.

It is Club policy to once a year change the locks on the gate entrance and windsock cabinet. The primary reason for this is our proximity to Argonne Laboratory, as it helps them better control who has vehicle access near the area. While this system is hardly foolproof, it does provide some added security. An added benefit is that access to our beautiful field is reserved for members who pay Club dues and receive a key. In discussions with other clubs that operate "open" fields, this is often a major concern. If a Club is responsible for maintaining a field, it only seems fair that non-members should not be able to fly there for free.

We mention this every year at the start of the flying season, but it's worth repeating: thoroughly inspect all of your planes and equipment. Many of us fly electric and may assume that if everything works fine in the fall, it will be fine in the spring. Unfortunately, mysterious basement/ garage gremlins have a habit of loosening pushrods, stripping servo gears, and damaging batteries over the winter! Of course, if you're hoping to join the Society of Aircraft Demolition,(SAD), feel free to skip the inspection.

Can't wait to see everyone back out at the field!

(Did You Know continued)

Afterward, I recommend practicing on a flight simulator with SAFE turned off to build skills.

Some critics argue that SAFE fosters bad habits or a false sense of security. I disagree. Instructors who discourage struggling newcomers from using SAFE or members who make fun of pilots who fly in SAFE risk pushing them out of the hobby after another misstep. (By the way, making fun of any member is punishable by death!) Why should it matter how others choose to fly, as long as they're learning and having fun?

SAFE is much like autopilot in full-scale aircraft-it's a helpful tool. Most pilot errors happen during take off or landing, this is when SAFE is most beneficial. Once you're at a comfortable altitude, feel free to turn if off, but always know where the SAFE switch is!

Many members have expressed a desire to teach their kids, friends, or grandchildren to fly. My advice: use a plane equipped with SAFE, connect a buddy box, and give it a try!

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	John Horwath		
Chief Instructor	Craig McKenzie		
Instructors	John Baderman		
	Ed Miller		
	Ludwig De Mesa		
Control Line	Mark Romanowitz		
Helicopter.	Steve Zielinski.		

Calendar

March 2026

3rd Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7:00 pm. This is our Key Night meeting. Bring in your old key, exchange it for the 2026 season key. You must be an AMA member in good standing and paying/paid your Club dues.

28th PropMasters Snag-a-Deal Auction starting at 8:00am. (Yes, 8 in the **morning**). At Community United Methodist Church, 20 N. Center St., Naperville, Illinois. 60564

April 2026

7th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7:00pm .

16th Our first Thursday Fly, Beer & Burger Evening Fly, starting at 5pm. or sooner. Beer and burgers at Chuck's around 6:30pm

March Birthdays

Minutes from the March 3rd Meeting

Meeting Called to Order:

- 7:00 pm by President Tim Mercier

Secretary's Report:

- Report was read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Finances are looking very good. No major expenses coming up.

Executive Director

- Gary Watson stated he has been in contact with Marty Jandura, the head ranger. He is interested in attending our April meeting and would like to visit our field and have his rangers and staff have an introductory flight! The Forest Preserve is planning a controlled burn and our field is scheduled to be rolled.

Chief Instructor

- Go over your planes before that first spring flight, connections, servos, engines, radios, etc

Safety Director:

- The field looks good. Pit area and pathways may be muddy.

(Minutes continued on the next page)

(Minutes continued)

New Business:

- John Baderman stated that the new website is up and running. woodlandaeromodelers.org The most important part for members is the calendar which has been updated with all Club and Non- Club events. More events can be added. Also, the Weather Station at Argonne has been added. This will give you wind speed and temperature.

Old Business:

- The locks at the gate and wind sock bench have been changed. If you weren't at the meeting and want your new key send a check made out to Woodland Aero Modelers for $50. If your phone number, address, email etc has not changed, there is no need to fill out the renewal form. Send with the check your old key and a SASE so I can send you your new key. Best practice: tape the key to an index card (keeps it from tearing through the envelope.

Ed Miller

Announcements:

- We have secured our usual spot for the Clow Cavalcade.
- The mower will need full service this year. John Baderman will need some help with mowing the field. If you can help, please contact him. Also, while the main field is being cut you may NOT fly! If the pit area or the control line flight area is being cut, you may fly, but, keep in mind the main field will be cut next and you will have to land until the mowing is completed. Notification when we are going to cut the grass will be thru *Slack and email.*
- Swap Meet participation was very successful. We made $2540. Much thanks to Lloyd Butzler, for his generous donation. Much thanks to all who participated.
- Time to update your Spring wardrobe by getting some new "WAM Wear". See instructions on page 8. The quality is excellent and the Club gets a percentage of the sale.

Model Building and Tips:

- Tim Mercier cautioned about the storage of balsa. He had his balsa leaning at an angle during storage only to find out when he went to use it, it had warped into a giant bow. Store balsa flat. To restore warped balsa, steam the wood then lay flat and apply weight. Should flatten out by the next day.
- Mike Doose suggested using Fire Sense plus 4 Fire Aerosol for Lithium battery fires. Tom Todro mentioned lithium is extremely volatile and difficult to extinguish.

Planes for Points:

- As you know, the Forest Preserve has been clearing our field area and Rangers have found a few of our "lost planes". This one is an Aeroscout owned by Stan Warden. It was lost in the weeds for about 6 months. Minimal damage??

Stan with his AeroScout

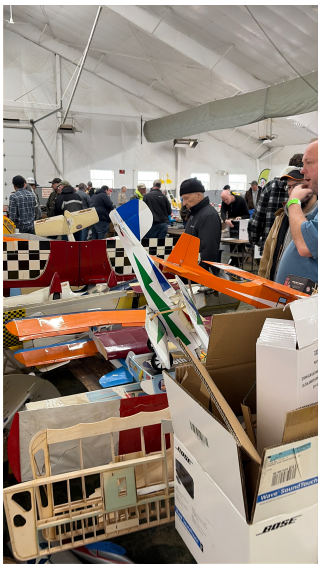
Meeting Adjourned: 8:07pm

Photos from the Swap Meet

Brad TerMaat

Craig McKenzie

Tim Mercier



Lloyd Butzler and Tim Mercier.

Dave Ford and Lloyd Butzler

Membership Application

Date:_____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month 7:00 PM at the VFW Hall (rear entrance) 5101 Belmont Road, Downers Grove.

Note: WAM requires AMA membership for Field Gate access Key.

There are 3 payment options: 1. Cash, 2. A check made out to Woodland Aero Modelers and 3. we now accept ZELLE payments. If using ZELLE, scan the QR code below. Use the email address wam@baderman.co.uk.

Info Online at www.woodlandaeromodelers.org

○ New

○ Renewal

John Baderman John Baderman
wam@baderman.co.uk
Zelle

Last Name:_____First Name:_____

Date of Birth:_____/ _____/ (month and date only)

Address:_____

City:_____State:_____Zip Code:_____

Home Phone:_____Mobile Phone:_____

AMA Number:_____Exp. Date:_____

E-mail:_____

Note: E-mails and phone numbers are used for WAM business only.

AMA Classification and Woodland Aero Modelers Club Fee (Check all that apply):

○ Youth 19 years or under up to July 1st of membership year FREE

○ Adult $50

○ Family Plan: One adult member at full price, all additional family members' dues at half price.

Need free flight training?

○ Yes
○ No

"I agree to comply with Woodland Aero Modelers (WAM) Club Flying Field Safety and Operational Rules which includes employing/abiding by club safety guidelines and demonstrate proper flying protocols. I understand that my failure to comply with the WAM field rules, by-laws, or any activity deemed detrimental to the Club may constitute grounds to be dropped from the Club's membership roster"

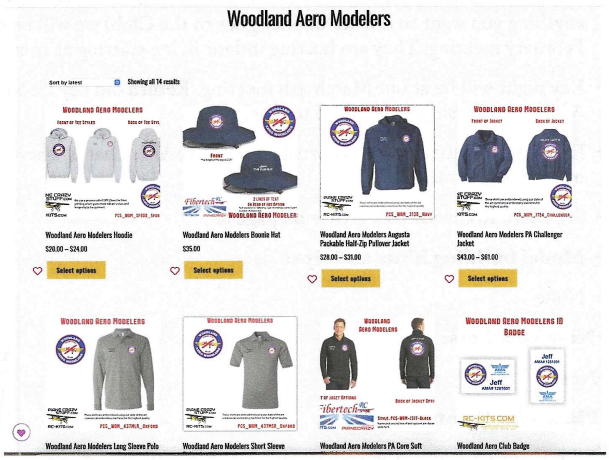
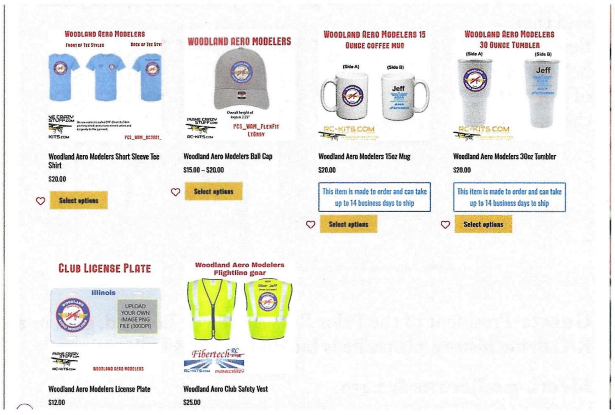
Signature;_____

_____

Officers Use Only

Treasurer: Amount Paid_____ Date: _____ Sec: AMA exp. Date recorded: Date_____

Phil Binter

How to Order Woodland Aero Modelers Clothing

1. Order via internet at **rc-kits.com**
2. Go to "Clubs" Find Woodland Aero Modelers, alphabetical order, we're last.
3. Chose your merchandise
4. Check size chart!
5. Create an account
6. Pay