

WINDY FLYER

From the Editor

By Ed Miller



Happy New Year ! Here's to good health and lots of fun flying in 2026.

Tim Mercier wins the Frosty Fingers Fun Fly. He was the only one brave enough to fly in the frigid weather.



So, what will 2026 see for model aviation? One area of great concern is the FCC UAS Component Decision. See page 7 for a more complete explanation. Basically, the FCC and FAA want to suspend foreign manufacture of UAS and UAS Components produced by foreign entities and ban them from the U.S., (see From the Editor next page)



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

Did You Know?

The Slowest WWII Bomber That Humiliated the Luftwaffe Fighters

When most people imagine air battles of WWII, they picture fast machines locked in fierce duels. The image of speed and modern engineering dominates our view of the skies. Yet history holds surprising examples that do not fit this picture.



The Fairey Swordfish

One of the most unusual is the Fairey Swordfish, a biplane so slow that many wondered how it could survive in combat. Against expectations, this outdated (See Did You Know on page 2)

(From the Editor continued)

for posing an “unacceptable risk to the national security and safety of United States persons.” Since nearly all R/C components are manufactured in foreign countries you can only imagine what that would do to our hobby.

The AMA has already begun engaging with the FCC and congressional offices to address this issue, and hopefully give some relief to recreational modelers.

On another topic, it may be time to renew your AMA membership. AMA membership used to expire at the end of the year. Now, it expires on the date you joined AMA. If you haven't renewed I will send you a reminder although you are usually notified by the AMA.

Club dues do expire at the end of the year. So, if you can, to make our humble Secretary's and Treasurer's life easier, pay your dues. You can use Zelle, just scan the QR code on the application, the email is wam@baderman.co.uk. If your information has not changed, it is not necessary to fill out the form, just check only.

Again, Happy New Year! You guys are the best!

Ed Miller
Club Secretary
Windy Flyer Editor-in-Chief

(Did You Know continued)

aircraft managed to humiliate the best fighters of the German air force.

The Fairey Swordfish entered service in the 1930's years before the conflict began. Covered in fabric and built with a frame that looked closer to the aircraft of WWI, it seemed more suited to a museum than a battlefield. Crews joked that its top speed was little faster than a car racing down a highway. Most observers thought it was too slow and fragile for modern fighting.

Despite this reputation, the Swordfish would go on to prove itself in some of the most daring missions of the war. It could carry a mix of weapons, torpedoes, depth charges, and bombs. Its greatest test came in May 1941, when it played a key role in the attack on the German battleship *Bismarck*.

Flying at low altitude, the Swordfish dropped torpedoes that struck home. One hit jammed the *Bismarck's* rudder, leaving the mighty vessel unable to steer. This allowed the Royal Navy's surface ships to close in and finish the job.

The reason the Swordfish survived had much to do with its very weakness- its slow speed. Modern German fighters such as the Messerschmitt Bf 109 and Focke-Wulf 190 were designed to fight fast moving targets. When they tried to attack the Swordfish, they often overshot because the biplane crawled through the sky at a pace the fighters could barely adjust to. It was a strange twist of fate, being slow made the Swordfish harder to hit.

The crews also flew at extremely low altitudes, often skimming the waves or hugging valleys. High speed fighters had trouble diving low enough to get a clear shot without risking a crash. This gave the Swordfish a chance to slip through defenses and carry out strikes in areas where faster bombers would have struggled.

Swordfish squadrons were not simply lucky. Their crews were highly skilled at low-level flying. They learned to use weather, darkness, and sea conditions to their advantage, approaching targets in ways that caught defenses off guard. These missions were dangerous, but they often succeeded because the aircraft could operate in conditions that grounded more modern planes.

Woodland Aero Modelers

Radio Controlled Flying Club

Club Officers

President/membership	Tim Mercier		
Vice-President	Craig		
Executive Director	Craig		
Secretary	Ed Miller	secwamclub279@gmail.com	630-745-1102
Treasurer	John Baderman		
Safety Officer	John Horwath		
Chief Instructor	Craig		
Instructors	John Baderman		
	Ed Miller		
	Ludwig De		
<i>Control Line</i>	Mark		
<i>Helicopter.</i>	Steve Zielinski.		

Calendar

January 2026

- 1st Frozen Fingers Fun Fly (F.F.F.F.) : First one to fly on New year's Day wins!!
- 6th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7:00 pm.
- 17th Holiday/Christmas Lunch starting at 1 PM, at Chuck's 8025 S. Cass Ave, Darien, IL.
- 20th WAM Executive Meeting 3:00 pm at the VFW Hall.

February 2026

- 3rd Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7:00 pm.
- 14th Fox Valley Aero Swap Meet at the Kane County Fairgrounds 525 South Randall Road in St. Charles 60174. Starts at 8:30am

Minutes from the January 6th Meeting

Meeting Called to Order:

- 7:00 pm by President Tim Mercier

Secretary's Report:

- Report was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Report was approved. Checking account \$918, Savings account \$4433, CD \$5224 for a total of \$10,575. The VFW was paid \$800 and Points Night cost us \$900. No other major expenses. Membership renewals continue to come in.

Executive Director/ Vice President:

- We had some key problems. Ludwig and Ray got locked out. Combination lock is no longer available. If you get locked out or in, call the Forest Preserve Ranger at 630-933-7200.

Chief Instructor:

- Ludwig De Mesa has been helping Scott Emmerling with his helicopter. Scott hovered his copter!

Safety Director:

- Be careful of mud and ice at the field.

New Business:

- John Baderman states the existing website is still up and working. Our new website is being worked on and should go live in the next two weeks.

Announcements:

- See the report on the FCC Foreign UAS Component Decision on page 6.
- Our annual Christmas luncheon is on January 17th, Saturday at Chuck's, 8025 S. Cass Ave., Darien, Il. at 1 PM.
- Fox Valley Swap Meet is on Saturday February 14th. We will need volunteers to set up our tables and for take down. If you can help, be there at 7PM. Address is 525 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles, Illinois 6017. Kane County Fairgrounds.
- Rich Tichy's health is improving and he hope to be at the next meeting.

Model Building and Tips

- John Horwath brought in a heat activated wire connector.

Planes for Points:

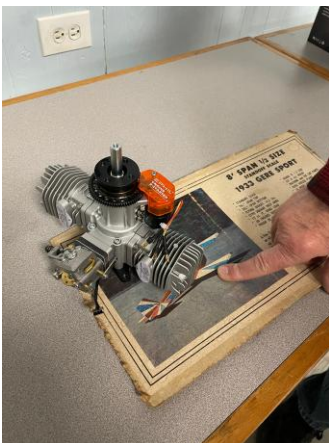
- Scott Emmerling bought in his Trex 500 helicopter. Ludwig helped him program it and Scott was able to hover it and land it.
- Dave Ford showed off his Fliton Element 30 airplane that he won at Points Night. It has a pull- pull rudder.
- Ludwig De Mesa brought in a Mini Funtana. He installed a Gyro near the front landing gear connected to the rudder which will enable him to fly a knife edge!
- Jay Ostrowski brought in a Dynam P-61 Black Widow. He did a lot of repairs especially around the boom. He had lost the plane while flying 80 miles per hour when the boom folded over on itself. It took him six months to find the plane, but it is now repaired.
- Bill Byan showed a 40cc E-Phil gas motor with an electric starter. This engine will fly a half- scale Bud Nosen designed Gere Sport Biplane.



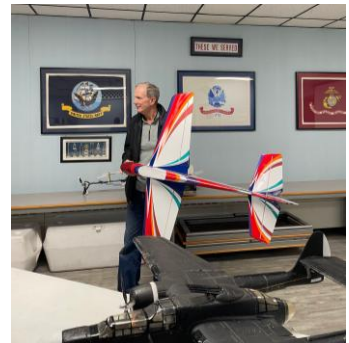
Scott Emmerling
with his Trex 500
heli



Ludwig De Mesa and
his Mini Funtana.



Bill Byan's E-Phil gas
motor with electric
starter.



Dave Ford and his Fulton
Element 30



Jay Ostrowski's Dynam P-61
Black Widow

Meeting Adjourned:

- 8:05 pm

Suburban Aero Club of Chicago (SAC) 2026 Float Fly Schedule

Time: 8:00am to Noon

Where: Midlothian Reservoir at 167th and Cicero in Oak Forest,
Illinois AMA required, \$10 fee, Refreshments available
Midlothian Reservoir is a FRIA

site. Dates:

May 16, 2026

June 20, 2026

July 18, 2026

August 15, 2026

September 5, 2026

October 16, 2026

FCC Foreign UAS & UAS Component Decision

On Monday, December 22, 2025, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released [DA 25-1086](#), stating the addition of all uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) and UAS components produced by foreign entities onto the list of items banned for posing an “unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States or the security and safety of United States persons.” This concerning news reached AMA and other airspace stakeholders quickly after its release.

It appears that this prohibition does not affect existing UAS or UAS components that have already been authorized prior to December 21 or outlaw their use. It should also not affect

models that have already received FAA authorization. However, because virtually all model components are manufactured abroad, this security restriction would have huge implications for both the hobbyist and commercial airspace industries moving forward.

It should be noted that this determination was made on December 21 and released to the public on December 22, leaving airspace industry stakeholders without any warning. AMA had previously submitted public comments in early March to the Bureau of Industry and Security that were related to this topic, giving multiple recommendations to ease restrictions on the hobbyist community.

However, the FCC and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) have made this determination through pre-existing mechanics in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act, side-stepping the typical public comment period and advanced notice that stakeholders would usually receive.

AMA has already began engaging with the FCC and congressional offices to address this issue, alongside other industry stakeholders who have fought against broad component bans and advocated for definition changes to the generic use of "UAS" to give relief to recreational modelers from similar security enforcements and regulations. We expect that the timing of this release was intentional because all congressional offices are closed for the holidays, and many federal agency employees are taking time off.



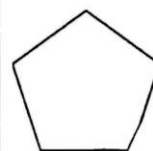
Our field in winter



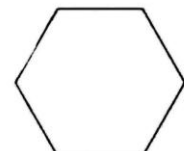
Barber: What do you want?

Him: Just a plain cut

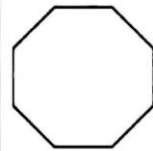
Barber: Say no more



Pentagon



Hexagon



Octagon



Moneygone

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.

Info Online at www.woodlandaeromodelers.org

☐ New

☐ Renewal

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 _____

