



WINDY FLYER



From the Editor

By Ed Miller

Many thanks to Dave Ford, Craig McKenzie, Tim Mercier and Ed Miller for cutting the grass while the Club mower was being repaired. They each brought their personal lawn mower and like airplanes in formation cut across the field. Lots of points awarded to those guys.

More field work is scheduled on May 16th, some light painting, carpentry and wheel repair of our flight stands and perhaps some grass trimming on a few hard to reach areas. Flying afterwards of course!

We have a new helicopter contingent. Ludwig De Mesa, Scott Emmerling, and Craig McKenzie have added helicopters

(see From the Editor next page)



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

Did You Know ?

A Simple Idea That Changed Air Warfare

In the early months of 1944, the U.S. Army Air Forces were struggling to protect their bombers deep inside Europe. Their fighters, though powerful, could not fly far enough to escort bombers all the way to Berlin. When the Thunderbolts turned back to England, German interceptors struck freely, bringing down hundreds of Allied airmen. Losses reached staggering levels-on missions like the Schweinfurt raid, nearly a quarter



U.S. Thunderbolt circa 1944

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

(From the Editor continued)

to their radio control arsenal. Take a look at their photos in our Photo section. Craig says helicopters are a whole new game. He's learning, but it is definitely not as comfortable (yet) as flying airplanes.

As announced at the meeting, our Safety Director, John Horwath has passed away. John had a terrific sense of humor and always exhibited a welcoming presence to all members. He loved new gadgets and frequently brought them to our meetings for show and tell. He will be missed.

We will be needing a new Safety Director as it is an AMA stipulation. The job does not take a lot of time, the main focus is ensuring that flyers follow our Safety and Operational Rules. The Safety and Operational Rules can be downloaded from our website. If you are interested, please contact a Club officer and we will put your name up for approval at our next meeting.

In June we have two big events, The Cavalcade of Planes at Clow and our own Open House the following week. Start thinking about how you can help. You need not be at either event the whole time. Jobs are broken down in hourly segments. Lots of points are awarded for participation. More information will be emailed out as we get closer to the events.

Happy Flying! Stay Safe! Hope to see you all at the field!

Ed Miller

Editor -In-Chief

(*Did You Know* continued)

of the bombers never returned.

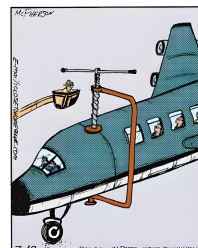
Engineers searched for ways to extend fighter range without using up scarce metals or compromising performance. In Britain, a quiet experiment offered a curious answer: a fuel tank made of paper. The tanks were built from laminated craft paper soaked in resin, moved over wood frames, and sealed with a thin coat of protective lacquer. They were so light and cheap that they could be used once and discarded. What started as an answer to aluminum shortages soon became one of the most practical ideas of the war.

The innovation was then paired with the new P-51 Mustang, an aircraft already known for its efficiency and speed. When fitted with two 108 gallon paper tanks, the Mustang's range nearly doubled. For the first time in the war, a single-engine fighter could fly from England to Berlin and back.

When the first Mustangs appeared over Berlin that day, both German pilots and Allied crews could hardly believe it. For bomber gunners used to facing attacks without protection, the sight of friendly fighters above them was a relief they never forgot. From that mission onward, the air war changed dramatically. Bomber losses dropped from around 7 percent per month to barely 2 percent by mid-1944.

The paper tanks offered other unexpected advantages. They were more aerodynamic than metal ones, reducing drag. When hit by gunfire, they didn't explode—they simply tore and leaked. After being dropped, the tanks would eventually dissolve into the soil, leaving behind only small metal fittings. Each tank weighed only 50 pounds empty but held enough fuel to carry a Mustang hundreds of miles further into enemy airspace.

From recycled newspaper to high skies over Berlin, the "paper" fuel tank proved that even the simplest materials—when used with ingenuity—could change the course of history.



"Folks, our mechanics are waiting for one little repair to firm up a bit and then we'll be on our way."

J

Woodland Aero Modelers

Radio Controlled Flying Club

Club Officers

President/membership	Tim Mercier
Vice-President	Craig McKenzie
Executive Director	Gary Watson
Secretary	Ed Miller
Treasurer	John Baderman
Safety Officer	
Chief Instructor	Craig McKenzie
Instructors	John Baderman
	Ed Miller
	Ludwig De Mesa
<i>Control Line</i>	Mark Romanowitz
<i>Helicopter.</i>	teve Zielinski

Calendar

May 2026

5th Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7:00 pm.

16th Field Maintenance Day; repair/paint stands, light landscaping etc. Start at 8am, flying after.

21st Thursday Fly, Beer & Burger Evening Fly, starting at 4pm or sooner. Beet and burgers at Chuck's around 6-6:30

30th SAC Float Fly 8am till noon

June 2026

2nd Monthly Club meeting at the VFW; starting at 7:00 pm.

6th and 7th Clow Cavalcade of Planes

13th WAM Open House 11am-3pm at our flying field 14th rain date

18th Fly, Beer and Burger evening

20th SAC Float fly 8am -12pm

Minutes from the May 5th Meeting

Meeting Called to Order:

- 7:00 pm by Tim Mercier

Secretary's Report:

- Report was read and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Our only major expense was our lawn mower tune-up at \$538. Since it wasn't tuned up last year, this was not a concern.

Executive Director

- Our Open House application was approved and paid for.

Chief Instructor

- The weather has been miserable. When it improves we will begin training. Ludwig De Mesa has been helping Scot Emmerling and Craig McKenzie with their helicopters.

Safety Director:

- John Horwath has passed away, position is open.

(Minutes continued on the next page)

(Minutes continued)

New Business:

- John needs help on Saturday June 6th with Clow as he will not be available. Stan Warden has volunteered. We will need more help and will firm up as we get closer to June 6th. Helpers get in for free! We discussed how many planes to have at our static display and more importantly what color! We have too many red planes. And, we need warbirds, helicopters, and control line.
- Mark Romanowitz brought in his son Jay's planes for sale.

Old Business:

- Don't forget about WAM wear. Visit rc-kits.com

Announcements:

- Thursday night fly/ beer and burger on the 21st starting around 4pm at the field

-Model Building and Tips:

- None

-New Members

We welcome Cam Walker to our Club. Cam has flown park flyers and now wants to step up to larger airplanes.

Meeting Adjourned:

- 8:03 pm

The Last Flight

The Club is sad to report the passing of long-term member John Horwath. John was 84 and a mainstay of our Club. Always with a smile, John was there to help and support in any way he could. If we needed help, he would always volunteer, especially at Club picnics where he ruled the grill with his legendary cooking skills. He loved the hobby, and even though he didn't fly much in recent years he was always at the field chatting with the guys, full of enthusiasm and energy. He was a collector of all things RC and loved a good swap meet where he usually bought more than he sold. His favorite thing to do was to go around to sellers at the end and buy up weird and quirky items at rock bottom prices, just to add to his collection. We will miss him, his crazy shirts, his latest finds on Temu, his friendship, and his company.

As he wished, there is no wake or public funeral service, but a Celebration of Life will be held by the family in the future.

John Horwath



Photos



Craig McKenzie, Ludwig De Mesa
And Scott Emmerling



Ludwig De Mesa helping out Craig McKenzie



The Lawn Mower Boys
Dave Ford, Tim Mercier and
Craig McKenzie.



At Bolingbrook's Clow International Airport
Sponsored by the Village of Bolingbrook

June 6th & 7th 2026

Event Activities from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Featuring:

- ALL tickets online only **ALL TICKETS WILL BE SCANNED IN**
No Tickets at the Door
- Various New Planes on Display
- Warbirds on Display
- Ford Tri-Motor Display and RIDES!
- Illinois Aviation Museum
- EAA mock space capsule on display
- RIDES AVAILABLE: Helicopter, Stearman, and WWII - AT6, Ford Tri-Motor (check website for tickets "best" or on site)
- JW Aviation Airplane Rides
Purchase on site
- Outside Vendors & Local Organization Entrance Tent
- Food/Refreshments & Cavalcade Canteen Beer Garden
- AIRFORCE "OWN THE SKY" VIRTUAL AIRBORNE EXPERIENCE TRAILER
- Tickets \$6, Under 5 \$0 Ticket; Both need tickets to enter



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

VISIT www.cavalcadeofplanes.com
OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
www.facebook.com/cavalcadeofplanes
FOR UPDATES ON EVENT ACTIVITIES
and to PURCHASE TICKETS.



Purchase Tickets



For more information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Joe DePaulo at:

(630) **378.0479**



Event Map



Event Website

www.cavalcadeofplanes.com • www.bbclowairport.com • www.illinoisaviationmuseum.org

Subject to vendor participation. In the event of inclement weather, it is the discretion of Bolingbrook's Clow International Airport Management to continue any event.

Clow International Parkway (just south of Boughton Rd.) • Bolingbrook, IL