



January 2025 Edition

President's Corner: Ernie Padgette



You Did It!

Okay; I'm now the new President of The FARM Club. So, I guess it's only fitting and proper that I first tell you how things are going to be run now that I'm in charge. No.... That's not right.... For one thing, I have no idea how this is going to go. One thing I do know is that you guys must be pretty desperate for a leader if you voted for me. Come to think of it, none of you actually voted for me. Yeah; that's pretty humbling.

So, here I am. I'm the President despite that being just about (not quite, but pretty close) the last thing I wanted to happen. Anyone here remember the very first FARM Club meeting I attended, 'way back when? If I remember correctly, my grandson, Harley, attended with me. He was 12 years old or so. Since he's now 27, I suppose that was around 15 years ago. I remember very clearly telling those in attendance that I was looking for a new hobby and I thought that new hobby should be flying RC models. I thought this would be something

Harley and I could do together. I explained that I already had several hobbies I enjoyed, but every single time I got involved in a new hobby, I wound up running the show instead of enjoying the actual hobby.

That had happened when I got involved in shooting competitively. What had started out as a very useful hobby (Shooting High-power rifles in competition) very quickly wound up with me as President of VSSA (the State Rifle Association) for most of a decade. I was so wrapped up in running the organization, I had no time left for actually shooting myself. So that hobby had turned into something approaching a full-time job; one I'm still trying to put down today.

So, just to be able to practice rifle and pistol shooting occasionally, I joined the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), which is located in Centerville, Virginia. Within a few years, I was President there, and served for 14 years before stepping down from that job (President of what was now the largest IWLA chapter in the country with 2,500 members) to take over as President of the Virginia Division of IWLA, with it's 17 chapters and 10,000 members. I have now held that position for some 12 years. And I still don't get to shoot very often. So, as you might now be well able to discern, I wasn't really looking for a new leadership position. I just wanted to fly RC models. To have something I could do to relax and decompress from all the other hobbies turned burdens.

So how did I wind up as your new President, when that was just about the last thing I wanted to do? That's actually very easy to explain. Our recent club election revealed we had plenty of people ready and willing to serve as Directors and Officers. But, no one wanted the job of President. Repeated requests for volunteers resulted in a lot of hemming and hawing and throat clearing, but no volunteers. Nic Burhans, our long serving (and suffering) Secretary/Treasurer had finally decided he would, as a last resort, be willing to serve as President (again), Secretary and Treasurer.

For those of you who weren't raised on a farm, let me educate you on a bit of information you might not be aware of. A mule is an interesting animal. A mule isn't as pretty as a horse, nor is it as fast. But when it comes to pulling a load or a plow, a mule has it all over a horse. A mule can bear a load that would kill a horse with no sweat at all. But, even a mule has a limit; a weight it can't pull. And if you overload a mule, one of two things will happen. The mule will either work itself to death or it will very quickly quit. And once a mule stops pulling, it is very hard to get it going again. Which means we might very well have been looking for a new President, Secretary and Treasurer next year; not to mention Membership duties, Competition Director (CD), coordination with AMA and all the other little jobs Nic handles for us. And that I simply wasn't willing to see happen. Nic has been very good to and for the FARM Club and The Culpeper Model Barnstormers (CMB) group, for whom he performs the same duties. And the fastest way to sour him on doing those things is to ask him to do too much for too long. That I couldn't allow to happen. So, here we are.

A leader is someone people follow. The people have to follow; they can't be driven. The best way for a leader to lose support is to try to lead people in a direction they don't want to go. A leader's job is to (1) Communicate, (2) Coordinate, and (time allowing) (3) Motivate. And, (4) To build a consensus before action is taken. I don't know as much as a lot of you. But, I listen pretty well. If I am to be successful, I need your help, your guidance and your support. And remember: You asked for this.

Ernie

President's Pilot Box: Ernie Padgette

- No Club specific items this Month.

Ernie

Vice President's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- FARM field 2025 maintenance:

We will soon be putting the FARM mowing schedule together for 2025.

If you would like to help keep our flying site in tip-top shape, please let me know (npb6218@earthlink.net) that you want to help with the mowing and weed wacking for 2025. We are hoping to put out an initial mowing schedule shortly.

- No other Club specific items this Month.

Nic

Secretary's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- Membership Renewals:

The 2025 Club Membership renewal period is about at it's end. As of 15 December, eleven member have yet to renew their memberships for this year. All have been sent reminders.

These members have until postmark 31 January 2025 to renew their memberships without the Club Bylaws' required \$40.00 late fee.

- FARM Club Roster:

The updated 2025 Club Roster will be sent to all Club members after the renewal period concludes.

- FARM Club Calendar:

The updated 2025 Club calendar will shortly be sent to all Club members and posted on the Club website. Events outside the club are taking a little longer for their sponsoring clubs to get things sorted out and posted. Here is what I have at this point:

Upcoming 2025 events:

February 8	Saturday	Valley RC Swap Meet @ Weyers Cave, VA www.vrcfc.org & Kevin Grapes k.grapes41@gmail.com	9am-1pm
February 22	Saturday	Newport News Swap Meet @ Newport News, VA CD: Todd Smith @ rctreeopflyer@gmail.com	8am-noon
March 14-16	Fri-Sun	FARM Pattern Flying Intro & Practice Sessions @ the FARM Club Field CD: Gerald Hood @ hood007@aol.com	All Day
April 6	Sunday	FARM Club Day & Fun Fly #1 @ Club Field Picnic, Pilot Training, and Flight Check day CD: Nic Burhans Food: Bill Towne	All Day
April 22	Tuesday	FARM Club Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
April 26-27	Sat-Sun	Kinston Aero Modelers Pattern Contest @ Kinston, NC CD: Carl Zavalney carlzavalney@bshg.com	All Day
May 4	Sunday	FARM Club Day & Fun Fly #2 @ Club Field Picnic, Pilot Training, and Flight Check day CD: ?? Food: Bill Towne	All Day
May 9-16	Fri-Fri	Joe Nall @ Triple Tree Aerodrome @ Woodruff, SC www.tta.aero	All Day
May 17-18	Sat-Sun	Charlotte, NC Pattern contest @ Monroe, NC CD: Rick Harn rharn47@gmail.com	All Day
May 27	Tuesday	FARM Club Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
June 14	Saturday	Field Closed to 72Mhz; Open to 2.4Ghz: Float Fly #1 @ Lake Ritchie CD: Nic Burhans npb6218@earthlink.net	9:00 AM
June 29	Sunday	FARM Club Day @ Fun Fly #3 @ Club Field Picnic, Pilot Training, and Flight Check day CD: ?? Food: Bill Towne	All Day

Remember to Be SAFE

Nic

Treasurer's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- The Virginia State Corporation Commission Registration has been renewed.
- The AMA Club Charter and Site insurance have been renewed for 2025.

- As of 15 January, the FARM Club presently has 60 members. (21 Regular members, 33 Senior members, 1 Junior member, 1 Associate member, and 4 Life members).
- All bills have been paid and the Club presently has a balance of \$7,783.18 in the general fund.

Continue to Be Safe

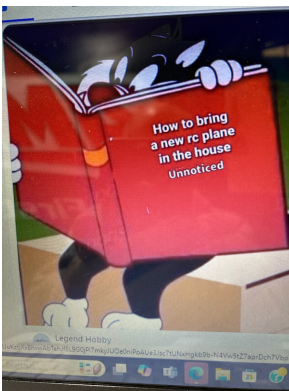
Nic

Safety Officer's Pilot Box: Mike Wiczalkowski

- It is time for you to do your annual review of the AMA Safety Code. Take a few minutes to re-read it NOW, while you have time. If you have questions, the AMA website (modelaircraft.org) has additional resources.
- No Club specific safety items this Month.

Mike

Field Marshal's Pilot Box: Ralph Graul



A work in Progress!

Ralph

Member at Large's Pilot Box: Charlie Koustenis

- No Club specific items this Month.

Charlie

Member at Large's Pilot Box: Bill Flathers

- No Club specific items this Month.

Bill F

Web Master's Pilot Box: Dick Sutton

- No Club website specific items this Month.

Dick

FARM Member “Tips & Projects” Box: Any FARM Member

- From Jim Restel:

I’m starting a new interest group within the Barnstormer and FARM communities focused on 3D printing. I have been involved in 3D printing for over seven years and the technology associated with the hobby has simply skyrocketed. There has been some community interest expressed and there is a lot of knowledge that can be shared amongst those interested and participating. You don’t need to have a printer, just an interest. I will be polling folks to find the best time and place for the inaugural meeting, but it will be before mid February. Please feel free to reach out to me at jim@restel.us if you are interested to participating in the interest group.

“From the Field” Anything Input Pilot Box: Any FARM Member

- No inputs this Month

FARM CLUB 2024 OFFICERS		
President.	Bill Towne	540-428-1053
Vice President	Ernie Padgette	540-439-6085
Secretary	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Treasurer/Contact Point . .	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Safety Officer	Mike Wiczalkowski	571-437-4705
Field Marshall	Ralph Graul	540-729-1586
Webmaster.	Dick Sutton	rsutton43@comcast.net
Training Coordinator. . . .	Ralph Graul	540-729-1586

The FARM Newsletter is published monthly by the Fauquier Aero Recreation Modelers, AMA charter #1654. It is forwarded to FARM members and to other clubs on an exchange basis. Articles related to all types of aviation are welcome. Opinions expressed in the newsletter articles are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect those of FARM Inc.

Publishing input deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please forward all inputs (Pictures in jpg format) to:

Nic Burhans

6061 Captains Walk

E-Mail: npb6218@earthlink.net

Broad Run, VA 20137-1959

540-219-9646

Our Club web site is: <http://www.farmclubrc.com>