



March 2025 Edition

Safety Officer's Corner: Mike Wiczalkowski



Flying safe

Hello everyone, I trust you all had a wonderful winter season working on your new flying projects for this year.

As the new year of flying is under way, we all need to take some time and look at all our equipment to make sure things are in good working order and safely connected so it won't cause an issue once we get out there. I have attached a link; AMA covers some of the news coming out of Washington DC about flying RC and is a good read with good information in it.

<https://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2025/03/02/ama-introduces-model-aviation-to-the-119th-congress/>

Here are some rules to remember for drones (and all our aircraft).

- **Registration:** All drones weighing between 0.55 pounds and 55 pounds must be registered with the FAA.
- **Altitudes:** Drones must fly at or below 400 feet in uncontrolled airspace, and below FAA-authorized altitudes in controlled airspace (unless otherwise under a waiver by the FAA and/or AMA).
- **Visual line of sight:** Pilots must maintain a visual line of sight with their drones or use a visual observer.
- **Night flying:** Drones must have anti-collision lighting.
- **Airports:** Pilots must avoid traffic patterns and takeoff and landing areas when flying near airports.
- **Remote ID:** Drones that require an FAA registration number must broadcast Remote ID information, unless flown within an FAA-Recognized Identification Area (FRIA) (or otherwise under a waiver by the FAA and/or AMA).
- **Authorization:** Pilots need authorization to fly in controlled airspace.
- **Safety:** Pilots must be aware of No Drone Zones and give way to other aircraft.

I hope everyone is ready for a good flying season, please be safe and help others to be safe so we can all enjoy flying together, remember we are all Safety officers at the field.

Keep your head on a swivel and have a safe flying summer!

Mike

President's Pilot Box: Ernie Padgette

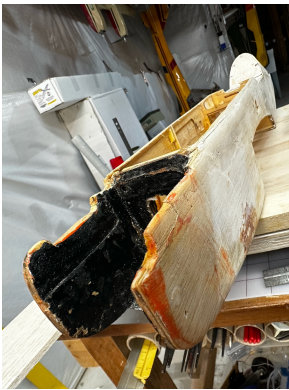
Accident Prevention 101

There are a lot of ways to prevent an accident from happening. One way is kind of like the old adage about "How To Win A Gunfight". The answer: "Don't show up". If you don't show up, you won't be in the gunfight and guess what? You win! In this case, Gordon Collyer showed me how to prevent an accident.

This could have been an accident started a few years ago. I saw a friend flying a Hangar 9 Twist and thought "That's a nice-looking plane and it's pretty aerobatic". So, I bought a used one. Well, this is me we're talking about, so I'll confess. I bought two; both .40 size glow planes. I have no idea of when or where I bought them, but I think they were of the "buy online in a hurry and regret at your leisure" classification. After they spent a few years hanging out in my basement as part of my reserve fleet, I decided to talk Gordon into converting one of them to electric use for me. After all, I had a surplus of 6 Volt, 5,000 mAh batteries lying around and they needed to be put to some use. I selected one of the two I had available, the better looking of the two, and gave it to Gordon. I thought it was in pretty good shape. After all, the Monocoat didn't look all that bad, so it had to be in good shape, right?

Of course, this rebuild would involve creating a hatch of some sort up front to allow the battery to be changed easily. And that involved removing the Monocoat to expose the woodwork underneath. And that's when Gordon discovered the plane had been crashed.

(Or did Gordon say "Trashed"? Maybe that was it.) Several Times, apparently. And repaired, several times, in, to say the least, a rather cavalier fashion.



Let's face it. Someone had wrecked the plane, stuck it back together enough to allow the Monocoat to hide the damage and found a sucker (me) to buy it. Strangely enough, it appears there are some people in our hobby who are less than completely transparent in their dealings with their fellow hobbyists.

But, that's where Gordon saved me from an almost certain accident which would have occurred later on.



We all know Gordon builds nice stuff. He's very talented, very studious and very careful. As he was looking at the hidden damage to the plane's nose, he noticed something amiss with the tail surfaces. Maybe it was just a hunch, maybe the empennages sagged a bit when he picked it up. Whatever it was, he stripped the Monocoat away and found the tail was worse than the nose.



Talk about using toothpicks to brace things; this was worse. One large piece of square balsa rod was only touching at the extreme edges of two points, but had been pressed into service as a brace. The actual area of contact had to be no more than a very small fraction of an inch. And, had he done only what I had asked him to do, the plane wouldn't have survived its first flight after the rebuild. That's the sort of thing to which we all need to pay attention. Thanks, Gordon.

- No Club specific items this Month.

Ernie P.

Vice President's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- A big thank you to Gerald Hood and Don Szczur for again hosting FARM Club's annual Pattern Clinic and aircraft setup/safety check out/first flights of the 2025 season. They hosted eight participants who also took part in the review of Pattern Contest rule changes and judging standards for this year.
- No other specific items this Month.

Nic

Secretary's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- The 2025 Club Membership renewal period has totally ended with our membership starting at 55 members.
- The Club Charter and Site Insurance have been renewed for 2025.
- The Club taxes for 2024 have been filed and accepted.
- FARM was featured in the March 2025 AMA's Model Aviation District IV section:

DISTRICT NEWS



IV

Jay Marsh

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District IV

Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland,
North Carolina, Virginia

The time has finally arrived that we can get back out there, fly, and have fun in District IV. Email me your club newsletter and club event reports for inclusion in *Model Aviation* so that others can see what your club has been up to. Also, sanction all of your club events with AMA so that you can receive the new FAA exemptions.

Before I turn to my monthly report, I want to be sure that you have done the maintenance and prepared your aircraft and equipment for this season of flying. Remember, be cautious using LiPo batteries. Time spent now saves repair time later.

Associate Vice President and Contest Director Nic Burhans reported on the model aviation portion of the 2024 Culpeper, Virginia, Air Fest and STEM Week:



The 2024 Culpeper VA Air Fest and STEM Week.

Beginning on Wednesday, October 9, through the following Sunday, the Culpeper Model Barnstormers (CMB) and Fauquier Aero Recreation Modelers (FARM) participated in the 24th Culpeper Air Fest. Wednesday and Thursday were dedicated to STEM days for 685 Culpeper County fifth-grade students, who were shown everything from full-scale World War II aircraft, welding, solar generation, experimental aircraft construction, and computer programming, to model aviation.



Club members Nic Burhans, Gordon Collyer, Ernie Padgette, Dave Rothbart, Bill Towne, and Jay Zompanti demonstrated topics, including the theory of flight, radio controls, different types of model aircraft, and aircraft simulators.



On Saturday, the show got underway. For 2-1/2 hours after the gates opened to the area guests, RC pilots from northern Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia provided a continuous show of 3D, Giant Scale, drone, and jet aircraft flights during this year's event. Thanks to Andrew Benjamin, Beresford Davis, Al Hampton, Arlin Harbaugh, Mike Hornbecker, Jorge Jimenez, Kwang Ko, and Kevin Moran.

During the morning's RC flying and the afternoon's full-scale flight demonstrations, Gordon Collyer, Ernie Padgette, and Jay Zompanti staffed the CMB and FARM display table, answering questions about AMA, RC flying in Northern Virginia, and how model aircraft and drones are controlled and fly (basically STEM for children, their parents, and grandparents).

The 2024 Culpeper, Virginia, Air Fest (the best little air show in the East) and fifth-grade STEM Program was a tremendous success in all aspects for RC model aviation.

Go fly and have fun safely. ✈️

- FARM Club Calendar:

Upcoming 2025 events:

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

- As of 31 January, the FARM Club presently has 55 members. (18 Regular members, 31 Senior members, 1 Junior member, 1 Associate member, and 4 Life members).

- As of 15 March, the Club presently has a balance of \$7,408.37 in the general fund.

Continue to Be Safe

Nic

Safety Officer's Pilot Box: Mike Wiczalkowski

- See Above.

- No other Club specific items this month.

Mike

Field Marshal's Pilot Box: Ralph Graul

- No Club specific items this Month.

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

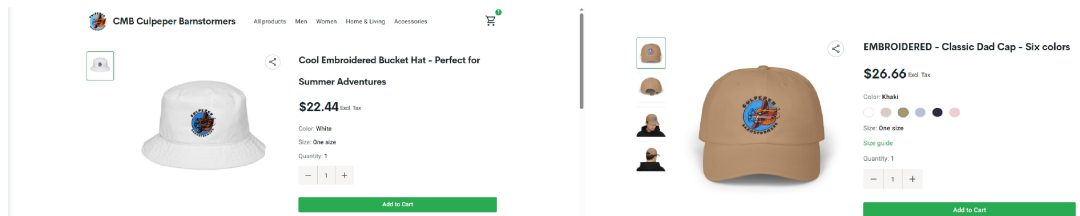
FARM Member "Tips & Projects" Box: Any FARM Member

- No Club specific items this Month.

"From the Field" Anything Input Pilot Box: Any FARM Member

- All: New EMBROIDERED hats and other Club Logo items are available -- Get yours.

- They are available now in both the FARM and CMB stores on the websites.



- Check out all the items Club items.

JayZ

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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:

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