



September - October 2025 Edition

2025 Culpeper Airfest in now History!

(The Best Little Free Air show in the East)



Many years ago, AMA and EAA members Mike Dale and John Hunton helped establish a fall get-together of full-scale and model enthusiasts from the Culpeper, VA area. Eventually a committee was formed to further organize this endeavor into a free air show event for the Culpeper community; of which this year's Airfest was the 25th iteration.

Several years ago, with the help of the Culpeper School System, the annual Culpeper Airfest was expanded with a two day STEM program for all the fifth grade students in the system during the week of the Airfest.

A **HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL** club members for their efforts and RC support of the 2025 Airfest STEM days and the 25th anniversary Airfest day itself. The members of the

Culpeper Model Barnstormers #4894 and the Fauquier Aero Recreation Modelers #1654 did a fantastic job.

The STEM crew consisting of Gordon Collyer, David Dix, Al Hampton, Ernie Padgett, Jim Restel, Bill Towne and Jay Zompanti were magnificent in their presentations to the 608 Culpeper School System 5th grade students and their 27 teachers as well as the 20 Culpeper Home Schooled students. Besides our normal static display, discussions of how RC aircraft work, and four simulators, a 3-D model aircraft printing demonstration was added to our presentations.



The response/feedback from the students, teachers, and School Board members present were that our guys did an outstanding job.

On the RC flying side, the Airfest Sponsor's Night RC helicopter, drone, and lighted fixed-wing flights and display crew of Beresford Davis, Finn Holden, Al Hampton and Kwang Ko were greatly appreciated by the Airfest Sponsors, their families, and their invited employees.



The Saturday morning's two and a half hour Airfest RC flying portion of the air show by Andrew Benjamin, Beresford Davis, David Dix, Dave Dupre, Al Hampton (who shot the drone photo above), Arlin Harbaugh, Finn Holden, Kwang Ko, and Kevin Moran went without a hitch and showed all aspects of our hobby.



The Airfest RC static displays and "STEM" presentations/discussions by Bill Crone, Al Hampton, Bobby Hurst, Charlie Koustenis, Ernie Padgett, Bill Towne, and Jay Zompanti with the air show crowd were wonderfully received.

AMA and Club documents were passed out to a significant number of Airfest attendees potentially interested in trying RC flying.



We were there, we were on time, we were professional, and we presented our RC hobby in an outstanding fashion.

Again, support for the 2025 Airfest STEM program and the 25th anniversary 2025 Culpeper Airfest by the Culpeper Model Barnstormers and Fauquier Aero Recreation Modelers club members was OUTSTANDING.

Nic Burhans
2025 Culpeper Airfest RC CD

President's Corner: Ernie Padgette



The Weather or just Another Habit?

I believe it was Charles Dudley Warner who famously said “Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it”. Certainly, everyone has had plenty of reason to talk about the weather this year. If it’s not raining, the wind is blowing. Throw in the cold, or the heat and the humidity and it’s easy to see why the weather this year has been a... bit challenging, shall we say?

Even so, I’m not sure that explains the paucity of participation we’ve been experiencing. In fact, attendance has been low since the Covid thing back in 2020. Doing something routinely gets to be a habit pretty quickly. And habits tend to persist. But when something unavoidable breaks said habit, something else replaces it just as quickly. And that something else becomes the new habit. Either way, participation is down and shows no sign of re-surfing.

Fall and winter are just around the corner; and we all know flying pretty much shuts down from November until the end of March. How about we enjoy the rapidly closing weather window before we are left

with no choice but to lament lost opportunities?

A couple of Board meetings ago, we voted to have a “By Invitation Only” luncheon to express our thanks to those FARM members who have kept the field and pit areas cut and trimmed this year. Plans are afoot to do just that in the near future. This will NOT be an event to all our members; rather it is limited to only those who did the work. There is still time to have input into our plans for the event; but that window of opportunity is rapidly closing, as well. Thanks;
Fly Safe.

Ernie P.

President's Pilot Box: Ernie Padgette

- See above.
- No additional Club specific items this issue.

Ernie P.

Vice President's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- No specific items this issue.
- Stay warm.

Nic

Secretary's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- At the August Club meeting the motion, taking into account the fuel problems with the Scag mower, to continue with the mower and that Charlie Koustenis would write up specific procedures for the mower’s fuel control positioning and after mowing procedures was passed.

- At the September Club meeting a motion to continue the Club Newsletter as a bi-monthly publication was passed.
- We have a new, Jon Magnuson who is an AMA CD. Welcome Jon!

- FARM Club Calendar:

Upcoming 2025 events:

October 28	Tuesday	FARM Club Zoom Meeting 2026 FARM Board Nominations Open	7:00 PM
November 4	Tuesday	State/Local Election Day	All Day
November 25	Tuesday	FARM Club Zoom Meeting 2026 FARM Board Nominations Close Voting begins	7:00 PM
December 6	Saturday	<u>Joint CMB and FARM Christmas Party</u> 2026 FARM Board Election Concludes	6:00-10 PM

Remember to Be SAFE.

Nic

Treasurer's Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- As of 15 October, the FARM Club presently has 59 members. (20 Regular members, 33 Senior members, 1 Junior member, 1 Associate member, and 4 Life members).

- As of 15 October, the Club presently has a balance of \$5,933.26 in the general fund.

Continue to Be Safe

Nic

Safety Officer's Pilot Box: Mike Wiczalkowski

- No Club specific items this issue.

Continue to Be Safe

Mike

Field Marshal's Pilot Box: Ralph Graul

- The grass has slowed its growing for winter.

- No other Club specific items this issue.

Ralph

Member at Large's Pilot Box: Charlie Koustenis

- No Club specific items this issue.

Charlie

Member at Large's Pilot Box: Bill Flathers

- No Club specific items this issue.

Bill F

Web Master's Pilot Box: Dick Sutton

- No Club website specific items this issue.

Dick

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

To keep my hands busy I have been building some Guillows kits. In the past these kits had "die" cut parts which were cut with very dull dies. We called them "die mashed parts". But their balsa cutting quality has improved greatly with laser cut parts and the new kits are a pleasure to build. John Hunton

- No other inputs this issue.

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

- It was in the 1940's I guess. I got my first glow engine, an ARDEN 09. Built a free flight for it using my Speed-building system which was "Lay down the covering over the plan and build on top of that, then lastly cover the top." The final step was to glue the pylon onto the fuselage. Back in those days we had Testors formulas A and B glues. One was supposed to be extra fast drying so I used that to glue the pylon on.

We go to the flying site (Falls Church High School football field) and fired up the Arden, launched the model, which turned vertical and started climbing nicely.

Then the wing and pylon fell off of the model, but the fuselage and the screaming Arden kept on climbing. Next the tail unit (stab and rudder) came off of the spinning fuselage. Next, the motor and firewall came off, but the Arden kept on running and climbing, finally giving up.

There were many parts of the model in the sky floating down.

My brother and I fell to the ground laughing. John Hunton

- FARM and CMB rise to the Occasion

It all began under a cloudy October sky at Culpeper Regional Airport, just days before the big air show weekend. The Culpeper Barnstormers and the FARM Club once again joined forces, answering the call from the Airfest STEM Committee and the Culpeper County Public Schools STEM program. Together, they brought science, technology, engineering, and math to life through the magic of flight.

Six hundred plus students from across the county arrived wide-eyed, ready to see how the principles they studied in class—lift, thrust, drag, and balance—came alive in the graceful arcs of model airplanes. The RC Aviation venue hangar buzzed with energy as kids learned about aerodynamics, control surfaces, and the technology behind modern radio-controlled flight.

Nic Burhans and Al Hampton spearheaded the effort, organizing every detail from flight simulation to interactive displays. Their leadership ensured everything ran smoothly, from the first child in to the last child out. They'd spent months preparing—coordinating volunteers, preparing equipment, and making sure every student left inspired.

Jim Restel manned the 3D area, passing on his knowledge of 3D printed aircraft to Culpeper's 5th graders. As the day unfolded, our club volunteers continued on tirelessly, showing off the craftsmanship and engineering that goes into everything radio-controlled. The collaboration between the two clubs perfectly captured the spirit of the community teamwork, mentorship, and a shared passion for aviation.

Then came Saturday—the day of the big Culpeper Airfest air show. The RC portion, led by Kwang Ko and his talented team, kicked off the celebration with a spectacular display. Pilots flew everything from 3D aircraft to giant-scale warbirds, helicopters, drones, and sleek turbines, thrilling the hundreds of early arrivals. The roar of engines, the smell of jet fuel, and the cheers of the crowd echoed across the runway.

When the last RC flight touched down, the transition to the full-scale air show began seamlessly.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Culpeper Airfest, and the skies came alive with everything from vintage Cubs to historic Warbirds.

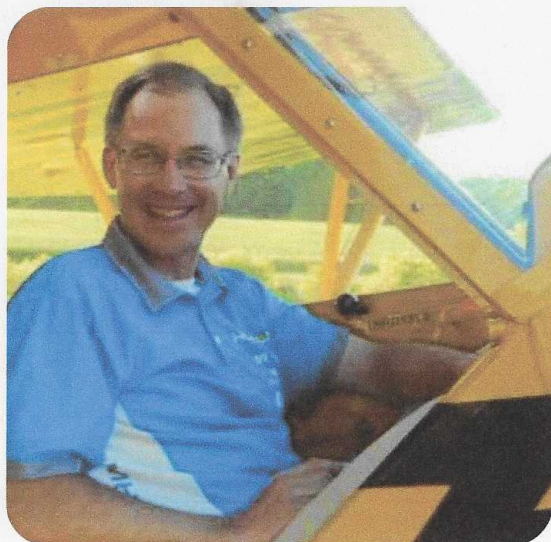
Meanwhile, volunteers from both CMB and the FARM club manned the show booth, greeting families, answering questions, and sharing their love for the hobby. Many curious visitors lingered, drawn in by the colorful displays and the hum of electric motors. Some even signed up to visit the club field, eager to see what flying an RC plane was all about.

By day's end, the sun started dipping low over the Blue Ridge, painting the sky in soft gold and crimson. As the final aircraft taxied in and the crowds began to drift home, the members of both clubs gathered near the booth, tired but proud.

They'd not only supported the STEM program and helped educate the next generation—they'd also showcased the wonder of flight in all its forms. The Culpeper Barnstormers and the FARM Club had once again risen to the occasion, proving that when passion meets purpose, the sky's truly the limit. Jay Zompanti

- "Little" Joseph #1, Don #4 !!!!!

Districts



D2 | Don Szczur
d2@nsrca.org | NSRCA 435

DC•DE•MD•NC•SC•VA

Election arriving: D2 will be seeking nominations between now to allow announcements and vote for the new VP. We have one nomination so far. Please forward any other nominations to me and I will enter them.

The D2 Championship Shirts were awarded at the FARM club contest on September 13-14. Congratulations to the winners!

Next contest is coming up next month 10/25-26 Scranton SC Flying Tigers.

I would like to say congratulations to Joseph Szczur. 2025 F3A National Champion and product of NSRCA D2 pattern community. Many of the FARM club and NVRC club members, one, I might add, who pointed out to me last weekend that he actually carried him (10 months old) through the Las Vegas airport, during my first TOC, others who helped watch him as adopted moms and dads over the years when I would bring him to contests and the NATS (thanks Sue, Rusty, Margo, Michelle, and so many others), all who helped coach him for many years, supporting him by buying literally hundreds of Team USA shirts, fundraisers to defray costs, etc and most of all, his mom, Beth and sister Isabella for their support. Yes, Beth did go into the salt mines in Romania for Joseph!

Some photos from the FARM club contest are provided. It was a great contest. I want to take some time to acknowledge Nic Burhans. Nic has, for many, many years the scorekeeper and contest administrator for the FARM club contest, as well as most if not all D2 contests. I sincerely appreciate his help and it has made these events happen. Thanks Nic!

We had a SPA (Senior Pattern Association) pattern contest in conjunction with the FAI and AMA pattern classes. Charles Zavalney and George Asteris were the winners. Results shown in the standings and pictures.

For the remainder of this year's articles, want to share a saying that Frank Collinson, who was the NSRCA D2 Vice President in the past: "Take a kid flying!"



Pilots watching the contest flights



Dinner at Vinnies Italian- great meal



September 13, 2025

2025 FARM Pattern Contest

Intermediate

Place	#	Contestant Name	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1*	201	Robert Johns	4000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00

Advanced

Place	#	Contestant Name	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1*	304	Lonnie Martin	4000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
2*	301	Carl Zavalney	3403.14	832.74	836.55	858.39	875.46	738.53	825.84
3*	303	Ken Bassett	3028.68	844.05	707.40	662.00	778.36	647.36	698.88

Masters

Place	#	Contestant Name	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1*	402	Braxton Dudley	4000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	949.41
2*	403	Justin Wells	3927.87	921.12	930.43	978.79	967.21	981.87	1000.00
3*	401	Gerald Hood	3406.39	846.08	807.45	881.60	871.26	0.00	0.00



2025 FARM Pattern Contest

September 13, 2025

F3A Semi Final Standings

TBL Not Used

Place	#	Contestant Name	Total	Preliminary	Panel 1	Panel 2
1*	601	Donald Szczur	2000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
2*	604	Joey Hayes	1970.38	982.44	967.52	987.94
3*	603	James Bennett	1802.41	910.18	892.23	854.73



September 13, 2025

2025 FARM Pattern SPA Contest

Sportsman

Place	#	Contestant Name	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1*	101	Carl Zavalney	2000.00	1000.00		1000.00			

Masters

Place	#	Contestant Name	Total	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6
1*	402	George Asteris	4000.00	1000.00		1000.00	0.00	1000.00	1000.00
2*	401	Donald Szczur	3944.44	0.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	944.44	0.00

FARM CLUB 2024 OFFICERS

President.	Ernie Padgette	540-439-6085
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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: Nic Burhans

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