



Blue Max Aces

The Monthly Newsletter of the Blue Max R/C Flying Club

Editor – Bradford Walters

Volume 15 – Issue 4

April 2008

Inside This Issue

Gene's Lowdown	1
Meeting Minutes	2
Indoor Flying	5
Meeting Location	5
Instructor Profile	5
Instructors	6
Member Projects	6
Birthdays	7
Blue Max Wear	7
Frequency Chart	7
Coming Events	8



**Next meeting
April 21 at
St. Thomas School.
Start time - 7:00 p.m.**



**Time to pay dues.
Bring your check
book.**



**Starter Stands are
not first come first
serve. They need to
be shared.**

Gene's Lowdown

by Gene Zerega - President

Spring is finally here, I think? Sometimes it's hard to tell. For those of you who have not been winter flying this year, I can't stress enough the importance of a thorough check



out of your plane's and/or helicopter's control surfaces and radio system. Don't forget to check out those old batteries. Using myself as an example, I was at the field for the first time this year on Sunday April 6th, a beautiful day. I decided to start with my SIG Kadet EP-42. I had thoroughly checked out the plane, radio system, and batteries the week before. To my surprise, immediately following takeoff, the plane

barely made it across the field when I lost total control. Fortunately, the damage was minor and easily repairable. Upon inspection, I discovered that one of the aileron servo extension connections came loose in the wing, resulting in a loss of aileron control. Bottom line: I had not properly secured the connections when the plane was originally assembled. Needless to say, I learned a valuable lesson. The Blue Max Club is scheduled to have its first FUN FLY on Sunday, April 20th at 10am. Pete Sidor is running the event, and I am sure he will do his usual great job. Being the first Club event of the new season, I anticipate a very good turnout.

For those who missed the meeting last month, our guest speaker was Dave Taitel from Venture Hobbies. He spoke for almost an hour explaining some of the differences and advantages of the new 2.4 GHz radio systems compared to the current 72 MHz FM systems. Speaking of Dave, don't forget to order your fuel by the April 21st deadline. For those who have not mailed in their orders, there will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting. An email went out on March 30th with all of the details. Dave is doing us a favor, so please get your orders in on time. Thank you Dave.

Our next meeting will be held on April 21st and we will be raffling off a SIG Something Extra 40 size ARF. Our guest speaker will be Dan Troyak, owner of Batteries Plus in Lake Zurich. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Gene Zerega

President
Gene Zerega

Vice President
Pete Sidor

Editor
Bradford Walters

Board of Directors

Steve Haas
Murry Randell
Carl Will
Ron Petterec

Secretary
Murry Randell

Treasurer
Duane Lang

Webmaster
Pete Sidor Jr.

COMMITTEES

Banquet
Tom Jetson
Frank Stillson

Field Marshal
Matt Hauser
Flying Proficiency
Ron Petterec

Fun-Fly
Pete Sidor

Ground Crew
Gene Zerega
Matt Hauser

Noise
Frank Stillson

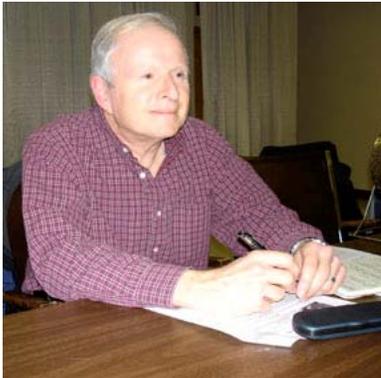
Picnic
Carl Will

Program
Rudy Krolopp

Safety
Carl Will

MEETING MINUTES

by *Murry Randell, Secretary*



Blue MAX R/C Flying Club
March Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: March 17, 2008
Secretary: Murry Randell

The March 17, 2008 meeting of the Blue Max RC Flying Club was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President **Gene Zerega**.

Welcome Guests

Matthew and Andrew Gebhard, and Maia Shovel were guests at the meeting. New member Les Magid was in attendance.

Pilot's Briefing

The program was a talk on 2.4GHz radio technology by **Dave Taitel**, the owner of **Venture Hobbies**. Dave described some of the attributes of the Spektrum and Futaba 2.4GHz systems. He says that Spektrum is in their third season and the users have had few or no problems. Spektrum locks to two of the 80 channels in the 2.4GHz band. Spektrum is a Horizon Hobby brand. JR is also a Horizon Hobby brand. JR will be tiered as the top of the line and Spektrum will be positioned at mid and economy products. Futaba was later getting into spread spectrum. They use frequency hopping, a different mode of rejecting interference. Futaba has a module based system so you can plug a 72MHz module into the new 2.4GHz transmitter frame. The trend is to sell a radio system without servos.

Both Spektrum and Futaba systems use multiple antennas that should be positioned in a particular orientation in your airplane for best range. They have a power reduction button for use in range testing your system. Futaba had a factory glitch that resulted in a batch of transmitters that all had the same code. Dave tests all of the units that he sells to catch any of these problems.

Dave highly recommends new purchases be in the spread spectrum technology. He no longer stocks 72MHz radios at Venture. He also likes to use 5-cell batteries with higher capacity, especially for larger sport airplanes. Some of the 2.4GHz receivers would take 3 seconds to reboot if your voltage momentarily fell below 3.6 volts.

Yohay asked about airplane kits. Dave says there isn't much interest by the majority of flyers today, but he still keeps the parts available for builders. He would be happy to participate in a building workshop if the club were driving it. Dave will be setting up a fuel purchase program for clubs this spring.

Around the Hangar

Secretary report: Murry Randell- minutes were accepted as published in the newsletter. However, the February minutes should have mentioned the excellent program presented by Jack Wooden.

Treasurer Report: Duane Lang – Our current balance is \$4551.83 which includes all of the banquet expenses and 2008 dues from about 46% of our members.

Committee reports:

- ✦ **Banquet: Frank Stillson** – No report.
- ✦ **Field Marshal: Matt Hauser** – There was a brief discussion on rolling the field. It wasn't done last year. We need someone to look into getting a roller to do the job.
- ✦ **Fun Fly: Pete Sidor** – The first Fun Fly for 2008 will be on April 20. The event will be Las Vegas crap shoot. It will be a timed event that includes rolling dice to get certain combinations before you start and after you end the flying. Flying will consist of take-off, simple maneuvers, and landing.
- ✦ **Newsletter: Brad Walters** – No report.
- ✦ **Noise: Frank Stillson** - Frank cautioned us not to fly past the east boundary because we don't want to annoy the people in the condos.

- ✈ **Picnic: Carl Will** – No report.
- ✈ **Proficiency: Ron Petterec** – No report.
- ✈ **Program: Rudy Krolopp** – Next month is **Dan Troyak** from the Batteries Plus in Lake Zurich. Five more programs are lined up, so there are 2 or 3 opportunities if someone has an idea for other programs.

June-July – Hal Parenti, expert “Top Gun” scale builder

August – Dennis Crooks, his P38 Lightning took 1st place in the 2007 Master’s Scale Competition

September – Bob Walker, founder of Robart Mfg. & AMA Assoc VP, Dist VI, St Charles

October – Eric Karl, Robart design engineer & competition turbine jet pilot

November – Rudy Krolopp & Bob Davit, experiences in building their P-47

- ✈ **Refreshments: Carl Will** –Thanks again to Carl.
- ✈ **Safety: Carl Will** – It is time to check and cycle your batteries to be ready for the flying season.

Old Business

None.

New on the Radar

Rich Frost suggested a drawing for a door prize for people who attend the meetings. A committee of **Rich Frost**, **Pete Sidor**, and **Frank Stillson** were appointed to look into this idea and come back to the board.

Gene presented a framed certificate to **Jack Wooden** for the interesting and informative presentation at the February meeting on his career as a pilot.

Unhappy Landings

None reported.

New on the Runway



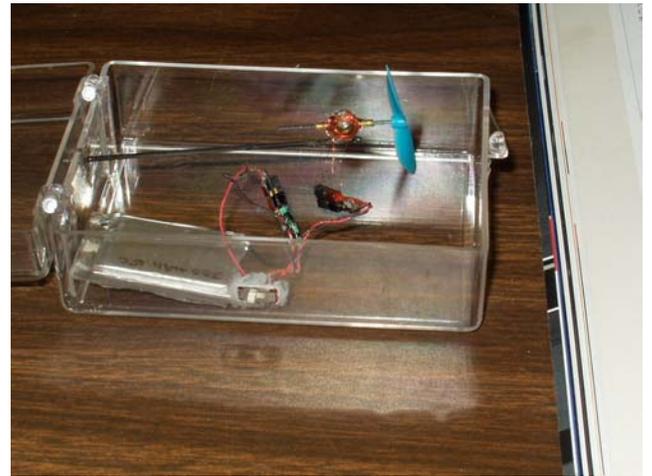
Jim Keehan showed a P-47 built from a Top Flight kit. He gave a bit of historical info on the plane. His kit has electric retracts from www.lado-tech.com and a .91 4-stroke engine.



Don Linder showed the Little Tony, a Great Planes ARF, with a Super Tigre G-90 engine.



Carl Will brought his new Hobbico TwinStar with 2 LA 40 engines. This is his first twin engine aircraft. Carl described the thrill of flying Don Linder's TwinStar last summer.



Bill Smead showed an electric motor he built from scratch that weighs only 0.456 grams.

Top Gun



Marv Streske won the raffle prize, a \$75 gift certificate from Venture Hobbies.



Brad Walters won the Robart Super Stand.



Gene Derbick won the Blue Max sweatshirt.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Indoor Flying– Mike McGee

The INDOOR FLYING CLUB has been able to add additional dates to their schedule of flying indoors at the Forest View Educational Center. The next session starts Friday February 15 and continues for 10 weeks.

Dates are February 15 through April 25.

Hours are 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm (except during Spring break. Dates to be announced.)

Course name: "Come Fly With Us"

To Register: Call 847-718-7700 or
visit website at www.ce214.org
or stop by the office at 2121 S. Goebbert, A.H.

Meeting Place

Meeting Room #1 (MR 1)
St. Thomas of Villanova School
1141 East Anderson Drive
Palatine, IL 60074

Our meetings are on the 3rd Monday
of each month and they
start at 7:00 p.m.

Meet Your Unlimited Instructors

The Blue Max RC Flying Club currently has 4 instructors that have obtained an Unlimited Rating. These instructors are highly experienced flyers who have completed the Pilot Proficiency levels through "Sport Pilot". Each have a great deal of experience with advanced aircraft and flight characteristics and are fully qualified to conduct maiden flights on highly aerobatic, large scale, or any other type of advanced aircraft. They are also fully qualified to train & test beginner and advanced level students. Each of them was asked five questions and during the next few months, we will bring you their answers.

This month meet *Ron Petterec.*



1. How and when did you get started in the hobby?

I have been building and flying u-control planes since I was eleven years old. I continued to build and fly planes through high school and during my time in the service. In the early 70's, I wanted to fly RC, but it was just as expensive to get my private pilot's license, so I flew full scale for a few years. I got my license, but then due to health issues, I started RC flying in 1989 and gave up the full scale flying. I also went back to building.

2. What are some major changes you have seen in RC flying?

The main changes in RC since then has been in the electronics, making them better and cheaper. Also, the ARF's becoming more popular has given the non-builder a great opportunity to fly RC. With the costs coming down, it is more economical for everyone.

3. What is the best advice you could give to a new pilot?

A new pilot should watch and observe to make sure he knows what he is getting into before he commits to the expense of this hobby. He should go to the local hobby shop, ask a lot of questions, and go to the field. He should talk to the instructors or guys at the field and ask questions. If possible, he should go up with an instructor on a buddy box to make sure that he likes it before he gets involved in the hobby. Also, when he does get a plane, he should join a club, get an instructor, and have a buddy box. If he can, get a flight simulator. He'll learn much quicker and enjoy the hobby more.

4. What is it like for you as an Unlimited Instructor to fly the unknown?

Unlimited instructors are like any other pilots, except they know how to stay calm in terrifying situations. This sometimes happens when a new plane is on its maiden flight. A number of things can go wrong when flying the unknown and an experienced pilot can recognize the problems sooner and be able to adjust more quickly because of his experience.

5. Share one of your funniest or most interesting experiences.

The first RC plane I built was a ¼ scale Cub for a neighbor. Then I built a couple of trainers to learn on and finally built a ¼ scale Cub of my own. After many years of flying, I acquired that first Cub that I built for my neighbor and flew it for a long time. It was a great feeling to fly that first Cub that I built. Right now, my two friends and I are building seven ¼ scale Cubs. I guess I just like Cubs.

Member Projects

Rudy Krolopp and Bob Davit are building a P-47 Thunderbolt. Below are pictures of a lesson in glassing given them by Dennis Brumley. Onlookers are Gene Zerega and Don Linder.



INSTRUCTORS Unlimited

Yohay Hahamy
Tim Niemiec
Ron Petterec
Bob Tomasulo

INSTRUCTORS Primary

Ed Der
Steve Haas
Duane Lang
Don Linder
Del Peral
Jim Speers
Frank Stillson
Carl Will

INSTRUCTORS Basic

Steve Tomczyk
Brad Walters

GROUND CREW

Matt Hauser
Gene Zerega

BLUE MAX WEAR

Caps \$10
 Sweatshirts \$20
 Sizes: Small to 3X

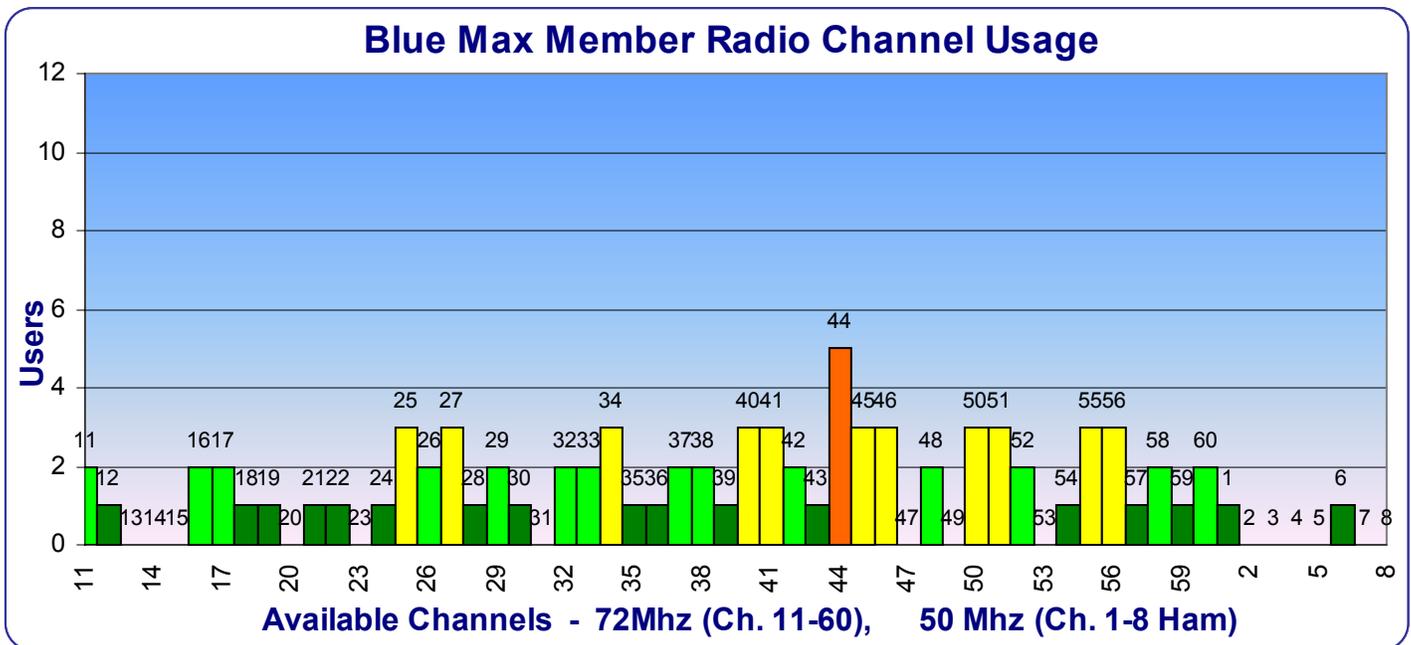
 T-Shirts \$10
 Available Now!



<u>UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS</u>	
<u>April</u>	
None	
<u>May</u>	
Gene Derbick	5/8
Pete Sidor	5/19

Show your Club Pride at the field!
 Wear your Blue Max caps, T-shirts, and sweatshirts.
 Caps and sweatshirts are now in stock and available at the meetings.
 See Don Linder.

FREQUENCY CHART



Please contact Bradford Walters at (thehoverzone@ameritech.net) with the following information to add or change radio channel numbers.

1. Your name.
2. All transmitter channels (example: 16, 44, 58 and Ham 4).
3. Any other comments.

Blue Max R/C Flying Club
AMA # 1040
www.BlueMaxRC.com

Look on the web for the newsletter in color.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR
April 2008 – June 2008

April 2008

- 20) Fun Fly – 10:00 a.m.**
- 21) Monthly Meeting - 7:00p.m.**

May 2008

- 19) Monthly Meeting – 7:00p.m.**

June 2008

- 16) Monthly Meeting – 7:00p.m.**



Blue Max R/C
PO Box 7803
Buffalo Grove IL 60089-7803