

March 2026

THE TALON



From the President

We are getting a little more daylight every day and we'll be back at the flying field before you know it!

We had another great turnout for the February meeting, and for those of you who may not have been able to attend, we had a good discussion about our upcoming field development project.

Drew provided us with a summary of our typical operating expenses and gave us a recommendation for what we should have as an ongoing reserve.

Next we reviewed our anticipated expenses to develop the new site. As it turns out, the cost of developing the new site would require all the funds we currently have, leaving us without any operating reserves.

Based on this information, two important motions were made and unanimously approved by the members in attendance. They are:

1. A special, one time Field Development Assessment of \$150 for all current Adult members as of March 1, 2026. The payment of this assessment is due by April 15, 2026. (This does not apply to non-voting youth members.)
2. An amendment will be made to the membership section of our by-laws adding a \$75.00 one time initiation fee for new members joining the club. (This will not apply to non-voting youth members.) This amendment has already been sent to the membership for review so that it can be voted on at our March meeting.

On behalf of all the club officers, I would like to thank all of you for your support as we've worked through our field search and begin the final push to develop our new flying site.

The path forward has never looked better!!

Larry Erbach, President

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Committee Chairmen

Proficiency & Instruction

Bill Mielke

Events & Promotion

Mike Missak

Safety

Jim Steward

Education & Outreach

Lynn Garnand

Field Maintenance

Mark Glawe

From the Vice President

We're getting closer!!

It will be time to fly before we know it. I don't have a lot to report on this month that we don't already know. Hopefully by the meeting on March 18th we'll have a better time line for getting the new field planted and a better idea of when we can start deciding on where to put fencing, canopy, flight stations and any other items we want.

I want to say thank you again for continuing to support the club during the search for a new field. I do believe it will be worth it. During the next few months there will be some work to do. But if we all do what we can, it'll go smooth. As the saying goes "Rome wasn't built in a day".

Hopefully everyone is building or just repairing planes and helicopters for the season. I know a few members that have added planes and helicopters to their hangers. Hopefully the weather will warm up soon so we can get out and fly a little. I'll see everyone on the 18th.

Ken Losch, Vice President

Upcoming Events!

Wednesday, March 18th - 7:00 PM

CHAIN O LAKES EAGLES MONTHLY MEETING

Rusty Nail - 4520 Ringwood Rd - Ringwood, IL

Saturday March 28th - SNAG-A-DEAL RC AUCTION.

Community United Methodist Church, 20 N Center St.

Naperville, IL . Visit: propmastersrc.org/auction.

Saturday May 23rd - Larry DiRubo Memorial Electric Float Fly

Petersen Park Waterfront - McHenry, IL

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

"Know Before You Fly" Schedule

Here is the schedule for our drone classes through April. These classes are a lot of fun and the enthusiasm of the students makes it fun to participate as a coach / instructor. ***Please reach out directly to Lynn Garnand if you are able to help with this program!***

Sunday, March 8th - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - Fox Lake

Lakefront Park Recreation Center - 10 Riverview Ave, Fox Lake

Sunday March 15th - 1:00 to 4:00 PM - Crystal Lake

Grand Oaks Recreation Center - 1401 IL 176, Crystal Lake

McHenry County College - "Kids in College" - Spring Break

Main Campus - 8900 US HWY 14, Crystal Lake

Monday, March 23rd - 9:00 AM to Noon

Monday, March 23rd - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Tuesday, March 24th - 9:00 AM to Noon

Tuesday, March 24th - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday, March 25th - 9:00 AM to Noon

Wednesday, March 25th - 1:00 to 4:00 PM

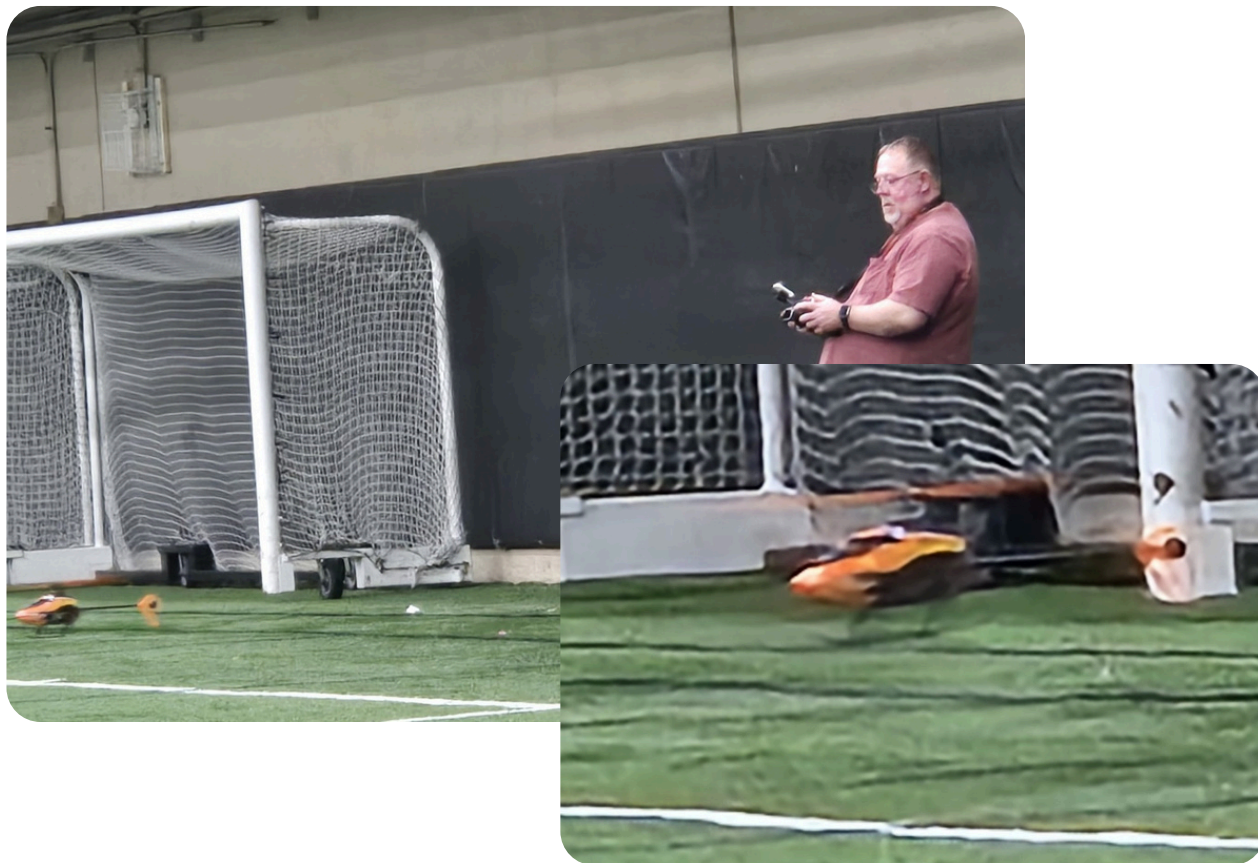
Saturday April 11th - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - Fox Lake

Lakefront Park Recreation Center - 10 Riverview Ave, Fox Lake

Sunday April 19th - 1:00 to 4:00 PM - Crystal Lake

Grand Oaks Recreation Center - 1401 IL 176, Crystal Lake

INDOOR FLYING FUN!



Some of our members (like Ken shown here) are taking advantage of the opportunity to fly indoors at **Canlan Sports Center, 28156 Northpointe Pkwy in Lake Barrington on Fridays**. Flying is typically from 11 AM to 2:30 PM - AMA membership required - cost is \$16 per session. The soccer arena is big enough for UMX planes and helicopters and offers a great way to get some winter flights in! Here is the upcoming schedule:

February 20 - Yes

February 27 - Yes

March 6 - Yes

March 13 - Yes - Change of time Full field 10:00 - 1:00 Half (1/2) field 1:00 - 2:30

March 20 - Yes

March 27 - NO FLYING

April 3 - Yes

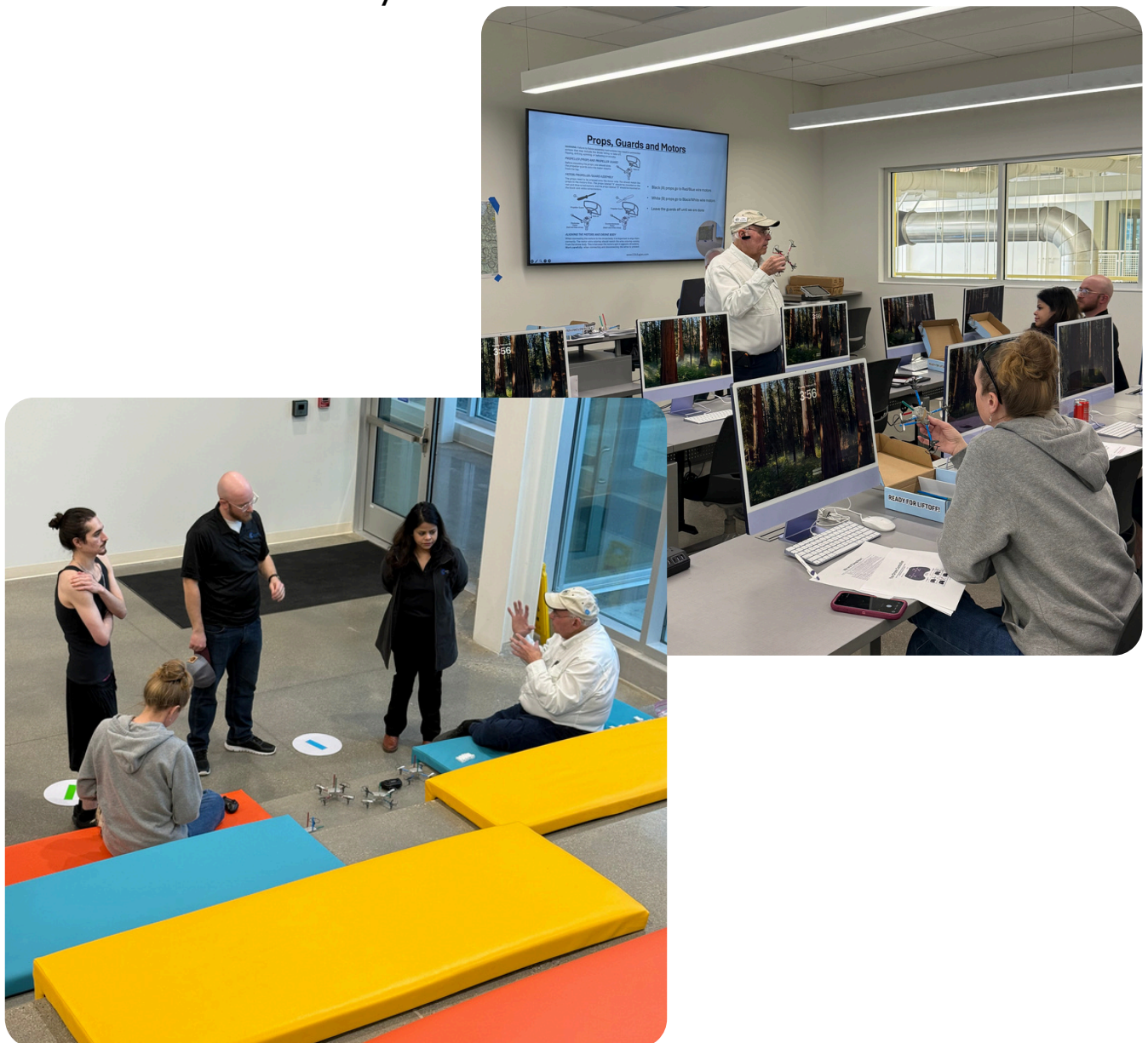
April 10 - Yes

April 17 - Yes

April 24 - Yes

EAGLES AT MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

LYNN GARNAND was invited to assist students in the Software Development program who are working on their capstone project. This project involves writing a program that will analyze video from a drone flown over a roof to identify problem areas. Lynn gave the students an overview of drone regulations, airspace rules, drone safety considerations and finished off by having the students build and fly drones! These educational programs continue to open doors for us to share model aviation with the local community!



STEM CLASSES ARE GROWING!!



*Twelve new students and their parents got to experience model aviation through our "Know Before You Fly" Drone classes in February! Here are a few pictures from the classes in Fox Lake and Crystal Lake. **Thank you to the club members who are donating the time and energy to make these classes possible!***



KIDS AND COLLEGE PROGRAM 2026

DISCOVER DRONES AND MODEL AVIATION



The Kids and College Program has partnered with the Chain-O-Lakes Eagles R/C Club of Hebron, Illinois to offer drone and model aviation camps during the Spring Break and Summer Programs.

Spring Break Program 🦋 March 23–25, 2026

Discover Drones: Build, Fly, Engineer!, Grades 4–8

The “KnowBefore You Fly” program offers a dive into the exciting world of drones in this hands-on course designed for curious young minds and aspiring pilots. Students will assemble and fly a Discovery Drone from a real kit—no prior experience required. Alongside instructors, participants will learn safe flight procedures, tackle fun challenges like delivery missions and payload lifts, and explore engineering concepts by modifying their drone’s design for speed, stability, or style. While drones stay in class, the skills and confidence gained will soar far beyond. Whether you’re into tech, teamwork, or just love things that fly, this class is your launchpad into aviation, creativity, and STEM innovation.

Fee: \$35

13980 # 13981 # 13982 # 13983 # 13984 # 13985

_____	M	3/23	9 a.m.–Noon	Main
_____	M	3/23	1–4 p.m.	Main
_____	T	3/24	9 a.m.–Noon	Main
_____	T	3/24	1–4 p.m.	Main
_____	W	3/25	9 a.m.–Noon	Main
_____	W	3/25	1–4 p.m.	Main

Summer Program 🦋 June 1–August 7, 2026

Introduction to Model Aviation, Grades 4–9

Take flight as we explore the science of aviation through three exciting, hands-on adventures including Chuck Glider Build & Fly, Drone Build & Fly, and RC Ground School. Students will learn the four forces of flight by building and flying a foam board chuck glider, then test and refine their designs for maximum performance. Students will also learn the basics of safe drone operation by assembling and flying a Discovery Drone and completing fun flight missions. On the last day, students will explore the inner workings of RC airplanes. Students will learn about radio systems, aircraft types, essential electronics, and rules for safe RC flight. Hands-on activities include flying simulators and using 3-axis gyro systems to experience RC controls. Students who complete the class are eligible to join the AMA Introductory Pilot Program (IPP) with the COL Eagles in Hebron, IL, which includes 90 days of free participation, insurance coverage, and access to club aircraft and equipment at no cost. Note: Drones and RC aircraft used in class remain property of the program and are not taken home.

Fee: \$125

# 14129	MTW	6/15–6/17	9 a.m.–12 p.m.	Main
# 14130	MTW	6/15–6/17	1–4 p.m.	Main
# 14146	MTW	6/29–7/1	9 a.m.–12 p.m.	Main
# 14147	MTW	6/29–7/1	1–4 p.m.	Main



Scan the QR code or visit www.mchenry.edu/kidsandcollege for class information and to register.

For more information, contact (815) 455-8758 or kidsandcollege@mchenry.edu.



Treasurer's Report (Drew Durik)

- As of February 23rd, we have 36 adult members, 2 junior members and 2 youth members for a total of 40 members on our roster who's 2026 dues have been paid.
- Expenses from February 1st through February 23rd = \$31.80
 - o \$15.00 was for a subscription to Model Aviation for the McHenry Public Library.
 - o \$16.80 was for our Google account.
- Income from February 1st through February 23rd = \$2,675.00
 - o \$1,125.00 was received from club dues.
 - o \$885.00 was received from proceeds from the donated helicopters (from the family of Jim Touhy)
 - o \$600.00 was received from the Field Development Assessment.
 - o \$65.00 was received from our February 18th 50/50.
- Adult club dues (voting members) for 2026 is \$125.00. Student/youth membership dues (non-voting) is \$25.00. All existing members must pay their dues **no later than February 28, 2026**. A \$25.00 late fee will be required for dues received after February 28, 2026.
- During our February 18th meeting, a unanimous vote was received to implement a one-time assessment of \$150.00 to fund the development of the new Von Bergen Field. All adult voting members of the COL Eagles are required to pay the \$150.00 assessment. **Payment must be received no later than April 15, 2026.**
- Club dues and the assessment may be paid by cash or check at our monthly club meeting or a check may be mailed to:

COL Eagles RC Club
 C/O Drew Durik
 7257 Orchard Valley Dr
 Bull Valley IL 60050-6469

Please make checks payable to COL Eagles RC Club

·As agreed upon in our August 2025 meeting, I will no longer be providing financial details in the monthly Talon. If you would like a detailed report, please e-mail me at drew.durik@gmail.com and I will provide a copy of the report.

Drew Durik, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT—Mark Beckman

The February meeting was held at The Rusty Nail Saloon on February 19th 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with the board present and was led by Larry Erbach. There were 21 members in attendance.

- The Secretary's report was approved.
- The Treasurer's report was approved.
- Drew Durik presented the treasury report and said the club needs to build its working capital and emergency reserve.

Vice President update - Ken Losch:

- Ken Losch thanked Bill Mielke for his efforts in the instruction program and as Proficiency Chairman.

President update - Larry Erbach:

- Recent email phishing attempts have appeared. Larry stated the club will not request money in an email.
- Larry is looking for a printing source that is affordable. Dillin Dziekan offered to look into MCC as a resource.

Instruction Committee:

- Ken Losch, Mark Ward, and Mike Land stated the coupons are ready for students who solo RC to fly in a full scale airplane.

STEM Outreach:

- Lynn Garnand discussed the upcoming drone classes. He said he will need help especially for the upcoming MCC classes. Many members have stepped up as copilots. Contact Lynn if you would like to offer your help

Maintenance:

- Mark Glawe wants to set up a time in late March to clean out and organize the ConEx ahead of the new field development.

SECRETARY'S REPORT—Mark Beckman (continued)

Old Business:

- We are still looking for a newsletter editor and webmaster.
- Bill Mielke said the hanger sale will be June 20th.
- Andrew Durik made a very nice 3D printed name badge prototype.

New Business:

- Larry and Ken are planning a meeting with the VonBergen's to discuss preparing and planting the new field. A possibility of another Fun Fly event was mentioned.
- Larry started a discussion about the Geotech runway. Several issues and concerns were mentioned. It was determined it may be better to wait a year so the field can settle.
- Based on new field cost estimates and Drew's recommendations in his treasury report, Larry made a motion to propose a one time "New Field Development" assessment of \$150.00 to current members. The motion was approved.
- Larry also made a motion to establish an initiation fee of \$75.00 in addition to annual dues for new members. The motion was approved.

The 50/50 winner was Bill Tobin taking home \$65 of \$130.

The February 19th meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Mark Beckman, Secretary