

February 2026

THE TALON



From the President

We are a month closer to Spring!

This is a great time of year for indoor activities like those building projects, upgrades to your fleet and for some, even indoor flying! I've seen a few of our club members flying at Canlan Sports in Lake Barrington on Fridays and it's a great way to keep your skills up and also get some time with other model aviators!

Flying sessions are typically on Fridays from 11 AM to 2:30 PM and admission is \$16. Sometimes the flying is cancelled due to other events, so it is best to check the "Drop In" schedule for Fridays on the Canlan Website or give them a call at 847-382-3433.

We had the good fortune to receive a wonderful donation of some equipment from the family of Jim Touhy, a former member who passed away recently. Thanks to Bill Mielke for coordinating the sale of these helicopters and accessories! Bill will provide an update on the results of the sale at our February meeting - thanks to all who purchased items to benefit our field development fund!

Additional opportunities to stay active in the winter months are available in assisting with our youth STEM classes in Fox Lake, Crystal Lake and McHenry County College. I can speak from personal experience when I say it is a blast to see the "aviation spark" take hold of the students and the classes are fun! Talk to Lynn Garnand if you can help out. Upcoming classes are 1 to 4 pm on February 15th in Crystal Lake, February 22nd in Fox Lake and we are part of the "Kids in College" program at McHenry County College on March 23rd, 24th and 25th during spring break (Check out the "KNow Before You Fly" class schedule on page 3 for more info too.)

Stay warm and safe and rest up for the busy season ahead!

Larry Erbach, President

President

Larry Erbach 815-370-6870
leerbach@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Ken Losch
224-242-4807
ken31losch@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Drew Durik
847-209-5201
drew.durik@gmail.com

Secretary

Mark Beckman
815-355-7344
foxlakeace@icloud.com

Safety Officer

Jim Steward

Webmaster

Greg Kamysz

Instructors

Ken Losch—Chief Instructor
224-242-4807
ken31losch@yahoo.com

Mark Beckman
815-355-7344
foxlakeace@icloud.com

Joe McGinley
847-421-3499
peacefrog922@gmail.com

Bill Tobin
815-260-1328
wm.tobin@sbcglobal.net

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

I hope everyone is staying warm. Although as I write this it looks like it should actually be in the 20's the next week or so. As I look forward to the flying season, I'm starting to get a little excited to get the new field going. I want to say Thank you to everyone that hung in there during the search for the new field. I know the last couple of years were not the perfect situation. But it gave us a chance to keep flying, and thanks to the people that made that happen. Hopefully the equipment only needs to be moved once more. So as we wait for warmer weather and are able to start on the new and improved field, I know the people in this club will step up and get it done just like you always have. Try and stay warm in the meantime.

Ken Losch, Vice President

Upcoming Events!

Saturday, February 14th - 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

FOX VALLEY AERO CLUB SWAP MEET

Kane County Fairgrounds

525 S. Randall Road - St. Charles, IL

Admission \$5.00

Wednesday, February 18th - 7:00 PM

CHAIN O LAKES EAGLES MONTHLY MEETING

Rusty Nail - 4520 Ringwood Rd - Ringwood, IL

Wednesday, March 18th - 7:00 PM

CHAIN O LAKES EAGLES MONTHLY MEETING

Rusty Nail - 4520 Ringwood Rd - Ringwood, IL

"Know Before You Fly" Schedule

Here is the schedule for our drone classes through March. 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!***

Saturday, January 10th - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - Fox Lake

Lakefront Park Recreation Center - 10 Riverview Ave, Fox Lake

Sunday, January 11th - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - Crystal Lake

Grand Oaks Recreation Center - 1401 IL 176, Crystal Lake

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

Grand Oaks Recreation Center - 1401 IL 176, Crystal Lake

Sunday, February 22nd - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - Fox Lake

Lakefront Park Recreation Center - 10 Riverview Ave, Fox Lake

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

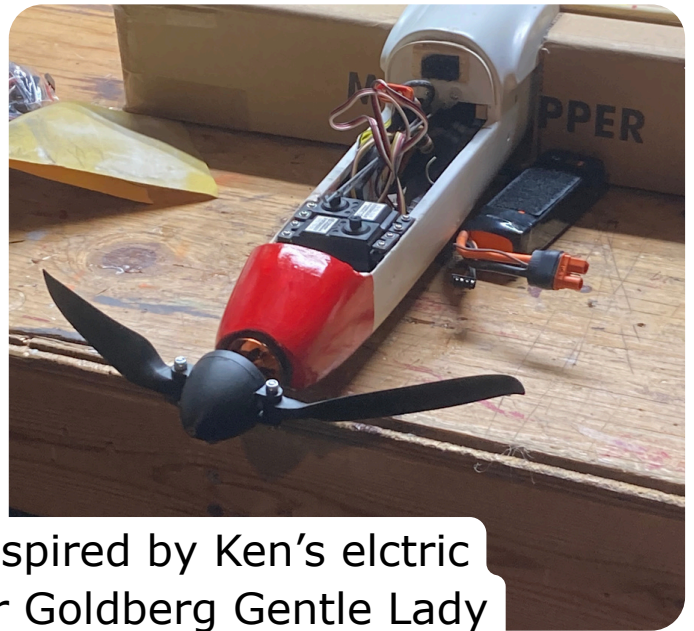
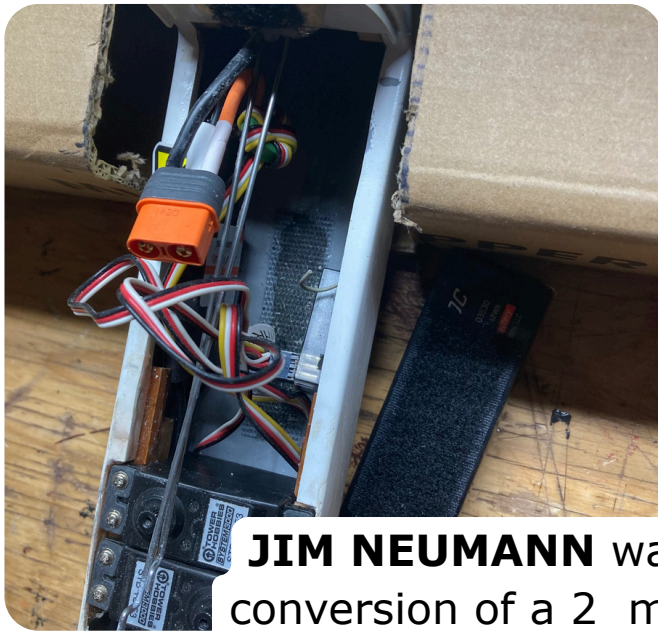
Tuesday, March 24th - 9:00 AM to Noon

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

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE BUILDING!



JIM NEUMANN was inspired by Ken's electric conversion of a 2 meter Goldberg Gentle Lady and decided to convert a 2 meter sail plane he had in his inventory!

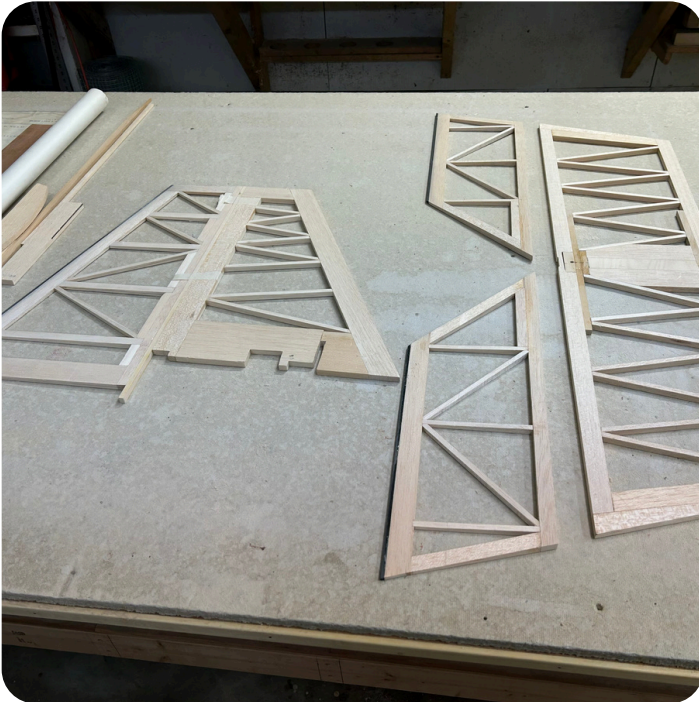


WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE BUILDING!

KEN LOSCH has finished another glow to electric conversion! This time it is a "Twist" aerobatic plane which also includes some great work with his 3D printer creating the battery tray, engine mount and battery hatch!



WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE BUILDING!



MARK BECKMAN is building a 101" Big Stick from a Bud Nosen Kit. Modifications include the addition of flaps, larger ailerons as well as elevator and rudder surfaces.



Treasurer's Report (Drew Durik)

- We currently have 28 adult members, 2 junior members and 2 youth members for a total of 32 members who have paid their 2026 dues.
- **Expenses in January = \$1,368.78**
- \$777.11 was paid for annual mower maintenance (blade sharpening, etc.). This came in significantly under budget. We may be able to use our AMA Field Improvement Grant to pay for 25% of this expense.
- \$390.87 was for supplies to support our Education & Outreach programs. This also came in under budget.
- \$170.00 was for expenses tied to future club events (primarily the two float fly events for 2026).
- \$30.80 was for the club's IL Annual Report and for our website.
- **Income in January = \$1,976.40**
- \$1,750.00 was received from club dues.
- \$168.90 were proceeds from the January 3rd drone class.
- \$57.50 were proceeds from our December 17th 50/50 raffle.
- 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.
- 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**. Dues 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

Drew Durik, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT—Mark Beckman

The January 2026 meeting was held at The Rusty Nail Saloon on January 21st. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm with the board present. There were 25 members in attendance.

The Secretary report was approved.

Treasurer's report was approved.

Drew discussed the fact it costs approximately \$8,000 to operate the club. Our income was approximately \$8,200 in 2025.

Larry mentioned the possibility of a one time assessment to raise funds for new field development.

Ken discussed the member survey as well as the new field wish list. Ken is asking for input from membership.

Ken also discussed the holiday food drive and the possibility of another food drive in the summer.

Committee reports:

Proficiency: nothing to report.

Events: Larry mentioned we are looking for an event manager for the upcoming float fly's. The dates are May 23rd and September 20th.

Safety: Jim reminded us to call out if on the field.

Education: Lynn stated he is still in need of members to help at STEM class. Fox lake is full and others are filling quickly. Classes:

Crystal Lake - February 15th 1-4pm

Fox Lake - February 22nd 1-4pm

MCC - March 23rd, 24th, 25th 9-2pm and 1-4pm

Field Maintenance: Mark reported on the Toro progress. He stated the reels are refurbished and "as sharp as can be."

Field development: Not much to report, all is well. We will be purchasing necessary materials over the next few months.

Old Business: We are still looking for a newsletter editor and webmaster.

SECRETARY'S REPORT—Mark Beckman (continued)**New Business:**

- Bill asked for donations. Airplanes and kits would especially be great.
- AMA Fun Fly has been reinstalled. Discounted hotel rates are available June 25th-28th.
- Larry mentioned the possibility of name badges.
- Mike reported the EAA Chapter 932, Galt Airport, and the Chain O' Lakes Eagles are issuing coupons for students who solo an RC airplane to experience a flight in a full size airplane. Youths who complete the Build and Fly program will get a coupon for a training flight with a COL Eagles instructor

The 50/50 drawing was won by MIke Loser.

Meeting was adjourned at 7;34 PM

Mark Beckman, Secretary