

January 2026

THE TALON



From the President

Happy New Year!

2026 looks to be another fun and dynamic year for our club! Our club charter has been renewed with AMA and I am pleased to report that we have once again been recognized as a **Gold Leader Club**.

The key to our success is the willingness of our members to support and lend a hand as much as they are able. Your efforts, large and small all add up to make this a great club. Please consider stepping up to help where ever and whenever you can in 2026!

Key initiatives for the year ahead include:

Developing our new flying site:

The conex has already been moved to the site, Mike Von Bergen has already begun preparing the ground for planting in the spring and arrangements are being made to get the materials ordered that were approved at our November meeting. The FRIA application for the new flying site has been submitted to AMA and is in process. More discussion and details to come over the next several months.

Continuing to grow our educational outreach:

Thanks to Lynn and our educational team we developed some great programs in 2025. These classes are vital in giving young people the opportunity to experience model aviation and is proving a great source for new members! We have a busy schedule lined up for the first half of 2026 with classes in Fox Lake, Crystal Lake and McHenry County College. Reach out to Lynn Garnand for more details.

Float Fly, Club "Fun Fly" and "Hangar Sale" events:

We will continue the tradition of the "Larry DiRubbo Memorial Float Fly" events, we have a goal of holding at least 3 club "Fun Fly" events for members only. We also plan to hold our annual "Hangar Sale" over the summer. The "Hangar Sale" and the funds it adds to our treasury are especially important this year!

Thanks for all you have done and continue to do for the club. I hope to see you at the meeting on January 21st!

Larry Erbach, President

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Proficiency&Instruction

Bill Mielke

Events & Promotion

Mike Missak

Safety

Jim Steward

Education & Outreach

Lynn Garnand

Field Maintenance

Mark Glawe

From the Vice President

Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and got to spend some time with family and friends. As I write my first official newsletter note, I want to say thank you in advance.

As we start another year that will include more work than usual, I know the people in this club will step up and get it done. I've seen it over the last 5 years I've been in the club. I guess I'm looking at it as an opportunity to make the club and our new field better than ever. I'm sure there will be a learning curve with what will work and what needs to be adjusted. But again, I know we can do it.

I'm excited, nervous, and maybe a little scared to start my time as vice president. Just the technology part already has my head spinning. But I'm sure I'll get better as I go along.

So again, thank you in advance, and I look forward to a great flying season.

Ken Losch, Vice President

New Youth Member!

WELCOME to our newest youth member, Luke Stevenson!

Luke began flight training in the fall through our AMA Introductory Pilot Program and was able to log some great flight time on our club Trainers. Unfortunately the weather closed in as he was about to solo, but come spring we'll be ready to finish his training and get him flying on his own.

Please introduce yourself to Luke and his Mom Jackie if you see them at the field!

Youth Education Programs Taking Off!



We are seeing great response to our "Know Before You Fly" STEM program from local Park Districts and schools. Our January class in Fox Lake is already full and the January class in Crystal Lake is filling up quickly. Additional classes are planned in February and March in both locations. This program is also being offered as part of the McHenry County College "Kids in College Spring Break program.

This program is an excellent pathway for young people to discover Model Aviation and learn about our club!

In preparation for these classes, a "Train the Trainer" session was held in Fox Lake with 9 club members and one guest learning how to build and fly the discovery drone used in these classes. Thanks to Lynn Garnand for leading this initiative! If you would like to get involved, please reach out directly to Lynn.

Know Before You Fly is an educational campaign that provides prospective users with the information and guidance they need to fly safely and responsibly. The campaign is organized by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), and the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"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

2025 Holiday Party



Ralph Warner and Ed Pate were recognized for their donations..



Committee Chairman recognized for their work and dedication ...



2025 Holiday Party (continued)



***Thanks to the "Ground Attack Squadron
for keeping our field in great shape!....***



***Outgoing Vice President,
Mike Missak recognized for
his significant contributions
in 2025, especially for
increasing our social media
presence!***

2025 Holiday Party (continued)



"Apple Ace" medals awarded to the brave crew that faced the Von Bergen Apple Cannon!



"WING WHISPERER" award to Mike Loser for the quiet courage to maiden any aircraft at any time!



2025 Holiday Party (continued)



Bill "May-Day" Arnos recognized for the most hilarious, pannick filled hand off of 2025 with a special trophy presented by Mike Loser.

"Filament Flyer" award went to Brad Wigton for the most attempts to fly 3D printed aircraft in '25!



2025 Holiday Party (continued)



Incoming Vice President, Ken Losch presents incoming Secretary, Mark Beckman with the "Advertising Ace" award in recognition of his attention getting flights at the Von Bergen Family Fun Fly.



"Splash n' Dash" Trophy presented to Jim Neumann for his entertaining rescue work during our float fly events!



2025 Holiday Party - Special Recognition



***MOST IMPROVED PILOT
Award presented by Chief
Instuctor Ken Losch to
Benjamin Grajek.***

Your paragraph text

***"KEYSTONE AWARD"
presented to Greg Kamysz for
his dedication to doing what
ever was needed to keep our
club running over his 6 year
years as club Secretary.***



2025 Holiday Party - Special Recognition



"LEGACY OF LEARNING AWARD" presented to Lynn Garnand with assistance from youth members Andrew Durik and Charile Missak. In recognition of his development of youth education programs - inspiring the next generation of aviators, engineers and critical thinkers.

Upcoming Events!

Saturday, January 10th - 8:00 AM TO NOON

ROCK RIVER AERO MODELERS SWAP MEET

Rock County Fairgrounds - Craig Pavillion

1301 Craig Avenue - Janesville, WI

Admission \$5.00

Wednesday, January 21st - 7:00 PM

CHAIN O LAKES EAGLES MONTHLY MEETING

Rusty Nail - 4520 Ringwood Rd - Ringwood, IL

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

Treasurer's Report (Drew Durik)

- We currently have 51 members listed on our roster. Of the 51 members, 15 adult members have paid their 2026 dues, 2 youth members have paid their 2026 dues and 2 junior members (who's parent have paid their 2026 dues).
- Expenses in November = \$951.76
 - o \$544.96 was paid to The Rusty Nail for our annual holiday pizza party
 - o \$305.00 was paid to the AMA for AMA Charter Renewal and for insurance on our education/outreach programs
 - o \$85.00 was paid to the AMA for insurance on the Von Bergen field
 - o \$16.80 was paid to Google
- Income in November = \$1,025.00
 - o The full amount (\$1,025.00) was received from 2026 dues

As agreed upon in our August 2025 meeting, I will no longer be providing comprehensive 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 current members must pay their 2026 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

SECRETARY'S REPORT—Mark Beckman

The 2025 Chain O Lakes Eagles Holiday Party was held on December 17th at the Rusty Nail. The holiday party took the place of our regular monthly meeting and was attended by approximately 35 members and guests.

Members and significant others were recognized for their efforts in making 2025 a very successful year for our club.