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THE FLYING PILGRIMS NEWS

The official newsletter and minutes of The Flying Pilgrims RC Club



Field location: Flying Pilgrims Trail, Superior Twp., MI 48198
 Indoor Mtg: EAA Chapter 113, 8550 Lilley Rd., Canton, MI 48187

January 21st, 2026 Newsletters and meeting minutes.
 Next meeting is scheduled February 18th, 2026 at 7:00PM,
 And will be held at the **EAA building at Mettetal Airport.**

Call to Meeting

President's Report:

Dale opened the meeting at 7:00PM with 19 members present. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes and newsletter from November. Motion was made to accept the minutes from December, seconded, and passed with unanimous vote.

Secretary's Report:

Remember that this digital newsletter often has links to stores and to video and other websites, shown as underlined blue text. There are some in the text below in the Show and Tell section, so you may want to read this newsletter from a tablet or better yet from your laptop for a full-sized view.

Treasurer's Report:

End of the year budget showed the club with more money than anticipated. Membership was the same as the year before, but there were significant donations made by members to the club. Field maintenance spending was less than budgeted for, and so we saved in that area. There are 37 members paid up as of this meeting. That is better than normal for January. AMA documents and all paperwork have been filed already so we are off to a headstart for this year.

CD's Report:

Jack Javor mentioned that he is planning for the Fall Phase-Out Event for the second weekend of September, and there was no objection.

Field Maintenance

There were some questions about field maintenance for this year. Dale said that he plans two cuts of the inner field, primarily to remove the phragmites. Regarding the runway, the plan is to get with the sealcoat company and examine the runway in the Spring and then decide if it needs crack filling and a new coating. The junk behind the storage container is on the list for cleanup and removal. Jim Gibonney expressed his concern for the growth of trees and bushes around the fenceline. Some trees along the fenceline have grown to a height that impedes final approach when landing from the west end. Dale warned against removing any trees or shrubs outside of the fenceline, as these would be on the farmer's property and could be a liability to the club if someone started pruning outside the fenceline.

New Business

Vince Blasky expressed his desire to see the club try to attract youth members into the club with some sort of activity. The EAA representative happened to be at our meeting and mentioned in response to that about planned Young Eagles events that Mettetal Airport has that could be helpful for such activities. So Vince and the EAA rep agreed to get in contact with each other and hash out a plan to present at a future meeting.

Point of Interest

You may have noticed that the page 1 photo of the field was replaced this month by Jim Gibboney and his incredibly detailed Douglas A-20 Havoc warbird that he completed this summer. Jim told me that he has flown it at least a dozen times and that it handles wonderfully. You can read more about it by clicking this [link](#).

Meeting Adjourned

Just before the Show and Tell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27PM by Dale.



Field Safety

starts with all members' vigilance!

Be sure to read your club's rules. They are posted on the west shelter. They are also posted on the website under the Rules and By-Laws tab.



Your plane (drone) needs to be registered with FAA. Click here on the [Drone Zone](#) to update or verify your registration. Follow instructions for how to label your plane and how to obtain your FAA registration.

John Doe The Flying Pilgrims RC Club

FAA UAS no: FA1234567

AMA no. 7654321

Show and Tell

Jim Gibboney brought in his scratch-built Corsair F4U that he started this fall. This model is all built-up wood, unique wheels, Ciara gear, fiberglass cowl, plastic canopy; it will weigh about 30 pounds. The tail section is fabric covered, but the wings are sheeted. He said that he will burn in all 25,000 of the rivets for the ultimate detail, as we are used to seeing in Jim's creations! Jim said that the flaps are a nightmare getting them all to work together and is one of the issues with Corsairs.

Shown here on the left margin is the Quadra-100cc engine that he plans to power this monster with!



All the antennae are held in with magnets for easy removal for transport.

Of course, after expertly finishing the livery of this plane, Jim plans to "stress" the surface to give it that war ravaged look. We all can't wait to see the finished project.



Next up is Chris Haas with his Depron lightweight model for indoor flying. This is a 3mm Depron milled fuselage and wings that he has milled out sections of the body and wing panels to further lighten the plane for indoor flying. The machine that does the milling is available on Amazon for about \$600. You have to look closely at the plane to see the milling that was done precisely in sections on the body and wing panels. The structure is

strengthened with 1mm carbon fiber rods all throughout the structure, which gives it back the strength that was removed by the milling process. The plane is surprisingly lightweight, a must for indoor flying.



You can see here at the right the carbon fiber rods that criss-cross the structure.

This plane is for indoor pattern competition, so the lightness of the plane is necessary for the slow-scaled flight speed.

A device similar to the one Chris used is available on Amazon as shown here. Click [link](#) to see it and others like it.



Bringing up the final show and tell is Mike Clapsadle with a low cost way to protect wing panels for RC aircraft. Mike purchased furniture moving blanket material, and with his wife's sewing prowess modelled these wing bags that are much less expensive than the ready-made ones sold at premium prices. Not a bad idea if you have a sewing machine and the skill to use one!



Undaunted, the morning crew adapts to the extreme cold in their flying positions!

