



# Hawk Talk

The Voice of the Omahawks RC Club, Vol. 73, Issue 03

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**Grant Schulte**

**Club's President's Message for March 2024**

## *Hawk Talk*

### **Fellow Flyers:**

I want to take a moment to recognize a very generous contribution we received a few months ago. As many of you know, we lost a fellow Omahawks' Bud Mitchell, last year.

After he passed, Bud's impressive collection of planes, kits, radios, engines and tools went up for sale in Council Bluffs.

**A lot of us attended. Shortly thereafter, our club received a \$1,000 check from the proceeds of that sale!**

Bud's gift to us is a great reminder of his dedication to our club and the hobby. We will miss him.

If you'd like to learn more about Bud, I'd encourage you to read the story about him in the December 2023 issue of Hawk Talk.

Flying season starts soon! Now is a good time to make sure your planes, radios and other equipment are ready to go. We have a few changes coming to Training Night. A task force led by Rick and Luke came up with some good guidelines to promote a safe, fun experience for everyone. We'll also have weekly Fun Flies on evenings when the weather looks good.

We're planning a "soft launch" for both of these events in April, followed by a full ramp-up in May.

**See you soon!**

**Grant**



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

**FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION AREA**

A FRIA IS A DEFINED GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE DRONES CAN BE FLOWN WITHOUT REMOTE ID EQUIPMENT.

The Omahawks received  
notification that our  
FRIA application has been  
APPROVED!!!

## **Omahawks Business Meeting March Minutes**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00pm via Zoom

### **Club Officers:**

- President – Grant Schulte
- VP – Shaun Brothers
- Secretary - Rick Sessions
- Treasurer - Kevin Hyde

### **Board**

- Doug Sandberg (excused)
- Jim Henley
- Luke Hughes
- John Petersen
- Dan Fitzgerald
- Jim Boomsma

## Hawk Talk

### Field Chairman

Cole Meyo

### Safety Officer

Jim Boomsma

### Guests: Hague Howey

### Officer/Chairman/Editor Reports:

Treasurer Report: (Kevin)

Membership Count: 142 (62 from last year not renewed yet)

Newsletter Report: Editors - Joe/Grant, Safety - Jim Boomsma, Training 'Sessions' - Rick Sessions, 'Julian's Journal', 'Kevin's Corner'

### Old Business:

### Field Improvements:

Spring clean up moved to Saturday, 4/13 @9am, due to cold weather.

### Marketing ideas:

Very impressive displays at HobbyTown! Great job Luke!

FRIA Status –APPROVED!!

**Training Night:** Rick/Luke to finalize for 2024. Thanks to all with input and suggestions. We had our training night "kick off " meeting on 3/12/24 @ Oakview. We will have a "dry run" month in April to roll out new enhancements to training night.

It will include 2 simulator systems with smaller screens to operate in the pavilion. (Dan F. has a display screen if needed.)

The food truck is scheduled for the 5/15 training night.

### **Fun Fly Day (each week):**

We'll probably start in April, weather permitting. Grant is the point person and will post, by Sunday, the best flying day each week. Maybe have events featuring certain types of planes? Jets in higher wind, etc.

AMA field improvement grant submitted by Grant!

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**New Key exchange update:** going very well thanks to Kevin, Luke, Doug and Cole. Build event at Oakview: (Jim H.) Going well, making good progress on biplane. Will continue projects through April, every Thursday afternoon from 3-5pm @ Oakview.

Hague is starting a Girls and Boys Club and Girls Inc aviation training. Will include a couple training events at Hawk field on 7/9 and 7/10.

**Joe Nall 2024:** Connect with Grant if interested. The event is from 5/10 to 5/17 in South Carolina. Here is a link with details: <https://tta.aero/jn/>

### New Business:

Alignment of Board to 2024 initiatives: If you want to help out on an event, let a board member know!

Safety Manager: Jim is planning to hold another safety briefing with AED and tourniquet instruction at the March 29th member meeting.

**T-Shirts, Polos & Jackets:** Luke/Kevin - Luke shopping best materials/pricing. Kevin - Has Carhartt embossed jackets done.

**Other:** **Google drive** use for 2024 Events. Check the website under "Google Calendar".

Develop a **standard email** to guide new members through the sign up of 1) FAA 2) AMA and 3) Omahawks

**Adding a regular fun fly evening every week**, weather and wind dependent. (Announced on Sunday for coming week by Grant.)

Develop an expert contact list for: 1) Foamies 2) Spektrum 3) Foam repair 4) Electronics 5) Jets 6) Junior learners 7) Web site log in 8) others? (**Publish in News Letter.**)

Norris built two more tall airplane holders. Thanks Norris!

### Upcoming Events:

**March 28<sup>th</sup>: Elkhorn Valley STEM Day (Hague)**

## *Hawk Talk*

**March 29th, Member Meeting @ Oakview, 7pm (raffle prizes!)**

**2024 Events:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ScbmPNWmpu7Qhln45Oxz0a3We2D8pXn\\_DUau\\_fEQKQk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ScbmPNWmpu7Qhln45Oxz0a3We2D8pXn_DUau_fEQKQk/edit)

**Meeting Adjourned:** 08:06 --Motion by: Grant      Seconded by: Jim H.

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**2024 Committees & focus ( Grant or Luke can share a more detailed listing)**

**Objective: engage more members in their area of expertise/interest!**

### **Technical**

- Website & Photos
- Field cam

### **Hawk Field Maintenance and Improvement**

- General maintenance & upkeep
- Improvement projects, funding & execution
- Parks & Rec communication

### **Marketing**

- Social media - Club & cross posts w/AMA & Other partners
- Newsletter - Content & Publication
- Partner relations - AMA, StemAHA, EAA
- Club attire, publications, signage, etc.
- Outside event planning (Elementary, Champions, StemAHA, other)

### **Safety**

- First aid, AED, other supplies upkeep
- Training on basic first aid
- Field signage

## **Omahawks Member Meeting March 2024 Minutes**

March 29, 2024, 7:00pm @ Oakview  
Snacks, Fun, Fellowship, Learning



### Members at Meeting in March

**FRIA Approval**: We received word on March 11 that the **FAA has approved us a FRIA site**. That means you don't need a Remote ID device to fly at Hawk Field! We don't know why the FAA suddenly approved us after two denials, but we're thrilled. It's a common-sense decision given our history and track record of safety.

**Keys**: The old gate lock is coming off on **Sunday, March 31**, as we finalize the process of replacing gate keys. The new lock will require 2024 keys for access, and to get that key, you'll need a current Omahawks/AMA membership. Thanks to all who helped distribute keys to members. **Please make sure your membership is current!** If you have not received a key yet, you'll need to contact an officer and coordinate getting one.

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**Training Nights:** First training night is scheduled for this **Thursday, April 4**. Weather looks good. Planning a soft launch, so no formal public announcement, but we're confident some people will show up. **Make sure your planes and radios are all ready to go!**

**We still need Training Night volunteers, please talk to Rick Sessions if you're interested.** This year, we'll have armbands to help identify pilots, spotters etc., and roped-off areas to keep the general public out of the member-only areas. Escorted visitors are still OK, just stay with them and don't let people run wild.

We'll also have assigned time slots for trainers, jets, etc. Training flights will be in groups of three: instructor, trainee, spotter. We're also made improvements in how we track/measure student progress, from first flight to solo.

We'll have the **402 BBQ Food Truck at the field on May 2...** bring your appetite!

**Fun Fly Nights:** We're planning a separate flight night each week where pilots can fly just for fun. Weather is not looking great this week... best opportunity is on Friday.

**Build Event Pause:** Jim Henley says the club will temporarily suspend the next two afternoon build sessions at Oakview (**April 4 and April 11**) due to other obligations. They plan to resume them on **April 18** and will continue until the projects are either finished or they've reached a convenient stopping point that they can resume next season. If you have further questions, contact Jim directly.

**Seeking Volunteers:** Chuck Hull says the local free-flight society needs 1-2 volunteers to help with an indoor flying event to teach a group from Girls, Inc., about aviation. The event is **April 27 in the gymnasium at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Millard** (13271 Millard Avenue, Omaha). The Omahawks have worked with Girls, Inc., before, and they're a good group. Chuck says the biggest challenge is getting the planes trimmed properly to fly. Contact Chuck for more details.

**Field Maintenance:** Annual Cleanup Day is **Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to noon**. Bring rakes, leaf blowers. We'll want to clear leaves, clear the runway, make sure the runup stands are all in good shape. Grant will send a reminder email with more details. We'll provide coffee. At some point, likely later, we'll do some other maintenance projects.

**Jim Boomsma Safety Demo:** Jim showed everyone how to properly apply a tourniquet to stop major bleeding and how to use to the AED he has installed in the



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shed (for anyone who collapses and stops breathing). A lot of great, useful information. Contact Jim if you have any questions.

### Upcoming Events:

**FIRST TRAINING NIGHT: THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 6 P.M. TO DUSK, @ HAWK FIELD**

**SECOND TRAINING NIGHT: THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 6 P.M. TO DUSK, HAWK FIELD**

**FIELD CLEANUP DAY: SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 9 A.M. TO NOON, HAWK FIELD**

**BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 7 P.M., VIA ZOOM**



**Pictures provided by Rick S**

**SHOW AND TELL**

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**Grant** revealed the evening's raffle prizes: a HobbyTown gift card, an assortment of CA glues and a small, toy-grade helicopter from Walmart. He says the helicopter is a lot of fun and good for chasing cats. He also demonstrated how well his own model flies and tried to catch it in his mouth, without much success.

**Jim H.** showed off a wing that is undergoing repairs. It was in pretty rough shape when he received it, and he has had to remake a lot of the internal structure. Most of the sheeting is back on the top now, and the project is progressing nicely. Luke wanted to confirm (just to be absolutely clear) that it was John P. who crashed it. Jim shrugged and replied, "I just fix 'em."

**Rick S.** told members that a Sig Rascal with a 110-inch wing span is available for sale. Bob Johnson's wife, Mary, donated it to the club, after Bob passed away in February. The plane is in terrific shape, and appears to be an ARF. It's a very docile flyer, with an O.S. Max 120 four-stroke engine and a blue and white color scheme. Rick says he may bring it out to Training Nights, and encouraged members to make an offer if they're interested. Other planes are also available (for very reasonable prices) in the back room at Oakview.

**Jim B.** let members try his son's virtual reality headset, connected to a RealFlight simulator. The experience is amazing, and very immersive. Imagine the traditional RealFlight experience on a screen, but you can look all around just by moving your head.

**Dean C.** says John Thompson is about to go into hospice care and has more than 20 electric planes that will go to the club, for later sale. Dean is going to pick them up this week. We're very sorry to hear about John.

**Greg Bumpus** donated an extra item to the raffle: a very cool, Omahawks-branded tumbler mug that he made himself! Greg borrowed the logo from our website. Thank you, Greg! Based on reactions at the meeting, you might have to make some more!

## RAFFLE

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**Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 p.m. Motion by: Grant S. Seconded by: Shaun**

**B.**

### **Field Projects:**

- 1. Water run off issues.**
- 2. Split-rail fence.**
- 3. Shingles on peak of pavilion and old shed.**

### **Volunteer Areas:**

- 1. 2024 Events: leaders and helpers**
- 2. Training night: Pilots, Spotters, Simulator operator, mechanics, electronic specialists (contact Rick S.)**

## **Featured Articles**

### **Omahawks RC Club Jackets for sale**

**I have been approached by many members wanting to purchase an Omahawks Jacket with the logo on the back.**

**Well, It's time! I've been working with Omaha Print Shop in Elkhorn to get some made. I have selected a medium weight Carhart jacket. The cost will be \$200 for the jacket with the Omahawks emblem on the back as shown below. There is also an option to add your name to the front right for \$10 and/or Omahawks emblem on the front left for an additional \$15.**

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I have sample jackets in Large, X Large and XX Large. Other sizes are available, but I don't have samples. If you want to try one on or just check out the jacket, I'll have them at the November Members meeting.

If you want one let me know and I'll add you to the order. All orders must be paid for before the order goes to the print shop. I can accept cash, check, credit card, Venmo or PayPal. Let me know at the time of order how you want to pay, and we can make it happen.

I plan to place the order in December so don't wait too long.

Kevin Hyde



## Julian's Junior Journal – March 2024

### Prepping your Aircraft for a New Flying Season

#### Introduction

Flying season is back - and there are few things I enjoy more than getting out aircraft that I haven't flown for a while! Of course, because these aircraft haven't been flown for a while, it's important to check them over, making sure your airplane will (hopefully!) land in one piece. And yeah, that's right...time for an annual UAV inspection! In light of quickly progressing government FRIA policies, I'll also include a convenient list of things to know if you haven't been following the new requirements - and what you can do next.

#### Inspecting your Aircraft

Hopefully, you have a checklist to look over your aircraft before each flight, and if not, I highly recommend it for larger aircraft. It's a good way to make sure your aircraft is ready to fly, especially if you are new.



The inspection I'm going to be covering in this article is different. It's a thorough inspection of your aircraft for possible failures. In general, larger aircraft are more prone to failure and require in-depth inspections, while UMX (Ultra Micro eXtreme) planes don't really need a checklist at all. So, to compromise, I've created a general checklist for all - but feel free

to add or remove items for your own. Left - simulator practice is one of the best ways to warm up for the flying season.

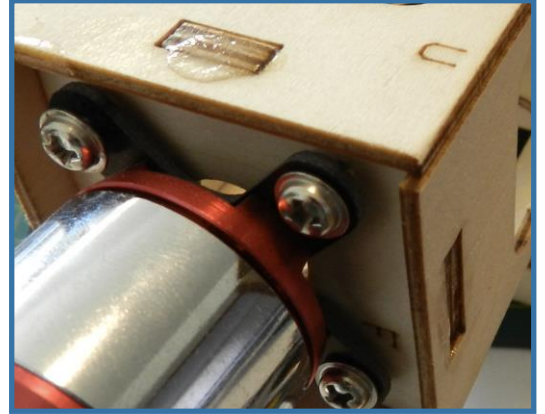


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### Airframe

The airframe is one of the most important parts to go over, especially on balsa/plywood aircraft,



which can have cracks. It's a great idea to check over any parts that may receive stress, like the elevator, and carefully bend it slightly to see if it is well connected, including linkages. You can shine a flashlight through aircraft that are covered, so you can see through to the frame and look for cracks.

It's also important to inspect hinges or tape that holds on control surfaces. I like to keep tape fresh every several years. Also check areas near screws for possible splitting, and make sure that covering and connections are still glued! Finally, it's a good idea to check for smooth movement between control surfaces, wheels, and a good propeller clearance. Right - Carefully check connections that may have loose parts or lots of stress!

### The Propeller, Motor, and Shaft

The propeller shaft and the propeller are surprisingly important to how an aircraft functions. Two years ago, I damaged the shaft on my P-51D Mustang, and even though the damage was invisible, while running the motor I could see the shaft was slightly bent! (Left - Taking off the propeller to align the shaft and cowl). Many companies will sell another replacement shaft or motor that can be found under "replacement parts." This is important to replace as soon as possible, and while nearly all of my UMX airplanes have bent slightly from grass landings, it's not really a big deal for smaller airplanes!

For most smaller airplanes, the propeller is usually glued to the nose cone, especially on most BNFs and RTFs. However, for larger aircraft it's important to check the propeller for balance - if it's not well balanced it can place the same strain

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on the motor as a bad shaft. Propeller balancers can be found on sites like Hobby Town and Horizon Hobby and are very useful for higher performance aircraft. Make sure motors are also well connected, ventilated, and none of the pins are likely to disconnect as well as all other wire connections on the aircraft.

For gas/nitro/jet users, chances are you have enough experience that you know how to maintain your engines. If not, you can always ask another experienced member!

### Electronics

Servos with glue covering them will create major problems during a flight, and I've seen several aircraft with this problem! Servos can randomly freeze up during flights...this is a very common cause. (Next common in my experience are bad control surfaces.) Check ALL connections and make sure all are *very* well secured! Make sure that telemetry or AM/FM antennae are also straightened out, and it's a great idea to bundle up cords to keep the interior organized.



Computer transmitters (ones with screens) may have updates, and these can be important for safety. It's a good idea to check in to see if there's anything new.

And, finally, batteries. Many people including me - up to a few years ago - don't realize that it's bad to keep a battery fully charged more than about 24-48 hours, as well as keeping it at low voltage. Using a charger that can put a battery in storage mode will save a battery, and most likely a good bit of your wallet as well!

Storage mode, about 32%, is the ideal point to store your battery at. Both this and a battery checker will make your batteries last much longer. Links to some of these are at the end of the article if you are interested in purchasing one.

Last but certainly not least, swollen/puffed batteries mean that your battery is most likely damaged (a very small amount is normal over use)



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and should no longer be used, especially if it gets hot or a charger gives an error message while charging. Top Right - Airplanes with internal moving parts should be checked for any obstructions, like an EDF Jet. Left - Checking gear boxes on a helicopter.

### Omahawks this Month

***-Omahawks was approved as a FRIA site on March 11!***

So...what does this mean?

For aircraft over 250 grams a remote ID is still required when not at a FRIA site, as well as up to date FAA DroneZone information for all aircraft. (Link at end) Remote ID will not be required for flying at Hawk Field!

-The board wanted to remind everyone that guests should not leave after a member has left and continue flying and also that the guest should only fly with another member.

-Trainer Night concepts will be tested in April as it starts up

-Weekly Fun Fly Night is being considered, with different aircraft flown every week in addition to Trainer Night!

### Conclusion

I hope you've learned something new this article, and at least gotten a few ideas to prepare for the new flying season. Next article I'll take a break from the technical articles and get into some flying!

See you at the Field!

Julian Wrubel



## *Hawk Talk*

Questions, comments, or something you'd like me to write about?

Contact me at:

[snowmanroof@gmail.com](mailto:snowmanroof@gmail.com)

Mentioned Links:

Tenergy Multifunctional Balance Charger

Battery Checker

DroneZone

### **Notice to all Omahawks Members!**

The Omahawks Field Gate lock will be replaced during the 2024-member season.

**On January 1 a new lock will be installed**, interlocked with the current/old lock. Both old and new keys will be able to open the gate. Please re-lock the lock to prevent it from being removed without a key. On March 31 the old lock will be removed and only those members with a new key will be able to open the gate.

A new 2024 key will be available to all current 2024 members in trade with the old key. New keys will be available at all club functions, including the first to fly on January 1 (bring your old key to get a new one). Old keys will be re-cut to fit the new lock and assigned to another member. We will also be able to take your membership renewal by check or credit card on January 1.

If you have questions or need a new key contact Cole Mayo or a club officer.

Kevin Hyde

## 2024 Build Sessions

Below is a message from Jim Henley about some build sessions he's planning early next year at Oakview. A great opportunity if you're looking to learn more about building/repair work or you just need a hand with a project. Details below. When Jim says they'll have some of the best builders in the club on hand, he isn't kidding -- he's one of them!

We will have a Thursday build session beginning at the Oakview location on **January 11, 2024 running until the start of training season**. We are looking for membership input on the time we should schedule since some are not comfortable driving at night and the mall closes at 7:00 PM. An afternoon schedule is certainly workable.

We will have a couple of club trainers that we will be working on, however if you have a project, you need assistance feel free to bring it in, we will have some of the best builders in the club on hand.

Please contact Jim Henley [jhandmehenley@cox.net](mailto:jhandmehenley@cox.net) with your input.

## Upcoming Events

**\*\* Breakfast get-together every Tuesday Morning @ Hy-Vee, 10808 Fort St, Omaha**

**Every Thursday --10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Indoor Flying @ Community of Christ Church GYM, 140 Kanessville Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503.**

For further information email Kevin: [ulavenger@yahoo.com](mailto:ulavenger@yahoo.com) **Cost for the session is \$5.00 includes Coffee and a Donut.**

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Come fly your small helicopters, fixed wing UMX planes or small drones, or **drive you're RC Car/ Truck** in the gym with us where the weather is **always perfect** every Thursday!

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- Omahawks Member Training, 6:00 PM till Dusk Thursday, April 11th, @ Hawk Field, Omaha, NE 68164, USA ([map](#))
- Omahawks Field Cleanup Day (weather dependent), Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM till 12:00 PM @ Hawk Field, Omaha, NE 68164, USA ([map](#))
- Omahawks Board Meeting, 7:00 PM till 8:00 PM Tuesday, April 16th, @ Zoom Call
- Omahawks Member Training, 6:00 PM till Dusk Thursday, April 18th, @ Hawk Field, Omaha, NE 68164, USA ([map](#))
- Omahawks Member Training, 6:00 PM till Dusk Thursday, April 25th, @ Hawk Field, Omaha, NE 68164, USA ([map](#))
- Omahawks Member Meeting, 7 PM Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, @ Oakview Mall, meeting runs 7 PM to 9 PM.

For a complete list of all the Omaha Metro Area upcoming events please follow this link: [http://www.metrorcflying.com/metro\\_schedule.htm](http://www.metrorcflying.com/metro_schedule.htm)

## 2024 Calendar of STEM Aviation Events

You will note that we broadened our base a bit to include some Aeronautical and Space areas in an attempt to capture more youth interest in the field of STEM Aviation. Shortages are critical and we must give youth a wider vision. NASA's Artimis, and Space-X are in the news at least several times a week. Here is a calendar that you can share in your newsletter and we will soon have it on our website set up so you can add, delete, change events that will post to our website thus be more current than the static calendar that we currently have. We will be testing this and seeing if we can get it to work.

Here is our calendar: [STEM Aviation Events Calendar.xlsx](#)