



## Table of Contents

VP's Report:	2
Why Poplar Ford is Wet	
Field Pictures	3
West Potomac	5
Indoor Flying	
News and Events	6

[Want to see more here?](#)

[Send your newsletter contributions to carllydick@hotmail.com.](#)

NVRC is one of the largest radio control clubs in Virginia with over 200 members. Our primary flying field is located at Poplar Ford Park and we expect to have a new Lorton site in 2016. The club includes pilots in all areas of radio-controlled flight: Sport, Giant Scale, Electric, Sailplane, Aerobatics, Combat, and MultiRotor. NVRC has members with decades of expertise to share in many types of flying and building. Whether you're a beginner or someone looking for advanced techniques there are volunteer instructors to provide assistance. Don't be timid! Just ask for help!

In existence for over 50 years, NVRC is proud to be a club where everyone is welcome!

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# VP's REPORT: Why Poplar Ford is Wet

By John Roach

As the recent snowfall melted, our flying field at Poplar Ford became a muddy morass that grabbed the wheels of any fixed wing model attempting to take off or land. The problem is especially bad this year. Waterproof boots allow you to walk around, but each foot step stamps a deep foot print in the muck. Vehicles parking near the pits may get stuck. A lowboy delivering a bush hog to our parking lot on 22 February mired deeply in the mud as it turned around in the lot. Its driver said that he barely got it free. I installed a new flight pattern sign on the pit fence that day, and noticed that even the paving stones of the flying stations were unsteady under my feet.



*New Flight Pattern Sign Installed*

We all know that our flying field drains slowly, but the County uses a soil name to describe the underlying cause of poor drainage at Poplar Ford. They say it has *"dibasic soil underlain by dense plastic clay."* It is commonly referred to as "shrink swell soil." In wet periods, water ponds instead of sinking into the ground. Water evaporates quickly from the soil when the weather is dry. The fluctuations in soil moisture result in stunted, open-canopy trees that allow a wide variety of grasses and plants to grow beneath them. This type of land has mostly disappeared within the SFRA due to development. Fairfax County is making a determined effort to conserve Poplar Ford the way it is for future generations. They want to eliminate invasive plants but otherwise leave the park to continue to evolve naturally. This limits what we can change about our field, but the prospect of watching model aviation evolve with the park is an inviting thought.





# VP's REPORT: Why Poplar Ford is Wet

Pictures taken 2/28/2016







# VP's REPORT: Why Poplar Ford is Wet

Pictures taken 2/28/2016







# West Potomac Indoor Flying

By John Roach

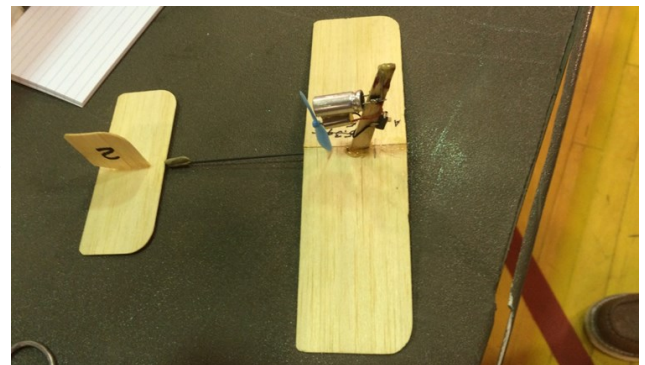
The West Potomac High School Engineering Club raises money for its competitive engineering team by holding fun flys. The gym is split between RC and free flight flyers with another gym available for multi-rotor flyers. Their 7 February fun fly was well attended by pilots and builders eager to test their skills with their latest creations. The RC side of the gym was in constant movement with all manner of indoor RC aircraft. There was a ducted fan canard prototype whose owner said he got to keep it after evaluating it.



It was outnumbered by the fleet of small WWI biplanes on the next table.



Eye candy on the free flight side of the gym included capacitor-powered models that showcased the ingenuity of their builders. There were also a number of well-built stick and tissue rubber-powered models capable of extended indoor free flights.



The engineering students were right in there flying their student projects along with public flyers. It was clear that they enjoyed applying what they had learned in class.



Joe Franco, an NVRC member, is the Educational Engineer behind the West Potomac Technology and Engineering Education program. He likes to say that their program supplies the T and E in STEM. Students have opportunities to work with 3D printers, laser cutters, CAD systems and more. His group puts on great events that reach out to the public in ways that attract both young and old to the world of flight.



# News and Events:

By John Roach, Carl Lydick

## Field Conditions

As noted by John in the "Why Is Poplar Ford Wet" article, conditions at the field are less than ideal at the moment. We're all thrilled to have our field back but, until things dry out, please use caution and common sense. As of today (2/24/2016) the field is too wet to support takeoffs and landings and parking (and even walking) can be treacherous. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that things dry out soon!

## Pending Awards for New Club Pilots

The recent FAA shutdown of our flying fields from October thru February interrupted many of our regular activities such as the Chicken Fly, collection of Toys for Tots and the Snow Fly. It also stymied our efforts to award gift cards to 3 members who qualified as Club Pilots. They are **Roger Coffman**, **Jessica Shrewsbury**, and **Rick Perri**. They successfully passed the NVRC Qualification Flight Check in the presence of 2 qualified Club Pilots. If you are one of these people, please step forward to receive a Hobby Hanger gift card, a framed certificate and Club Pilot's bands to mark your transmitters.

## Updated Indoor Flying Dates

We have updated dates for indoor flying at Westfield High School (4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151). Flying starts at 8:00 AM and runs until at least 10:00 AM. There is a \$5 donation for pilots and spectators are free. The dates are listed below but **please check the NVRC calendar and emails in case of cancellations or rescheduling.**

- Sunday, February 28th
- Sunday, March 13th
- Sunday, March 27th
- Sunday, April 10th
- Sunday April 24th

## New Webmaster and Newsletter Editor

Hello NVRC members! I'm looking forward to helping out with the website and newsletter , but I'll be looking for **YOUR** help. The newsletter and website will only be as good as the content our members share. If you attend an event or have news you'd like to share with the club grab some pictures, write up a summary, and send them my way at [carllydick@hotmail.com](mailto:carllydick@hotmail.com). Putting NVRC in the subject line will help make sure I see it. I'll make sure it gets included in the newsletter, and in the near future hopefully on a "Current News and Events" section of the website.