

Aero Club Board Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026

Attendees:

Steve Andersom
Colin Doyle
Gary Engler
Bryan Pearson

Mark Schwichtenberg
Gjertine Snow
Patricia Thiedek (via Zoom)
Reuben Wagenius

*Meeting called to order at 5:04 PM.
(Reuben leads the meeting in Wade's absence.)*

Minutes: Attendees approve the minutes from the February 17th meeting.

Board Election Discussion: Steve relays a phone conversation in which Wade noted an omission to the bylaws. The current bylaws stipulate that nominations for board member elections are to begin at the March meeting and continue into the April meeting, but do not specify the time the election shall take place.

Gary emphasizes the importance of nominees' willingness to volunteer their time, so their service to the club is not perceived as an unwanted burden.

Steve makes a motion to add language to the bylaws specifying board member elections take place in May, with nominations being open for at least one month preceding the election. Bryan seconds and the motion passes. Colin is tasked with revising the bylaws to reflect this change.

Budget and Revenue: Reuben summarizes the club's finances over the previous three months:

January: After paying the annual hangar insurance and lease, we were operating at a budget surplus of \$6,000. When queried by Gary, Reuben confirms that paying our hangar insurance bill annually has a positive effect on lowering our premium cost, in contrast with the higher rate charged if paying monthly.

February: The club ended the month with a \$3,000 surplus.

March: At time of meeting, the club was operating with a deficit of \$5,000 for the month of March. Reuben attributes this to maintenance bills for work performed the previous month.

Once again, discussion turns to increasing club revenue by recruiting new members and encouraging inactive members to resume flying club aircraft. Steve discusses recruitment and the ways we can grow club membership by making eligible members aware of our existence. Gary suggests we try harder to reach out to EAA chapter 551 members; Steve suggests asking

Ryan Rask to add a blurb about our club to the EAA chapter's newsletter. Gary suggests creating a regular Aero Club-sponsored presentation at EAA 551 meetings (e.g. "The Aero Club Minute.") Gjertine reiterates her commitment to use the upcoming air show as an outreach opportunity.

Gary summarizes some of the fees assessed by the airport authority's T hangar rental program, including an application fee and a deposit to hold a spot on their waiting list. Gary suggests we consider implementing a similar fee structure if the Aero Club hangar reaches full occupancy and merits a waiting list of its own.

Additionally, Gary requests clarification of rental terms for hangar tenants, suggests implementing an automatic payment protocol to prevent delinquent payments. Reuben acknowledges late payments have been an issue with one tenant in the past.

Maintenance Update: Bryan confirms the GPS in N3517V is due for a database update. He offers to personally purchase the update (approximately \$300) and utilize the airplane enough to offset his cost. Gary inquires about the various types of GPS databases and whether we need to upgrade beyond the basic database subscription. Steve explains the tiered structure of the database updates, wherein users may opt in and purchase additional database features such as terrain, obstacles, and airport information. Board members agree to forego the premium add-ons annually, instead updating them biannually. Bryan estimates the cost to be \$500-600.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will take place April 21st at 5:00 PM. Elections will take place May 19th.

Meeting adjourns at 5:45 PM.