



Fort Wayne ENGINEERS' Club

Engineers' News

September 2025

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www.FortWayneEngineersClub.org

September Tour

J Edward Roush Dam



When: Thursday September 18th @ 2:30 p.m.

Where: 735 North Warren Road, Huntington IN 46750

Details: Good footwear is recommended. Ability to walk reasonable distances and the use of stairs is expected. Tour will be indoor and outdoor so dress appropriately. Anyone attending needs to email info@FortWayneEngineersClub.org in order for the club to get an appropriate head count.

<https://visithuntington.org/directory/j-edward-roush-dam>

Friday 9/12

100-Year Celebration



<https://fwairport.com/smd100>

Young Eagles



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 2 free flight experience for ages 8-17
scheduled 2025 for:

September 13 - Smith Field Airport
September 20 - Kendallville Municipal Airport

https://www.eaa2.org/young_eagles.php

May Tour Summary





Since Parkview Field opened in 2009, the facility and organization have undergone continuous experimentation, refurbishment, and improvement. Nothing looks or feels worn even where the sun never shines. MLB (Major League Baseball; mlb.com) enhanced their continuous improvement process during the pandemic by imposing standardization across much of its operations and affiliates. Among other goals, players should expect much the same conditions at all locations, experience less stress, and maintain performance throughout grueling game schedules. (Ed.: Fans on our tour indicated goals also included sustaining an awesome "customer experience", reducing home field advantage, and limiting antics against visiting teams.)

A standard field usually has an underlying foundation of pure sand from a local source. Some locations might use sand mixed with small amounts of other soil type(s) to allow more consistent turf in order to offset environmental factors. The pure sand in Parkview Field's storage bin has a range of particle sizes with jagged edges, which should pack into a firm substrate.

Nationwide, the "play area" (which includes the bases and does not have grass) is a specific clay soil from Pennsylvania. It packs into a hard surface and provides predictable footing for minimizing injuries. This clay is the factor that causes rain delays or cancellations, and possible skin abrasions or bruises if players slide into bases. Most high schools and colleges construct their play area with "chalk" which forms a softer surface.

Playing and practice mounds are built up with clay bricks molded from wood prototypes, then overlaid with the clay soil from Pennsylvania. Bases are held in place by hollow posts under each base which slip onto posts positioned in the ground. Experiments are tried out at minor league fields, such as different sizes or constructions of bases to reduce injuries from conflicts between opposing players. A relatively small proportion of the experiments make it into major league games. There was also discussion of how changes in baseball stitching affect players and the game.

Nationwide, the turf is a specific bluegrass sod shipped from Wisconsin. Parkview Field cuts it 15/16" high for games and general maintenance, but some locations use a slightly taller cutting height. Short grass provides predictable footing and maintenance by encouraging extensive root, stolon, and rhizome growth in the underlying sand. Perpetual watering and fertilization is required. There are many cycles of "tarps" being deployed, removed, dried, and stowed. The maintenance equipment requires experienced maintenance during would be slow moments. The

maintenance staff has its own locker room adjacent to the equipment and storage spaces. This is much more than a job for them.

Plant growth regulators ("PGRs") are sprayed to encourage slower growth, squatter stance, and broader/thicker leaves. Our host said they are extremely expensive. (Ed.: Several corporations spent huge sums during the energy and tax crises of 1973-1986 developing PGRs for radically reducing interstate and highway mowing costs, also reduce vehicle mayhem caused by wildlife proliferating in neglected medians. None worked out for widespread use.)

High quality reel-type mowers provide a uniform cutting height and quality. These type of blades cut with less shear along the length of the grass blade, causing less blade damage to host diseases or impede healing. Reels traditionally work only for relatively small changes in grass height.

The grass part of the field is spike aerated several times per season to offset compaction from games. Specific spots are spiked by hand after almost every game, such as the short stop positions.

Core aeration is done each Spring and Fall down to a 3" depth, in part to control thatch. The cores were raked by hand until a field vacuum was recently purchased, but is not an immediate panacea. The waste (former cores) is hauled off by an outside landscape contractor for unknown purposes.

The turf maintenance proved adequate for a season of 162 baseball games, plus special events. This was the first year for essentially a festival of Christmas light displays. It was highly successful both publicly and how well the field surfaces held up.

Nationwide, the field is encircled by a "warm up" and maintenance track. It is composed of a material from New Mexico which resembles crushed volcanic cinders.

Cement walls around the outfield are covered with 2" foam mats enclosed in vinyl. Logos of commercial sponsors are printed on the vinyl. The vinyl deteriorates from sun exposure and/or warm-up exercises such as repeatedly bouncing a sand-filled ball against it. An easily replaced second mat may be hung over the first to absorb the wear and tear.

MLB now requires essentially similar "clubhouses" for the visiting and home teams. Clubhouses incorporate a combination locker room and lounge, a separate kitchen and lounge, laundry facility, workout area, and medical/trainer area. Flooring undergoes ongoing upgrades, as does footwear. There seemed to be considerable staff to keep things clean and properly stocked, even kitchen supplies according to players' preferences and/or what is available locally (usually in bulk). Some staff visit future game locations substantially ahead of time to maximize everything for their team's performance and endurance, both on and off field.

Each team has a large investment in physical and mental support personnel and trainers to help each individual throughout the organization improve their performance. The purpose of minor leagues is for each individual to either constantly improve (for advancement into major league

play) or else deal with a career change. Both support and pressure seemed to be ever present across the facility. There are even employees to arrange snacks, rental cars, or other details so everyone can focus on their assigned tasks. Mention was made of investments in monitors for tweaking subtle changes in players' movement or angles.

During any off-season or slow periods, nearly every painted surface is redone throughout the facility, among other maintenance. There can be as many as fifteen coats of paint on some surfaces since Parkview was built in 2008-2009. On the other hand, a regular schedule of renovations also cycles through the facility. This includes kitchens, “boxes” leased by companies and other interests, meeting or reception rooms, public and private facilities, and an overall system intended for widespread public purposes. The commitment to keeping it “new” was obvious and impressive, intentionally different than many other Fields according to our host (himself one of the permanent working staff). We watched but did not interact with staff for catering, events, and other facets which help keep Parkview Field vibrant and relevant seemingly year round. Much was said about staff being in contact with effective management, planning, and leadership.

Sincere THANK YOU to our immediate host and the many at Parkview Field that make it all possible. This was much more than most of us expected.

FWEC Communications Coordinator Opening

FWEC has created a role of Communications Coordinator to be paid \$500/year. This would be to check the Club's e-mail once a week, assemble the newsletter 8-9 months per year using items provided by other people, and change the website to be current with the newsletter. No experience necessary. We have quickly trained each other as needed over the years, and the abilities could be useful for other associations or purposes. Please contact Ryan Stark at info@FortWayneEngineersClub.org.

Items of Note

FWEC member Rod Vargo is Chair of the 30 year-old and all-volunteer [Utility Advisory Group](#), which formally advises Fort Wayne City Utilities and often City Council. Your comments are welcome at rodvargo@comcast.net

General Club Info

Fort Wayne Engineers Club dues are \$0. Donations are welcome but strictly voluntary. In recent years, club funds have helped support Discover-E, the Regional Science and Engineering Fair,

annual bridge building contests in schools, academic awards, networking events, mentoring, our website, and facilitating free tours.

Please see FortWayneEngineersClub.org for updates on current Club activities, other news, and past newsletters.

Those participating in activities or hosting tours through FWEC do so strictly at their own risk, including disease exposures. Participation in club events is voluntary, free, nonprofit, and solely for the benefit of participants and the community at large. Anyone with an interest may participate unless restrictions are specified for specific events, such as minimum age or minimum safety attire.

FWEC Roster for FY2024-2025

President: Nathaniel Wisel

Vice President: Mindy Robinson

Secretary: Rod Vargo

Treasurer: John Magsam

First-year Board Members: Marna Renteria, Mike Magsam

Second-year Board Member: Dave Gordon, Bert Spellman

Third-year Board Member: Ryan Stark, *Open*

Editor of Engineer News: Nathaniel Wisel

Membership and Contact Chair: *Open*

Northeast Indiana DiscoverE Chair: *Open*

Open to Employment (technical background)

When my schedule has permitted, I've attended the invaluable tours The Fort Wayne Engineers' Club has coordinated and have found them very beneficial, learning more about the product and services capabilities of local companies and getting acquainted with others.

I am currently unemployed (due to a recent workforce reduction at Auburn Gear), and have an extensive background which includes business development, quality, and sales in the manufacturing and construction industries.

I can provide a current resume for anyone interested. Please email me at greg.milentis@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Greg Milentis
260-797-7582

T-E Incorporated Introduction

My name is Tailur Szarenski and I represent T-E Incorporated – we are a Fort Wayne local civil engineering design/build firm.

We have been looking for ways to engage with Fort Wayne engineers that are both students and possibly even graduated and in the professional space regarding opportunities we have within our company.

Ideally, we are looking to add to our team on a full-time basis.

Anyone interested in seeking full time positions and internships please let me know as I am eager to connect.

Tailur Szarenski

Email: tszarenski@t-einc.com

Job Posting and Resumes Listed

The club accepts both job openings from around the area, as well as resumes from those seeking employment. Please submit these to the following email address:

Info@FortWayneEngineersClub.org

Interested in Hosting a Tour?

Contact us today!

Host a Tour

Advertise in the Engineers' News

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