

AV8R



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NEWSLETTER OF THE TRI-VALLEY RC MODELERS

SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS OF FLIGHT

1965 – 2026

AMA GOLD LEADER CLUB

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1, APRIL 2026

MINUTES OF THE MEETING: APRIL 2026

6:00 p.m., members gather at Quail Meadows Clubhouse in Santa Maria. Many thanks to Jim McKean for the venue and to Jim Corcoran for bringing plenty of pizza to get things started.

6:27 p.m., President Mark Carlson calls meeting to order with 14 members in attendance.

The San Antonio Float Fly campout beginning on March 14 was a huge success. The weather was perfect; the water was like glass. Everyone there headed to the water's edge, taxied out and had a great time flying. The next San Antonio float fly will begin on April 10. Don't miss it!

Unfortunately, the Lake Casitas Float Fly has been cancelled due to "lake policy" of a 30-day quarantine of planes' floats and rescue boats over concerns of the quagga mussel.

The Santa Maria Elks Rodeo Grounds Giant Scale event is taking shape in the planning stages beginning next month, so get your weed-eaters and blowers ready for the cleanup action.

Speaking of cleanup, the March 28 Cleanup Day at Aero Camino in Nipomo: what a difference a day makes! Well, several days, with Dale, Ernest and Jody on the tractors mowing the entirety of the field in advance, and the rest of the work party knocking down weeds, spraying weeds on the runway, and trimming the big oak tree east of the conex box over the picnic tables, etc. A huge thanks to all involved in the effort, the field looks fantastic!



Steven Bircher's funeral on March 21 had club members in attendance. Lots of great pictures were displayed celebrating his life. His wife Gretchen is appreciative of the thoughts and prayers of all of us going to her and the family, and especially to those who could attend.

Safety Officer Mike Noble reports that the plans for two helicopter pads are taking shape. He also notes that adhering to the limit of four planes in the air simultaneously has reduced concerns of mid-air crashes and overflight out of boundary of the field.

Jody's Giant Scale raffle plane is coming along nicely. He reports there has been \$1,055 in generous donations. He has \$1,063 into the project and estimates about \$300 will be needed to complete it. He's at the point of prepping to start covering. The model will be complete with everything, including scale features, a machine gun on the aluminum cowl, servos, everything but a receiver. He thinks he can have it done by end of May.

Tickets on sale to be announced, with the price being \$5 per ticket, five tickets for \$20, 26 tickets for \$100, etc. The more you buy, the better bang for your buck! Jim McKean is in charge of printing the tickets. It was discussed that we should do an auction of used planes to raise funds, so go through your hangar and dig out those dusty gems you hardly ever get around to flying and donate to the cause.

We are starting to see some new members due to the closure of the VSFb field. Welcome aboard to them, and welcome back to those who have rejoined. Excellent!

Attendance drawing was won by Jim McKean. 50/50 drawing was likewise won by Jim. President Mark Carlson closed the meeting by auctioning off his sweet little Tiger Moth, which now belongs to none other than Mr. McKean. There were not enough proceeds from ticket sales to cover the cost of the raffle plane, so it'll be held for next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

The Crew (That sure is a lot of helicopters!)



Pictures are courtesy of Jimmy C and his new Pixel phone

SUPPORT OUR "TOP GUNS!"



2025 TVRC CLUB OFFICERS

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