



# AV8R

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Tri-Valley RC Modelers

SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

*Celebrating Sixty Years of Flight (1965 - 2026)*

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING MAY 2026

First up, a delicious cheeseburger lunch with all the trimmings was served up by President Mark Carlson and Treasurer Bill Korn. Denise Singleton's cookies were a big hit and disappeared instantly. At 11:10 a.m., President Mark Carlson called the meeting to order and welcomed our newest members, Isaac and Gabriel. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved by all 30 members in attendance.

### Safety Briefing & Flight Line Rules

The President reports on the terrible accident that happened at Lake San Antonio at the most recent float fly. The pilot accidentally started his gas engine on his giant scale Cub. Before he could move out of harm's way, it got three of his fingertips, and he is now facing skin grafts on his hands and many months of medical care and therapy. It's a true reminder that we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent in operating these machines. To our electric plane pilots, your planes are equally as dangerous, so please make sure you use your throttle cut switch when arming and immediately upon landing/taxiing in.

### AMA District 10 Updates

The lunch was very successful with approximately \$50 in revenue going to the club account.

AMA District 10 Associate V.P. Chuck Barnes took the floor and gave his report. He noted that things are well underway with our upcoming Giant Scale event at the Santa Maria Elk's Rodeo Grounds. He has gotten our FAA waiver for a 1200-foot flying ceiling and has the paperwork in order for FRIA authorization. He reports that the Ladies Drawing was so popular among attendees last year that it really led to the ultimate success of the event at the end of the weekend. Ann and Bill McKindley donated the first basket for this year's event. It is hoped many more baskets will be donated in the interim and that this year will be an even bigger success in that regard.

He again reports that more of our members have donated generously to the AMA Foundation, and their Scholarship Fund provided student members with up to \$30,000 college scholarships over the past year. He noted that the new AMA President and V.P. are working with big aeronautics corporations to attract more kids and young adults to the hobby and garner interest in the aeronautics industry as future careers. There will be webinars announced in this regard via the AMA Newsletter. He also provided an interesting statistic from AMA that last year the average age for members was 72 years old. For the current year, that average age has dropped down to 54 years old. This is great news. It is hoped that age will continue to drop with more young pilots getting interested in the hobby.

AMA members may opt out of receiving a hard copy of the monthly magazine and receive it in digital format. For those of us who still like a hard copy, there will be a \$10 surcharge on top of the normal dues. This is due to the fact that the cost of producing the magazine has skyrocketed to roughly \$90,000 a year.

## Federal Drone & Park Regulations

Another topic discussed by Chuck is the “drone issue”. A lot of people are operating illegally all over the country, causing complaints from the public at large, resulting in an FAA initiative to start a task force responsible for investigating operators that are not operating in compliance with all of their rules, or without having their UAF’s registered through the FAA Drone Zone website, as mentioned by Phil Henry. It was also mentioned by Mike Noble that some of our pilots that fly at Miramontes Park in Santa Maria were approached by park rangers and asked to present their I.D. and FAA cards, so it’s a real good idea to always keep those with you in your wallet, radio case, toolbox, etc., while flying.

## Jody McCoy’s Sopwith Camel



*Jody McCoy's custom 83" wingspan Sopwith Camel*

Jody McCoy stepped up to provide an update on his Giant Scale 83” wingspan Sopwith Camel project that will be raffled at the next Giant Scale event. It’s not quite done, but all that is left are details he needs to complete before calling it done. It is a work of art. Those of you who are coming to our next meeting will get to see it up close and personal, but judging by the photographs circulated today, it is a build with incredible detail. Bravo! Mike Noble donated the pilot figure, a rather portly gentleman for the roughly 1/5 scale size, but Jody thinks he can get him strapped into the cockpit. He’s been clocking 8-hour work sessions for about three months thus far. Tickets for the raffle will range anywhere between \$5 apiece, to six tickets for \$20, to 36 tickets for \$100. He states he has had \$1,320 in donations towards the total cost of \$1,946.



## Helicopter Flight Pattern Changes

Safety Officer Mike Noble has given the direction starting today that our helicopter pilots must take off and land from the edge of the road adjacent to the airplane runway and fly exclusively over the grass. A couple of recent “close calls” have resulted in this new policy. He reminds us a total of two helicopters may fly simultaneously at opposite ends of the field, and a total of four planes at one time should fly pattern conforming to the prevailing wind direction. He’s still working on having concrete pads poured at the west and east ends of the property as takeoff and landing sites for the helicopters.

## Bill Korn Treasures Report

Bill Korn gave his monthly financial statement. Despite the abrupt drop in membership after moving out from the Rodeo Grounds to Aero Camino, it appears that the uptick in new members or returning members has helped keep us on an even keel financially. That was great news.

## 50/50 Raffle and Auction

Then we had the 50/50 drawing. Treasurer Bill Korn had the winning ticket and cashed in for \$55 which he donated right back to the club! A generous young lad he is. For the raffle plane today, Jim McKean presented us with an EPP Tundra 1050mm PNP kit. Again, Bill Korn scored and took it home. Can't wait to see her in the air!

Aircraft Model	Winning Bidder	Bid
<b>Twisted Hobbies Crack Delta Wing</b>	Bill Korn	\$20.00
<b>Twisted Hobbies F-22 Raptor</b>	Jim McKean	(Next Raffle)
<b>Charger flat foamy 3-D</b>	Jim McKean	\$10.00
<b>Katana balsa ARF</b>	Jim McKean	\$5.00
<b>Eratix 3D</b>	Jody McCoy	\$50.00
<b>T-28 Trojan</b>	Rod Gibbs (Gabriel)	\$7.00
<b>Air Titan w/ internal lighting, glider release, spare wing and set of floats</b>	Jim McKean	\$90.00

Meeting called to conclusion at 11:35 a.m.