

AV8R



UPD8

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRI-VALLEY RC MODELERS

SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS OF FLIGHT

1965 - 2025

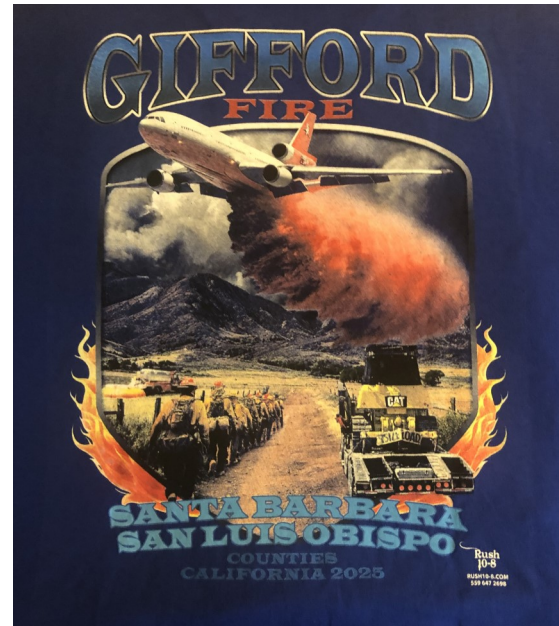
AMA GOLD LEADER CLUB

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 8.1, LATE AUGUST 2025

AUGUST SUPPLEMENTAL...

Just a couple of things that didn't make it into the first go-round; it was getting too big and too late.

First, we really threaded a needle between major fires in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties; just a week after we wrapped up, the Gifford Fire broke out, closing SR166 from Santa Maria to New Cuyama and bringing the fire crews back to the Elks Center. That fire is at about 132,000 acres and over 95% contained as of 20th August. I had two shirts from the Madre Fire hanging up at the registration booth, and when the Gifford Fire crews came to town, I had to bookend the set:



Of the three, I like the middle one the best; the CL-415 Super Scooper is one of the coolest fire tankers going; it would make a great float flyer. The Gifford one is neat, too; we get to see the DC-10 tankers a lot here at SMX, and they haul a massive load of PHOS-CHEK. There were several days during both fires where there were two DC-10s doing drops, along with several other types; C-130s, MD-87s, 737s, BAE-145s and S2Ts, not to mention the spotter/director planes and the helicopters. Massive effort that got the job done, both times. They gave the ground crews the support they needed to really do the heavy work to stop the fires. Good job all around.

This next item is a feel-good story. Last January, one of our long-time members, Al Mellick, passed away after a long illness. Al's family donated all of his modelling stuff to the club. The club held a sale, and I came away with a big Cub with a DLE engine.. Everyone said that it had been Al's favorite plane, he flew it a lot. While flying big, gas engine planes is above my skill set, I thought it might be an entry into the big stuff. A couple months later, without having done anything with it, I decided to put it up for sale at the Giant Scale. Ron Scott



walked up and recognized the plane immediately. "I flew with Al a lot over the years..." We decided that it needed a better home with Ron. When last I saw the Cub, Ron was working on the engine, which seemed a bit low on compression, probably from sitting for a long while. Knowing Ron, he'll sort out whatever the plane needs and get it flying again, as it deserves. Thanks, Ron, Al would be happy.

The other thing I'd like to mention, OK, brag about, is getting one of my airplane photos published as Picture of the Week in AVWeb, an online aviation site. I took the picture at SMX a couple years ago when three CL-415 Super Scoopers were in the area working a fire. The crews were doing maintenance on the ramp near the hotel. The sun was in a good spot and the photo came out pretty well, if I do say so myself.

CC

05:24

100%

[Inbox](#)

Friday, August...



Picture Of The Week:
August 15, 2025