

# 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 9, SEPTEMBER 2025

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING ...**

Pancakes and bacon! The September meeting kicked off with a great Pancake Breakfast out at the Aero Camino Airfield. TVRC's crack Griddle Crew, Jimmy Corcoran and Mark Carlson put on a top notch feed and Denise and Mark Singleton brought a big pan of fresh from the oven cinnamon rolls. Thanks, all!

President Mark Carlson opened the meeting as members tucked into a second plate of breakfast. 22 members were in attendance, also Mr. & Mrs. Blakey and the family came down to join us. Nice to see them!

The August Meeting Minutes were approved as published in the August Newsletter.

Mark thanked Jody and Dale for mowing the weeds on the far side of the runway, which is a big help for those who sometimes can't quite find the runway.

Next, Mark recognized Chuck Barnes' appointment to AMA District X Associate Vice President, representing the AMA Clubs on the Central Coast. Since District X includes Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii and Guam, District XVP Greg Stone as a whole crew of Associate VPs to make sure local clubs can get assistance from the AMA when needed. Chuck pointed out that the AMA has been very active with the FAA and Congress in protecting flying rights for recreational model aviation flyers with all the drone controversies that keep threatening our ability to fly. One major victory has been raising the altitude limit from 400 feet AGL to 700 feet, with waivers possible to 1200 feet for special events like our Giant Scale Fly-in. Chuck has done a great job as our AMA point of contact for several years and he will do well as a District AVP. Congratulations, Chuck!

Lovely shirt!

Safety Officer Mike Noble brought up two important items. First, watch the field limits at the east (right) end of the field. Apparently there have been some reports of overflying the homes on the other side of Hetrick Avenue recently. If those folks get annoyed enough to make a major issue of that, we could lose this site. So try to pull your flight pattern shorter on that end of the field.

The other issue is mixing helicopters and fixed wing flying. In a word, don't. We have several heli pilots active now, they're all good pilots, but having helicopters and fixed wing up at the same time is not a good practice, so share the air, but keep the two types separate. We're a small enough group that it shouldn't be a problem, and it will be safer for everyone.

The runway extension project was deferred to the next meeting while alternative runway surfaces besides decomposed granite (DG) are researched. The present DG surface is usable, but not friendly to aircraft with small wheels and is also prone to collecting DG dirt on and in airplanes. Whatever we go with will need approval of the property owners, so we probably won't be getting anything done soon.



## ***MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING CONTINUED...***

Since we are officially in the Third Quarter of 2025 (Already!), Mark brought up the Christmas Party. The last couple of years we have had it at AJ Spurs in Arroyo Grande, and it has been pretty well received. Bill McKindley will look into making a reservation for mid-December, with Saturday, 13th being first choice. We'll probably be looking for a head count at the October meeting, check your calendars.

Treasurer Bill Korn reported that the Giant Scale Fly-In was a success as far as finances go; we cleared about \$1100 after all the expenses. That's good, much better than the 2023 event at New Cuyama., but given the amount of work involved, it's not all that much. But it was a really good event, everyone who came went away happy with the way it went and said they'd come again.

As far as the rest of the finances go, we spent about \$275 on the crew lunch after the GS and \$600 on field rent., plus \$40 for the porta-john. The Raffle Plane account is holding it's own, breaking even.

Mark stated that doing a burger or taco lunch costs around \$200 and a pancake breakfast is about \$50, so going forward we will request a donation when we do one of these events; given what prices at, say Mickey D's, maybe a \$5 donation for breakfast and \$10 for a lunch is suggested. Not to say that our cooking is down at the Golden Arches level.

Getting back to the Giant Scale, Jody is opening the discussion with Elks Rec for next year. We might also think about talking to them about other events, maybe three day weekend types. More discussion needed.

Word is that the SLO Flyers are losing their flying site at Cuesta College. The property which has been owned by CalPoly is being transferred to Cuesta and they plan on building on it. Seems like a major expansion, given that the SLO Flyers site is over a quarter mile west of the Cuesta campus and has a couple of ponds next to it. But clearly model aviation takes a back seat to having a bigger, flashier campus.

**Ron Newman won the 50/50,  
\$50.**

**Mike Gunderson took home  
the Raffle Plane, a 1.1 meter  
T-28 Trojan.**



Next meeting, 01 October 2025 at Quail Meadows East, 6:00pm.

**JIMMY DEALS BACON AND BLUEBERRIES**



**YUP. WE CAME TO FLY.  
AFTER WE EAT, THAT IS...**



**THE ACE  
KITCHEN  
CREW**



GENE HELPS MARK GET HIS EDF F-16 READY TO GO.

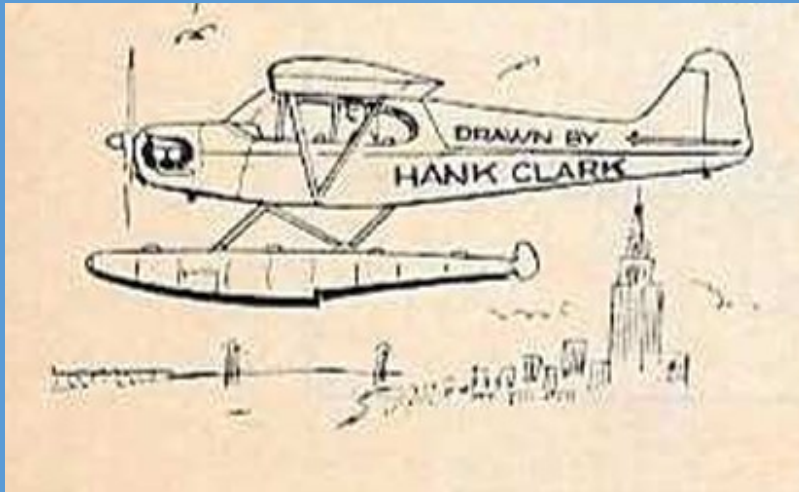
BUT DANG! IT WANTS A LOT OF RUNWAY!



GOT A WINNER  
THERE, JIM?

CHUCK'S GOT  
THE HAT, TOO!



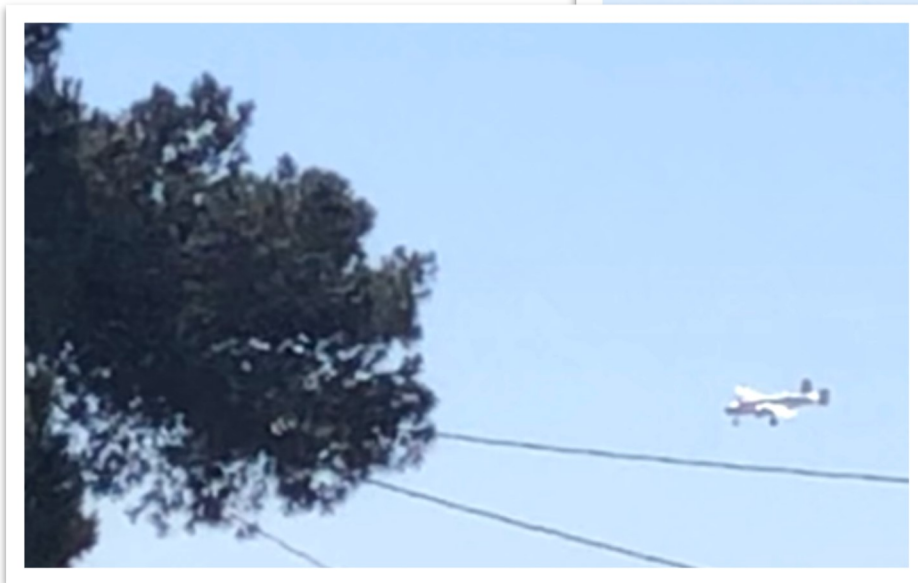
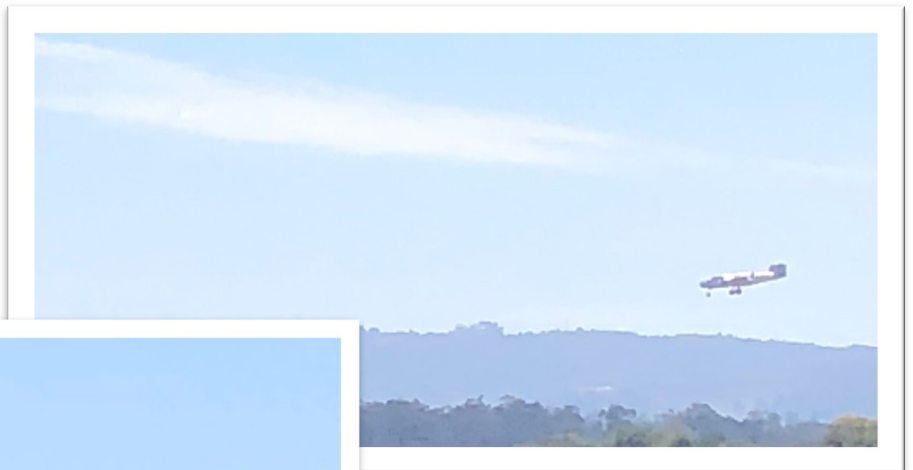


Hank Clark was an illustrator back in the glory days of print model magazines, I found this “signature” on an plan for a Curtiss JN-4 “Jenny” in September 1968 American Aircraft Modeler

## ***PLANES OF FAME GETTING CLOSER!***

Aside from the construction making visible progress, PoF seems to be using SMX on a more frequent basis. There has been a B-25 Mitchell in the pattern a couple of times, most recently on 02 September, making a landing on runway 02. I managed to get a couple quick shots, not the greatest, iPhones suck in bright sunlight, can't see what's on the screen...

Hopefully, as PoF gets closer to opening, this kind of stuff will be a regular air show.



Flying sites are under attack all over. Both model and full-scale. This event, the Otsego Lake Splash-In, has been going on for 40 years without incidents, and the county pulls the plug. A video attached to the AV Web article indicated that the County Parks & Rec Commission didn't advise the event organizers that they were going to hold discussion and vote on the event, and deflected inquiries about how and why they made their decision. They want a \$100,000 fee plus \$5 million insurance, despite that the Parks & Rec provides minimum support for the event and all fly-in participants have to carry liability insurance.

Sounds a lot like issues facing model aviation...

[Seaplane Fly-In Cancelled After 40 Years - AVweb](#)

# Seaplane Fly-In Cancelled After 40 Years

Due to the county's financial and legal concerns, a \$5 million insurance policy and a \$100,000 fee would be required for the event.

[Parris Clarke](#)

Friday, August 29, 2025

Otsego County decided to “indefinitely suspend” the hosting of the annual , Otsego Lake Splash-In , at Otsego Lake County Park in Gaylord, Michigan, where the event has been held for over 40 years.

Local outlet [WPBN/WGTU](#) reported that a letter was sent to event organizers earlier this week explaining the county's decision, citing legal liabilities and financial burdens associated with the event. The choice to discontinue hosting the splash-in was made by the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission at a meeting on August 11. In the letter, the commission says they would consider continuing to host the event, but would require a minimum of \$5 million liability insurance coverage plan and a \$100,000 fee to use the lake.

“This liability coverage plan and fee would be to cover the Parks and Recreation department staff time, Otsego County police and emergency staff time for planning and staffing the event, plus liability and safety risks that Otsego County would be taking on by hosting the event,” the letter states.

Since its inception, the [fly-in event](#) has been organized by the Rhodes family, who previously worked closely with the park administrators. The family currently has a pavilion named after them at the park

Family member Sarah Rhodes [told](#) the news outlet that prior to receiving the letter in the mail notifying them of the decision, her family had received no prior notification that a meeting concerning the event was even on the docket.

Of the six members present at the meeting, five voted yes to move forward with the event's suspension.

# FALL FLOAT FLYS!

**TVRC AND SAM WILL HOLD TWO FLOAT FLYS BY  
EACH CLUB THIS SEPTEMBER,  
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER!**

**Lake San Antonio is still at 54% as of early September so it should still  
be pretty good through fall. So far this year it's been great.**

**The site at Lake San Antonio North Shore is a FRIA, so no Remote ID required!**

## **TVRC**

**Thursday 16 October to Sunday 19 October**

**Thursday 06 November to Sunday 09 November**

### **Contacts:**

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**Chuck Barnes (805) 886-7921; [Cdbarnes10@comcast.net](mailto:Cdbarnes10@comcast.net)**

## **Salinas Area Modelers**

**Friday 10 October to Sunday 12 October**

### **Contacts:**

**Bob McGregor, (831) 595-3681, [xpilotwon@gmail.com](mailto:xpilotwon@gmail.com)**

**James Collins, (831) 325-6391 [jamescollins@me.com](mailto:jamescollins@me.com)**

**Monterey County Parks: [parks@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:parks@countyofmonterey.gov), (831) 755-4924**



# Monterey Bay Giant Scale Fly-In

Hosted By **The Salinas Area Modelers**



**November 7-9, 2025**



## OPEN TO ALL GIANT-SCALE AIRCRAFT:

- 80" MONOPLANE
- 60" BIPLANE
- 140" JETS (LENGTH + WINGSPAN)  
(TURBINES/EDFs)
- AMA & FAA REQUIRED  
(FAA# MUST BE DISPLAYED ON AIRCRAFT)

## WEEKEND FEES:

- PILOT REGISTRATION: \$50
- DRY CAMPING: \$25
- SATURDAY DINNER: \$25
- SATURDAY LUNCH: \$10
- AM COFFEE & DONUTS: FREE

450' X 60' ASPHALT RUNWAY & WIDE OPEN AIRSPACE

30 MINUTES FROM MONTEREY & CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

AIRFIELD OPEN FOR ARRIVALS THURSDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

FLIGHTLINE OPEN TO ALL AIRCRAFT, SIZES, & TYPES AFTER 5PM

NIGHT FLYING

[SALINASAREAMODELERS.ORG](http://SALINASAREAMODELERS.ORG) • [FACEBOOK.COM/SALINASAREAMODELERS](https://FACEBOOK.COM/SALINASAREAMODELERS)

CONTACT: MIKE CROFT • [REDBIKEMIKE@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:REDBIKEMIKE@HOTMAIL.COM) • (831) 601-8340



LOCATION:

24200 CHUALAR DUMP ROAD

CHUALAR, CA 93925



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CONSTRUCTION INC.



## 2024 TVRC CLUB OFFICERS

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FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR	Vacant—See Jody McCoy if you are interested!		
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## VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

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NAVAL DETACHMENT	LTJG John Tjaden, USN Active Duty, US NAVY (SOMEWHERE)		