



Palomar R/C Flyers, Inc.

Transmitter

February 2026



President's Message : February 2026

President's Message: Setting the Record Straight on Turbines

This month has certainly provided an "interesting" start for the new board. I want to take a moment to address some rumors circulating regarding turbine aircraft at our field. Transparency is a priority for this board, so here are the facts:

The Turbine Demonstration Event

The board recently voted 7-2 to approve a **one-time special demonstration event**. This is not a change in club flight privileges. We have invited two professional pilots—both fully AMA-certified in turbine helicopter safety—to perform a demonstration. Our event coordinator has worked diligently to ensure this event meets every safety requirement set by both the Palomar RC Flyers and the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).

To ensure we considered all angles, the current board consulted with several past presidents before moving forward with this limited engagement.

Our Long-Term Policy: We Are a No-Turbine Field

I want to be incredibly clear: **The board has not approved turbines for general membership or guest use.** At this month's meeting, the board will be drafting specific language for our bylaws to officially exclude all turbine flight for members and guests.

We may include a provision allowing the board to approve future special events (limited strictly to helicopters), but the day-to-day operations of our field will remain turbine-free.

The Membership Has the Final Say

As with any significant change to our Club Bylaws, the board's proposed language must be **approved by you, the membership.** You are the final decision-makers on how our field is governed.

We value the culture of our field and are committed to maintaining the standards you expect. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting to discuss this further.

Don Davis President of the Palomar R/C Flyers, Inc.

In Memoriam

Jack Diedrick died on Feb. 26. 2012, 14 years ago. We your Palomar R/C Flyer friends still miss you. When you passed, a library burned down! Jack was a master builder and could fix anything! He was a master of engine knowledge and a true gentleman.



Reno Racer Corsair with 3,000 hp engine.



John Cutler's Baby Bowlus is the stuff from which dreams are made .



Past Club Secretary Don Wadlington watching a Trifecta with many mid-air's!



Stinging Nettle grows under our tables at the field. Only pull it out if you have gloves. Otherwise, your hand will feel like it's on fire! I made that mistake once!



Chris Reiser

Altitude Quest Winners on January 10, 2026

On Saturday, January 10, the Altitude Quest Contest was held at Johnson Field. The pilots included Don Davis, John Forestieri, Bob Hague, Doug Abel, Mark Anderson, Allan Graber, Scott McClintock, Chuck Riley, Joe Buko, and Randy Brunette

Altitude Quest is a game where a random elevation is assigned to each pilot and a small altimeter is attached to the pilot's aircraft. The pilots are then required to fly their aircraft as close as they can to the assigned elevation.

In first place was President Don Davis, second was John Forestieri, and third was Bob Hague. The payouts were \$25, \$15, and \$10 respectively. John generously donated his prize money to the club.

Total Score	Rank	Pilot
284	1	Don
278	2	John
272	3	Bob

Of note was the perfect score at an elevation of 200' by Bob Hague who hit the exact elevation on his first flight of the day.

—
Steve Gebler

We who fly do so for the love of flying. We are alive in the air with this miracle that lies in our hands and beneath our feet.

— **Cecil Day Lewis**

Editor's note:

Strange but true!

When Bob Hague flew, I stood next to him and called out his altitudes as he flew. Of course, I was guessing but when he rose to 200', I said, "That's it! You are at 200 feet. Don't go any higher!" He descended and got a perfect score for his flight! Jim Gallacher are you reading this? Remember when you flew at 726 feet and I guessed you were at 729 feet!

Joe Buko



Chris Reiser's plane has a unique feature—look at the flat stabilizer attached to the rear of the cockpit! "I ain't never seed nothin' like dat in mine life!"



The altimeter contest took place from this table on January 10th. Steve Gebler ran the event while we made our three best attempts to fly to a prearranged altitude. I and others easily missed the mark. It was fun and showed how difficult it is to accurately estimate your plane's altitude.



Altitude Quest Looser Chuck Riley

Why do we only publish the winners? It's ok to be a looser. I too participated and I proudly join Chuck as a looser too! There! You have never seen the likes of this before! Hey, I have fun makin' this stuff up! Losers are good guys too!

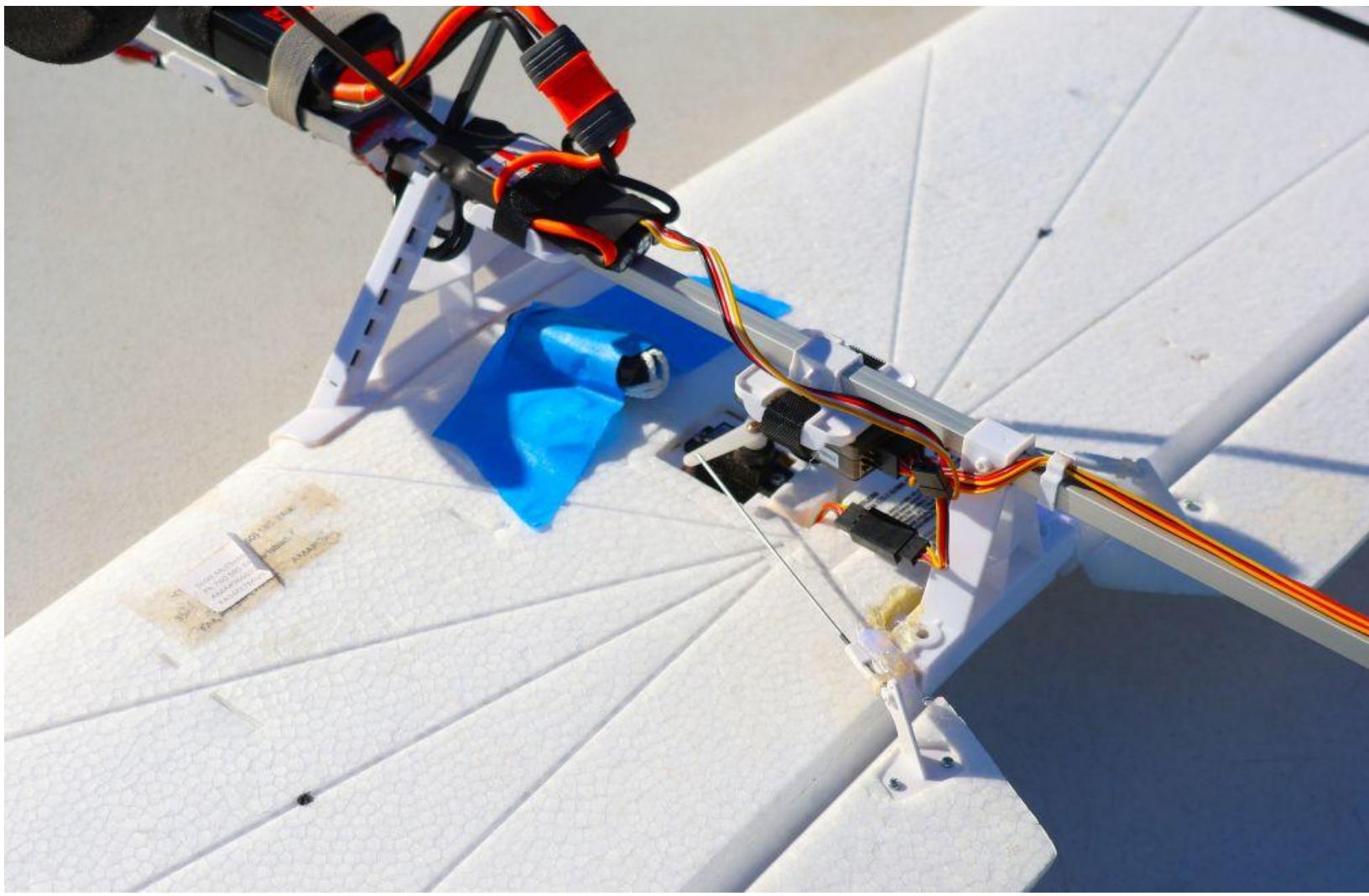


Each pilot spun this dial to determine the altitude to which he was to fly.



Altitude Quest Looser Doug Abel

Altitude Quest Winner
John Forestieri



Pictured is a plane, belly-side up. Beneath the blue paper tape is the altimeter . The same altimeter was used in all flights to provide an error-free recording of the flights. The event would have gone more quickly had multiple altimeters been used.



Nolan Namore

Chris Avellino



Mandatory photo of Jim Gallacher



January 17, 2026 Monthly Club Meeting



Welcome to new member Ruben Rivera





Treasurer Tom Pollinger won Model of the Month with his Cessna. He has 2,000 hours in the full-scale!



Master– builder John Cutler built this 1932 Pietsenpol with a replica Ford V-8 engine. That engine took 300 hours to create! He is selling this stunning model for \$300, a give-away! It's a museum piece!



Joe Villarreal and Eric Armstrong gave an update on the upcoming Heli Fun Fly. One of a number of highlights of the event will be the demonstration flying of 2 jet turbine powered helis. Another highlight is watching our professional pilot Ray Nemovi fly his heli!



January 18, 2026 Trifecta winners:

L/R Brandon Liesemeyer=2; William Taft=1; Mark Olsen=3

Trifecta Photos courtesy of Steve Gebler



David Carner, Chuck Riley, Brandon Liesemeyer, William Taft, Mark Olsen, Allan Graber, Randy Brunette





President emeritus Steve Gebler the winner of combat that day.



FREE to good hangar! 60" Pica Dave Platt Waco YMF-3. Electrified by Bill Hill. Takes a 5,000ma battery and flies well. It's disassembled so that it can even fit in a Prius! Call Joe Buko. My number is listed in the club directory below. I am the Newsletter editor. I built it and it has rib stitching. It's a sweet model that looks great from the Golden Age of Flying. It is pristine!

General Board Meeting

1/5/2026 & 1/14/2026

President: Don Davis

Vice President: Chuck Riley

Treasurer: Thomas Pollinger

Club Secretary: Eric Armstrong

Board members present 1/5: Don Davis, Chuck Riley, Tom Pollinger, Mark Olsen, Eric Armstrong, Mark Anderson, Brandon Liesemeyer, Ron Holman

Board members Present 1/14: Don Davis, Chuck Riley, Joe Villearreal, Mark Olsen, Eric Armstrong, Mark Anderson, Brandon Liesemeyer, Ron Holman

1/5/26 Board Meeting:

6:30 - Role Call. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes approved.

6:31 - Treasury report by Tom Pollinger:

Income: \$13,872

Expenses: \$4,932

Net Income: \$8,940

Balance: \$65,319

6:36 - Mark Olsen on Fight Training – Been quiet with the holidays, but still going well!

6:38 - Mark Olsen on safety - No significant safety matters over the last month.

6:40 – Don Davis introduced the new Board members: Tom Pollinger, Mark Anderson, and Ron Holman. We found out that all the new Board members have or had pilot's licenses – what a great perspective these three will bring to the Board! Tom is a commercial pilot for SkyWest, which is very cool – discounts for members, Tom?

6:45 – Eric Armstrong provided an update on the upcoming Heli Fun Fly. Eric put a motion forward to approve him inviting two turbine pilots to the Heli Fun Fly. Mark Olsen seconded the motion.

6:50 – Don Davis opened up the conversation around Eric Armstrong’s request to invite two turbine heli pilots to all in attendance. Eric presented his safety plan to the attendees and addressed questions and concerns from all parties. The past presidents were divided on the matter, with half supporting the idea and half not. One past president brought up issues that had not been previously considered. 1) Johnson Field operating inside a “Mode C Veil”. 2) A new San Diego County law titled “Zone 0 Law”, and 3) A letter from CalFire dated back to 2004 stating no turbines were allowed at Johnson Field. The letter was not in anyone’s possession. The member had contacted CalFire but did not receive a response. No supporting documentation was provided relating to the Mode C Veil and Zone 0 Law.

From the information stated, Eric Armstrong withdrew his request to invite two turbine heli pilots until the board was provided with more information about Mode C and the Zone 0 law.

7:50 – Chuck Riley made a motion to approve an expense of \$750 for tractor maintenance and the purchase of a grading tool that would be attachable to our tractor.

Brandon Liesemeyer seconded the motion. Motion approved with 8 Yes votes and 0 No votes.

7:57 - Board meeting adjourned.

1/5/26 Follow-Up Board Meeting:

6:30 – Eric Armstrong presented his findings relating to our Mode C Veil and San Diego County’s Zone Law:

The “Zone Zero Law”

Eric called the San Diego City Council’s office, spoke with the Chief Community Services Officer and City Engineer. She stated that Zone Zero does not apply to our application.

The “Mode C Veil” possibly requiring clearance to fly turbines

Eric spoke to the FAA representative who covers the flight regulations for our region, including Mode C veil requirements. His name is Paul Hamilton. Paul said we do operate under a Mode C Veil, which is an FAA term. He also confirmed there are no restrictions on unmanned aircraft operating under a Mode C Veil, provided the location is at a “fixed, AMA sanctioned location”. Eric asked what he meant by fixed. Paul said it means you have a permanent location.

Eric spoke directly to the AMA's Government Affairs Manager. His name is Lucas Rodden. He confirmed what the FAA said – that Palomar RC Flyers was exempt from Mode C Veil requirements. Eric asked Lucas to send an email, which Eric then shared with the Board.

7:00 – Eric Armstrong made a motion to approve inviting two turbine heli pilots to the Heli Fun Fly under the following conditions:

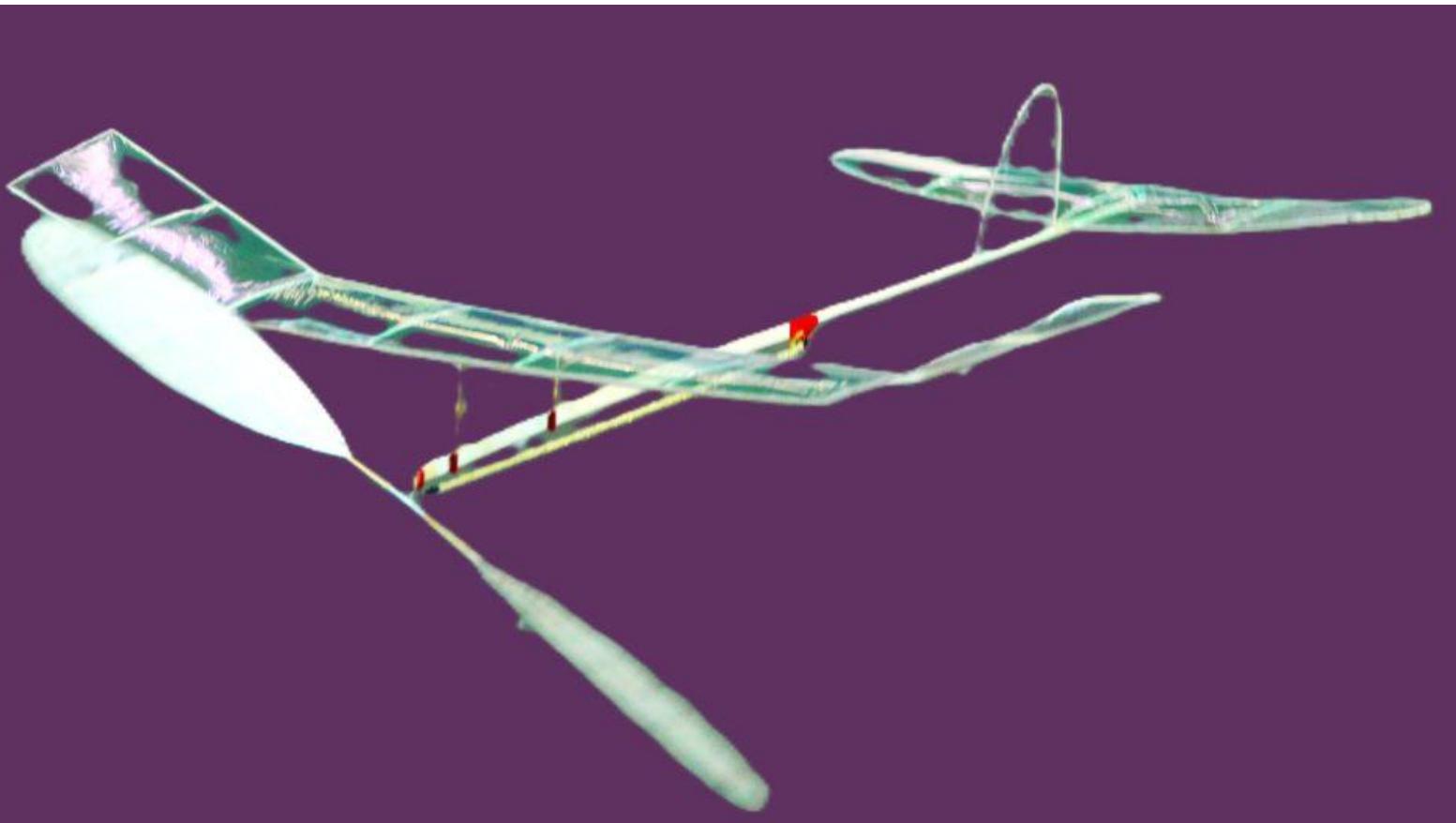
No additional turbine-heli pilots would be allowed to fly at Johnson Field other than the two for whom approval is being sought.

The turbine pilots must possess the necessary AMA waivers to fly rotary turbine aircraft.

Should a letter be produced from CalFire excluding turbine flying at Johnson Field, and the letter was deemed applicable to 2026, no heli turbine flying would be allowed.

Mark Olsen seconded the motion. Motion approved with 7 Yes votes, 1 No vote, and 1 No vote in absentia.

7:15 - Board meeting adjourned.



Haiku:	Rubber powered plane Flying light as a feather Circling our hearts	(editor's Penny Plane flew 10.5 min @ blimp hangar.)
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January 27, 2026 –Vista, California



Spring is here!

- RC CARS
- RC PLANES
- RC BOATS
- GUNDAMS
- MODEL CAR KITS
- AND SO MUCH MORE!



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**Tom Minegar
760 496-9264**

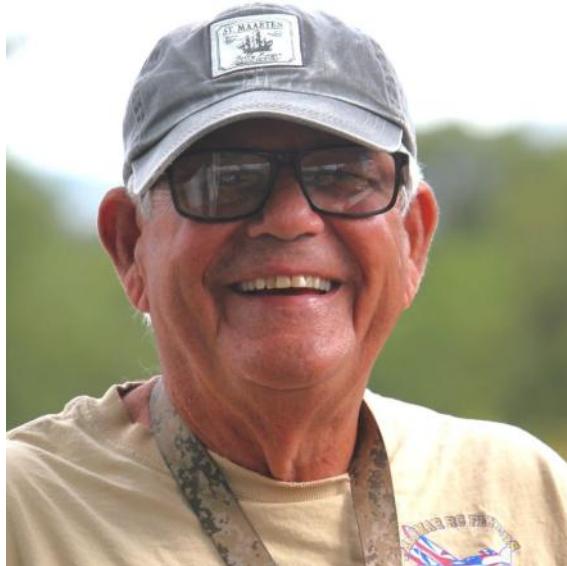
tom@minegarfinancial.com

2025

Club Officers



Jim Christy—Membership Chairman



President Don Davis

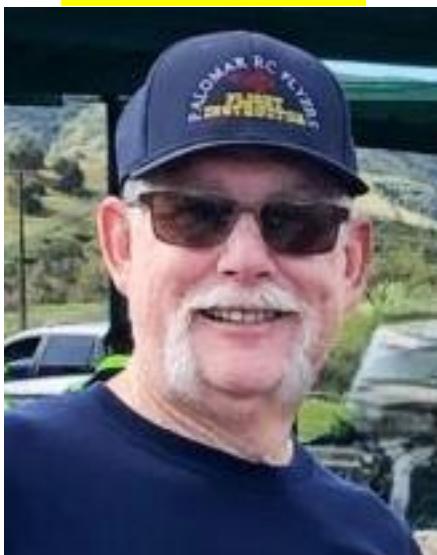


Vice President Chuck Riley



Treasurer Tom Pollinger

Board Members



Joe Villarreal



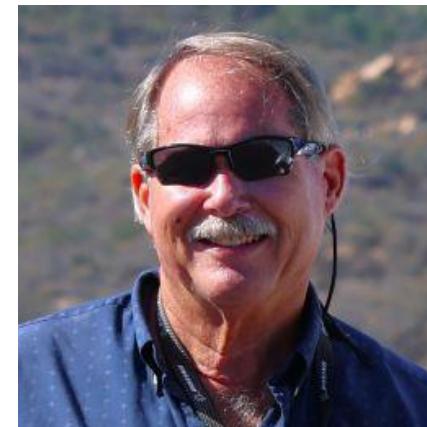
Secretary Eric Armstrong



Brandon Liesemeyer



Mark Olsen



Mark Anderson

Ron Holman

Safety Officer and Board Member