Club Newsletter
Volume 72 – Edition 6 AMA Charter #610 Since 1962
June 2026

See What's Possible

The official newsletter of the Golden Triangle RC Club

Club Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of every Month at 0900
Location – Golden Triangle RC Club Field
2820 E. Seeton Road
Grand Prairie, TX 75054
Or:
Market Street Grocery Store (Inclement Weather Location)
3145 E. Broad St.
Mansfield, TX 76063

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Eric Thompson
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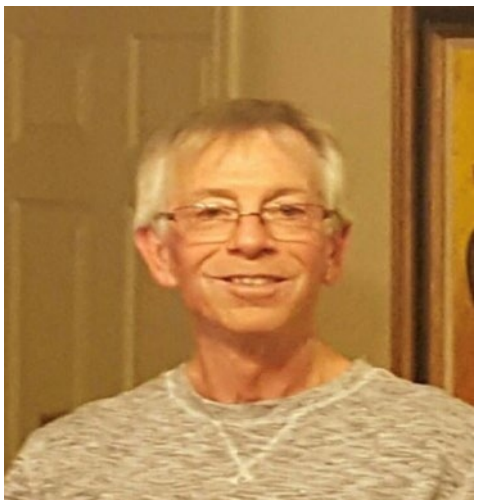

Ben Bergman
Chairman
✉
📞

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✈️ FEATURE

The Best Recruitment Tool We Have

Every year, the Academy of Model Aeronautics highlights a challenge faced by clubs across the country: attracting new people into the hobby.

Most people assume the answer is advertising, social media, or hosting large events. While those things certainly help, the reality is much simpler.

The best recruitment tool we have is the experience someone has when they visit the field.

Think about how most of us got started. Very few people woke up one day and decided to buy an RC airplane. More often, someone invited us to a field, answered our questions, showed us a model up close, or handed us the controls on a trainer aircraft. What brought us into the hobby wasn't a website or a flyer—it was another modeler.

As our club continues to grow and improve, we're likely to see more visitors, more prospective members, and more curious spectators stopping by. Some will have years of flying experience. Others may know nothing about RC aviation beyond what they've seen on YouTube.

How they are greeted matters.

A simple "Good morning" or "Would you like to see the airplane?" can be the difference between someone becoming a member or never returning. Taking a few minutes to answer questions, explain what you're flying, or share your experience helps create the welcoming atmosphere that makes clubs successful.

The good news is that the Golden Triangle RC Club has always done this well. Whether it's helping a new pilot set up a radio, offering advice on a build, or standing beside someone during their first solo flight, our members have a long history of sharing knowledge and helping others succeed.

As we head into the busy flying season, let's continue that tradition.

The next great club member may already be standing behind the fence watching. All it takes is one conversation to bring them into the hobby.

And that's something every one of us can do.

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FROM THE FLIGHT LINE

President's Message

Fellow Club Members,

I want to take a moment to bring everyone up to speed on where we are with the tractor and our field maintenance efforts.

As most of you know, maintaining 15 acres is a major responsibility, and our old tractor had simply reached the end of its usable life without significant restoration. And more than that, had significant limitations in terms of horsepower, comfort, etc. You may have heard me mention that the last time I used it in the Summer of 2024, that complete setup broke on me 6 times trying to get the field mowed. After looking at our options and considering the club's financial situation, the decision was made to purchase a replacement tractor that gives us significantly more capability—but at a price we could realistically afford.

This has required some additional work and investment to get it fully operational, and I want to acknowledge that progress has taken longer than any of us would like. That said, we are moving in the right direction. Once this machine is fully dialed in, it will be far better and more capable than what we previously had. What's interesting here is that while "calendar time" has been excessive, actual "touch time" on the tractor maintenance itself has not been exhaustive. The main challenge has been allocating decent chunks of time to the project in which to complete the necessary work.

It's important to understand that what we are doing here is essentially **"agriculture on a budget."**
We do not have the resources to simply go out and purchase a brand-new, turnkey solution. The path we chose—while requiring more effort upfront—is the only practical option available to us financially, and it positions the club much better in the long run.

I also want to recognize Frank Flores, who has been the only member actively assisting with the tractor work and providing knowledgeable input. Having been raised in a family with a farming business and driving/maintaining a tractor since he was old enough to drive one, Frank has forgotten more about tractors than some will ever know or learn in their lifetime. Based on both of our assessments, we remain confident that this was a sound and responsible decision for the club. I am not tractor expert, but I will tell you that I have been fully immersed in tractors and implements for the last 3 years. I / we were also fortunate to have the input and assistance from some genuine tractor experts through Dr. Taylor and his son, Alan – who has a thriving tractor / harvesting business. They have also affirmed our tractor is solid.

I understand that some members have concerns or frustrations, and that's fair. However, I would ask that we all keep a few things in mind:

- This work is being done to benefit the entire club.
- It requires significant time, effort, and personal commitment.
- Progress sometimes takes patience when working within limited resources.

Constructive input is always welcome—but criticism, especially from the sidelines, is not helpful to moving us forward.

If you would like to contribute, help, or be part of the solution, you are absolutely welcome. We can always use more hands and more support.

Otherwise, I ask for your patience as we complete this process. The end result will be a better-maintained field and stronger infrastructure for everyone to enjoy. It will be done and it will be successful. Of this much, I am sure.

Thank you to those who continue to support the club and pitch in where needed.

See you at the field,
Jason Mitchell
President, Golden Triangle RC Club

Editor's Note

As we move into the heart of the flying season, the field is starting to look the way it should—airplanes in the air, members gathered around the pits, and plenty of activity on the flight line.

This month's feature article talks about one of the most important aspects of our hobby: introducing new people to model aviation. Every one of us was new at some point, and chances are someone took the time to answer a question, offer advice, or help us get started.

As the weather improves and more visitors stop by the field, let's continue that tradition. A friendly conversation or helping hand may be all it takes to create the next lifelong modeler.

As always, if you have photos, project updates, or stories from the field, send them my way. The best content in this newsletter comes from the members who make this club what it is.

Blue skies,
Eric Thompson
Newsletter Editor

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🛠️ CLUB BUSINESS

May Meeting Canceled

May 2026 Business Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Michael Roznick, Secretary

Date:
Time:
Location: GTRCC
Members Present:

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⚠️ SAFETY & OPERATIONS

Safety Moment: Flying Safely in the Texas Heat

As temperatures continue to climb, it's important to remember that the weather can affect more than just our airplanes, it can affect pilots as well.

When we're focused on flying, visiting with friends, or working on a model, it's easy to lose track of how much time we've spent standing in the sun. Dehydration, heat exhaustion, and fatigue can sneak up on you before you realize it.

A few simple precautions can help make your day at the field safer and more enjoyable:

- **Drink water before you feel thirsty.** If you're waiting until you're thirsty, you're already behind.
- **Take breaks in the shade.** A few minutes out of the sun can make a big difference.
- **Wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.** Protecting yourself from prolonged sun exposure is just as important as protecting your aircraft.
- **Watch out for fellow members.** If someone appears unusually tired, dizzy, or overheated, check on them.
- **Know when to call it a day.** There will always be another flight.

Heat can also affect equipment. Batteries, fuel, electronics, and adhesives all perform differently when left in direct sunlight. Keep your gear shaded whenever possible and avoid leaving batteries or transmitters in a hot vehicle.

We spend a lot of time focusing on the safety of our aircraft. During the summer months, don't forget to pay the same attention to the person holding the transmitter.

Fly safe, stay hydrated, and enjoy the summer flying season. 🌞✈️

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Safety Moment: Pilot Position & The Runway "Rule of Thirds"

As we continue discussions around potential **pilot station adjustments**, it's a good time to revisit a simple concept that helps improve both **safety and consistency**: the *Runway Rule of Thirds*.

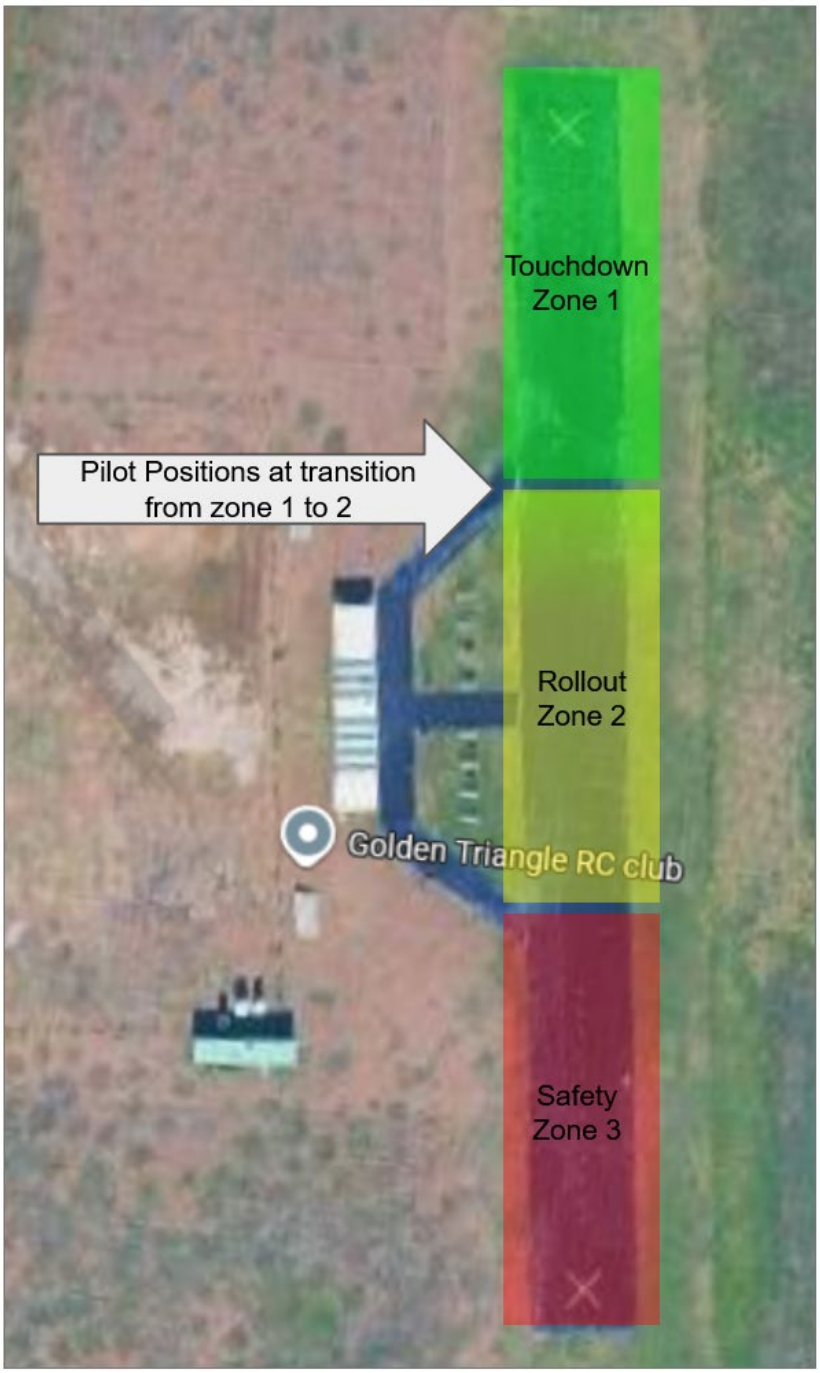
This guideline isn't about strict rules, it's about creating better spacing, visibility, and safer operations for everyone on the flight line.

✈️ Runway Layout Concept

First Third – Touchdown Zone
This is where your aircraft *should* land. Focus on a smooth, controlled approach and aim to touch down within this section.

Second Third – Pilot Position & Rollout ✓
Pilots should stand roughly aligned at **the transition between Zone 1 and Zone 2**. At this point, aircraft should already be on the ground and **decelerating under control**.

Final Third – Safety Buffer
This section exists as a **margin for error**. Ideally, no landings should occur here, it's your safety cushion.



Key Principles to Keep in Mind

- **Do not force the aircraft down to "make the zone"**
  If the approach isn't right, go around. A stable approach is always the priority.
- **Fly the approach first—landing location comes second**
  Consistency and control matter more than hitting a perfect spot.
- **Use the full runway when needed**
  Especially for **large-scale or turbine aircraft**, allow proper rollout distance.

Why This Matters

As we evaluate **pilot station placement**, the goal is simple:

➡️ Improved visibility
➡️ Improved depth perception with the tree lines at either end of the runway
➡️ Create more consistent, predictable traffic patterns

Aligning pilot positions at the **transition from Zone 1 to Zone 2** naturally supports all three.

This is not about adding complexity, it's about building good habits that make flying safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

As always, if you have thoughts or feedback on pilot positioning, please share them. The best solutions come from pilots who are out there flying every week.

Fly smart, fly safe.

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Creative / Unplanned Landings!

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CLUB PROJECT CORNER

How You Can Help This Month

- Flagpole installation planning – volunteers needed
- Tractor work – support Jason & team
- Field cleanup after runway construction

Project	Description	Estimated Cost	Status
Flag pole installation	Pick location, prep area, dig hole, set pole, complete decorative surround / plague, flowers, etc.	$500-$1000	Not yet started
New Tractor auxiliary pump installation / repair	New tractor needs auxiliary pump. Install pump. Go over tractor and make ready for work this spring (Jason Mitchell, Justin Moore, Frank Flores pinned for this task)	$500	In Process
Overhaul existing drag shredder	Install new parts on existing drag shredder. Cut / Weld skirt to size. Rework bearings/hubs for wheels (Jason Mitchell has taken this task).	$700* Parts already paid for	In Process
New signage on club entrance	New sign / gate logo, etc.	TBD	Not yet started
Finish Float Plane Area	Finish clearing, apply herbicide to eradicate briar growth, possible retractable floating dock to facilitate aircraft launch / retrieval. Possible Jon boat/equivalent for aircraft retrieval	$1500	**On-hold pending runway completion

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THE BUILD BENCH

Member-submitted – email picture and commentary of your projects to Eric at ethompson1509@gmail.com

Eric recently added a new-to-him **AJ Aircraft 105" Laser 203Z** to his hangar. Powered by a **DA-120cc** engine, equipped with **SAVOX 2290 servos**, and guided by a **Spektrum** radio system, this giant-scale aerobatic machine is built for precision and performance. The maiden flight was a complete success. The aircraft tracked straight, handled predictably, and inspired confidence from takeoff to landing.

Jason recently added a new-to-him **Extreme Flight 125" Laser** to his hangar. Powered by a **DA-170cc** engine, equipped with **SAVOX 2290** servos, and flying on a **Spektrum** radio system, this giant-scale aerobat is sure to turn heads both on the ground and in the air. We look forward to seeing it fly at the field soon!

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Norm recently added a new-to-him **Flex Innovations Mamba** to his hangar. Powered by a **DA-120cc** engine and equipped with **JR PROPO** servos and radio system, this beautiful biplane is sure to draw attention at the field. We look forward to seeing Norm put it through its paces soon!

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

- Name:
- Time flying:
- Favorite aircraft:
- Best advice or funniest moment:

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EVENTS & MERCH

- For Club Shirts, please contact one of the Club Officers as we may have some t-shirt inventory available for purchase $25
    - Or contact The Logo Factory in Grand Prairie, TX: www.logofactoryco.com / 972-642-4222
- For club stickers (limited sized and quantities available), please contact Frank Cox – countilaw@yahoo.com
- For-Sale reminders…If you'd like to list something for sale, please feel free to use the club "WhatsApp" channel to post your RC related items. Also, Facebook, RCGroups and Flying Giants are great places to buy/sell.

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HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

- Send an email to Eric Thompson at ethompson1509@gmail.com if you have something that you would like to be considered in the next newsletter
- Photos are great with your submission, make sure they are of a quality file size when you email them.
- Submission deadlines – two weeks prior to the next club meeting

Newsletter Editor – Eric Thompson

Any comments / complaints / suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me at:
ethompson1509@gmail.com

End Newsletter