

Club Newsletter

Volume 72 – Edition 4

AMA Charter #610 Since 1962

April 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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Club Officers and Board of Directors



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Ben Bergman

Chairman



April 2026



FEATURE

Back in the Air: The First Flights on the New Runway

A New Surface, A New Chapter, and a Field That's Fully Alive Again

After months of planning, construction, and anticipation, the moment finally arrived — wheels down on the new runway, and then... wheels up.

The first flights off the new asphalt marked more than just the completion of a project. They marked the return of full flying operations at Jim Fulton Field and the beginning of a new era for the Golden Triangle RC Club.

Early reactions from members have been overwhelmingly positive. The smooth surface provides consistent takeoffs, predictable landings, and a level of confidence that benefits pilots of all experience levels. Whether flying small electrics or large gas-powered aircraft, the difference is immediately noticeable.

While minor details like centerline striping may be revisited in the future, the runway is fully functional and already proving its value on every flight.

What Comes Next

With the runway complete, the focus shifts to what's next:

- Continued work on **field layout and pilot stations**
- Exploration of **seaplane area improvements**
- Evaluation of **turbine operations at the field**

Momentum hasn't slowed — it's just changing direction.

A Shared Responsibility

Now that we're back in the air, the responsibility shifts back to all of us.

Every takeoff, every landing, every interaction at the field contributes to the experience we're building, not just for ourselves, but for new members and visitors as well.

The runway may be new, but the expectations remain the same:

- Fly safely
- Take care of the field
- Look out for each other

Because what we've built here is worth protecting.

April 2026



FROM THE FLIGHT LINE

President's Message

With the runway complete, April is about putting it to use.

We've already seen increased activity at the field, and that's exactly what we hoped for. More members are coming out, more aircraft are in the air, and the overall energy at the field has picked up in a big way.

Now the focus shifts to how we operate day-to-day.

With more activity comes a greater need for awareness, communication between pilots, attention to flight patterns, and making sure we're all operating safely and respectfully. The changes we're discussing, like pilot station positioning, are all aimed at improving visibility and safety as traffic increases.

We're also heading into event season, starting with the Heli Event later this month. These events are a great opportunity to showcase the club and bring in new members, so let's make sure we represent GTRCC the right way.

Lastly, a quick reminder to check your AMA status. Current AMA membership is required to fly, and we've identified several members who need to renew.

We've built something great here. Let's continue to operate in a way that reflects that.

See you at the field,

Jason Mitchell

President, Golden Triangle RC Club

Editor's Note

For the past few months, this newsletter has focused heavily on progress — runway construction, equipment upgrades, and planning.

This month feels different.

Now that the runway is complete, we're starting to see what that progress actually creates: more flying, more activity, and more opportunity for the club to grow.

The Build Bench is filling up. Events are coming together. And the field is becoming a place where members want to spend more time, not just flying, but connecting.

That's really what this is about.

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Going forward, you'll see more emphasis on member stories, flying tips, and showcasing what's happening at the field week to week. If you've got something worth sharing — a build, a lesson learned, or even a great photo — send it in.

The best part of this club has always been the people. This newsletter should reflect that.

Blue skies,

Eric Thompson

Newsletter Editor

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CLUB BUSINESS

March 2026 Business Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Michael Roznick, Secretary

Date: March 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:35 AM

Location: GTRCC

Members Present: 28

Call to Order

President Jason Mitchell called the meeting to order at **9:03 AM**.

Officer Reports

President's Report

- New **asphalt runway completed** (paving and striping done)
- Centerline striping partially missing (matched old layout); full restriping planned next year
- Sod repairs in progress; project nearing full completion
- Planning an **official runway opening event** (date TBD)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inspection:
 - Positive feedback on field condition and fire extinguisher compliance
- Reminder: **Current AMA membership required** to fly

Vice President's Report

- No report.

Treasurer's Report

- The club remains in **good financial condition**.

Secretary's Report

- Minutes from the previous meeting were published in last month's newsletter.

Safety Officer's Report

Fire extinguishers updated with:

- New tags in protective holders
- Proper signage added for extinguishers and first aid kits

Field & Facilities Update

- Seaplane area under consideration (future coordination with city)
- Plan to replace old porta-potty for that area
- Field maintenance:
 - City assisting with mowing; field in great condition
- Security cameras installed:**
 - Locations: pit, trailer, gate

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- Solar-powered, shareable access (up to 25 users)
- Annual cost: ~\$300
- Wildlife sightings: coyotes, raccoons, bobcats

Events

- **F5J schedule posted** (May 9, Aug 8, Sept 12, more TBD)
- **Helicopter Event**
 - Savox (Taiwan) attending
 - Raffle: ~5 full servo sets
 - Catering coordination underway
- **SPA event** remains tentative depending on pilot interest

Operations & Field Projects

- ☐ **Turbine (fixed-wing) discussion**
 - Justin Moore to be conducting test flights
 - Focus: approach/landing challenges due to tree line
 - Findings to be presented at the next meeting; club vote to follow
- ☐ **Ladder placement decision**
 - Final location: side of container (after accessibility concerns)
- ☐ **Generator & Power**
 - Plan to build protective shelter for generator
 - Awaiting possible upgraded unit from city
 - Proposal submitted to **increase solar capacity (4x)**

Pilot Stations Discussion

Considering moving stations to **outboard taxiway corners**

- Trial run planned
- Potential benefits:
 - Improved landing visibility and depth perception
 - Better runway usage
- Concerns:
 - Increased walking distance (especially for older members)
- Long-term:
 - Possible fence upgrades
 - Emphasis on maintaining pilot communication

Adjournment

The meeting was **adjourned at 9:35 AM.**

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! SAFETY & OPERATIONS

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

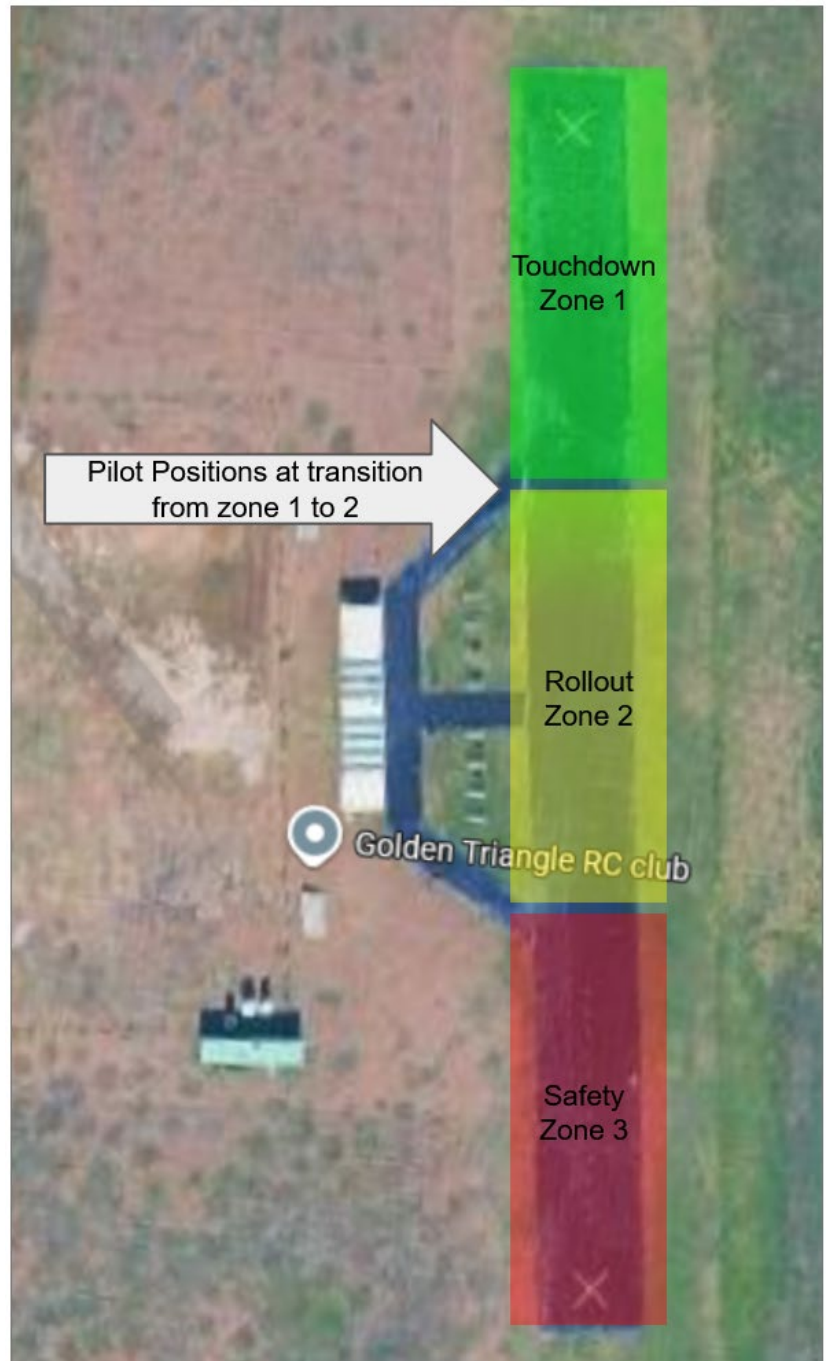
This is where your aircraft *should* land. Focus on a smooth, controlled approach and aim to touch down within this section.

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!

The first of this month's Creative / Unplanned Landing Award goes to none other than Glenn, who has officially proven that our field isn't just limited to runways.

In a bold expansion of available landing zones, Glenn has now successfully (and safely) completed *not one, but two* landings in the trees. That's right, while the rest of us are working on approach angles and flare timing, Glenn is out here pioneering **vertical runway integration**.

Eyewitnesses report both landings were executed with remarkable consistency, suggesting this may no longer be considered an accident, but rather a *developing specialty*.

At this rate, we're considering adding a new section to the field map:
"Arboreal Final Approach – Advanced Pilots Only."



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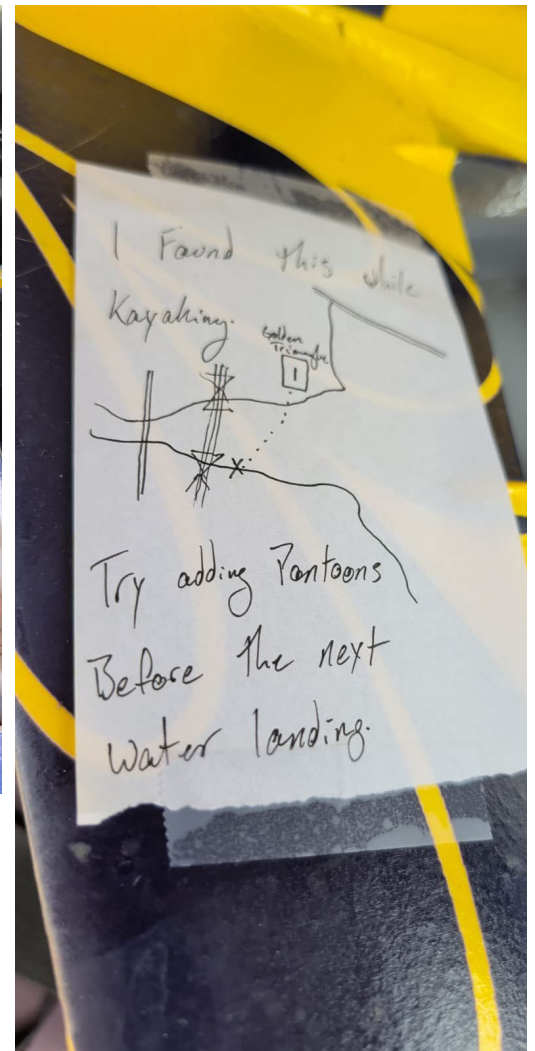
Our second award this month goes to Randy Rankin, who bravely explored a *previously underutilized* landing surface.

In a maneuver that can best be described as “unplanned but committed,” Randy executed a full aquatic arrival, demonstrating that gravity works just as effectively over lakes as it does over runways.

Fortunately, recovery efforts were swift, thanks to a passing kayaker who not only retrieved the aircraft but also delivered what may be the politest post-incident critique in club history:
“Try adding pontoons before the next water landing.”

Randy, we applaud your innovation and your ability to involve the local boating community in RC aviation operations.

We look forward to your next attempt, preferably with flotation devices installed.





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 / plaque, 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

Featured Trend: Foamboard Dogfights

The foamboard fighter builds continue to gain traction, and it's turning into one of the most fun, low-cost ways to get in the air.

With multiple members flying F-22 variants, we're starting to see informal dogfights and group flying sessions — a great way to bring newer pilots into the hobby without a major investment.

If you are interested in purchasing one of the foam board fighters, Randy Mays is building a small and large version of an F22 Raptor, all proceeds are going to the club. He can build you an RTF (just add your own receiver and battery) or an ARF version where you will need to add your own servos, motor, esc & battery and be ready to join the dogfight! He has a couple ready for new homes, message Randy through WhatsApp for more information if you don't have his number.

Small RTF \$65



Small ARF \$25



Large RTF \$75

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

- Name: **Jason Mitchell**
- Time flying: **20+ years**
- Favorite aircraft: **Extreme Flight Extra 300 v2**
- Best advice or funniest moment: **“Take your time and do things right. Whether it’s setting up an aircraft or flying a new model, patience pays off. And don’t hesitate to ask questions, there’s a lot of knowledge in this club.”**

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EVENTS & MERCH



GOLDEN TRIANGLE RADIO CONTROLLED CLUB PRESENTS

6TH ANNUAL HELI FLY-IN

APRIL 24-25TH 2026



Join us for a great day of Helicopter fun, open to all types of helis from scale to 3D!

Turbines, nitro, and gas are welcome!

Large 500' x 40' NEW Asphalt Runway

\$30 Pilot Fee

Spectators are Welcome!

Raffle with wide variety of helicopters and parts

Grand Prize - Goosky RS7 kit

Limited Generator Power Available

Lunch at noon Saturday

Registration open at 8am, raffle at 1pm Saturday



Event Sponsors



Navigate to 2720 E Seeton Rd, Grand Prairie, TX, 75054. This should put you within sight of our entrance gate at the curve of E Seeton Rd.

GPS Coordinates 32.57148, -97.04683

Visit gtrcc.org for directions to field.

- May 9th: F5J Contest
- June 6th:
- 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