

# Club Newsletter

Volume 72 – Edition 2

AMA Charter #610 Since 1962

February 2026



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## *See What's Possible*

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The official newsletter of the Golden Triangle RC Club

Club Meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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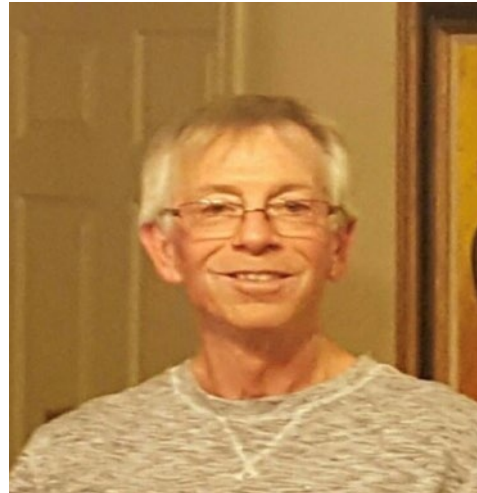


Eric Thompson

Safety

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Ben Bergman

Chairman





## FEATURE

### *Runway Project Underway!*



#### **A Major Milestone for GTRCC — and a Look at What Comes Next**

If you've been out to Jim Fulton Field recently, you've probably noticed that something big is happening — and it's not just talk anymore. After months of planning, coordination, and approvals, the Golden Triangle RC Club's runway project is officially underway.

This marks one of the most significant facility improvements the club has seen in years, and it represents more than just a new surface to take off and land from. It's an investment in safety, accessibility, and the long-term future of our flying site.

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## **From Planning to Progress**

The runway project didn't happen overnight. Behind the scenes, club leadership has worked closely with the City of Grand Prairie, contractors, and regulatory agencies to ensure the project met all requirements and protected the surrounding field and environment.

Early work has focused on site preparation. Existing material has been removed, soil samples have been taken as part of standard procedure, and excavation has progressed steadily. To date, more than forty eighteen-wheel truckloads of dirt have been removed from the field. Importantly, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has specified that no elevation change be made to the field, so all work is being done with that requirement in mind.

Some excavated material will be reused to address ruts and low spots elsewhere on the property — another example of improving the overall field while the opportunity exists.

## **What Members Can Expect**

As with any construction project, there are some temporary inconveniences. Equipment will be on site, access patterns may shift slightly, and flying activity may be limited at times. These short-term adjustments are necessary to deliver a long-term improvement that benefits everyone.

Once completed, the new asphalt runway will provide:

- A smoother, more consistent surface
- Improved safety for takeoffs and landings
- Better performance for a wider range of aircraft
- Reduced maintenance compared to previous surfaces

If current progress continues as expected, flying operations could resume from the new runway as early as March.

## **More Than Just Asphalt**

While the runway is the headline, it's also a catalyst for future improvements. With the city expressing continued support for the club, discussions are already underway about potential upgrades to the pit area, electrical power availability, and overall field layout.

These conversations matter. They signal that GTRCC is viewed as a responsible, organized partner — one that invests wisely, maintains its facilities, and creates a positive presence in the community.

## **A Shared Effort**

Projects like this succeed because members step up. From leadership coordination and contractor oversight to patience during construction, this effort reflects the strength of the club as a whole.

As work continues, members are encouraged to:

- Respect construction zones and posted notices
- Stay flexible with flying activities during the transition
- Lend a hand when volunteer opportunities arise

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- Share updates and photos for the newsletter

Every improvement we make to the field is something we all benefit from — and something we all help protect.

## **Looking Ahead**

Since 1962, the Golden Triangle RC Club has adapted, evolved, and grown because its members care about more than just flying. They care about safety, stewardship, and building something that lasts.

The runway project is the latest chapter in that story. When the first aircraft lifts off from the new surface, it won't just be a successful takeoff — it'll be a reminder of what's possible when a club works together with purpose.

Stay tuned for continued updates as construction progresses. The best days of flying at Jim Fulton Field are still ahead.

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## FROM THE FLIGHT LINE

### President's Message:

February finds the Golden Triangle RC Club right in the middle of visible progress.

The runway project is officially underway, and while construction always brings a few temporary inconveniences, this is exactly the kind of investment that strengthens the club for years to come. I want to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation during this phase.

February is also a good reminder that this is a shared field and a shared responsibility. Let's continue to look out for each other, stay mindful of our neighbors, and help newer members feel welcome and supported. A quick conversation at the flight line or lending a hand goes a long way.

Thank you for being part of a club that continues to move forward with purpose. I'm looking forward to seeing the progress take shape and even more aircraft back in the air as we head toward spring.

See you at the field,

**Jason Mitchell**

President, Golden Triangle RC Club

### Editor's Note:

If January was about momentum, February is about follow-through.

You can see it at the field, hear it in conversations, and feel it in the energy of the club right now. The runway work is real, projects are moving from ideas to action, and members are stepping up in big and small ways to keep things moving in the right direction.

This issue continues the goal of keeping the newsletter practical, relevant, and worth your time. You'll find updates on club projects, safety reminders that matter at *our* field, and space reserved for member builds, repairs, and lessons learned—because that's where some of the best knowledge in this club lives.

If you've got a project on the bench, a new model you're proud of, or even a mistake that taught you something useful, send it in. Photos and short write-ups are more than welcome. This newsletter works best when it reflects what's actually happening on the flight line each weekend.

Thanks for reading, contributing, and helping shape where this club is headed in 2026.

Blue skies,

**Eric Thompson**

Newsletter Editor



## CLUB BUSINESS

### January 2026 Business Meeting Minutes

**Prepared by:** Michael Roznick, Secretary

**Date:** January 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

**Location:** Marketplace Grocery Store

**Members Present:** 20

### Call to Order

President Jason Mitchell called the meeting to order at **9:00 AM**.

## Officer Reports

### President's Report

- The **new runway project is officially under construction** and progressing well.
- Dirt from the runway area has been excavated; the Corps of Engineers does not want any elevation change to the field.
- Some excavated dirt will be retained to fill ruts in other areas.
- To date, **42 eighteen-wheel truckloads of dirt** have been removed from the field.
- The dirt pile at the southwest end of the runway was discussed with the contractor; they do not plan to relocate it.
- Soil samples were taken as part of standard operating procedure; no issues are anticipated.
- Estimated runway completion timeframe is **approximately two weeks**.

### Vice President's Report

- No report.

### Treasurer's Report

- The club remains in **good financial condition**.
- **40 membership renewals** have been received, generating approximately **\$3,800 in income**.
- Porta-potti service increased by **\$3 per month**.
- Recent expenses include **\$94 for mower parts** and **\$35 for event sanctioning**.

### Secretary's Report

- Minutes from the December meeting were published in the January newsletter.

### Safety Officer's Report

- No report.

## Old & New Business

### Field Equipment & Maintenance

- **New tractor:** Frank Flores and Jason Mitchell continue work on the tractor refurbishment.
  - Dr. Taylor has compatible equipment that may be used to help level the field in the future.
  - AJ and Dr. Taylor will provide instruction to club members on proper equipment use.
- **Mowing teams:**
  - Randy reported that 4–5 members have signed up so far.
  - The goal is to establish **two mowing teams** next year to reduce workload.
  - Randy is managing signups through a dedicated WhatsApp group; members interested in helping should contact him directly.

### Governance & Administrative Updates

- **Bylaws update:**
  - Jason discussed required updates to the bylaws related to a **501(c)(7) social club application**, specifically the grievance process.
  - Revised bylaws will be distributed prior to the next meeting and voted on at that time.
  - The club approved the **\$600 application fee**.
- **Container access:**
  - Jason proposed moving to **keyed access** for the storage container to limit access to officers only, as the previous combination had been widely shared.

### Generator & Utilities

- Jason discussed plans to build a **dedicated structure** to house the generator while keeping it accessible to members.
- Members were reminded to **use the fuel shutoff valve** when turning off the generator to reduce maintenance issues.
- Frank raised concerns about generator fuel costs, noting he primarily flies fuel-powered models.
- After discussion and a membership poll, the **majority voted to continue covering generator fuel costs** with club funds.

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### City Coordination & Facility Improvements

- The City has discussed future **pit area improvements**, including upgraded electrical power runs.
  - These improvements are tentatively targeted for **next year**, pending continued progress and cooperation.
  - The City expressed interest in the club using treasury funds for **events and meals**, rather than large capital projects, and discussed the possibility of future **lease cost relief**, potentially moving to a **\$1 lease**.
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## Security Cameras

- Installation is still in progress.
- Art will assist with mounting and is donating the mounting hardware.
- Goal is to have cameras installed by the next meeting.

## Events

- **Annual Heli Event:**
  - Scheduled for **April 24–25**.
  - AMA sanction pending.
  - Budget expected to be similar to last year (~\$1,000 total, ~\$800 for prizes).
  - Catering options are being explored, aiming for a more cost-effective option than last year.
- **SPA Event:**
  - Scheduled for **June 6**.
  - Frank will provide cost estimates closer to the event date.
- **Future Events:**
  - Discussion included possible **Warbird, Turbine, and additional F5J events** later in the year.
  - A potential **Warbird event in November** was discussed.
  - Members approved hosting additional F5J events; dates TBD.
  - The City expressed interest in helping promote club events.
- **Grand Re-Opening Event:**
  - Jason discussed holding a **Grand Re-Opening** after runway completion, with City involvement.
- **External Events:**
  - **April 14:** SAE event at Thunderbird; students may visit GTRCC for final checkouts.
  - Christine from **Ace Academy** has reached out regarding another potential event this year.

## Field Layout & Safety Discussion

- Members discussed relocating pilot stations toward the **ends of the runway** rather than the center.
  - Considerations included longer walking distances for senior members.
  - Temporary pilot stations may be used after runway completion to evaluate feasibility.
- Jason also discussed using leftover petromat to create **runway overrun extensions**.

## General Announcements

- Members are welcome to **collect firewood** from downed trees and brush piles on the property.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **9:50 AM**.

## **SAFETY & OPERATIONS**

### **Pre-Flight Checks: Start Every Flight the Right Way**

A safe and enjoyable flight starts before the aircraft ever leaves the ground. Taking a few moments to perform a proper pre-flight check helps prevent avoidable accidents and keeps everyone at the field safe.

Begin by inspecting your aircraft. Check that all control surfaces are secure and moving freely in the correct direction. Look over linkages, hinges, and hardware to ensure nothing is loose or damaged.

Next, verify your power system. Confirm batteries are fully charged, properly connected, and securely mounted. Inspect wiring and connectors for wear, and make sure the propeller is tight and free of cracks or damage.

Finally, check your radio system. Select the correct model on your transmitter, confirm control response, and ensure your failsafe is set to reduce throttle in the event of signal loss.

These simple, consistent checks take only a few minutes and go a long way toward protecting people, aircraft, and our flying field. Safe preparation helps ensure every flight is a good one.

### **Safety Moment:**

We noticed one of our cigarette butt receptacles has been damaged in an odd way. If anyone knows what happened or saw anything, please let our Safety Officer know privately, we'd appreciate the help in keeping things in good shape. Remember these are for everyone's benefit to keep our field clean.



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We noticed several of our fire extinguisher tags were damaged. Again, if anyone knows what happened or saw anything, please let our Safety Officer know privately. The City of Grand Prairie has asked GTRCC to have fire extinguishers available that have been inspected by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Remember these are for everyone's benefit and help to keep us safe.



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## **Creative / Unplanned Landings!**

This month's Creative / Unplanned Landing Award goes to club member Glenn. Glenn landed his E-Flight Calypso on the top of this tree. Hey, it's in one piece!





## CLUB PROJECT CORNER

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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- “How you can help”

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## THE BUILD BENCH

Member-submitted – email picture and commentary of your projects to Eric at [ethompson1509@gmail.com](mailto:ethompson1509@gmail.com)

### Foamboard Fighters:

We have had several club members (Byron, Craig, Darrel, Randy M, Randy R) building these Foamboard jets and having a blast. They have built a complete fighter wing!



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If you are interested in purchasing one of these, Randy Mays is building a small (\$25) and large(\$35) version of an F22 Raptor, all proceeds are going to the club. You will need to add your own servos, motor, esc & battery and be ready to join the dogfight!



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## New Acquisitions & High-Performance Builds:

Norm has a new to him plane, an Aeroworks with a DA120cc spinning a Falcon 29.5x9, using JR guidance and as soon as that tax return check is in the mail some JR servos will follow.



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Michael Roznick's new Bell P-39 Airacobra



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Craig's new 67" ExtremeFlight Laser



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Eric's new TAHorizons 37" Extra 330



Eric's new to him 72" 3dhs Extra330sc, powered by a Dualsky GA3500, Theta 398 servos



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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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



## EVENTS & MERCH

- Events
- 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](http://www.logofactoryco.com) / 972-642-4222
- For club stickers (limited sized and quantities available), please contact Frank Cox – [countilaw@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

- Send an email to Eric Thompson at [ethompson1509@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ethompson1509@gmail.com)

\*\*\*End Newsletter\*\*\*