



Palomar R/C Flyers, Inc.

Transmitter

January 2026



President's Message:

I see 2026 as a critical transition year for the Palomar RC Flyers. Looking back to October 1968, our founders formalized this group into Palomar RC Flyers, Inc. Now, 58 years later, we stand on the shoulders of those who navigated similar turning points.

Our history is defined by bold moves. We remember the leadership of Varley Longson, whose decision to adjust dues saved the club and provided the stability our 200+ members enjoy today. Now, it is our turn. This year, your Board of Directors is tasked with planning our transition from Johnson Field to our new home in Valley Center.

Johnson Field did not become a premier facility overnight; it was built through the membership sharing quality ideas and the Board executing them. As we begin this transition, I ask you to look at our new location not for "what it isn't," but for "what it could be."

I am proud to serve alongside this year's board: Don Davis, Chuck Riley, Eric Armstrong, Tom Pollinger, Joe Villarreal, Mark Olsen, Mark Anderson, Brandon Liesemeyer, and Ron Holman. We are committed to acting in your best interest. Rather than offering critiques without solutions, I invite you to share your vision with us. Let's make 2026 the year future members look back on as the moment we secured our club's legacy for the next 50 years.

Don Davis

President of the Palomar R/C Flyers, Inc.

Happy New Year! 2026

Though the year is new, it may be similar to 2025, with its own twists. Our planes, flying fields and friends will hopefully remain the same.

Happiness is an inside job and can't be bought. We celebrate a new year, and wish everyone good health, inner peace, and the ability to handle what life brings.

We continue to be thankful for our main flying field which is one of the best in San Diego County! It's been said that it is the best! As far as we can see, we believe that we will be here throughout 2026. This is a huge gift to all of us! Thanks to the Pappas Family! We appreciate you for already making our coming year a happy one!

Editor,

Joe Buko

Dec. 7, 2025, the day this was typed, marked the 84th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day. The following piece should have been printed in the December 2025 issue of the Transmitter. Better late than never. It was written by Adolph Kuhn, a Pearl Harbor Survivor and is taken from a booklet published by the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association titled, "Pearl Harbor Remembered." Vol.2 page 88. Adolph was from Kansas, enlisted in the Navy and became an aviation metalsmith.

Memories of the Survivors

**Rising Sun planes overhead flew,
Clouding the skies of Oahu.
Torpedoes rapidly speeding by,
Launched from the Hawaiian sky
Thousands of hot bullets accurately spray,
Wake up, blind fools, this is Pearl Harbor Day
We watched in awe as our ships capsized,
During Japan's Sunday morning surprise**

**Our island in a state of mass confusion
Fuchida* is glowing over this intrusion
Many fuel storage tanks ignited to blow
Another feather for the cap of Yamamoto*
Several aircraft hangars are set ablaze
Servicemen groping in a state of daze.
Dismembered bodies floating in oil,
Amid chaos, confusion, and turmoil**

**Trapped on vessels many decks below
Are sailor and marines from Battleship Row
Their chances of escape are next to nil
As more Kamikazes pour over the hill
Speedy dive bombers flood the air
Nippon bombs blasting everywhere**

Soldiers and airmen hurriedly running

As Japanese pilots keep on gunning

My guardian angel clung to me

As I dog paddled in an oil burning sea

Helter-skelter was common place

Yet we had much more to face

Terror ran rampant throughout the scene

Printed on the faces of sailor and marine

Our Army and Coast Guard felt likewise

As those grinning pilots launched their surprise

More that 2,000 innocent Americans were slain

December 7th events were totally insane

We who were spared pray for the dead

How well we know it could have been us instead

For all the comrades we left behind

Adequate prayers aren't easy to find

May their souls forever be at rest

Thank you, guys, you all did your best

HOW CAN WE EVER FORGET PEARL HARBOR?

***Fucida was the lead pilot of the first wave of planes to attack Pearl Harbor**

***Yamamoto was the admiral who led the attack on Pearl Harbor.**



Mea Culpa,

**Steve Gebler sent this for publication in the December Transmitter, but I didn't see it until it was too late. .
Sorry for the delay.**

Joe Buko

Editor

The Poker Fun Fly was held at Johnson Field on Saturday November 8.

The following Pilots/Card Sharps were in attendance:

- **Rick "Hold 'Em" Hilton**
- **Allan "Go Lo" Grabar**
- **David "Cornered" Carner**
- **John "Fold 'Em" Forestieri**
- **Chuck "Reel 'Em In" Riley**
- **Don "Done Raising" Davis**
- **Darrin "Aces" Albert**
- **"Joker" Joe Villarreal**

Doug "All In" Abel

After all the the bluffing, raising, and whining were done, Aces Albert was the high hand winner with two pair and Fold 'Em Forestieri won the low hand a 96432 garbage hand.

Each winner walked away with \$40. The rest of the players went home, took out a loan, and wept softly.

--

Steve Gebler

Altitude Quest



The goal of this game is to see how close you can fly to an assigned altitude.

The rules

1. The pilot affixes a small, provided, altimeter to their aircraft with velcro, a rubber band, or other temporary method.
2. The pilot spins to see what their assigned altitude is.
3. The pilot attempts to fly to exactly the assigned altitude. Your maximum altitude is recorded when you begin your descent.
4. Each pilot is awarded 100 points for each flight. Points are deducted for each foot in error over or under the assigned elevation. For example, if an altitude of 200 feet is assigned and the pilot actually flies to 185 feet (or 215 feet in this example) the assigned altitude is missed by 15 feet and the score for this round is $100 - 15$ for a score of 85 points for this round.
5. Each pilot will have an opportunity to fly two rounds. A perfect score would be 200 points if the pilot would achieve exactly the altitude assigned on each round.
6. In the event of a tie, the tied players will fly additional rounds until a clear winner of first, second, and third place is established.
7. Prizes are awarded according to the following schedule:
 1. First place \$25
 2. Second place \$15
 3. Third Place \$10
8. Entry fee is \$10

Contest Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026

Registration and flights starts at 8 A.M. Contest ends at 11 AM

**For further information contact Steve Gebler at (760)
519-8163 or fly@stevegebler.com**



President Don Davis President *emeritus* Charles Lewis Doug Farrenkopf



Steve Nelson

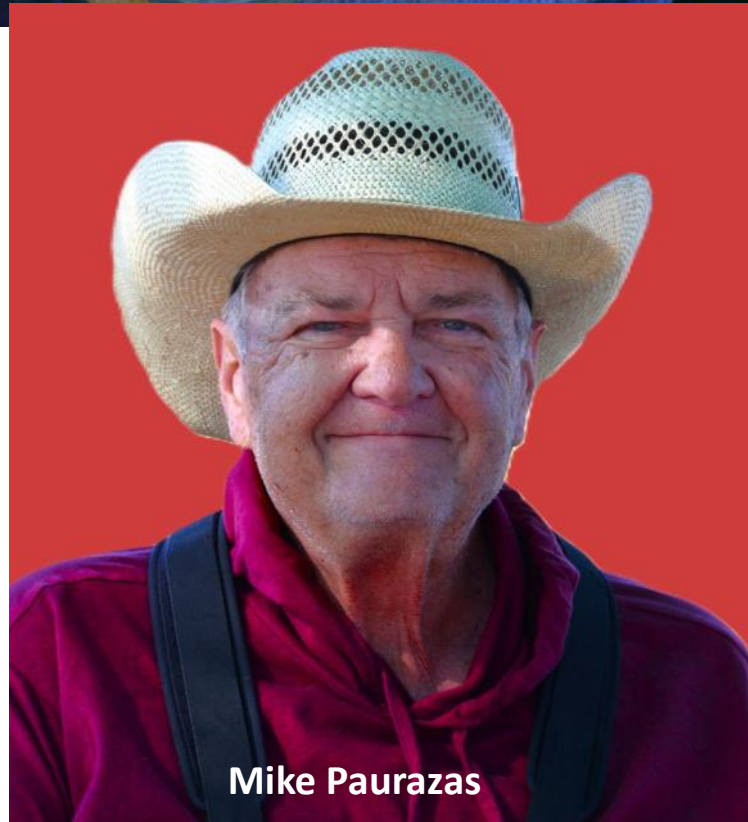


December 2, 2025 Patrick Pranica

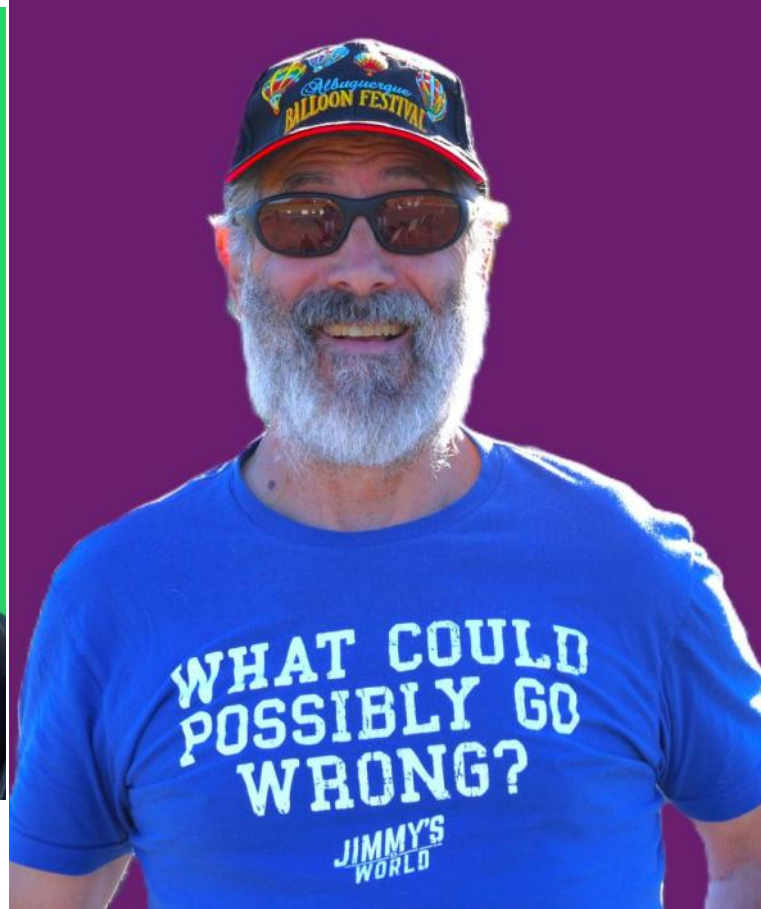
President *emeritus* Charles Lewis



Board Member Mark Anderson and his A-4



Mike Paurazas



2 photos of Gary Marquardt



Randy Brunette on Dec. 6, 2025

Trifecta Dec. 2, 2025 V.P. Chuck Riley



The morning began with eleven planes in the air! There were many mid-air collisions. This delighted us— as long as it wasn't `your plane going down!



One way to land a flying wing in the circle at the Trifecta.



Joe Villarreal and William Taft in background



President *emeritus* Bill Hill



Board member Brandon Liesemeyer



Drue Marquardt



President *emeritus* Steve Gebler



V.P. Chuck Riley



Randy Brunette



President *emeritus* Joe Villarreal, Board Members Mark Olsen and Brandon Liesemeyer



**New Treasurer
Tom Pollinger**



V.P. Chuck Riley

Bill Hill



Randy Brunette



Mark Olsen

Brandon Liesemeyer

Joe Villarreal





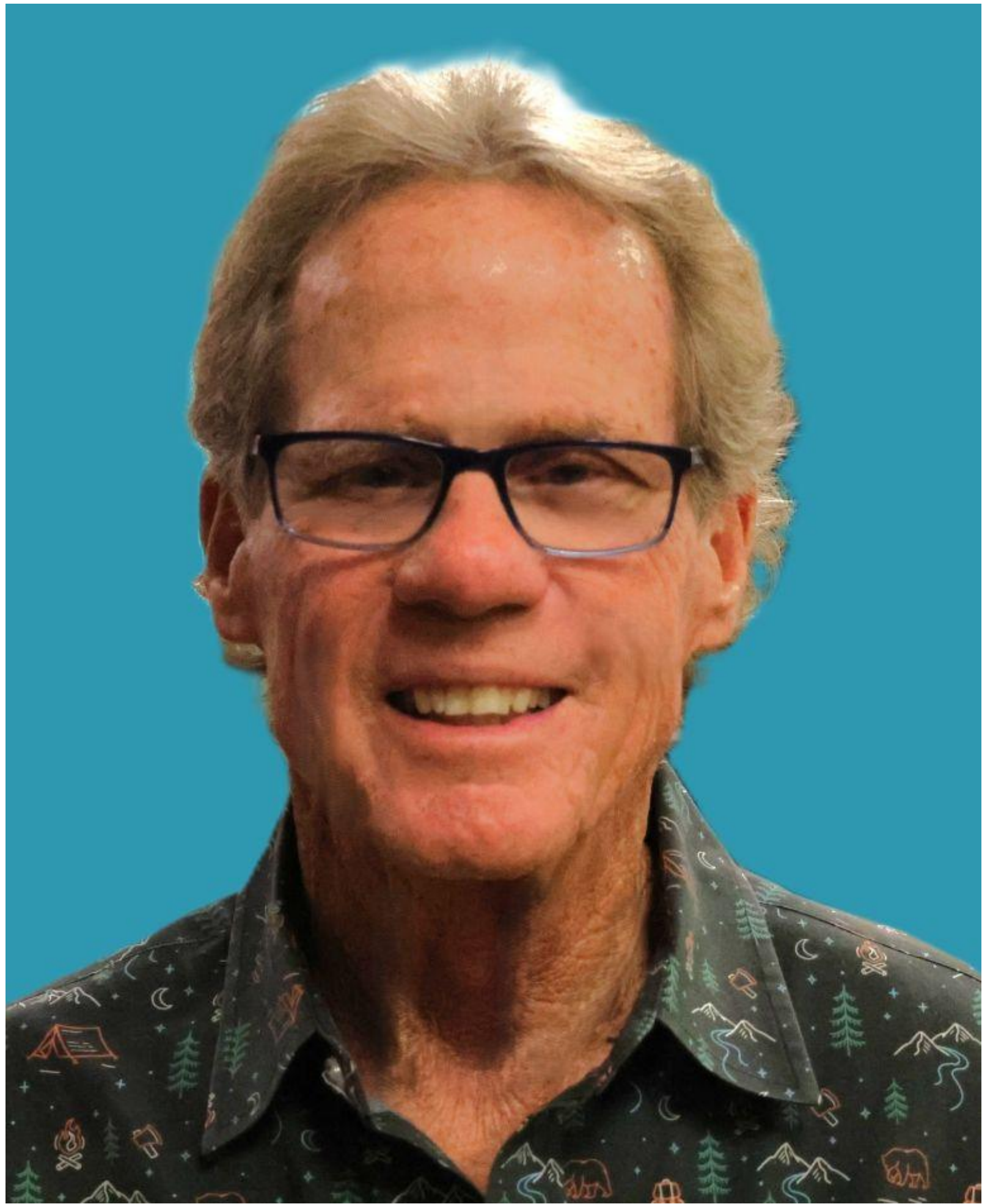
Bill Hill, David Carner, Mark Olsen, William Taft, Brandon Liesemeyer, Joe Villarreal, Randy Brunette, Steve Gebler, Chuck Riley



Dillon Patel



Trifecta Winners: William Taft-2; Randy Brunette-1; Steve Gebler-3



New Board Member Ron Holman Welcome!

Dec. 6, 2025

Club Christmas/Holiday Party

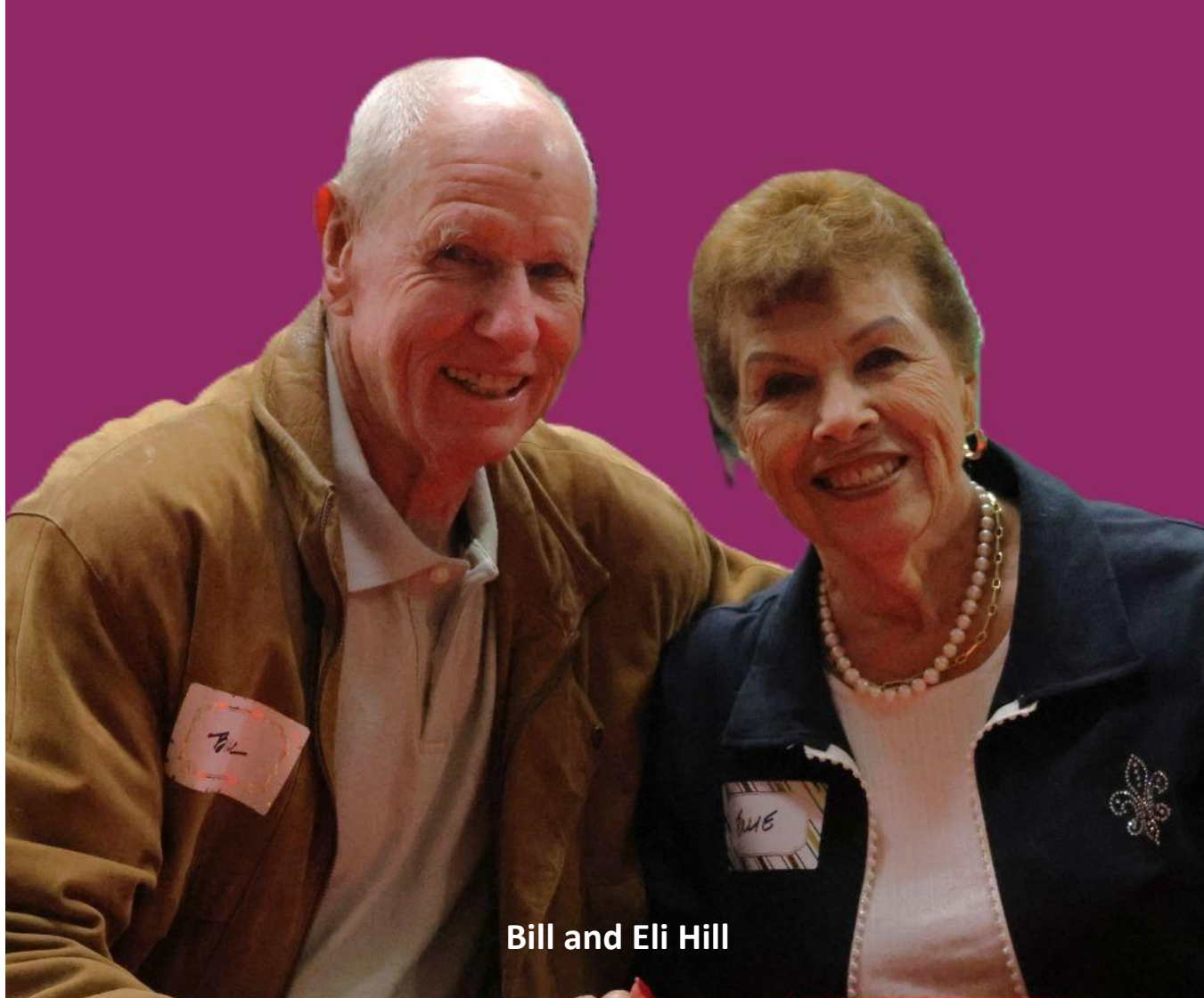


Rhonda and Varley Longson



Jim Gallacher

Alan Wolstenholme



Bill and Eli Hill



Willaim and Hahn DeMore



Ernie Gebler

Joan McVey



Steve Gebler

Debra Arnold



Scott Ralston



Lenita and Bob Hague



Doug and Janice Farrenkopf



Beverly and Charles Onstott



Joe and Barbara Villarreal



Don and Patty White



Chuck and Gwen Riley



Drue Marquardt





Wayne and Patricia Bonfietti



Patricia Bonfietti

Gwen Riley



Barbara Villarreal

Suzanne Buko



Ryan and Sam Hasenin



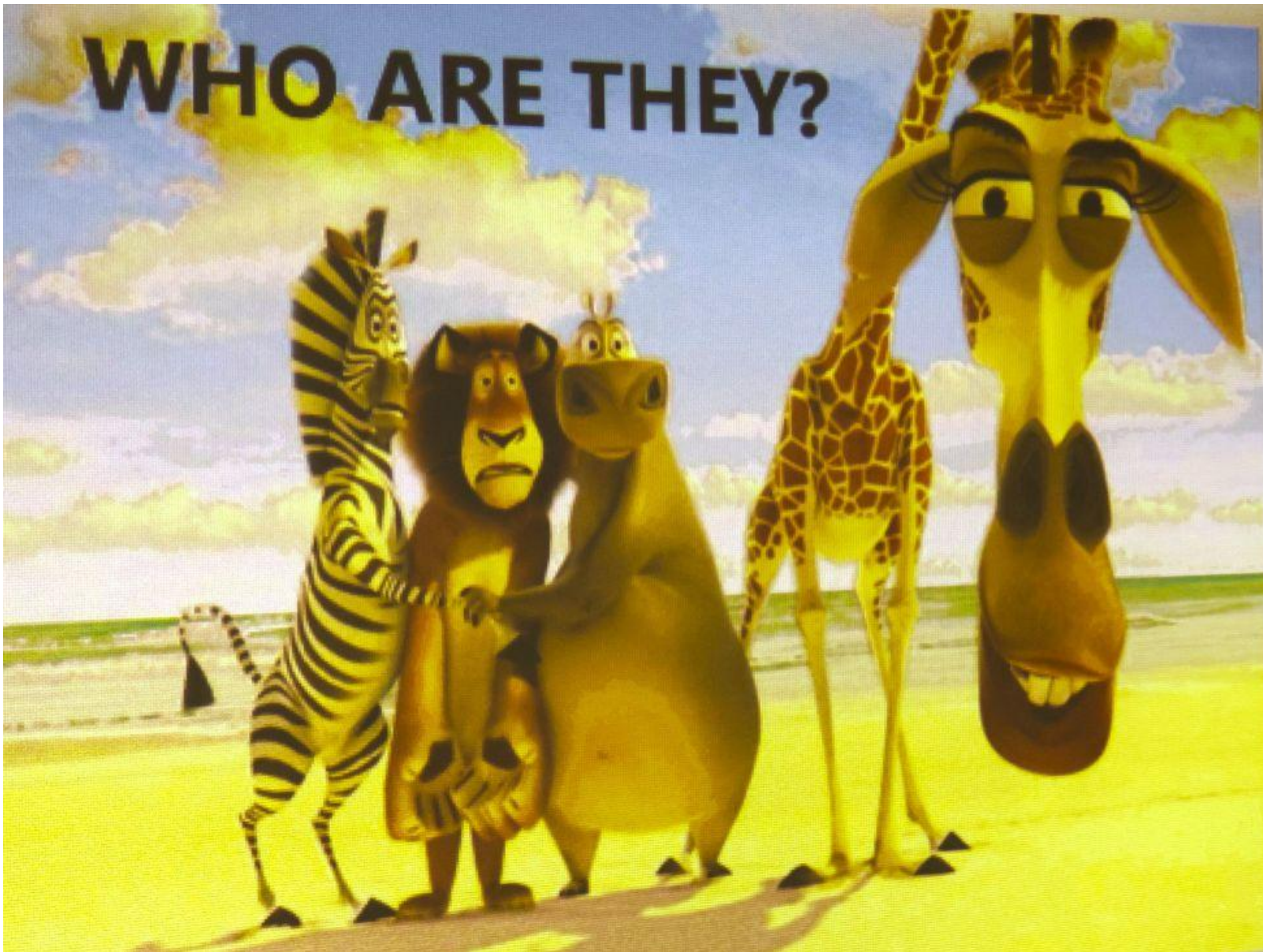
**Editor Joe &
Suzanne Buko**



Doug Abel, Member-of-the-Year Eric Armstrong, V.P. Chuck Riley, President. Don Davis



Tim Daugherty



Steve Gebler is a most creative club member who created a slide show of members "then & now." He showed photos of same person as a child/adult, and we had to guess who the child photo is now!



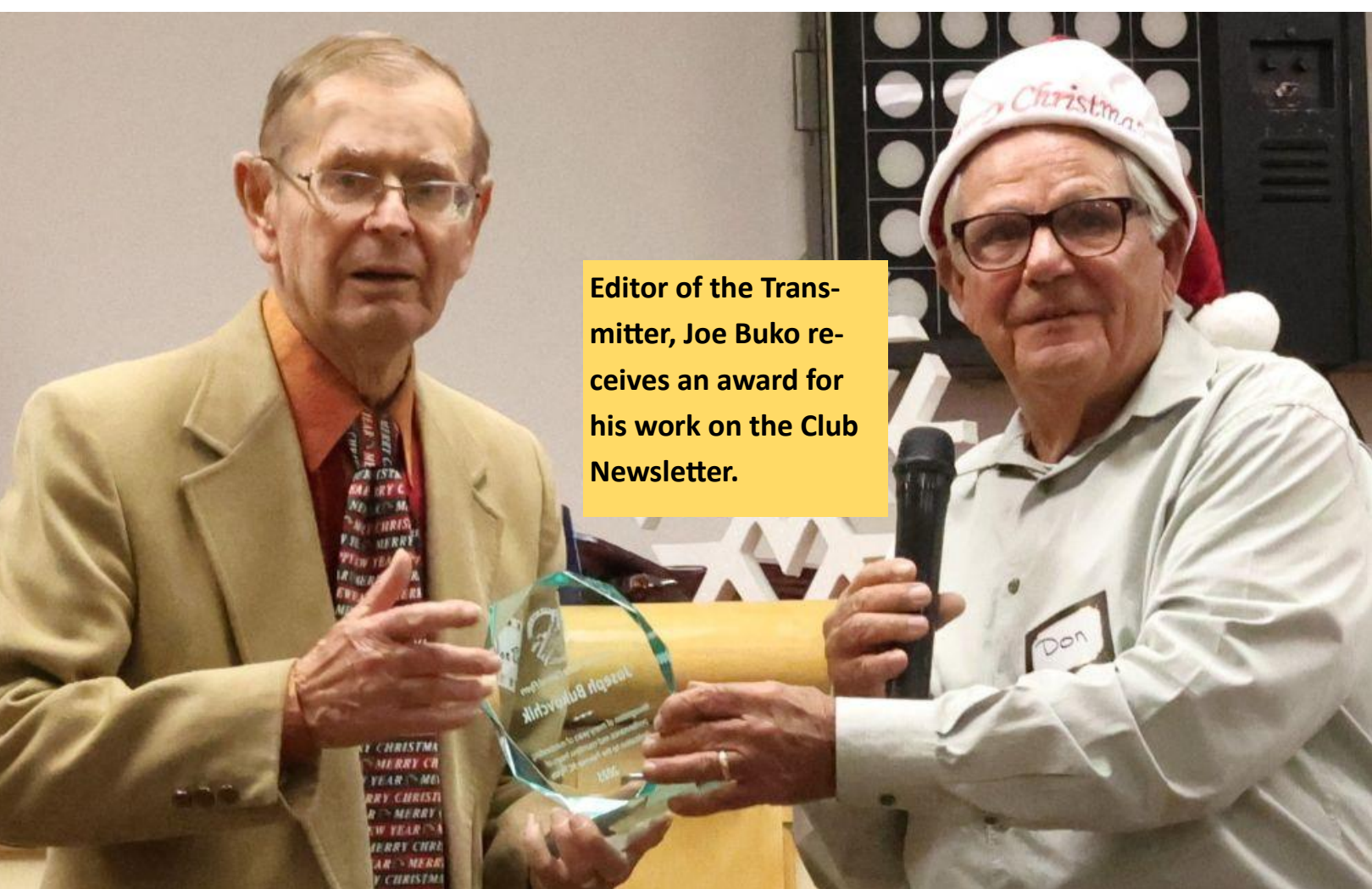
President Don Davis with past presidents all: Joe Villarreal, Steve Gebler, Joe Buko, Bill Hill, Varley Longson



Above Joe Villarreal receives award for his GREAT contributions to our club and all his GREAT efforts and dedication.

Below Mark Olsen receives an award for his GREAT contribution as Lead Flight Instructor





Editor of the Transmitter, Joe Buko receives an award for his work on the Club Newsletter.



Doug Abel receives an award for being a board member for 6 years and for his community outreach work! Well done!



Eric Armstrong receives the Member of the Year award for his great dedication and energy to our club! You rock!



Joe Villarreal presented this to Scott Ralston for his dedication and work @ our new field!



Bob Davis, Ammy Davis' brother-in-law from Montana, visited.



Items on which to bid during the silent auction



The dinner line where fine food was served.

**L/R VP Chuck Riley,
Gary Marquardt,
Dillon Patel**



**Wolfgang and
Katja Engel**





President *emeritus* Bill Hill and his Paper Cub which he flies aerobatically.



Instructor: Mark Olsen

Student Pilot: Levi Long

Grandfather: Kelly Thompson



See the water tank on top of the hill? Bill tried to fly it there, but it didn't quite make it.



Treasurer for 2026, Tom Polinger and his Airbus A-320 which flies well.



The following photos were submitted by Club Secretary Eric Armstrong -Many Thanks!!



From the SW Heli Rodeo Fun Fly in Arizona - Believe it or not, one pilot owns all of these helicopters!



From the SW Heli Rodeo Fun Fly in Arizona - Dave Lester getting ready to fly his RAW 580



From the SW Heli Rodeo Fun Fly in Arizona - Palomar RC Flyers brought quite a few pilots this year! From left to right: Rez, Eric Armstrong, Satinder Dhindsa, Sean Miller, Chuck Onstott, Scott Lee, Dave Lester, Donnie Petsche, Scott Travers, Don White, Corey Nellis, Don Ptesche



Mr. Don White preparing for a flight with his Align 700 gas powered helicopter!



Dave Lester and Mike Leonard discussing tail belt tension. Mike is a small business owner whose company services pools for commercial clients. Mike has become one of our best members on the heli side. Everyone knows Dave - previous bad-ass pro water skier who once held the world speed record for open water skiing!



Scott Travers just finishing a flight while Rez supervises.



Eric Armstrong with his new OMP M7 700 size helicopter. Powered by a 200 Amp Scorpion ESC and XNova motor.



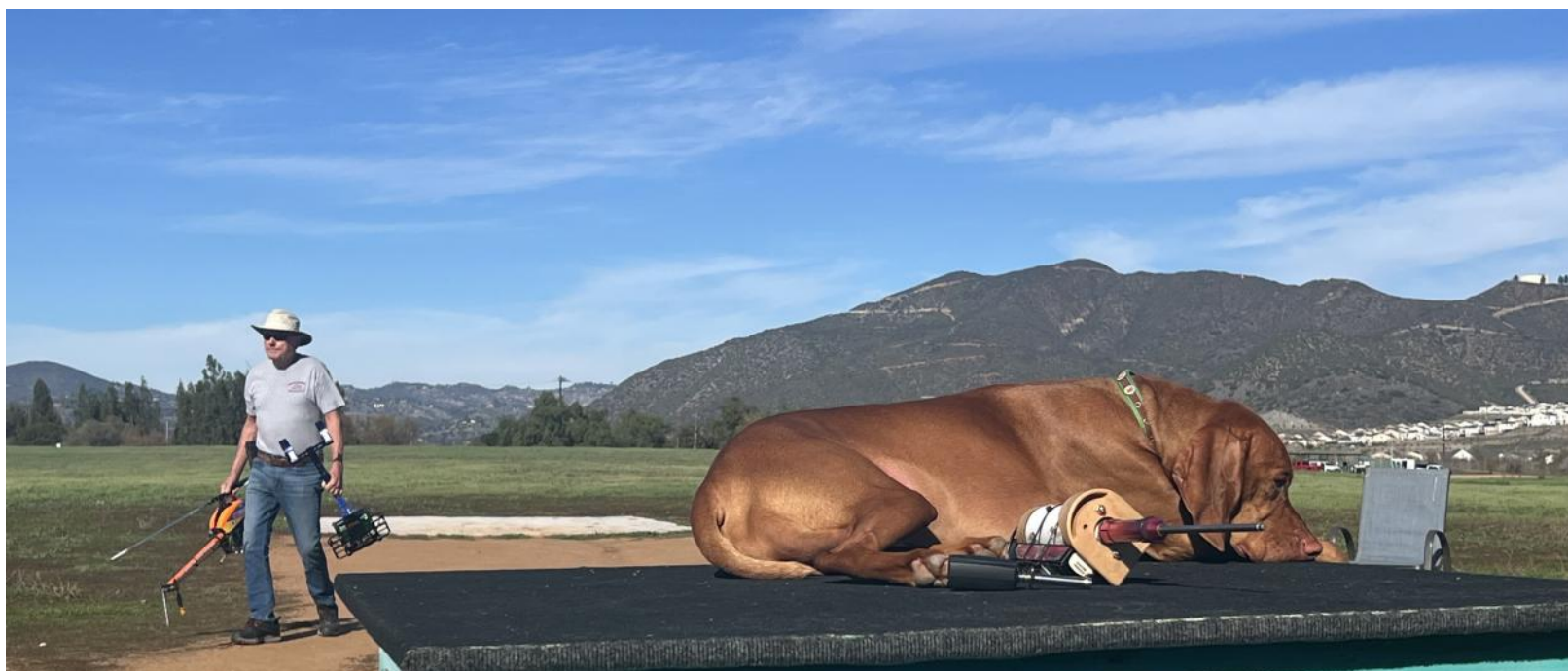
Eric Armstrong with his new OMP M7 700 size helicopter. Powered by a 200 Amp Scorpion ESC and XNova motor.



The official poster for the San Diego Heli Fun Fly hosted by our beautiful club! The 2026 Heli Fun Fly takes place from February 25 to March 1.



Heli flying in late December - we are blessed to have such a great location where we can fly year around!



Don White finishing another great flight - Rez taking in some sunshine on a beautiful day at the heli field.



Rez posing with two 700 size helicopters; on the left an OMP M7 next to an SAB Black Thunder Freedom Edition.

Event Schedule 2026

January 10, Time 8-11 Event Altitude Quest

January 17, Trifecta Unusual Date due to holiday `9 to 10

February 8, 9-10 Trifecta Open Flying

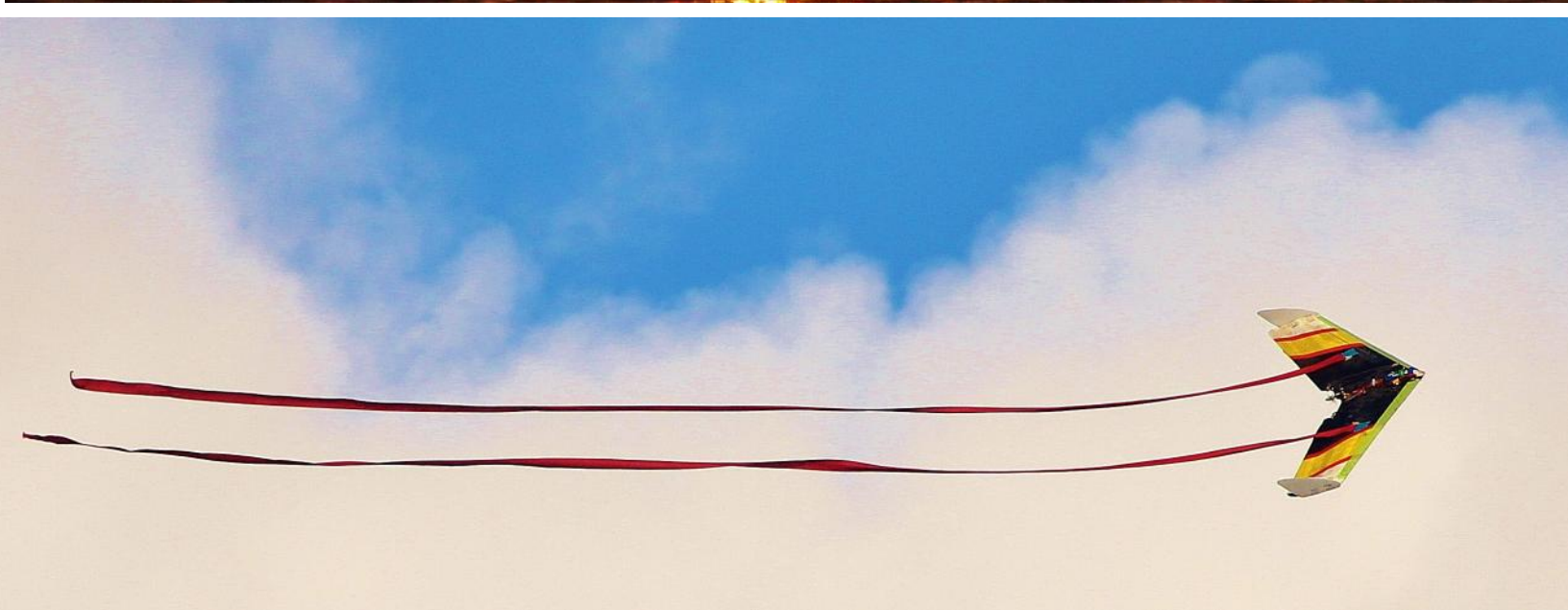
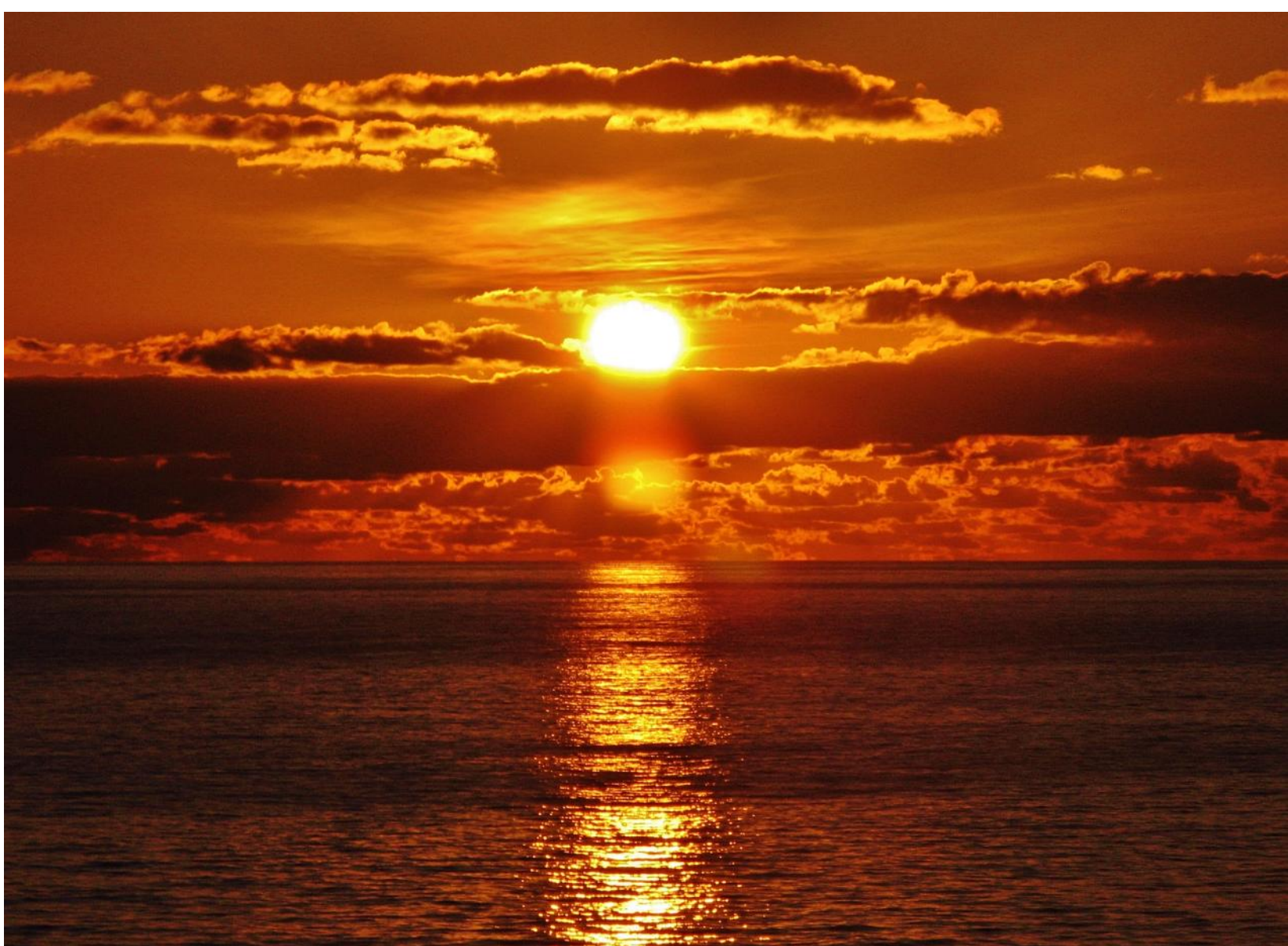
Trifecta March 7, April 12, 9-10

Trifecta Unusual date due to Easter May 2 , June 7, 9-10 Trifecta



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- 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

Club Directory

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Don Davis	949-697-9727
Vice President Chuck Riley	760-716-8391
TREASURER Tom Pollinger	760—712-9943
SECRETARY Eric Armstrong	760-505-2904
SAFETY OFFICER Mark Olson	858-945-1315
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN James Christy	951-232-7997

BD MEMBER Brandon Liesemeyer	951-217-7902
BD MEMBER Joe Villarreal	760-390-1470
BD MEMBER Mark Olson	858-945-1315
BD Member <i>Mark Anderson</i>	<i>619-379-6392</i>
BD MEMBER Ron Holman	909-731-9103

CLUB OPERATIONS

Newsletter Editor Joe Buko	760-726-8831
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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Helicopter Chairman Don White	760-419-9325
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HEAD INSTRUCTORS

<i>Mark Olsen</i>	<i>858-945-1315</i>
<i>Mark Anderson</i>	<i>619-379-6392</i>

INSTRUCTOR LIST

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Cesar Fernandez	760-576-5664
Dave Ellis	818-383-6574
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Vic Lerum	619-921-5830
Chuck Riley	760-716-8391

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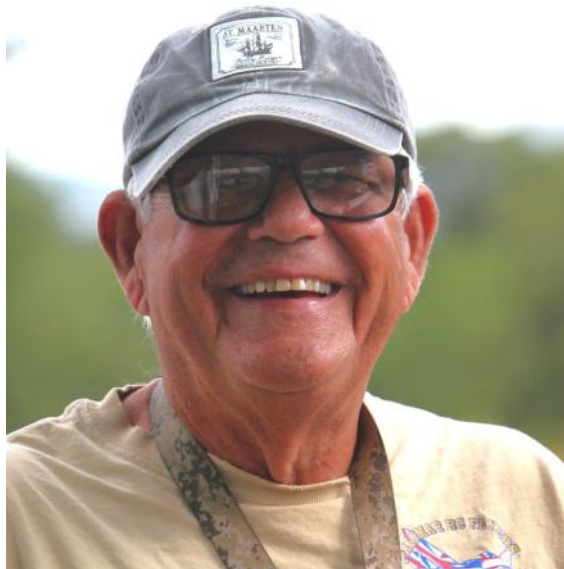
E-MAIL: info@palomarrcflyers.org Catch us on the web at: www.palomarrcflyers.com

2026

Club Officers



Jim Christy—Membership Chairman



President Don Davis



Vice President Chuck Riley

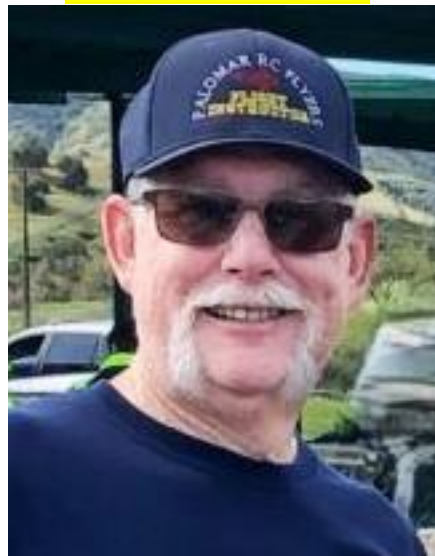


Treasurer Tom Pollinger

Board Members



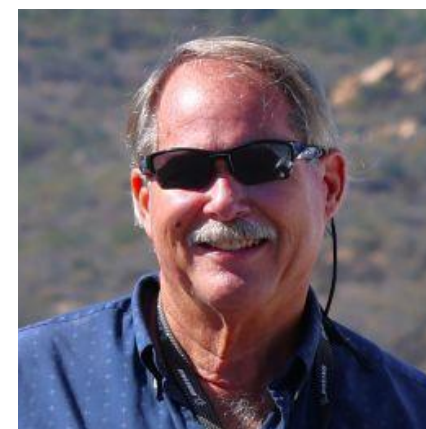
Brandon Liesemeyer



Joe Villarreal



Secretary Eric Armstrong



Mark Anderson



Ron Holman



Safety Officer and Board Member