



Direct Connection

October 2026

The Official Newsletter of

AMA Charter Club 2839 – Knights of the Round Circle

KOTRC 2026 Club Officials and Support Members

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KOTRC Club Meetings convene at the Fullerton Airport AFI Building, 4119 W. Commonwealth Ave. on the second Wednesday each month starting at 7PM and usually ending by 9PM. Visitors are welcome to attend. (Location is just west of the airport control tower)

2026 KOTRC Monthly Club Meeting Schedule		
Mo	Day	
Jan	8	Burnett Engraving
Feb	12	Burnett Engraving
Mar	12	Burnett Engraving
Apr	14	Burnett Engraving
May	12	Burnett Engraving
June	9	Burnett Engraving
July	8	Fullerton Airport-4119 W. Commonwealth
Aug	12	Fullerton Airport-4119 W. Commonwealth
Sep	9	Fullerton Airport-4119 W. Commonwealth
Oct	14	Fullerton Airport-4119 W. Commonwealth
Nov	11	Fullerton Airport-4119 W. Commonwealth
Dec	12	2026 Christmas luncheon

Yearly Club Dues: \$25

Knights of the Round Circle Sanctioned Contest Schedule for 2026				
Mo	Day	Event	Location	CD
Apr	29	Fun Fly and BBQ	Whittier	J. Wright
July	25,26	Combat	Whittier	Bill Maywald
Aug	15,16	Bob Palmer Memorial Stunt and Knights Joust	Whittier	Bill Maywald
Oct	3,4	Ringmaster Worldwide Fly-A-Thon	Whittier	John Wright
Oct	16,17,18	Money Nats Combat	Whittier	Bill Maywald
Dec	5,6	Toys For Tots Speed and Combat	Whittier	Joe Brownlee

Knights News

by Clint Brooks

It was a busy October for your newsletter editor. While not control line related, I spent a good portion of the month with back to back weekends of FAI free flight contests and USA FAI team selections for next year. So I'm a bit late generating the newsletter this month.

Meeting Minutes from 10/14/26

Attending:

15 members in good standing, including Greg Pawlowski who is recovering from a stroke earlier this year. It's good to see his happy face again!

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by acting President of the Day, Clint Brooks

Show and Tell action

John Wright: Presented his broken Gieske Nobler wing that came from the model Greg Pawlowski deeded him. The story that went with it was the failure of the leadout line connections at the bellcrank, in flight. This initiated with tight inside loops as the down line let loose, followed by a free flight when the up line then released under the double load of the model. The model had a low trajectory toward the 60 Freeway but was trapped by the tree branches and went down in a few pieces. The wing had the worst damage as it broke in half, but the rest of the model was saved by the effect the tree branches had of cushioning the impact. The model can likely be repaired to fly again, but it presents a challenge to rework the control system for proper linkage connections and reassemble the wing halves. This model was an RTC model, not sure of the pedigree but the workmanship was bad for the controls, and the structure itself on the wing marginal for strength. It was a very light model, but a time bomb for destruction.

Greg Pawlowski: showed a new Brodak 'Navion' profile stunt model he built while in recovery for the stroke. He managed this using his left arm and hand as the right side is still paralyzed from the stroke. That shows a lot of determination-I hope he gets to fly it at some point. It was an amazing demonstration of fortitude.

Howard Doering: had two asymmetrical speed models that could be run as Class B or C depending on the engine used. One was set up with a Nelson .40, and the other with a .29 of which I didn't catch the make. Both presumably are screamers in use. It's a 100 pound pull test on these monoline beauties, so no models for slouches to fly.

Treasurer Greg Carter gave a quick summary of the bank balance and the club is still very solvent with all expenses paid for the year.

Old Business

No specific old business was brought up during this phase of the meeting.

New Business

A November 14 swap meet/Collecto was announced by John Wright. Contact him for more details.

Joe Brownlee presented a recent development with the AMA regarding a sale proposal of the AMA property in Muncie to a data center developer. This had popped up on the internet in the week prior to the meeting, with concerns expressed by AMA membership about the secretive appearance of discussions with a developer over sale of the property. Not much is known about any of this, but the way AMA has handled it is appalling to most people. There is a letter writing campaign to AMA management about being forthcoming with details about the activity, but the horse has left the barn on trust of AMA management now.

Most likely this was an unsolicited proposal by a developer to AMA, and not indicative of any sale or plan to do so. If there is a plan to sell, all of us hope there is an alternate site that the AMA would vote to move to and continue maintaining a National Aeromodeling site. There are better options than Muncie out there, so maybe we should all relax a bit before passing any more judgement. And get involved if help is needed.

Clint Brooks presented findings on the research for the 2026 Christmas luncheon. Last month the choices nominated were Buca de Beppo and the Old Spaghetti Factory (OSF) in Fullerton, where we held last years event.

The Brea Buca de Beppo was visited as the location to be considered, and I spoke with the manager and also had lunch (research is hard work). This location is pretty much the same as all the others I have been to as far as décor and atmosphere. It's a warm and festive place for sure. The banquet manager contacted me later with details on menu options and costs. This information was presented to the group, with a sample ROM cost of holding an event for 28 people. The food is served family style, so there are no individual entrée costs as done by OSF. There were five menu packages to choose from, with a basic menu with a few selections to a version with probably too many selections. I chose a middle range price to sample, and ran a calculation using the structure they provided for the added costs on top of the per person charge. This came to about \$48 per person. This included soft drinks, coffee and tea. The menu charge for this was \$36 per person, so typical cost escalation based on taxes, tipping and a service charge tacked on for some reason. This did not sit well with the group, and a vote was taken for continuing with Buca or pursuing a plan with the OSF in Fullerton. There were only two yeas, and the rest of the room voted no, so the motion passed to plan with OSF.

Since then I have made a reservation with the Old Spaghetti Factory in Fullerton. This was pretty easy as they just teed up the contract we had from last year with a new date for this year. I left the menu selections as they were from last year. The entree choices are Lasagna (\$22.50) , Mizithra pasta (\$20.25) and Chicken Marsala (\$22.95). This is served with salad, house bread and dessert. Soft and other drinks are not part of the contract, and are individual tabs as it was last year. So it's looking like similar costs again. We have a 25 head minimum to use the mezzanine area, which I agreed to again. I told them 28 heads planned, but it could be a few more, but seating is limited. Please RSVP to me if you are planning to attend.

I also made a motion to invite Pat Akers and a guest, along with Anita Castillo and guest to attend with the club picking up the tab for them, as guests of honor. All in the room agreed with this plan.

So, we are on the calendar for Saturday, December 12th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Please arrive before 1:00 so we can be seated by the start time for the reservation. I will collect individual funds for the tab at the end of the luncheon. Here is an estimated cost per entrée including 9.75% tax and 18% gratuity:

Mizithra: \$25.87

Lasagna: \$28.74

Chicken Marsala: \$29.32

Actual cost at time of service may be different-use these values for planning purposes only.

The OSF address is 110 East Santa Fe, Fullerton CA 92832. This is near the west end of the Amtrack station for reference. See you there!

The next subject broached was the nomination of club leadership roles for 2027/2028; all the positions are open for nominations.

Clint Brooks offered to assume the role of club secretary based on dovetailing that activity into generation of the newsletter. It was not a nomination, so consider that my pitch for the position. If someone else is nominated for secretary it can be done so during the November meeting when we entertain final nominations and vote on the positions.

Greg Carter offered to continue in his role as club Treasurer.

Bill Maywald was nominated as club President.

Mike Alurac was nominated for the Vice President position, and **Steve Minchella** offered to continue in the role as he is the current club V.P.

As stated earlier, final nominations and voting will happen during the November meeting. Just what we all need-another election!

Contest discussions

John Wright is going to CD his annual one day Fun Fly in April next year. He plans to pay the park for a field reservation which the club will cover presumably.

Warren Walker again brought up the idea of refreshing the annual Palmer contest to something more inclusive to past club Legacy pilots/members. This would include an event where aircraft from these members could be flown again. Doing this drives a restructuring of the current contest format and awards. Warren tasked himself to develop a draft contest flyer for the next club meeting to foster further discussions and development along these lines, as most of the membership at this meeting seems to agree it's a good move for the club to make.

Along these lines, Interim Pres Clint Brooks spoke of getting 2027 contest flyers edited and ready to distribute. Particular, the need to provide a file to Stan Tyler to use on the club website ASAP. There has been a problem with getting this information out ahead of schedule over the past few years, and if the club wants to be rigorous in conducting contests and garner a strong reputation, this is a big part of it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16