



Direct Connection

September 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 are being held 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

The September club meeting was well attended on a hot evening. The remodeled building meeting room is wonderfully cool now so no fidgeting members dealing with the heat. Mike Alurac stood in for the President role and facilitator and the meeting was called to order at at 7 PM as planned.

Meeting Minutes from 9/9/26 as submitted by Club Secretary John Wright

Attending:

Vice President- Steve Minchella

Secretary-John Wright

Treasurer-Greg Carter

Members Warren Walker, Mike Alurac, Mike Meadows, Albert Shorey, Bill Maywald, Tom Muggleton, Joe Brownlee, Howard Doering, Stan Tyler, Don Repp, Clint Brooks

Show and Tell action

Mike Meadows: Acrylic case full of slot cars he has built and collected over the years. Mike still actively runs them at one of the only remaining slot car tracks in SoCal.

Warren Walker: new Derringer wing covered in silkspan and dope was presented for fondling and admiration. You had to be careful it didn't float out of your hands as it was passed around, it was so light. Nice job Warren!

Bill Maywald was given accolades for his first combat column published in the AMA magazine. It sounds like Bill set up an subject matter outline in this one, and will continue to expand on each area in future columns. Nice photo presentations made the column pop and interesting. It's putting the club and the Whittier Narrows flying site on the map again.

Treasurer Greg Carter gave a quick summary of the bank balance and with recent income from contests and the donations from the Dennis Choate offerings the club is once again showing growth in the treasury.

From his podium position Greg went on to demonstrate a combat scoring system based on MS Excel. This is a nifty self calculating and contestant managing tool that makes it easy for one person to load data and keep a real time accounting of scoring as matches proceed. Luckily we have use of a large screen monitor on the wall so having this type of overview is now a practical matter for future meetings. Greg was using his own laptop with HDMI cable to run his demo, so anyone contemplating this in the future will need to provide these two items to do so.

Greg went on to setup a mock contest using members attending the meeting. The macro would generate the draw cards and load a secondary tabulation table with names of opponents for each match in the round. Each named cell had judging input for air time and cuts made. To speed things up as no actual flying would occur during the meeting, a dummy match input gave random results for each match, which would then load into a win/lose rank for each contestant. It also allowed for multiple elimination options and would keep scoring based on this.

I personally got shot down in the first two rounds demonstrated in a double elimination contest, so I was early to the bench. The field kept shrinking with each draw and rounds flown until Bill Maywald managed to best the field. Somehow the randomness of the program seemed to lean toward Bill so there was a bit of suspicion about that. Winners were presented cash awards for first through third place. Nobody got sweaty or hurt doing it. An impressive piece of work for whoever developed the macro in Excel. The stunt group should be looking at something like this for scoring stunt. With a big screen monitor that could be brought to the field and run on a generator, we could have professional displays at our contests in the future. Couple that with a PA system and it would almost feel like a World Class setup.

Old Business

No specific old business was brought up during this phase of the meeting. Burning issues with the park and field maintenance seem to be on the back burner for now.

New Business

A discussion boiled up about planning for the 2026 contest season. There is a sense the Joust contest effort has sagged a lot, and there were voices about having additional contests in honor of deceased club members who were significant in the club for their efforts and support. This generated a lot of head nods but no clear direction came from it. Warren then took the floor and presented a proposal to once again CD the Joust contest provided he was not involved with rounding up equipment and doing setup duty and such. This is a purely administrative role and delegation of tasks to other club members so he can fly in the contest himself. That includes a new thrust to get event planning and contest flyers in place months earlier than has been done over the past few years. This plan was agreed to but we shall see where the rubber meets the road in coming months.

For 2027 John Wright has offered to CD the Fun Fly event in April.

Club webmaster Stan Tyler was present to field questions about the website, with the bottom line being that contest information needs to be supplied to him in a timely manner to have any impact through the website. It was also felt that the combination of the website for general information about the club with linkage to the Facebook page where specific activities are being discussed or planned was a good operating model for communications. So that will be the on-going strategy with some improved discipline for passing up information for consumption.

Club officer position nominations are coming during the October meeting with voting the same time. Please try to attend this meeting so we have as many voices as possible for the vote.

The year end Christmas event was discussed enthusiastically as food generally brings out the best in this crew. The group appeared to lean toward another round at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Fullerton, which has been the choice for the last two seasons. Clint Brooks was once again appointed as coordinator for setting up the luncheon as there is past experience with him and this restaurant. Another suggestion was Bucca de Beppo which is a popular Italian restaurant chain that serves meals family style. This would entail a large seating area to be able to share the food platters, but that remains to be seen. A third suggestion was Vince's Spaghetti in Ranch Cucamonga, a well reviewed establishment according to members who have dined there. It was decided to let this mull until the next meeting before a final decision is made. Date for this party is the second Saturday in December.

The final discussion of the night was the recent passing of club President Gary Akers, and the memorial services that were due to start the coming Thursday and Friday. Club member Willie Castillo was remembered with John Wright and Clint Brooks attending his viewing service the Friday prior to the club meeting. Dave Braun was also mentioned as he recently passed. Dave and Gary flew together in their youth at Romona High School in Riverside, and were members of the Redlands Thunderbirds control line club. And so it goes-our ranks are thinning but our memories are strong.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46

From the 2025 Christmas luncheon at the Fullerton Old Spaghetti Factory



