



FEB 2026

HANGAR TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MINIATURE AERO SPORTSTERS

CLUB PRESIDENT- JACK DUNKLE

From the President ...

Hello all! The flying has been very busy because of this unusual, crazy dry and very warm weather. Just a reminder to all to be aware of fire dangers during this dry period. We have fire extinguishers in the club house but would recommend having your own in the pits with you for quicker access. This is not a rule at this point but highly recommended. My thoughts are if the dry weather continues, it will be a long hot and dry summer with a lot of red flag areas in effect. (Food for thought!)

New memberships and renewals are in full swing and going very well. Remember, as always, open enrollment will end in late Feb. and gate codes will change in the first week in Mar. As always, if you have any questions please let me know by email and remember to put MAS in the subject line so it doesn't go to trash.

Thanks and I hope to see you all out doing what we love to do, fly.

Thanks,
Jack Dunkle

COMING EVENTS:

**MONTHLY MEETING FEB 26TH, 2026 -
6:30PM**

2026 CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT :

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Jack Dunkle



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Bob Salmon



Larry Ott



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Ken Roberts

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CLUB VICE PRESIDENT-SEAN SUTTON

From the Vice President...

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Nothing beats flying
With this great crew.

From smooth landings,
to the occasional crash,
And sharing spare parts,
To helping in a flash!
It's the people at the field
That make it all fly true-
This club wouldn't be the same without each one of you.

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

Whether you've been flying with us for decades or just joined recently, we're grateful for the camaraderie, the shared knowledge, the laughs, and the willingness to help each other out when something goes wrong (usually right before a great flight).

Thanks for being part of what makes this club such a great place to fly. I hope you get some time to spend with those you care about this week--and hopefully even sneak in a flight or two.

Blue skies and happy landings,
Sean Sutton

CLUB TREASURER-DAN BRANDENBURGER

From the Treasurer -

From the treasurer - 2026 (paid) membership stands at 46. 18 members on the 2025 roster have not paid current dues. Accounts solvent and in good standing.

Dan



PRE-FLIGHT SAFETY CHECK

As with any aircraft, it is crucial to perform a pre-flight checklist before operating an RC airplane. Some may describe the checklist as one of the most important steps for a successful flight. Although it may seem tedious, completing a thorough pre-flight inspection can prevent accidents, prolong the life of your aircraft, and improve your overall flying experience. In this article, we will cover the essential items to include in your pre-flight RC airplane checklist. Let's get started with number one on our list

1. Battery Check

First and foremost, you should check the battery life of your RC airplane. Make sure your battery is fully charged before flying. A low battery can cause your aircraft to lose power mid-flight, leading to a crash. Before I take off for every flight I measure the voltage with a battery checker prior to locking the canopy.

2. Control Surface Check

Next, inspect each control surface to ensure that they are operating correctly. Check the hinges, control horns, and linkages for any signs of damage or wear. Verify that each control surface moves freely and that it is not binding. Ensure that the control surfaces are moving in the correct direction based on your radio transmitter input. I would recommend placing a small load on each control surface to truly verify if the servos are in good working condition.

3. Radio and Control Surface Direction Check

The radio system is the primary way to control your RC airplane. Before takeoff, make sure that your transmitter is functioning correctly. Test each control surface to ensure that they move in the correct direction and that the response time is satisfactory. Check the radio receiver on your aircraft, ensuring that it is securely mounted and that all of the antenna wires are intact. This check will only be practical if you can visually see the antenna in its currently installed location. Oh, and don't forget to check your flight time timer to ensure it has been reset correctly.

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4. Motor and Propeller Check

The motor and propeller are critical components of your RC airplane. Ensure that the motor is securely mounted, and that the propeller is tight and free from any damage. Make sure that the motor spins freely and that there are no unusual sounds or vibrations. If you notice any issues with the motor or propeller, do not fly the aircraft until the problem is fixed. For EDF jets, you may not be able to reach the motor. Instead, blip the throttle and listening for any abnormal noises. Also listen for the motor revving up to speed and back down to speed in a normal kind of way. Any unwanted friction in the system will behave differently shortening the amount of time the rev up and down will take.

5. Landing Gear Check

The landing gear is often overlooked during pre-flight inspections, but it is critical for safe takeoff and landing. Inspect the landing gear for any signs of damage or wear, and ensure that it is securely mounted. Verify that the wheels spin freely and that they are not bent or damaged. If you have retractable landing gear, make sure that it is working correctly by cycling the gear prior to the first flight for the day.

6. Wing and Fuselage Check

Inspect the wing and fuselage for any signs of damage, cracks, or wear. Ensure that the wing is securely mounted, and that there is no slop in the wing mount. Check the wing and fuselage joints for any signs of separation. If you notice any damage, do not fly the aircraft until the issue is fixed.

7. Center of Gravity Check

The center of gravity is crucial for the stability and control of your RC airplane. Verify that the center of gravity is within the manufacturer's recommended range. To check the center of gravity, balance the aircraft on your finger at the designated point. If the aircraft is nose-heavy or tail-heavy, adjust the battery or weight distribution accordingly.

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8. Range Check

Before taking off, perform a range check to ensure that your aircraft is receiving a strong signal from your radio transmitter. Walk a safe distance away from the aircraft while monitoring the radio signal strength according to the directions found in your operators manual. If the signal is weak or if you notice any interference, do not fly the aircraft until the problem is fixed. This is only most critical to test when you are making a first flight or something in your airplane has changed.

In conclusion, a pre-flight checklist is crucial for safe and enjoyable flying of your RC airplane. By following these essential items, you can prevent accidents, prolong the life of your aircraft, and improve your overall flying experience. Always perform a pre-flight check before flying, and do not take any shortcuts. By doing so, you can ensure that you have many successful flights to come.

Fly Safe, Live Safe!

Ken



Miniature Aero Sportsters
Meeting Minutes / January 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. January 29, 2026 at Jack's residence.

Attendees: 9 members plus 1 visitor - 3 of the 9 attended via Zoom.

Club Officers' Present:

- Jack Dunkle (President)
- Dan Brandenburger (Secretary/Treasurer)

Board of Directors Present:

- Bob Salmon (in person)
- Lee Overholt (via Zoom)
- Larry Ott (in person)

Club Officers' Absent: Sean Sutton (Vice President) Ken Roberts (Safety Officer)

Treasurer's Report given by Dan: 64 members on the roster, to date, 20 have not paid new year fees. Club is solvent.

Old Business:

- First aid kit at the field being worked by Jack, coordination with Larry Ott. (pending)
- Club House Painting project and runway sealing are still on the upgrade agenda for spring.
- Additional rock for the entry road is needed and will be worked in the spring/summer.
- Larry Ott, this year's recipient of the coveted Snow-Bird trophy, has it prominently displayed on his fireplace hearth. We'll see how long his wife will let it stay perched at this location...

New Business:

- Revisions to By Laws and Website information are needed as follows,
 1. Junior category membership will not pay dues or runway upkeep fees until they turn 18. Normal fees will be paid upon turning 18 with continued membership. Junior members will not have voting privileges.
 2. Clearly defined drug and alcohol use guidance to be updated. Proper extinguishment of tobacco products will be updated. Focus on Safe field operations.
 3. Club officer term start dates will be clarified to begin the 1st of January after being voted in.
 4. New Board of Directors and Officer names to be updated.
- 5. Updates were voted on and passed by members in attendance. Jack and Dan will ensure posting.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

*The club financials are not published in the minutes. Members in good standing may request specific information from the club treasurer directly.