

FARM



Fauquier Aero Recreation Modelers
AMA #1654 farmclubrc.com
AMA Gold Leader Club



Culpeper Model Barnstormers
AMA #4894 cmbclubrc.com
AMA Gold Leader Club



Lake of the Woods Community RC
AMA #5595 lowcrc.com

March 2026

Radio Controlled Air - Land - Sea Models

Newsletter

Editor's Note: We will be rotating the lead club specific content lead sections each month (FARM, CMB, LOWCRC, FARM, CMB, LOWCRC, FARM, CMB, LOWCRC, FARM, CMB, LOWCRC) throughout the year. However, the "Tips and Projects" and "Anything From the Field" sections will be separate from the Club sections and combine the inputs from all the members of the three clubs.

Notice for All:

- On Tuesday, 24 March, will be our is our second "Tri-Club Fourth Tuesday of the Month" RC Modeling Zoom meeting starting at 7:00 PM.
- Our First meeting in February was hosted by the FARM Club, CMB is hosting the March meeting, with LOWCRC hosting the April meeting. The meeting hosting will continue in this rotation sequence for the rest of the year.
- Note: The Host club each month may have some short business to conduct at the start of the Zoom meeting.
- Here is the important point, **YOU ARE OUR PRESENTERS !** Yes, our monthly presenters will be **YOU** and your RC related kits, cars, aircraft, boats, tools, accessories, discoveries, and builds.
- Have your presentation ready to show us all. (And yes, you will be able to show your pictures, plans, graphs, etc. – we have the technology to let you show them to us all in addition to your computer's camera.)
- Therefore, the FARM, CMB, and LOWCRC Clubs are inviting YOU to our 24 March (forth Tuesday) monthly tri-club RC modeling related Zoom meeting.
- **This month Jay Zompanti will be discussing his newly designed/constructed charging box.**

LOWCRC Club Report:

- The 2026 LOWCRC Club Board of Directors Election Results:

President	Al Hampton	757-715-0528
Vice President	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Secretary	Gordon Collyer	540-547-4117
Treasurer	Jay Zompanti	978-804-8660
Safety Officer	Al Hampton	757-715-0528

- LOWCRC President's Corner: Al Hampton

Title: Building Momentum: What's Ahead for LOWCRC

Hello everyone,

As we continue moving through the early part of the season, I wanted to take a moment to share a few updates on where we are as a club and where we're headed.

We're thankful to have continued approval for indoor use of Marion Prank Hall (our community gym). While availability is limited, this space remains extremely valuable for indoor flight activities, drone demonstrations, and community engagement. We will continue to make the most of the time we have there.

In addition, we have secured once-a-month indoor classroom space, which will give us a consistent opportunity to gather. These sessions will be used for club meetings, hands-on classes, flight simulator training, and mini/micro RC crawler activities—a growing area of interest that works well in smaller indoor environments.

Another major focus for us this year will be the introduction and promotion of **Drone Soccer** within our community. During our recent board meeting, I'm excited to share that our board is fully supportive of and enthusiastic about bringing this new activity to the Lake of the Woods community.



Using both gym time and other approved indoor and outdoor spaces, we will begin offering demonstrations, simulator training, and introductory sessions. Our goal is to build interest, develop skills, and establish multiple teams right here at the lake, with the hope that this effort will grow beyond our community. Any assistance with this initiative will be greatly appreciated.

We're also excited to share that we now have two new **LOWCRC banners** that we can use during events. These will help increase our visibility in the community and make it easier for residents to recognize when and where we are active.



As always, we encourage everyone to stay engaged and involved. Please take a moment to review the club calendar included in this newsletter for upcoming activities. For the most up-to-date schedule, be sure to visit our website regularly, where all events and meet ups are posted and updated.

We're continuing to build something special—not just a club, but a community centered around learning, creativity, and a shared passion for the RC hobby.

Thank you all for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Al Hampton

- LOWCRC Secretary's Corner: Gordon Collyer

Board Meeting Notes:

- A Board meeting will be held on 4 March 2026.
- See President's comments above.

LOWCRC 2026 Event Calendar

Events Beginning March 1, 2026 and Beyond

March 24	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
April 28	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
May 26	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM

Board Meeting

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Recurring Weekly Events

- Monday Scale & Sail Boats – Clubhouse Dock – 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Through April 6, 2026)
- Outdoor RC @ Sweetbriar Soccer Fields – Thursdays & Fridays – 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Monthly Trail Walks (9:00 AM – 10:00 AM)

- April 18, 2026
- May 16, 2026
- June 6, 2026

Special Events

- June 27, 2026 – Lake of the Woods Independence Day Celebration (Parade Participation Confirmed)

Notes:

- Additional Drone Soccer and Micro Crawler activities to be announced.
- All events subject to weather and community guidelines.
- Volunteer support needed for expanded programming.

Note: See LOWCRC's full calendar on the Club's website.

FARM Club Report:

- The 2026 FARM Club Board of Directors Election Results:

President	Ernie Padgette	703-244-7465
Vice President	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Secretary	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Treasurer	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Safety Officer	Ken Bassett	703-425-1392
Field Marshal	Ralph Graul	540-729-1586
Member At Large	Bill Flathers	540-272-7236
Member At Large	Charlie Koustenis	703-850-3314
Member At Large	Bill Towne	540-428-1053

- FARM President's Corner: Ernie Padgette

Ideas: Always in Fashion

Ideas are like clouds. Not every cloud will produce rain; but the more clouds in the sky, the better chance you have of getting wet. Ideas are kind of like that. Not every idea is a good idea; but the more ideas you have, the better chance you have of fixing whatever you want fixed or doing what you want done. So how do you get

more ideas? The easiest way is to simply have more people trying to come up with ideas. And that's where *you* come in. If we are to continue to enjoy this hobby of ours, we need to work together to make that happen. So how about telling me what you think will help in that regard? I don't know what challenges will come our way, but I do know the best way of predicting the future is to simply make it happen. What do *you* want to happen? Let me know.

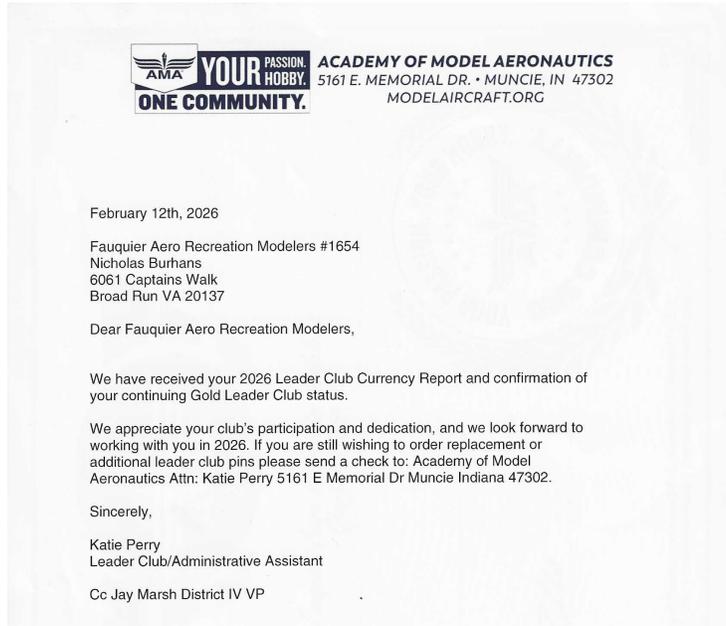
We have a pretty fair group of interestingly diverse people in our little FARM Club. Sure, we all come from a variety of backgrounds. And we have a variety of educational background. The same for our (mostly former) occupations. If you think about it, we really have a very interesting group of people. People who changed the way things are done today. People who ran racing teams; people who worked with NASA; people who built, invented and innovated, changed and adapted the way things are done, and people who made a difference in the world as we know it. And together we have done and can do almost anything.

I want to thank all of you for making my life better; for teaching me things and showing me how to do things in better ways. You've made my life better and more interesting; and you've made life more interesting. Thanks to all of you for being my friends.

Thanks; Ernie P.

- FARM Secretary/Treasurer's Corner: Nic Burhans

- The FARM Club's AMA Gold Leader Club Status has been renewed for 2026



FARM Club Membership Report:

- As of 17 March the FARM Club had 56 members (19 Regular, 31 Senior, 0 Junior, 4 Life, and 2 Associate members).
- The updated 2026 FARM Club Roster has been out to the membership.

FARM Club Calendar of upcoming events (January through April):

March 24	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
April 10-11	Fri-Sat	FARM Pattern Flying Intro & Practice Sessions @ Club Field CD: Gerald Hood @ hood007@aol.com	All day
April 12	Sunday	FARM Club Day & Fun Fly #1 @ Club Field Picnic, Pilot Training, and Flight Check day CD: Nic Burhans Food: ????	All Day
April 28	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM

May 10	Sunday	FARM Club Day & Fun Fly #2 @ Club Field <i>Picnic, Pilot Training, and Flight Check day</i> CD: ???? Food: ????	All Day
May 26	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
June 13	Saturday	Field Closed to 72Mhz; Open to 2.4Ghz: Float Fly #1 @ Lake Ritchie CD: Nic Burhans npb6218@earthlink.net	9:00 AM
June 28	Sunday	FARM Club Day @Fun Fly #3 @ Club Field <i>Picnic, Pilot Training, and Flight Check day</i> CD: ???? Food: ????	All Day
June 28	Sunday	FARM Club Meeting @ Club Field	1:00 PM

Note: See full 2026 FARM calendar on the Club website.

FARM Treasurer's Report

- The FARM February 2026 Treasurer's Report has been emailed to the club's membership.

FARM Field Marshal's Report: Ralph Graul

Well Spring has sprung somewhat intermittently in the last couple of weeks.

Lloyd and I went out on March 11th and spread weed & feed on the runway and the pits so the grass should start greening up with all this rain we have had since then.

We will need to do maintenance on the two mowers soon so we are ready for the mowing season. Hopefully we will do that either March 28th or April 4th. The mowers will need the oil and filters changed and blades sharpened [I will have the oil and filters].

There is a lot of corn husk debris on the runway that will need to be picked up. I have done some of that on the east end of the runway already.

The runway still needs to be rolled; which I hope to do after a light rain and when I can borrow my neighbors 4 wheeler.

We need volunteers to mow this year; so please step up and help. Let Nic know at npb6218@earthlink.net if you would like to be part of this year's mowing crew.

See you at the field.

Ralph

FARM Webmaster's Report: Dick Sutton

The security certificates for FARM Club website have been renewed for another 90 days: thru June 13th, 2026.

Dick

CMB Club Report:

- The 2026 CMB Club Board of Directors Election Results:

President	Gordon Collyer	540-547-4117
Vice President	Jim Restel	540-718-6617
Secretary	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Treasurer	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Safety Officer	Bill Crone	540-825-8065
Field Marshal	Bobby Hurst	501-766-7349
Member At Large	Al Hampton	757-715-0528
Member At Large	Ernie Padgette	703-244-7465

- CMB President's Corner: Gordon Collyer

Jim Restel and I met in February with Parks and Recreation in what I hope will continue as an annual meeting between the club and staff.

Some members may be aware of turbulence within the county as a result of recent county supervisor elections. I am happy to report the management and staff at Parks and Recreation are carrying on without any visible disruption or tension.

We received encouragement to continue with our operations this year much as last year. We may again expect day-long closures for turf maintenance activities by Parks and Recreation.

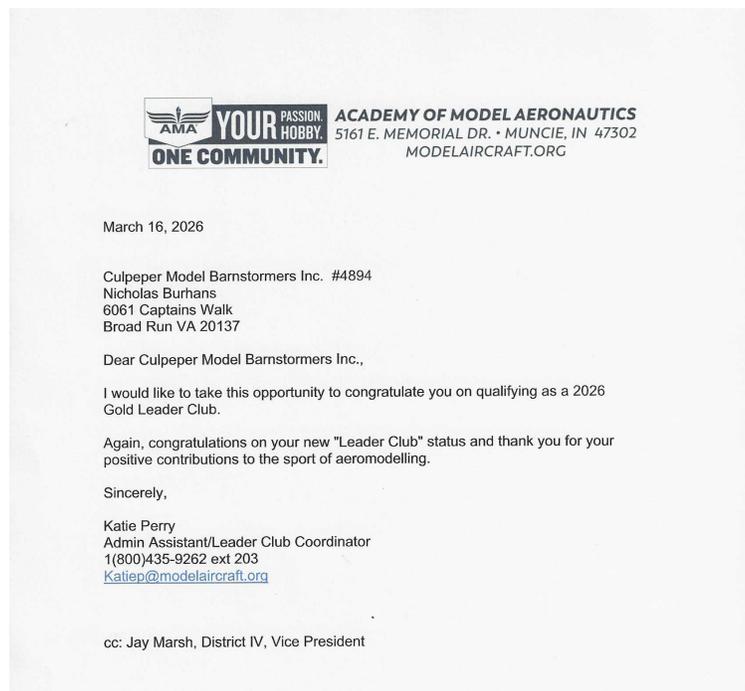
In discussing the potential for additional storage and other facility improvements at the Model Airpark, we were challenged a bit to consider more significant improvements implemented over longer time frames. In response, I'd like to seek the establishment of a club Capital Improvements standing committee made up of two board members and 2-3 members from the membership at large. If there is an affirmative response, from the board and membership, I'll draft a scope-of-work for the committee which they will then adapt and finalize. One exciting possibility for an improvement would be the addition of meeting and classroom space located at the Model Airpark which we might realize in the 2-5 year time frame. Our location in an "occasional or intermittent" flood zone will be a significant, but I believe not insurmountable issue as part of this planning process. We will want presentations to the county to be complete, technically sound, and show deference and compatibility with county regulations.

I am sidelined a bit after receiving a new knee.....however affirmative responses and thoughts about capital improvements are welcome!

Gordon C.

- CMB Secretary/Treasurer's Corner: Nic Burhans

- The CMB Club's AMA Gold Leader Club Status has been established for 2026:



Board Meeting Notes:

- No CMB Board meeting was held this month

CMB Club Membership Report:

- As of 17 March, the CMB Club had 45 members (15 Regular, 27 Senior, 2 Junior, 0 Life, and 1 Associate)

- The updated 2026 CMB Club Roster has been sent out to the membership.

CMB Club Calendar of upcoming events (January through April):

March 24	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
April 11	Saturday	Buddy Box Training day @ Lenn Model Airpark CMB Coordinator: Gordon Collyer	10am-2pm
April 19	Sunday	<u>CMB Club Meeting #1 & Cookout @ Lenn Model Airpark All Day</u> <i>Club Fly Day #1, Fun Events, Pilot Training, and Flight Checks all day</i> Club Meeting #1 1:00 PM	
April 25	Sat	2 st Church 5K Run <u>Lenn Model Airpark Will be Closed During the Run</u>	6am-2pm
April 28	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
May 2	Sat	16 th Lenn Park Wicked Bottom 5K Run <u>Lenn Model Airpark Will be Closed During the Run</u>	6am-Noon
May 9	Saturday	CMB Buddy Box Training day @ Lenn Model Airpark CMB Coordinator: Gordon Collyer **	10am-2pm
May 26	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
May 31	Saturday	CMB Member Day & Cookout @ Lenn Model Airpark	All Day
June 13	Saturday	CMB Buddy Box Training day @ Lenn Model Airpark CMB Coordinator: Gordon Collyer **	10am-2pm
June 14	Sunday	<u>CMB Club Meeting #2 & Cookout @ Lenn Model Airpark All Day</u> <i>Club Fly Day #2, Fun Events, Pilot Training, and Flight Checks all day</i> Club Meeting #2 @1:00 PM	
July 11	Saturday	CMB Buddy Box Training day @ Lenn Model Airpark CMB Coordinator: Gordon Collyer **	10am-2pm
23 July	Thursday	C-Stars Camp Field-Day @Lenn Model Airpark CMB Coordinator: Gordon Collyer	All Day

Note: See full 2026 CMB calendar on the Club website.

CMB Treasurer's Report

- The CMB February 2026 Treasurer's Report has been emailed to the club's membership.

- CMB Field Marshal's Corner: Bobby Hurst

--- WE NEED YOU to help!

Bobby Hurst

- CMB Safety Officer's Corner: Bill Crone

The Little Green Box

Why do we have the "little green box"? "It is hard to open," "it is ugly," "the bottom is rusting," "it is only there for me to sign in." These are just a few of the comments I have heard in the short time I have been a CMB

member. I do not disagree the box needs and will eventually be replaced. However, it does serve an important purpose to the function of the Club.

CMB is on land owned by Culpeper Parks and Rec. It is beneficial to us to be able to provide accurate and current information when requested. The box holds several safety features. In with the sign-up binder is important information about the field. I often wonder how many of us know the physical address of the field? In the event of an emergency other than Lenn Park are you able to tell 911 exactly where you are in the park? For our out-of-town members and guests there are written instructions to The UVA ER.

The box houses the only site fire extinguisher in the event off a fire; it should be easily accessible. There is a tool box with some hand tools, the keys for the mowers, propane tank, and utensils for grille. There are a couple floor mats to kneel on for when the field is damp. There is a layout of the field. You can find updated AMA, FAA, and CMB updates and an up-to-date club roster.

So why am I bringing up The Green Box? Because many of us do not open it until we are getting ready to leave and realize we forgot to sign in. Yes, the reasons outlined are important and are there to make our day at the field safe, pleasant, and fun.

The point is, the First THING you should be doing before your first flight is UNLOCK THE GREEN BOX! The contents in the box are there for our safety. Look at this way, if you do not unlock the gate, you cannot fly-right? So why not unlock the box before your first flight?

Fly your lane and communicate on the flight line.

Fly Baby Fly!!

Bill C.

- CMB Training Coordinator's Corner: Gordon Collyer

- CMB Webmaster's Report: Dick Sutton

The security certificates for CMB Club website have been renewed for another 90 days: thru June 13th, 2026.
Dick

Tips & Projects:

- RadioMaster AX12 Release & A Few Thoughts on New Tech

By Al Hampton

There's been some exciting news in the RC world this week with the release of the new **RadioMaster AX12 Android Radio Controller**, which is now available for pre-order. This marks RadioMaster's first radio running on an Android-based system, and I have to say—I was genuinely surprised and impressed after watching some of the early videos on this very affordable platform.



As many of you may recall from my last article, I recently pre-ordered the **RadioMaster TX16S MK3**, which has not yet shipped. Naturally, some of you might be wondering if I plan to pick up the new AX12 as well.

For now, the answer is no.

While I truly enjoy learning and working with new technology, I'm generally not one to immediately jump on the very first release of something entirely new. In this case, the AX12 represents a new direction for RadioMaster, and while I can already see potential benefits—especially for some of the autonomous and robotics-related projects I'm exploring—I prefer to give new systems time to mature. I'd like to see how the Android-based platform develops over time, including firmware updates and long-term reliability, before investing in one myself.

On the other hand, the TX16S MK3 builds on a very solid and proven foundation. It introduces additional functionality, including dual-band **2.4 GHz and sub-900 MHz capabilities**, which I believe will be beneficial moving forward. It will also be the first radio I've owned that includes all available options, making it a great platform for continued learning and experimentation.

I've also received a number of questions recently about **EdgeTX**, the software that powers most RadioMaster radios, as well as **ExpressLRS**, the communication protocol I currently use. Beyond that, there's been growing interest in building RC aircraft—especially using foam board.

As we have time and opportunity throughout the year, I look forward to sharing what I've learned in these areas. Who knows—down the road, I may even be able to share more insights on the AX12 and give you a closer look at it as well. If there are specific topics, questions, or classes you'd like to see, please don't

Looking forward to seeing you all out at the field this season.

Al Hampton

Anything from the Field:

Introduction to Indoor Pattern and F3P. By Don Szczer

Indoor Precision Aerobatics, also known as F3P for the FAI class of competition is flown indoors, usually in gymnasiums, indoor soccer fields or sports complexes. It focuses on executing complex, precise aerobatic maneuvers at extremely slow speeds, emphasizing accuracy and control within a confined, weather-free environment. Its ideal for winter and spring flying when outdoor flying is not optimum due to the snow and weather conditions like we've had recently.

Pilots fly a predefined sequence of maneuvers (such as loops, rolls, and stall turns) in front of judges, aiming for maximum precision and symmetry. Full maneuver descriptions are available at www.nsrca-us.

F3P planes are engineered to fly incredibly slowly—often at a walking pace—while maintaining high maneuverability. However, foam-planes such as the UMX Extra and UMX Yak make excellent indoor pattern planes for those just starting out.

Some indoor pattern planes are also called "foamies" because the original F3P planes evolved from an event called the "ETOC" that took place at the Toledo show going back as far as 2004. They are very lightweight (sometimes under 50-80 grams) and constructed from materials like 3mm Depron foam, EPP foam, and reinforced or even constructed with carbon fiber to provide high structural rigidity. Some models are also made out of balsa wood similar to indoor free flight models.

The flying "box" is limited by the walls, floor, and ceiling of the flying venue. Touching the walls or ceiling results in a zero score for that maneuver.

F3P AFM (Aerobatics Freestyle to Music): Often called Aeromusicals, this is a choreographed performance to music, emphasizing artistry, creativity, and music synchronization. You can google F3P AFM to watch some pretty spectacular flying on youtube- particularly at the F3P World Championships events.

Although the basics are the same as outdoor aerobatics flying, there are some differences with outdoor Pattern. Indoor flying eliminates wind, allowing for extreme precision and very low-speed maneuver execution. F3P models are much smaller and lighter than outdoor counterparts, typically having a wingspan under 1.5 meters. Finally, the F3P routines include more knife edge maneuvers and torque rolls, which are integrated into the precision pattern.

It's a really fun event and if you want to sharpen your skills.

There is a pattern event on the 28th of March in Northern Virginia (see the event flyer below).
Come out to watch or fly!

Don Szczur

**NVRC Indoor Fly-In
F3P Indoor Pattern contest
March 28, 2026**

Where: South Run Rec Center- Field House, Burke, VA

When: Open flying: 9am-1pm (near side)
F3P Contest Practice Session: 9am-1pm (far side)

Contest: 1pm- 5pm (full field if needed- to facilitate extra space- come fly in the contest!)

Suggested donation to defray cost: \$20 / \$10 for NVRC members

Event hosted by the Northern Virginia Radio Control Club <https://www.1nvr.com/> and NSRCA D1/D2

Logistics: Parking on side of building. No heat- bring a jacket! "Some" electrical outlets along the side walls.

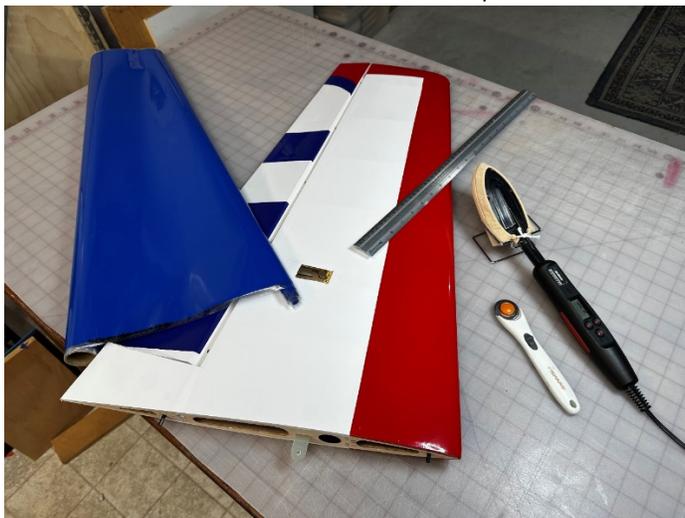
Lunch: Only bottled water allowed in Field House. BYOL (bring your own lunch)- there is seating, vending machines, etc at the main Rec Center building.

Field Layout:

Contacts: Don Szczur toedon@netscape.net
F3P Contest: Sal Piu spiu@comcast.net
Contest sequences at:
<https://www.nsrca.us/index.php/flying/sequences>

Culpeper Model Barnstormers Covering Workshop

March 28, 2026



Winter WILL end, and it is time to move on with your cold weather projects or complete last years left over UFOs (UFOs – Un-Finished Objects). Terry Terrenoire will host for the Culpeper Model Barnstormers a **free** covering workshop on March 28th at the Culpeper County Parks and Recreation Field House. In addition, Terry has a stock of covering materials that he can bring for sale to match to your projects. Bring any small covering project problems (wing tip, cowl, etc.) that you would like Terry to attack and demonstrate successful techniques. If you've not covered a model yet or have had problems in the past this is the class for you!

Terry Says:

Building and flying models became my primary hobby interest in my pre-teen years in the '50s. Radio control entered the picture in 1970 when I joined an established club in NY that was populated by IBM engineers. These experienced members were great builders, as well as pilots, and I learned from them the basics of building and covering and progressed to the point where I was able to do instructing and training in flying and building. From 1970 to 2012, when I moved to VA, I completed the construction of over 350 aircraft. My crowning achievement was taking the award for best Monokote finish at the WRAMS trade show in White Plains, NY in 2007 and 2011. It will be my honor to pass on any knowledge I have acquired over the years to anyone interested in flying their own creation, and not just an ARF! There is also great pride to be had by replacing the covering on an ARF to make it truly your own. For the demonstration I will have one such project to show as well as a silk covered wing that is about 20 years old. More recently, my 9 foot pool table has come in handy for final construction of a couple pattern planes. Over the years I have accumulated a fair amount of MonoKote, and similar products and I will try to have it at the demo for anyone who might be interested, and we can negotiate a fair price for anything that might solve a problem for you. Please, if you have a question, or are looking for anything specific, give me a call 412-760-4593

Space is limited and reservations are advised by contacting Gordon Collyer:
gl.collyer@gmail.com / 540-729-6041

When : March 28th 12:30 to 3:30 pm
Where: Culpeper County Field House - Classroom #1
Jonas Rd. Entrance off Route 666 (East) via US 29
16388 Competition Drive CULPEPER, VA 22701

Specific Covering Material Inquires: **Terry Terrenoire @ 412-760-4593**

The Air - Land - Sea Newsletter is published monthly by the FARM, CMB, and LOWCRC Clubs. It is forwarded to the Club members. Articles related to all types of RC models are welcome. Opinions expressed in the newsletter articles are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect those of FARM Inc., CMB Inc., or LOWCRC Inc.

Publishing input deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please forward all inputs in Microsoft .doc or .docx format with associated Pictures separate in jpg format to:

Nic Burhans

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Club Web sites: <http://www.farmclubre.com>

<http://www.cmbclubrc.com>

<http://www.lowcrc.com>