



PLANE TALK NEWS

March 2026



Club Meeting News

The next club meeting is being held at Cozy Cafe Johnston on March 4 starting at 7 pm. The Board meeting will be held at 6:30 pm if you'd like to attend.

President's message:

The **JP Field lease** has been renewed for another 5 more years. I did make a couple changes to the contract in our favor. I removed the verbiage stating we had to hire professionals to remove all the buildings and get the land ready for sale. This will save the club thousands of dollars when we can do most of these items ourselves. I was also able to get a 3 month time frame to clean up the flying site from 1 month. Charlie didn't want to give us a longer time frame. Please note that the prior and current contract is a month to month lease. Charlie could terminate the lease at any time. Right now, we're good tenants! Let's keep it that way.

At the March club meeting, we'll be discussing the purchase of two (2) refurbished AED units. One AED unit will be purchased for each flying field. The cost of each unit is expected to be approximate \$900-\$1000 each. The sealed batteries are expected to last 4 years and will cost around \$450 each to replace them. The units will NOT be available during the winter months since they need to be kept in a warm environment. The board approved the expenditure and now requires membership approval. Training will be provided at one of our monthly meetings on how to use the equipment. The money will be come out of our savings. I've attached a ballot in case you can't make the April meeting.

Don't forget to send in your dues for 2026!

Just a quick note on the new EPJ runway project. A lot of the South runway came up. I've attentively scheduled April 18th as the new runway repair date. Mike Turvey's car club is willing to help us out! So far, we have 6 helpers. We're hoping for more. When we're done, we'll give all the helpers the opportunity to fly! If you can come out and help, please do so! Put it on your calendar.

That's it for now!

Ray



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February Board Meeting Minutes:

The February 4, 2026, Modelaires Board Meeting was convened by President Ray Pick at the Cozy Cafe with nine board members present either in person or via conference.

The meeting covered approval of prior minutes, financial reports, memorial policies, equipment purchases, event planning, membership matters, runway management, programs, and other business.

• **Meeting attendance and approval:** Nine board members attended, with Jim Lewis joining by video and Dave Kalwishky partially by audio.

The minutes from the January 1, 2026, meeting were read and approved unanimously.

• **Treasurer's report highlights:** Jim Lewis presented the January financial report showing membership dues collected totaling \$6,291.46 for 2026 so far, income of \$6,292.12 year-to-date, and minimal expenses of \$30.03.

Bank balances increased from \$38,611.07 in December 2025 to \$40,408.64 in January 2026.

Upcoming fees include a \$250 AMA charter fee, \$1,883 insurance, and a \$1,700 JP Field lease, all due in February.

• **Memorial policy adoption:** Following the passing of member Byron Clark, the board approved a memorial policy to send a \$50 or more flower or food gift to families of current or previous-year members who pass away.

• **AED purchase decision:** The board discussed acquiring refurbished Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for each flying field, with costs estimated between \$500-\$1,000 per unit.

They agreed to buy two refurbished units, one for each field, with maintenance plans including monthly checks and seasonal storage to protect from temperature extremes.

The purchase will be funded from savings, not exceeding \$1,000 per unit plus tax and shipping.

• **Event planning for 2026:** The JP Memorial Fun Fly is scheduled for July 25 with a \$5 landing fee, supported by donations.

Other potential events include a Turbine Fun Fly, Warbirds and Classic Fun Fly, and a High Wing Fun Fly. Early event submissions are encouraged for AMA magazine publication.

• **Membership cards and printing issues:** Membership cards are printable from the website, though long names are truncated; this issue will be addressed.

For building schematics printing, Rapid Reproductions will be investigated for larger and more cost-effective printing.



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• **Runway repairs and management:** High winds damaged the new runway in December; repairs are planned for April with volunteer assistance from the Challenger Cruise Car Club. Mike Turvey is a member of this club and will be organizing their assistance.

For the club's assistance, the club has asked for flight training while at EPJ Field. The Modelaires' trainers will use the club's simulator and trainer aircraft in helping the Car Club members fly.

Modelaires' members have also asked about the usage policies for EPJ's new runway.

The new runway will be used by larger aircraft that will require AMA waivers for aircraft over fifty-five pounds or turbines. Insurance costs remain unchanged as both runways are covered.

• **Programs and next meeting:** Board members were encouraged to propose programs for membership meetings, such as building techniques or flight tips. The next board and membership meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026, at the Cozy Cafe.

• **Other business:** Issues with bounced emails will be resolved. Indoor flying venues were discussed, with potential inquiries to Camp Dodge. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Upcoming Events

July 25 - JP Memorial Fun Fly

Let's Get some more events scheduled!

Social Get togethers:

2nd Saturday of each month at JP Field

4th Saturday of each month at HyVee Ankeny North or at the field (Summer months)



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2026 AED Ballot

The 2026 AED (**Automated External Defibrillator**) vote will be conducted at the April General Membership meeting.

Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, April 1st at 7 pm.

Meeting Location: EPJ Field
12559 Northeast 72nd Street
Bondurant, IA 50035

If you cannot attend the meeting, ballots may be mailed to the club secretary. Ballots must be received by the secretary on or before April 1st. Ballots need to be sent to:

Les Hofland
3700 Valdez Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Your Name and Address MUST BE on the outside of the envelop else your vote will NOT COUNT!
Do not put this information on your ballot.

BALLOT

(Vote for one)

_____ I **APPROVE** the spending of \$2,000 plus shipping and taxes for two (2) refinished AED units

_____ I **DO NOT APPROVE** the spending



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2026 Des Moines Modelaires Membership Application

You must be a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics and registered with the FAA before joining the Des Moines Modelaires.

New Member ___ Renewal ___ / Adult ___ Youth ___ Spouse ___

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____ Birthday _____

AMA #: _____ AMA Expiration date: _____

FAA #: _____ FAA Expiration Date: _____

Trust # _____ Preferred Flying Field (Circle one): EPJ / Westfield

Email Address: _____

You **MUST** have a current AMA membership and FAA Registration valid at the time of applying or renewing to be a Des Moines Modelaires club member. If you are flying an aircraft weighing more than 0.55 lbs., it must have an FAA sUAS registration number affixed to it.

The following Membership dues are in effect through December 31st of 2026

***New Member-Adult - \$10 times the number of FULL months left in the calendar year (max of \$100)**

Note: You are NOT charged for the month you join.

Youth - \$15 Spousal - \$50

***A new member is defined as someone who has not been a member of the club for more than 2 years.**

Renewal– Adult \$100

Youth \$15 Spousal \$50

Adult – 19 & over–your age anytime during 2026

Youth – 18 & under through December 31st, 2026

Send this membership application, a copy of your AMA membership card, FAA registration, Trust Number and a check (made out to Des Moines Modelaires) to:

**Mike Turvey
10776 NW 107th St
Grange, IA 50109**

**Cell# (515) 707-4280
Email: MLT1024@MYCTL.NET**



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EPJ Field East of Elkhart

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Flying Field Locations

The Des Moines Modelaires maintains two high-quality, friendly flying locations in the Des Moines area. See below for address and map information:

EPJ

E. Paul Johnson Field (EPJ)
12559 NEI 72nd St, Polk County, Iowa (East of Elkhart, Ia.)
Latitude: 41.47 28 N
Longitude: 93.27 51 W




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JP Field (Formerly West Field) West of Grimes

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West Field

West Field
T Avenue (West of Grimes, Ia., 1/4 mi. S of Hwy. 44)
Latitude: 41.40 53 N
Longitude: 93 54 45 W



The image contains two main visual elements. The top one is a Google Maps screenshot showing a grid of streets in West Field, Iowa. A red pin is placed on T Avenue, west of Highway 44. The map includes labels for various streets like Grimes St, Johnson St, and West St, and highway markers for 44, 141, and 143. The bottom image is an aerial photograph of JP Field, showing a large, light-colored paved area, a grassy field, and several small buildings or hangars. A white van is visible on the right side of the field.



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About the Des Moines Modelaires

- We fly radio-controlled model airplanes, helicopters, gliders, and quad-copters at our two club flying fields.
- We hold monthly meetings typically the first Wednesday of each month.
- We produce a newsletter for our members and the general public.
- We host several fun fly events at our fields each year.
- We will do demonstrations anywhere safety permits.
- We will do presentations about our hobby for groups.
- We have an auction for RC equipment each fall.
- We conduct private training by appointment and public training at our flying fields during the summer.
- For more information about us, check us out at www.desmoinesmodelaires.com.
- To contact us, email dsmmodelaires@gmail.com.