



PLANE TALK NEWS

March 2026



Club Meeting News

The April 1st club and board meeting has been CANCELLED due to bad weather. The forecast is rain, cold and high winds!

The next club meeting will be held at EPJ on Wednesday, May 6th starting at 7 pm. The Board meeting will be held at 6:00 pm if you'd like to attend.

President's message:

With a heavy heart, I have to report the passing of John Arbuckle on March 3rd. Visitation was held on Sunday, March 29, 2026. Les Hofland attended the visitation to represent the Modelaires.



At the May club meeting, we'll be voting on 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.

Just a quick note on the new EPJ runway project. The whole runway has come up. The ONLY part of the runway that didn't come up is where we put down the rebar stakes that had a washer welded on top of them. So going forward, we're going to make and put down rebar stakes every 7-8 feet in each seam. Maybe we found a good solution to this problem? Since the tops are smooth, running over them should NOT hurt/hinder planes that hit them. Maybe even put a piece of tape over each stake to really make it smooth.



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I'd like to schedule **April 8 & 9th** to roll up the existing mat and take the staples out. Start around 10 am and go till 2-3. If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated! Many hands will make this project a lot easier!

Right now we have **April 18th** scheduled as the new runway mat put down date. Mike Turvey's car club is willing to help us out! So far, we have 6 car 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.

I was asked about how having two runways at EPJ will work. Basically, this new runway should **ONLY** be used for large events. The only time it will be used outside a large event is if we have someone with a large jet and would like to use it. The pilot will ask all the other pilots if he has permission to shut down the existing runway and use the new one. We'd basically handle it like we do today with WWI gaggles, helicopters and turbines. If they're in the air, we give them the airspace. I don't see this runway being used hardly at all. We'll write up a new policy so everyone knows the process.

Please get your 2026 dues in so you can fly!

If the weather is good this Wednesday, please bring a plane out and get some flying in! Enjoy it why you can!

That's it for now!

Ray



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March Board Meeting Minutes:

The Modelaires held a board and membership meeting on March 3, 2026, discussing financial status, field and runway management, upcoming events, and communication policies. Key decisions included financial reporting, runway usage rules, AED purchase plans, and preparations for EPJ Field's 25th anniversary celebration.

- **JP Field lease renewal:** A five-year lease renewal was secured at \$1,700 annually, including a three-month exit notice and removal of previous site cleanup professional requirements.
- **AED purchase and training plans:** The board agreed to purchase two refurbished AED units at about \$2,000 total, with a formal vote planned for April. AED and CPR training will be arranged with assistance from a local fire training head.
- **Membership card updates:** Membership cards were updated to include turbine designations, fixed name truncations, and enabled direct printing from the website.
- **Runway maintenance and usage rules:** Plans were made to repair wind-damaged runway material in April with volunteer help. Concerns about runway usage led to forming a committee to create formal rules to ensure fair access and prevent disputes, with recommendations to be voted on by membership.
- **Communication policy changes:** The board decided to make newsletters publicly accessible without financial details to increase community engagement, while full detailed minutes remain members-only.
- **EPJ Field 25th anniversary celebration:** A large community-inclusive event with media coverage, historical highlights, and social activities was proposed for September 2026. Planning will consider date conflicts, insurance, and partnerships with local organizations. The board supported further planning efforts.
- **Upcoming meetings:** The next board meeting was scheduled for April 1, 2026, at EPJ Field, with the board meeting at 6:00 PM and membership meeting at 7:00 PM.
- **Other business and administrative notes:** The KYBO service fee remains unchanged, new gate access codes were provided, and a credit card will be issued for expenses with receipt tracking. The AMA insurance was renewed for 2026.

Four Modelaires members attended the Board Meeting and believed that the topics discussed were presented satisfactorily to those present.

Because the meeting took longer than expected and no additional Modelaires members arrived to carry on with club business, it was agreed that there was no need to proceed with the Membership meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by the members, and everyone subsequently departed.



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Upcoming Events

May 15-17 – To be determined
July 25 - JP Memorial Fun Fly
Sept 26 – Warbird and Classics 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)



Anytime you get a new plane, make sure you check out all the connections. You may want to modify them a bit. In this case, bending the wire to trim out your elevator is not my cup of tea. I'm going to make the wire straight and put a Pushrod Connector on the servo arm. - Ray



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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, May 6th 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 May 6th. 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

Map Satellite Hybrid



A Google Maps screenshot showing the location of West Field. A red pin marks the location on T Avenue, west of Grimes, Iowa. The map shows a grid of streets, including Highway 44 and Highway 147. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates 2.00 miles and 3.2 kilometers.



An aerial photograph of the West Field area. A large, light blue rectangular area is overlaid on the grass, indicating the location of the field. Several buildings and vehicles are visible in the surrounding area.



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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.