

Newsletter of the Jet Pilot's Organization

Contrails

Fall 2025

Volume 37, Issue 3



Larry Ingram captured this F-104 at the Snake Island Jet Scramble.



President's Report

Bob Klenke

Well, the 2025 flying season is behind us – at least for us in the colder climates! I hope it was as good for you as it was for us.

I've been President of the JPO for awhile now. I can't recall the exact timing, but it's been over 10 years, at least. Since volunteering for the position, my major emphasis has been on fostering and strengthening the relationship with the AMA and working with them for the benefit of the jet community. To this end, we've been very successful. We went through some uncertain times several years back with the drone regulations and the relationship with the FAA, but that seems to be behind us (fingers crossed!) and we're mostly back to being able to operate as we've done in the past. I talked about the updates and improvements to the AMA Gas Turbine rules we've been able to get approved, which are substantial, and our latest suggested change on the maximum thrust for jets under 55 lbs is working its way through the system. We hope to have that in place for the 2026 flying season.

That's where I've put most of my time and effort as JPO President. As a result, there are some areas where I haven't been as attentive – let's just say there is room for improvement. In addition to being the President, I'm also the webmaster. The website I built many years ago works for membership and renewals, but it is many years out of date. Our membership is OK, but it's not as strong as it has been in the past, especially given the fact that the turbine side of the hobby is growing. We (I), need to do a better job of advertising what we do for the jet modelers in this country, recruiting new members and getting existing and former members to renew. We've also had several JPO Districts that do not have an official District Representative, some for a number of years.

I have a bit of a lull coming up at work after the first of the year, so my plan is to attack some of these things. For the website, I don't think a complete overhaul is necessary, but it needs an update. I have back issues of *Contrails* archived and those will be added to the site as well as updating the pictures to some that are more recent. I've had some requests to post the membership roster, but I don't want to put that into the public domain. I'll look into a "members only" section that requires setting up a login as a place to post information for members like this. Any additional suggestions for the website are welcome.

As far as District Reps, we are very happy to welcome Rob Skiba as our new Representative for District VI! We've been needing a Rep for that district for some time now and having Rob join us is a great addition. Going forward, I'll be looking to recruit District Reps for the remaining "un-represented" Districts.

On the membership side, I'm going to again contact some of our former members and encourage them to renew. Also, as an AMA SIG, JPO has access to a free ¼ page ad in Model Aviation to advertise the JPO and its benefits to the jet community which I will take advantage of. I'm also going to talk with the JPO Board about setting up an "incentive" program for existing members to sign up new members (or perhaps former members who have not renewed for several years). I just got my AMA membership fee for the coming year waived because I signed up 3 or more new AMA members. This is a nice benefit that says "thank you" for helping the organization grow and I'd like to do something similar for the JPO.

Hopefully, by the time the next *Contrails* comes out, I'll have progress on these things to report as well as the finalization of the new turbine thrust rules.

Speaking of membership, it's time to renew your membership for 2026!

You can renew online with PayPal here:

<https://www.jetpilots.org/renewal->

Or you can send a check for \$25 to the JPO Treasurer:

Marty Gurewitz
40 Cragmere Oval
New City, NY 10958

As always, the JPO appreciates your support. Please let us know if you have any issues or comments on how the JPO can better support you and the jet community.

Thanks!

Bob

**District IV Report****Scott Strimple**

**Delaware
Maryland
North Carolina
Virginia**

Fresh off of Jets over Kentucky 2025, the RC Jet Guys enjoyed some awesome flying weather in August and September. Bob Neal continued to fly his Carf A4 and dial in the CG while I was enjoying having the *Rebel Max* back in the air. We gathered at our home field in Richmond for a little jet flying. This field is suitable for the smaller jets so Bob Neal had his *Flash*, Bob Klenke with his *Cougar* and I with my *Turbinator*. October brought us several days of great flying in South Carolina at the Flying Tigers Jet Fest. Enjoy these pictures of some of the moments during these flying events. Hopefully, come spring I will be able to have my Skymaster A10 back in the air!

Scott





District IV Report (cont'd)

Scott Strimple





District VI Report

Rob Skiba

Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky
Missouri

Season's Greetings All,

My name is Rob Skiba and I am the new District VI VP. I have been active in RC for over 40 years. In the last few years, my wife and I have had quite a bit of change in our lives. We were living in Washington State with my job in IT leadership when that cart was upset without any prior indications. This was the third time that change in Corporate IT direction had impacted me professionally, so I vowed to find something that I truly liked doing and not to chase the next corporate position. In March 2024, I accepted a position at Horizon Hobby as their Spektrum Radio engineering manager. We

moved the 2100 miles from Pasco, WA to Champaign, IL and I have not looked back, loving the new position over the last 21 months.

I was curious this summer after CD'ing Illini Super Jets, as to what had happened to the JPO in the Midwest. So, I reached out to Bob. He let me know the JPO AMA SIG was still active and that they were indeed looking for a District VI VP. So here I am! I am really hoping that I can be a voice for other jet pilots in the District and the Nation as we navigate the ever-changing FAA rules for model flight, especially R/C Jet flying. I do plan to travel to the regional events this coming summer, but that seems so far away as we just had the first snowfall for the winter over Thanksgiving weekend in Central IL.

If there is anything you would like to talk about or make me aware of, please don't hesitate to reach out. I look forward to meeting many of you at future events and as always, "Keep it in Zone 5!"

Rob.

Editor's Note:

In the last issue the cover photo was incorrectly attributed to Ken Parks, rather than Larry Ingram. Since it is such a good photo, our cover is graced with it again, with the proper attribution.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Treasurer's Report

Marty Gurewitz

Beginning Checking Account Balance 8/31/2025	\$7,424.88
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Beginning Paypal Balance 8/31/2025	\$0.00
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Total Cash on Hand 8/31/2025	\$7,424.88
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Income

Member Dues	\$167.44
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Total Income	\$167.44
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Expenses

PIP Printing-Contrails	\$484.28
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Total Expenses	\$484.28
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Ending Checking Account Balance 11/30/2025	\$7,108.04
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Current Pay Pal Account Balance 11/30/2025	\$0.00
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Total Cash on Hand 11/30/2025	\$7,108.04
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District VII Report

Tim Toutant



Iowa
Michigan
Minnesota
Wisconsin

Well, it seems as though winter is starting to settle in here in the Midwest. It is snowing as I write this, at 30 degrees with wind chills in the teens. I'm sure there are a lot of winter projects being worked on as well as fixing those with battle scars. This summer has been very busy with medical issues, and I haven't gotten out as much, however, I'm on the mend and hope to get out more next year.

The first picture is of my good friend here in Michigan, Larry Peterson, and his wife Jordan. He has started his own family business called Hi Viz RC. He has acquired all of the Robart landing gear hardware, so, if there is something you need, I'm sure he has it. Larry has turned his garage into a machine shop and can fabricate anything you need from tires to specialty parts for landing gear systems. He has Xicoy controllers in stock, too. You can find him at highvizrc.com, and they are good people to work with. I was amazed to see his rubber tire making process not to mention the machined aluminum rims for those tires.



The next three pictures are of the two turbines I've been working on. The AF F-22 *Raptor* which will be powered by a Swiwin 80 turbine and my favorite AF T-45 with a Swiwin 80 also. The last photo is the EDF's I fly on a regular basis. They are just fun to just toss in the car and go fly. Each has twin 40mm EDF fans and the F-14 has the variable geometry wing. For 200 bucks, I couldn't pass them up and they fly really well. Up here, EDF's have become very popular as some clubs don't allow turbines at their fields. With that I hope everyone a Great Thanksgiving and looking forward to a Merry Christmas.



Gear Down and Locked!

Tim



District VIII Report

Ron Schwarzkopf

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Hello District VIII'ers... We've had a busy October with jet fly events in this district! That's great, but I couldn't attend them all! Our district does not have any events scheduled for the next few months, which will give us time to build. In case you couldn't make these last few events, here's a quick review.

Turbines and Tumbleweeds (Sweetwater, TX), Oct 2-5, 2025.

Unfortunately, I could not make this event, but from everyone I spoke with who attended it, the event went quite well. This event is in its second year of running, being hosted by the Abilene RC Society, and the City of Sweetwater, TX. It is held at Avenger Field, which was a flight training facility for WASP pilots during WW2. This event was CD'd by Ivan Via of the Abilene club, and brought 77 registered pilots! Sorry I have no pics from this year's event, but through the event website www.turbinesandtumbleweeds.com, one can pull up pics from 2024, and maybe they'll update the website with 2025 pics. I'll be trying my best to attend in 2026.

Louisiana 11th Annual Jet Rally (Springhill, TX), Oct 16-18, 2025.

Terry Monroe of the SHARKS club CD'd this event. This year it was held at Springhill Airport, which is about 1 hour Northeast of Shreveport. This is the first time this event was held at this location, and the event still brought in 54 pilots. Flying was from a main runway's taxiway, while a NOTAM kept the airport closed, except for some announced traffic. Weather stayed nice and a lot of flying was done, except toward the very end of the event. There was a threat of thunderstorms arriving, so some of us bailed early. Thanks again for Terry running this event, and we hope to be there next year. Pics are somewhere in this column.

Jetoberfest (Monaville, TX), Oct 30 – Nov 1, 2025.

Jetoberfest is held every October at Bomber Field, and this year was no exception! Terry Monroe CD'd this event (along with the previous Louisiana event previously mentioned). Fifty-five pilots attended, and we had great weather. The event CD also decided to run an informal costume contest, since this event coincided with Halloween. I thought I would win with my orange pumpkin face shirt, but others clearly put more of an effort into this!

Some neat stuff showed up this year... Pablo Fernandez of Elite Aerosports brought out one of their newest models, the *BDXL* – a larger version of their successful *BDX* model. This series of models were inspired by Jim Bede's BD-5J, and slowly these models are approaching the full-size. In fact, the length of the *BDXL* is 95% of the length of the full-size BD-5J! This K-320-powered model weighs 94-lbs wet, and appeared to fly great, with all the aerobatic capability of the *BDX*, along with great slow-flight qualities.



Chris Gracy of XSRC also rolled out one of their newest models, an MB339 with a 2.4-meter span. The model has a lot of scale surface detail, and is currently available in 2 color schemes. Also, a highly-detailed scale cockpit kit can be purchased for the model, which has a lot of 3D printed details. The kit had just arrived, so we did not get a chance to see it fly but I hope to see it in the air soon!



District VIII Report (cont'd)

Ron Schwarzkopf



Nicely detailed MB339 cockpit from XSRC.



Pilot Matrix ready for more great flights.



David Elizondos pile of models being prepped.



North pit area ready with jets.



Chris Hogg from Warbird Models ready to fire up his L-39.



XSRC Jets colorful Mirage in attendance.

In an effort to encourage pilot attendance at jet events in 2025 in this district, James Hillin and Terry Monroe decided to initiate a raffle at the beginning of the year. For a relatively modest entrance fee into this raffle, one was able to get their name entered into a raffle to win a Elite Aerosports RAZR model, along with turbine and radio mostly installed. Ones chances are improved by attending each of the 7 events the raffle was promoting. At the end of this Jetoberfest event, the lucky pilot winner would be announced – and that pilot was Vernon Montgomery! Congrats to Vernon – if this raffle is repeated next year, I'll have to try to make it to more jet events! Pics of the raffle model, along with other models in attendance are in this column.

We are entering building season, so get your new project going so it will be ready for 2026!

Ron



James Hillin and crew who masterminded the RAZR model raffle.



Another pic of the raffled off RAZR.

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IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Membership/Renewal Application

Please add/renew my JPO membership!

Name: _____ AMA Number*: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

*AMA membership is required for U.S. Residents. JPO Annual Membership Fee is \$25.

Renewal can be online at: www.jetpilots.org via PayPal or credit card; or you can fill out and send with check or money order made out to: "The Jet Pilot's Organization" to: Marty Gurewitz, JPO Secretary/Treasurer, 40 Cragmere Oval, New City, NY, 10956

