

FARM



Fauquier Aero Recreation Modelers
AMA #1654 farmclubrc.com



Culpeper Model Barnstormers
AMA #4894 cmbclubrc.com



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

February 2026 Radio Controlled Air - Land - Sea Models

Newsletter

Editor's Note: We will be rotating the lead club specific content lead section 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 February, will be our is our first "Tri-Club Fourth Tuesday of the Month" RC Modeling Zoom meeting starting at 7:00 PM.
- Our First meeting will be hosted by the FARM Club, then CMB will host 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 February (forth Tuesday) monthly tri-club RC modeling related Zoom meeting.

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

With more than a typical winter here in central Virginia, the recent “really cold” snap has kept any hope of flying at bay. And now with a comparative heat wave upon us, your urges to charge batteries or fill fuel bottles should be stirring, something like those first yellow flowers poking through the snow. Your board of directors has met twice and is working towards being ready for the season.

Several projects at the airpark are anticipated, and Parks and Recreation is planning a full year of turf maintenance. In addition, Parks and Rec. is contemplating possible help on some of these projects and offering encouragement for the club to undertake longer term, more significant facility improvements. Of course, on our present site, we will never become a “Triple Tree” of central Virginia, but more storage, more instrumentation/power and perhaps a three-to-five-year push for a club meeting/training room and workshop are possible if we rise to the effort.

This is where the membership comes in. To keep that airpark in good shape and be ready to support any improvements, we must expand and improve our culture of volunteer support to maintenance and improvement activities at the airpark. To begin with, we can still use a few **additional volunteers for mowing!** Our equipment has improved and really does perform better and quicker. **PLEASE** consider contacting Bobby Hurst our Field Marshall and signing up for some “John Deere” time.

I realize not everyone can schedule time at the airpark on mowing days, particularly when mowing is often driven by weather. I understand when a long trip out to mow might preclude flying because of time or winds. Please know there are other equally valuable “chores” that are available that are less schedule and time driven. Club members can attack these and make vital contributions to the club. Perhaps two or three could “buddy” up into tiger teams and take ownership of these. Some examples :

- Periodic weed killing under the shelter – once a month perhaps – your schedule
- Maintenance of the solar system batteries and array – quarterly – your schedule
- Pickup trash around the airpark and runway – your schedule
- Safety Stand Maintenance – once or twice a season – your schedule
- Grill Cleaning prior to club cookouts – your schedule
- Gathering supplies for club cookouts
- Grill master for cookouts
- Wasp control – your schedule
- Rope line maintenance – your schedule
- Chair wipe down – once or twice a season – your schedule
- Porta-potty wipe down and stocking – half an hour a month – your schedule
- You got gripes? – what do you think needs doing? – your schedule

Please give these some thought and contact Bobby or me, and we can get you involved!

The board has approved a year end volunteer recognition event – I would like to see **YOU** there !

Culpeper Model Barnstormers - Item for Sale

Did you miss out on a Telemaster in the 80's? Do you need another to replace a long lost Telemaster? Touch and goes at sunset with a Telemaster is a thing you know, so here is a chance to complete your RC experience! Donated by a friend of the CMB club, Ken Stockton, is an unfinished SBRF (SBRF – Soon to Be Ready to FLY) Telemaster 40 kit. All but the horizontal and vertical tail surfaces have been completed. Wood except for horizontal stabilizer sheeting is included. The plane is set up for a fuel engine, but removal of the fuel tank would facilitate an easy conversion to electric. Have you always wanted a candy bomber? The Telemaster has a generous fuselage that would support this conversion also. Make an offer over \$30 at: gl.collyer@gmail.com , to benefit CMB.

Gordon C.

- CMB Secretary/Treasurer's Corner: Nic Burhans

Board Meeting Notes:

- See the Zoom meeting notice above
- On 7 February 2026 a CMB Board Meeting was held at the Culpeper Public Library:
- See President's notes above.
- Jim Restel and Jay Zompanti were designated as the Club's Facebook page Administrators.
- A Club Open House is being considered at Lenn Model Airpark.

CMB Club Membership Report:

- As of 30 January, the CMB Club had 51 members (20 Regular, 28 Senior, 2 Junior, 0 Life, and 1
- The updated 2026 CMB Club Roster will be sent out to the membership after Hold mail has been delivered.

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

February 24	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM
March 7	Saturday	"Lithium Battery Safety" Class @ Culpeper Field House CMB Coordinator: Gordon Collyer	1pm-3pm
March 14	Saturday	Buddy Box Training day @ Lenn Model Airpark CMB Coordinator: Nic Burhans	10am-2pm
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 28	Tuesday	Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting	7:00 PM

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

CMB Treasurer's Report

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

- CMB Field Marshal's Corner: Bobby Hurst

--- WE NEED YOU!

Bobby Hurst

- CMB Safety Officer's Corner: Bill Crone

- CMB Training Coordinator's Corner: Gordon Collyer

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

Entry Looking Ahead After the Storm

Hello everyone,

I truly hope you and your families made it through the recent snowstorm safely. Like many winter storms, this one brought most activities to a standstill and temporarily slowed things down for **LOWCRC** as well. As a result, I've been a bit slower getting our schedule moving, but things are starting to come back together. We do have an **indoor meetup scheduled for February 21st**, and I'll be working to reserve additional time on the schedule as we move further into the season. I also plan to meet with our board soon to discuss our overall **focus and goals for the year**, especially as we look for ways to keep activities engaging during both indoor and outdoor months.

One idea I'm particularly excited about continuing to explore is **Drone Soccer**, which I've mentioned several times before. I've recently picked up a drone suitable for this at a relatively low cost and plan to design and build a scoring goal. My initial thought is to start small—possibly with a **10×10 drone cage**—to gauge interest and grow from there. This would give us a safe, fun, and exciting indoor activity while also introducing flight skills in a controlled environment. Ideally, I'd like to reserve the **Community Center gym space** primarily for drone soccer and other indoor flight activities.



Another area of the hobby that I see growing quickly is **micro crawlers**.



These small RC 1/30 scale vehicles are relatively cost-effective and don't require much space to operate, which makes them perfect for indoor use. I've personally had a lot of fun building different crawler obstacles out of everyday household waste like cardboard. I recently came across a very **portable obstacle design** that could easily be used for events or even turned into a hands-on class where members build their own course elements.



Because of their flexibility, micro crawler activities could be scheduled in **available classrooms** rather than competing for gym space, allowing us to run multiple types of indoor activities without conflict.

More broadly, my goal for the year is to focus on **creating accessible activities right here at the lake**. I'd love to hear ideas for events that allow parents and kids to participate without having to travel far, and I'm very open to exploring **partnerships with the Lake** to make that happen.

I'm excited to see how the year takes shape and truly appreciate the ideas, support, and collaboration across our clubs. Together, we can continue building fun, educational, and community-focused opportunities for everyone involved.

— **Al Hampton**

- LOWCRC Secretary's Corner: Gordon Collyer

Board Meeting Notes:

- A Board meeting will be held on 4 March 2026.

CMB Club Membership Report:

- The Club presently has 10 members.

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

LOWCRC 2026 Event Calendar

Events Beginning March 1, 2026 and Beyond

Board Meeting

- March 4, 2026 – 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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)

- March 7, 2026
- 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

- Stay Warm and Keep Dry!

Thanks; Ernie P.

- FARM Secretary/Treasurer's Corner: Nic Burhans

February 24 Tuesday Tri-Club RC Modeling Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM

FARM Club Membership Report:

- As of 30 January the FARM Club had 55 members (19 Regular, 30 Senior, 0 Junior, 4 Life, and 2 Associate members).
- The updated 2026 FARM Club Roster will be sent out to the membership after Hold mail has been delivered.

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

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

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

FARM Treasurer's Report

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

Tips & Projects:

Anything from the Field:

Best Budget Radio Control Systems for Beginners

By Al Hampton

Over the years, several members have asked me whether a particular radio system is “the best” choice for beginners—especially for those on a tight budget who aren’t yet sure how deeply they’ll get into the RC hobby. I wanted to share my personal perspective so that, if you find yourself in one of these conversations, you’ll have another informed viewpoint to draw from when making recommendations.

I come from a very modest background when it comes to hobby budgets. In fact, limited finances were the main reason I *didn’t* get involved in RC as a kid. Fast forward to today, and I’ve jumped in with both feet—proof that budget concerns don’t have to be permanent barriers. I share this because many new hobbyists are in the same place I once was.

As many of you know, I currently use two primary radio ecosystems: products from **RadioMaster** and **Radiolink**.

My First Recommendation: RadioMaster Pocket (ELRS)



My first—and most frequent—recommendation for budget-minded beginners is the RadioMaster Pocket (ELRS version). Its price point is excellent for what it offers, and it provides a surprising amount of capability without overwhelming new users.

The Pocket is easy to set up for basic controls and gives beginners time to grow into the EdgeTX ecosystem. One major advantage is scalability: as long as there’s memory available for model setups, it can bind to well over 100 receivers. This means a beginner won’t outgrow the radio anytime soon.

Why I Don’t Recommend the T8L for Beginners

RadioMaster recently released the more affordable T8L, which is roughly half the price of the Pocket. While the cost is attractive, I struggle to recommend it for beginners. The lack of an onboard screen means all programming must be done through an external device, and it does not run EdgeTX.

The concern isn’t just convenience—it’s the learning curve later on. If someone eventually upgrades from the T8L, they’ll still need to learn EdgeTX or another system from scratch. With the Pocket, that learning happens gradually and naturally from day one.

Addressing the “EdgeTX Is Too Complicated” Concern

EdgeTX often gets a reputation for being complex—and to be fair, it *is* very powerful. However, complexity also brings flexibility. Once you’ve successfully set up one model, you can duplicate it and fine-tune it for other aircraft with similar configurations. Using this approach, I’ve fully configured new aircraft and drones in just minutes.

Even now, I’m confident these radios have far more functionality than I personally use—but that’s a good thing. When I have an idea for an additional feature or control, I’m not limited by the radio. For youth especially, having room to experiment and explore without being constrained by equipment is incredibly valuable.

A Non-EdgeTX Alternative: Radiolink T12D

RadioLink T12D

12 Fully-proportional Channels Transmitter

Cutting-edge and Intuitive



For those who are set on avoiding EdgeTX, my alternative recommendation is the Radiolink T12D. While it's more expensive than the Pocket, it offers a clear on-screen display, 12 channels (with 8 fully customizable), and menus that are relatively easy to navigate. It can also store up to 50 individual models.

Radiolink is very active in STEM-related programs and educational initiatives, and the T12D reflects that thoughtful design. It's a solid choice for beginners who want flexibility without diving into EdgeTX right away.

Final Thoughts

Both RadioMaster and Radiolink provide extensive documentation, tutorials, and community support—making either brand a strong option for new hobbyists. My hope is that this overview helps you form your own recommendations for budget-minded beginners who are just starting out.

If you have questions or want to see these radios in action, be sure to catch me at the field this season. I regularly use all the radios mentioned here, and I'll also be bringing along the new RadioMaster TX16S MK3 once my preorder arrives.



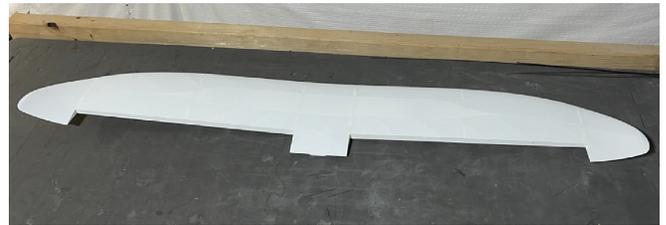
Fly safe, and I'll see you out there!
Al Hampton

Bridging the gap - Part 2

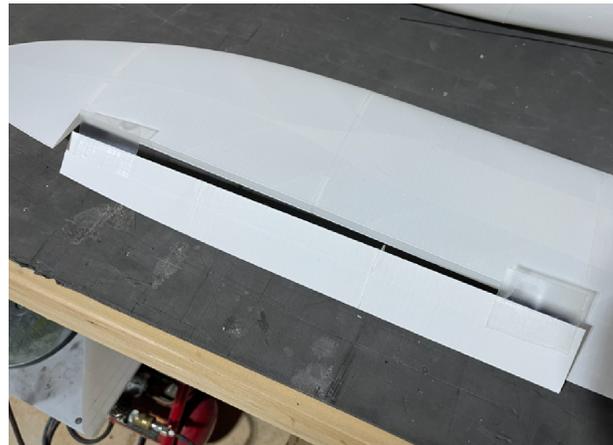
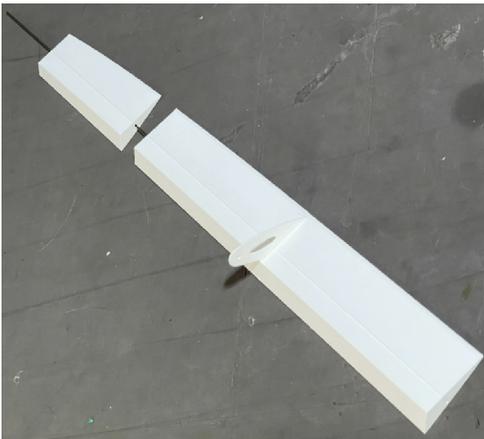
Bridging the Gap – Eclipsion Model A Assembly

The Eclipsion Model A is a free design meant to help beginners get started with 3D-printing RC airplanes. It's a basic high-wing aircraft with long flaperons and very stable flight characteristics. In this article, I continue with assembly after printing all the parts in PLA (and a motor mount in PETG).

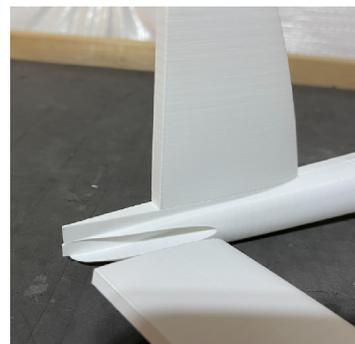
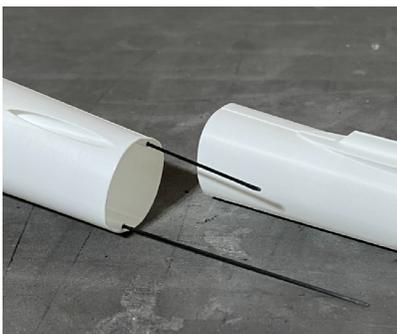
I started with the wing, which consists of seven main parts that slide together with tabs. On the right side of the center section, additional tabs (printed separately) must be used to strengthen the joint between the right wing and the wing center section. Assembly goes quickly with CA glue and accelerator after positioning and wiping each joint clean of excess adhesive.



Aileron assembly is quick, and includes a length of 1-mm carbon rod to maintain part alignment and add strength. The control horns are printed as part of the aileron center section and the control surface is attached using tape. I tried several types of tape and found that clear 2-inch T-Rex tape works well, with outstanding adhesion and little stretch.



Fuselage assembly also goes extremely quickly and consists of five primary sections with joints strengthened by tabs on the front four sections. Two 1-mm carbon rods are used in the aft three sections to help with alignment and add rigidity to the structure. The vertical stabilizer is installed using a tab/slot design, and the horizontal stabilizers slide into slots on either side of the empennage.



Fuselage assembly continues with servo mounts for the rudder/elevator (glued into place) and rubber-band attachment points for the wing that attach with screws (I used M3 wood screws) and CA glue. I printed the motor mount using PETG (to resist motor heating) and installed it using four M3 wood screws.



I finished the fuselage with canopy assembly (two parts), installation of the rudder (single part), and assembly/installation of the elevator using the same T-Rex tape I used on the wing. Assembly takes only a few hours, which includes sanding of the joints to clean up adhesive squeeze-out and helps smooth out the finish. In my next article, I'll show how the electronics are installed and (if the weather cooperates) I'll get in a first flight!

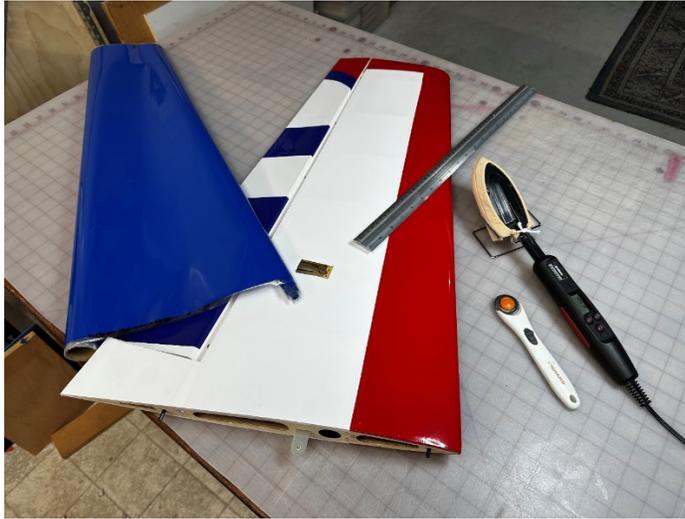


If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to my email (William.Hurst130@gmail.com) or call my cell at (501) 766-7349. Any feedback about this article would be much appreciated so we can make our Newsletter as interesting as possible! Stay warm and blue skies!

Bobby Hurst

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:
gj.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

6061 Captains Walk

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540-219-9646

E-Mail: npb6218@earthlink.net

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

<http://www.cmbclubrc.com>

<http://www.lowcrc.com>