



# **Fort Worth Thunderbirds** *Radio Control Association Inc.* **The Pilot's Log**



**Issue, 6304 April 2025**

**Next club meeting: April 28th - 7:00 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road**

**President's Corner: by Ron Anderson**

No Report this month.

**Vice President's Corner: by Mark Johnson**

Hello Thunderbirds! Would you believe we are heading into May already? We are busy with preparations for the upcoming 2025 SAE Aero Design East May 1-4th. Again, if you have not already signed up to help, we could still use the help. Other activities that have been going on are improvements to the grass runway and edging around the main runway. A big shout out to Scott Hays for spearheading the improvements. I would also like to recognize all the volunteers that helped to make this project possible. We will also be hosting the Cubs 'n Cousins Over Benbrook on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mark

**Secretary's Corner: by Mike Schroeder**

Thunderbird Meeting Minutes, March 24, 2025 Monday

Meeting at CERA

Ron Anderson our president rings the bell to call the meeting to order at 7:00 and asked if we have a quorum, we do. Thunderbird club member visiting from out of town is Gary Alphin. Visiting from Chicago is Bill Shay. Bill is down here in Texas to help his daughter move in.

## **Reports**

***Vice President Report*** by Mark Johnson: Nothing to report at this time except please volunteer for the runway maintenance.

***Treasurer Report*** by Chris Berardi: Ordering new hats if anyone needs one. Badges are available to pick up. Banking savings and checking in good standing. Major expenses are SAE Porta cans, dumpster and routine charges as regular Porta can and electric.

***Secretary Report*** by Mike Schroeder: Motion by Robert Kraft to not read the minutes and Dave Williams second. Show of hands and the motion passes.

***Safety Report*** by Sam Corlett: Need to replace and check all the fire extinguishers. Need to check up on first aid kits and make sure properly labeled location. Will also check on the pilot's fire box in the pilot box.

**Field Maintenance:** Ron presented to the club that this should be a board position and the by-laws would need to be update if approved. Bill Lake made the motion to make a board position for Field Maintenance and was second by Chip Kiehlbauch. Show of hands, the motion passes.

### Old Business

**Update Frequency board.** Mel will get it ordered after Sam reviews and updates the rules.

**Airplane stands.** Mark Johnson will look into

**Weather Station** the hot item of the night, Lots of input and Chris has looked into the cost several times and it boils down to be about \$1,500 start up cost and cost \$120 a month. The biggest issue is that there is no telephone poles close by so we would have to go with Starlink. Sam also mentioned that there is a weather report station at the dam.

Bill Lake made a motion to continue on looking into the weather station or put it to bed and get rid of it with a vote. Second by Robert Kraft. A show of hands, seven for continuing on and fifteen for putting this to bed and take off the project board. Brick walkway, remove from project list. Bill Lake made a motion to remove from the list as there is no real desire to do this project. Second by Scott Hayes. Show of hands and for the motion and it passes to remove.

### New Business

**Hops and Props,** static display at the Fort Worth Aviation Museum April 26 from 12 to 5. Need members to volunteer to bring a few planes and talk to the public about Thunderbird Field.

Ron will send an email to Woody to set up.

**Scout Troop Aledo #1099.** Ron will contact James about the Scouts coming out for a training day to earn their Aviation badge.

Glen Cashion will contact a Boy Scout troop that would like to come over after the Cubs and Cousins to fly on May 17. The troop will be camping out that weekend. Glen will get with the troop and let us know.

**Walker Brent,** Thunderbird member #152 has donated his collection of RC items. Ron and Rex went by and visited with him at the rest home. Walker is ninety six years old and one of the founding members of the Thunderbird club. Gary Alphin told the club a few stories about Walker when he was active in the club.

**Ken Knotts** is in the hospital as he lost blood pressure and passed out. The result are a fractured his tail bone.

**Grass Runway work.** April 28 and 29 from seven to noon. Scott Hays presented the club with a proposal to fill in the cracks along the east side of the runway and both ends of the runway. They will try and go out fifty feet along the side and seed with a Bermuda grass. They are trying to make it into a nice grass runway. They will also fertilize the areas. This area is about 580 foot when you take in both ends and the runway. Cost \$1600. Motion to spend up to \$1600 was made by Bill Lake and second by Dave Williams. Motion passed with a show of hands.

We are going to have a member only SWAP meet April 26. Try to get rid of some items or buy some more.

**Trinty Valley Stem Program** will be at the field to learn about RC. April 28 from noon to two. Volunteers are needed to go over ground school, safety, Flight Sim and buddy box flying. There will be about fifteen middle school students attending.

Motion to end the meeting by Bill Lake and second by Rex Anderson. Motion passes. Meeting adjourns 8:25

### **Thunderbird Members in Attendance**

Bill Lake  
Robin Blakeney  
Johnny Hunt  
Roy Thottam  
Mike Schroeder  
Gary Nelson  
Chip Kiehlbauch  
Mike Coopman

Dave Williams  
Glenn Cashion  
Woody Lake  
Wayne Lemkelde  
Mel Wells  
Scott Hays  
Chris Berardi  
Phil Dunlap

Ron Anderson  
Gary Alphin  
Rex Anderson  
Sam Corlett  
Kennth Killgro  
Robert Kraft  
Nathane Blake (SAE)  
Gary Schindler

Tom Blakeney  
Mark Johnson  
Fred Neil  
Robert Solis  
Bill Sohay (visiting)  
Barry King  
Melvin Bowser

### Treasurer's Report: by Chris Berardi

No Report at this time.

2025 Membership count as of 03/20/2025.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	118
Family	11
Associate	8
Life	16
Service & Gift	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>153</b>

### Safety: by Sam Corlett

After the extreme winds we've been experiencing subside, we're looking forward to some great flying weather this spring. As we gather more folks at the field it's important to be vigilant regarding all aspects of the flying process.

- Ensure your equipment is in order, including wire routing and ties when appropriate; linkages and controls free; servos, receiver, and battery secure; CG in its proper place.
- Coordinate with other pilots regarding traffic pattern, pilot locations and flying styles. Enjoy spotting and discussing flying and airplanes with others.
- Fly conscientiously and responsibly. Remember to put your AMA card on the board. Observe no fly zones.

We have a great place to fly let's make sure we use it well.

Sam

### Spitfire and Targets Fly-In

Greater Southwest RC club hosted a Spitfire Fly-in March 22nd. Although winds were forecasted to be in the 20 knot range the first part of the morning was perfect. Light winds right down the runway. Thanks to Bob Mueller for organizing this fly-in and the GSW club for hosting.





## Frankinjet

A fighter jet made from recycled plane parts is now operational, after more than two years of repairs, the U.S. Air Force announced Wednesday. The F-35A warplane has been dubbed "Frankenjet" because of its construction using previously broken, non-functional materials.

The Air Force's F-35 Joint Program Office conceived of the idea for "Frankenjet" in late 2022. Working with the 388th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group and the defense manufacturer Lockheed Martin, they sought to remove the nose from one inoperative jet and transfer it onto another, an undertaking that the Air Force called a "first-of-its-kind and seemingly impossible task."

Past accidents had rendered both planes involved in the project out of service. One had experienced an engine fire in 2014, and the other's landing gear malfunctioned in 2020, according to the Air Force. To minimize waste — and the cost of military aircraft repairs for taxpayers — engineers put their experiment to the test.

"The scope and complexity of this project was an exemplary demonstration of overcoming barriers," said Tomas Barber, an F-35 repair team engineer, in a statement. Barber also said its completion marked a new level of repair capabilities for advanced stealth fighters.

Building "Frankenjet" ultimately took two years and five months, the Air Force said. The project cost \$11.7 million, which was \$2.8 million less than anticipated, and resulted in \$63 million overall in savings for the Department of Defense.

The warplane took its first flight in January from Hill Air Force Base in Utah to the Lockheed Martin facility in Fort Worth, Texas, the Air Force said. By the end of March, it was prepared to resume full service as part of the 4th Fighter Generation Squadron's 388th Fighter Wing. The jet successfully traveled back from Fort Worth to the Utah base around that time, and afterward was officially considered fully operational.





## Understanding Brushless RC Motor Specifications: by Motion RC August 25 2016

Brushless motors use a standard numbering scheme to describe their physical size and Kv rating. For example: let's assume we have a 5055-3000Kv Brushless Outrunner Motor. We break the numbers out as follows: [50] [55] - [3000]

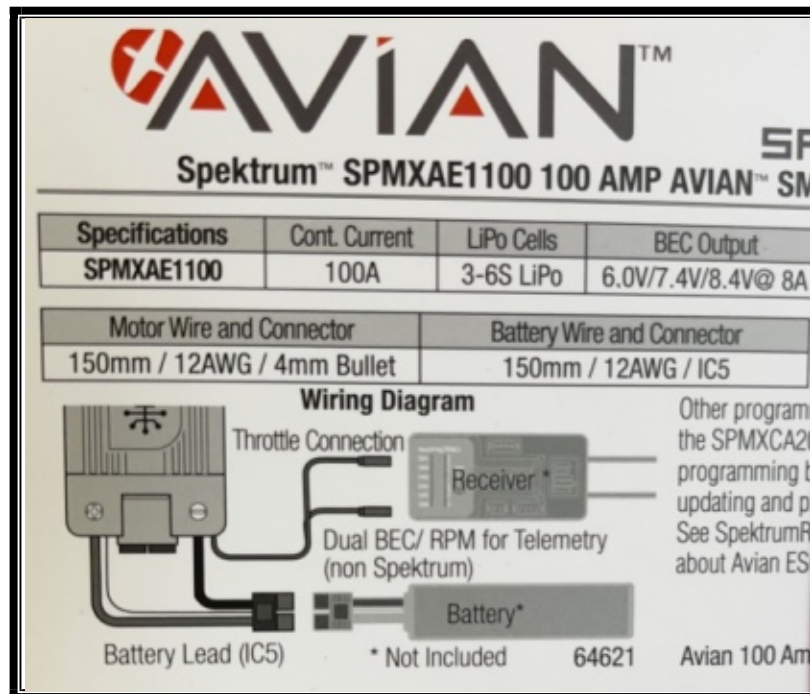
- [50] The first two numbers represent the diameter of the motor's housing in millimeters; in this example 50mm
- [55] The second two numbers represent the length of the motor housing in millimeters; in this example 55mm
- [3000] the numbers after the dash represent the Kv rating of the motor; in this example 3000Kv. The Kv rating (not to be confused with kilo-volt) is the RPM of the motor (k) per volt (V) with no load. For example, a brushless motor with a Kv rating of 3000 powered by a 12V power source would be capable of 36,000 RPMs (multiply 3000x12). This is the max RPMs that this motor can reach under no load. A motor with a higher Kv will have more top end speed, but not as much acceleration/torque. A motor with a lower Kv will not be as fast, but will accelerate faster and have more torque.

## What does 12T mean on RC motors?

Turns, basically the amount of wiring in the motor. A higher turn motor makes more torque but will have a lower top end. A lower turn motor will be faster but produce less torque.

## Battery Eliminator Circuit (BEC)

In an electric-powered radio-controlled model, the BEC is typically part of the electronic speed control (ESC). BEC allows such a model to carry only one battery (the motor power battery) instead of two (motive power, and a separate battery to operate the RC equipment). A BEC-equipped ESC meant for airplane use often incorporates a low-voltage-cutoff (LVC) circuit which can sense the voltage drop caused when the battery has little charge left. It then cuts the power to the 'drive' motor in order to provide the 'steering' servo(s) with enough power to be able to bring the model safely back to the operator. The power to the propeller is cut but the operation of the control surfaces would be maintained in order to perform a dead-stick landing. Without this feature, all control would be lost when the battery expired, probably resulting in the destruction of the model. In some cases, the BEC is part of the radio control receiver, instead of being part of the ESC.



## Mesa Arizona Jet and Warbird Fly-In (Photos Only)



## 2025 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
May 2-4	SAE	Glen Cashion, Tom Blakeney, James Meadows
May 17	Cub 'N' Cousins Fly-in	Mark Johnson
June 28	Jet Jambore	Jeff Opal, Dave Williams and Gary Schndler
July 4	July 4th Picnic	Club Officers
August 9	Float Fly Camp Joy Park	Mel Wells
September 27	Warbird/Dawn Patrol Fly-in	Mark Johnson
October	FW Thunderbirds Airshow	Club Officers
October 25	Electric Expo	Tom Blakeney
TBD	3D Smack Down	Reed Smith

[www.fwthunderbirds.org](http://www.fwthunderbirds.org)

POSITION	BOARD MEMBER	EMAIL
President	Ron Anderson	president@fwthunderbirds.org
Vice President	Mark Johnson	vicepresident@fwthunderbirds.org
Secretary	Mike Schroeder	secretary@fwthunderbirds.org
Treasurer	Chris Berardi	treasurer@fwthunderbirds.org
Safety Officer	Sam Corlett	safetyofficer@fwthunderbirds.org



*Pres:* Ron Anderson



*VP:* Mark Johnson



*Sec:* Mike Schroeder



*Safety:* Sam Corlett



*Treas:* Chris Berardi

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# Flying Field Rules

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35



36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85

SPREAD SPECTRUM

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09

53.0 53.1 53.2 53.3 53.4 53.5 53.6 53.7 53.8 53.9



**CURRENT AMA CARDS ONLY. NO OTHER CARD IS ACCEPTABLE.**  
THIS FIELD IS LEASED BY, MAINTAINED BY, AND ITS CONSTRUCTION FUNDING WAS SECURED BY  
**THE FORT WORTH THUNDERBIRDS RADIO CONTROL ASSOCIATION**  
ALL AMA, CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO EVERYONE FLYING HERE.

1. Neither the Thunderbirds nor the Corps of Engineers is responsible for accident or injury.

2. Place your AMA card in the proper slot above before turning transmitter on.

3. All engines must have effective mufflers.

5. Fly from the station nearest the downwind end of the runway. In case of a crosswind the first pilot to fly will select the station.

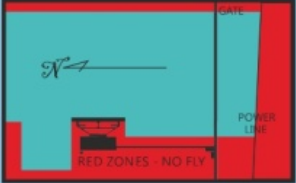
6. Aircraft must follow the takeoff and landing pattern in effect.

7. Landing aircraft have the right-of-way over aircraft taking off.

8. Running aircraft shall not be left unattended.

9. No more than 5 pilots shall fly in each designated zone at one time.

10. LMA rules are posted in the bulletin board



## **Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Aircraft Safety Code**

Effective January 1, 2018

A model aircraft is a non-human-carrying device capable of sustained flight within visual line of sight of the pilot or spotter(s). It may not exceed limitations of this code and is intended exclusively for sport, recreation, education and/or competition. All model flights must be conducted in accordance with this safety code and related AMA guidelines, any additional rules specific to the flying site, as well as all applicable laws and regulations.

### **As an AMA member I agree:**

- I will not fly a model aircraft in a careless or reckless manner.
- I will not interfere with and will yield the right of way to all human-carrying aircraft using AMA's *See and Avoid Guidance* and a spotter when appropriate.
- I will not operate any model aircraft while I am under the influence of alcohol or any drug that could adversely affect my ability to safely control the model.
- I will avoid flying directly over unprotected people, moving vehicles, and occupied structures.
- I will fly Free Flight (FF) and Control Line (CL) models in compliance with AMA's safety programming.
- I will maintain visual contact of an RC model aircraft without enhancement other than corrective lenses prescribed to me. When using an advanced flight system, such as an autopilot, or flying First-Person View (FPV), I will comply with AMA's Advanced Flight System programming.
- I will only fly models weighing more than 55 pounds, including fuel, if certified through AMA's Large Model Airplane Program.
- I will only fly a turbine-powered model aircraft in compliance with AMA's Gas Turbine Program.
- I will not fly a powered model outdoors closer than 25 feet to any individual, except for myself or my helper(s) located at the flightline, unless I am taking off and landing, or as otherwise provided in AMA's *Competition Regulation*.
- I will use an established safety line to separate all model aircraft operations from spectators and bystanders.

For a complete copy of AMA's Safety Handbook please visit:  
[www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf](http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf)



## Blast from the Past: General Aviation Fly-in 2009



## Area Events

### SAE COMPETITION

Fort Worth Thunderbirds CUBS 'N' COUSINS Fly-in 17 May 2025



# CUBS 'N' COUSINS FLY-IN





**DATE: 17 MAY 2025**

**TIME: 0900 - 1500**

**LOCATION: THUNDERBIRD FIELD**

**LANDING FEE: \$30.00**

**FREE LUNCH TO REGISTERED PILOTS - RAFFLE ITEMS - SOME PILOT GIVE - A WAYS  
RESTRICTED TO HIGH WING GENERAL AVIATION ACFT INCLUDING BIPES**

**CONTACT: MARK JOHNSON @ [vicepresident@fwthunderbirds.org](mailto:vicepresident@fwthunderbirds.org)**