



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



Issue 4474, August 2020

Next club meeting: August 24th, 2020, 7:00pm at our flying field

Presidents Corner: *by James Meadows*

It's August, it's hot and we are still dealing with Covid-19, but, we will get thru all of it. We are all hoping that the heat will break, and the COVID-19 'hot spots' will ease up and/or disappear, so some sense of normalcy can return. We have many challenges in the days ahead for the club, and this new world we operate in. If you are unaware, Buffalo West has become one of the economic casualties of Covid-19 and closed their doors at the end of July. They were good to us, and I hope they can find a way to return in some form. We are now actively looking for a new location to hold our monthly meetings. Until we can find a location, we will continue to meet at the field.

It's election time, and while many of us may be focused on the national election for President of the United States, don't forget about our own elections for club officers. The requirements and process are spelled out in our bylaws and club Constitution. If you're interested in serving, Nominations are around the corner.

RC events all over, the region, state and nation have been impacted, and it's unfortunate that a Rescheduled Thunderbird event has joined the list; the Warbirds over Lake Benbrook is cancelled. This is one of my favorite

events but there is not a way to host the event in the fashion we want, or can accept at this time, without removing the Wow factor. The jet rally is still planned, and I hope we can get it in. Hopefully when we can get together, we can have one heck of a fly in. Even though the Warbird event is cancelled, I would encourage you to make an effort to fly your Warbird in Sept during a day when you're at the field.

By the next club meeting the parking lot, runway and pit areas should have new stripes, bring a fresher look to the field, that should really POP! Thanks for the support in allowing the project to proceed and I apologize if you have to miss out on a day of flying!

We continue to receive donations of aircraft and equipment to the club. I want to thank all of those whom have graciously given to the club. Thank you.

Hope to see you at the field and most assuredly at the next club meeting.

Check your Six

James

Vice Presidents Corner: *by Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds. I hope this finds each of you safe and healthy. Don't forget our meetings will be at the field for the foreseeable future as described in James' article above. Your officers are actively working to find a new location for monthly meetings and it will be a tall order to

find a venue as supportive and well suited to our needs as Buffalo West - but we are on it! If you have ideas or suggestions, please let an officer know.

Thanks for all you've done to keep ourselves safe while at the field. This not only applies to complying with our safety rules for flying (see Ed's article below) but also to protecting each other during the pandemic. We've talked in previous newsletters and meetings about the demographic in our hobby and our club - most of us fall into the higher risk categories. Thanks for continuing to socially distance and wear masks when you can't distance at the field. We all stay safe when we work together!

July Club Meeting Minutes: *by Mike Schroeder*

Meeting started 7:03

James welcomed club members and asked if there are any visiting or new members. We have one visiting guest B T.

Events

Float Fly: The Float Fly is canceled due to the Corona virus and the city of Fort Worth will refund our money. The Fort Worth city park has a no more than a ten person gathering rule and we would be over that limit. It was decided to cancel early and see you next year.

Warbirds over Lake Benbrook: The Warbirds over Lake Benbrook has been canceled.

Alliance Airshow: The air show is still a go in October and the details are being worked out still. The show will still have the Thunderbirds demo show. There are many details coming.

Jet Event: Tom Blakeney will be the new CD and will take over the Jet event. Details are still being worked out and the event will be in October.

Old Business

Signs: Mel Wells ordered all new signs to replace all the faded old signs. The signs were then installed by Mel and a helper.

Lease: Our lease comes up for renewal this year and James is talking with the CORPS of Engineers. The discussion of several issues like a longer lease, bathrooms, training center, tree removal and some RV overnight parking for some two day events. The discussions are going good and are very positive on some of the items we would like to do.

Lastly, I still need to hear from YOU! If you have an idea for a meeting topic, have something you want to learn more about or know of a speaker/presenter that would be of interest to the club. I'd love to hear from you so we can get it scheduled for an upcoming meeting!

Even though it's really hot, I hope you are able to get out and fly. We are blessed to have the best facility around - and now with freshly painted stripes! Hope to see you at the field soon. Here's my virtual Low Pass Salute to you Thunderbirds! See ya at the field!

Show and Tell

Paul Bloxham: Displayed his scratched build tail section of RAF Blackburn Buccaneer that will have a fuselage approximately nine foot long and sixty plus inch wingspan. Two exhausts and all moving T-tail, retractable tail skid. All carbon design and should weight about sixty pounds. Hoping to finish this year but do not hold your breath as there is still a lot to do.



Mel Wells: Showed his Phoenix Models Warbird Dauntless that he is going to do the maiden flight soon. It weights about seven pounds three ounces with the battery in it. Hope to have it here for the Warbird event coming up.



Planes on the table are for the auction and there are items on the table that are free for the taking.

Reports

Vice President Report by Rob Lowe: Nothing to report this time

Treasurers Report by Chris Berardi: We have ten new members making a total of two hundred and one. Expenses are normal with checking and savings in good standing. Lease end at the end of the year and the club will incur that expense the first of the year.

Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder: Motion was made by Bill Lake to suspend the reading o the minutes and second by Gary Alpine. Show of hands for the motion passes with three opposed.

Chris and Mike talked about doing short videos about RC. Last year we had a demo both at TCC for the maker’s space fair where we had several airplanes and talked about the Thunderbird RC Association.

Instead of meeting on TCC campus we are supplying several demo video of our hobby. Wayne has a few ideas for a video. If there are any suggestions for a video this year please get with Chris or Mike.

Safety Report by Ed Kettler: Ed reminds us that we need to make sure we are hydrating ourselves out here in the heat. Drink lots of water and often. We also need to make

sure we are flying to the east side of the runway which is also the grass runway. The strip of grass between the safety fence and the runway is not for landing as it is a safety buffer.

Officers: October is the month for 2021 nominations of club officers. If you want to run or would like to nominate somebody please let James know.

New business

Field Markings: We have received a bid to stripe the runway and the parking lot. A motion was made to have the work done by Pete Lucas and second by Bill Lake. A show of hands and it passed with no opposed. We will get in contact with Tim and schedule to get the work done. The field will have to be closed for the day and we will send out an email notice.

Auction

- Chip bought the electric stick
- Tab bought the Bixler
- Wayne bought the P-51
- Randal bought Four Star Sig
- Peter bought the Taylorcraft

Meeting ended at 7:50

Thunderbird Members in Attendance

Tab Bowman
 Chris Berardi
 Peter Lucas
 Gary Alpine
 Ed Kettler
 Lonnie Cooper
 Tom Blakeney
 Peter Devlin
 Ron Schwarzkopf
 Ian Waring

Ken Knotts
 Randal Shaw
 James Meadow
 Mike Schroeder
 Tom Benke
 Mark Elhers
 Tom Muller
 Woody Lake
 Peter Devlin
 Paul Bloxham

Daniel Boamah
 Rob Lowe
 Mel Wells
 Bill Lake
 Gary Lowe
 Sam Corlett
 Wayne LemKelde
 Chip Kiehlbauch

From the Treasury: by *Chris Berardi*

No Report this month

Membership Type	Count
Individual	142
Family	13
Associate	8
Life	12
Service & Gift	3
TOTAL	201

Safety: by Ed Kettler

A couple of items for this month: flight areas and summer safety

As a reminder, flight operations off the runway should remain east of the runway to protect pilots and spectators. The grass area between the runway and safety fence are buffer zones, and should not be used for aircraft operations. Hand launching has to be done in the vicinity of the pilot boxes to ensure communications and safety. Please contact the safety officer if you have questions.

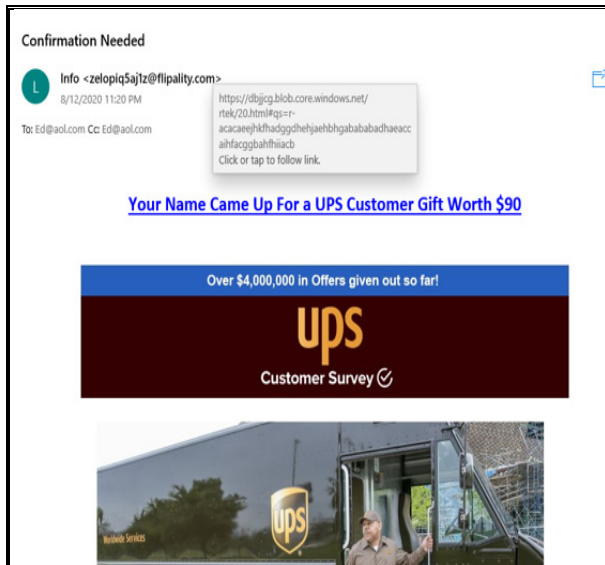
SCAM MAIL

I received the following e-mail, and found three quick clues this was bogus, and the start of an attack.

1. The Sender was not UPS, and was gibberish
2. The 'To' line has several bogus email addresses
3. Floating my cursor over the "Your name ... "hyperlink shows another very bogus, non-UPS link address. At this point, you are one click away from a very bad experience. Report it as Spam, and delete it

We are having a week of consecutive 100F days as I write this, so please practice hydration and shade techniques, and avoid the heat of the day. I'd recommend not going to the field alone, so that you have someone to monitor you in case you get into distress. Also, watch out for Comrade No Shoulders (snakes) and other critters that share the field with us.

Blue skies!



Opener, Spam – Can.

New Pilot Figure for my A-1 Skyraider: Woody



July Meeting Photos

The following are some additional photos from our July meeting.



Mel's Dauntless and Tom's Widgen



These two aircraft were donated to our club by Ed Moskal and will be Raffle Items at the August Meeting

Field Maintenance

Thunderbird Tim Ott and father David striped the operations areas and parking lot on Tuesday August 18th. It looks great! Thanks Tim!



Australian Scale Photos

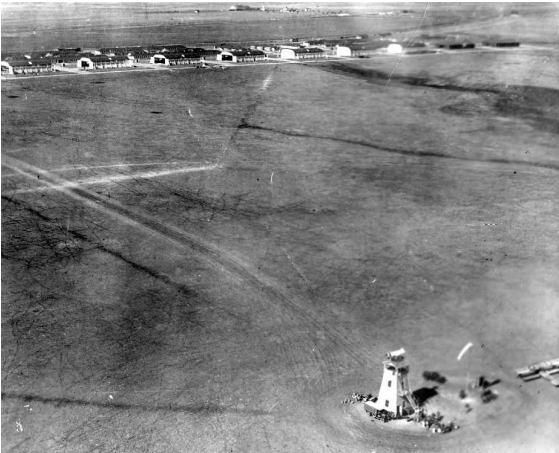


Nostalgia: by Woody

Since a lot of the flying events have been cancelled I've reached back into my 'hysterical' files and republished some worthy articles from past newsletters. Hope you enjoy.

Benbrook Field, Benbrook, TX

The Royal Canadian Flying Corps established this airfield in 1917, as one of 3 fields in the Fort Worth area where it trained pilots for WW1 (the other 2 fields were [Hicks Field](#) & [Barron Field](#)). This airfield was initially known as Taliaferro #2, and was also known as Carruthers Field.



Aerial view of the control tower, flying field, and hangars at Benbrook Field. (From the Benbrook TX Public Library, via Corky Baird).

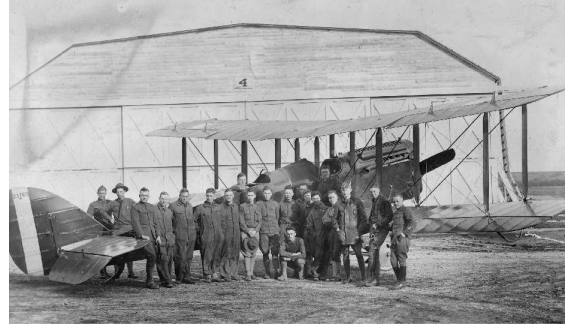
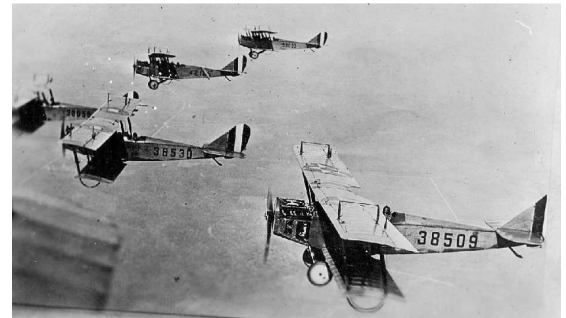


Photo of a group in front of a biplane & hangar at Benbrook Field (from the Benbrook TX Public Library, via Corky Baird).



Aerial view of a formation of biplanes from Benbrook Field (from the Benbrook TX Public Library, via Corky Baird).



Aerial view of the hangars of Benbrook Field (from the Benbrook TX Public Library, via Corky Baird).

The RCFC used the field through 1918.

One particular Canadian aviator, Captain Vernon Castle, was already world renowned as the famed dance team of Vernon & Irene Castle. Regrettably, he was killed in a plane crash at Benbrook during training exercises. Some witnesses, including William Fuller, believed that he deliberately crashed in order to avoid hitting another plane, and saved their lives. His burial was witnessed by thousands of mourners, who sadly watched the flagged draped casket pass in downtown Fort Worth. Even today, there is a street in Benbrook named in his honor. A 1939 movie starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers titled *Story of Vernon and Irene Castle* chronicled his life and career.

As seen in the first photo, a 1918 aerial photos, Benbrook Field consisted of a grass landing area alongside of which were arrayed an amazing total of 16 hangars. The dimensions & orientation of the landing area are unknown. A complex of other buildings was located on the opposite side of the hangars.

After the beginning of World War I, it was renamed Benbrook Field by the United States Army. Benbrook was used during WW1 as an aerial gunnery school for American & Canadian students and was afterward deactivated. By 1932, Benbrook Field was no longer depicted at all on the Dallas Sectional Chart, and it evidently was not reused during WW2.

By the time of a 1970 aerial photo, the site of Benbrook Field had been mostly redeveloped with housing.



As seen in the 2002 USGS aerial view, the site of Benbrook Field has been mostly redeveloped with housing. The circled area shows what appear to be remains of foundations of hangars on the eastern edge of the site of Benbrook Field.



A 2003 photo by Scott Murdock of the memorial to the fliers of Benbrook Field.

For the complete story of Benbrook Airfield and other abandoned and little know airfields of Texas go to:
http://www.airfields-freeman.com/TX/Airfields_TX_FtWorth_SW.htm

THUNDERBIRD TENTATIVE 2020 CALENDAR

September 12	Warbirds Over Lake Benbrook	CANCELED
September 25-26	Warbirds Over Texas	CANCELED
September 26-27	Wes Blair Scale Competition	GSW RC Club
October 3	Bi-Plane Fly-In	GSW RC Club
October 17-18	Alliance Airshow	
October 24-25 (tentative)	SPA West	Ken Knotts
October	Benbrook Thunder EDF Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
October 31st	Texas Electric Expo	Tom Blakeney
November	Toys for Tots	
December 12th	Club Christmas Party	Officers

[WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG](http://www.fwthunderbirds.org)

POSITION	BOARD MEMBER	CONTACT EMAIL
President	James Meadows	president@fwthunderbirds.org
Vice President	Rob Lowe	vicepresident@fwthunderbirds.org
Secretary	Mike Schroeder	secretary@fwthunderbirds.org
Treasurer	Chris Berardi	treasurer@fwthunderbirds.org
Safety Officer	Ed Kettler	safetycoordinator@fwthunderbirds.org

Club Officers 2020



Pres: James Meadows VP: Rob Lowe Sec: Mike Schroeder Safety: Ed Kettler Treas: Chris Berardi

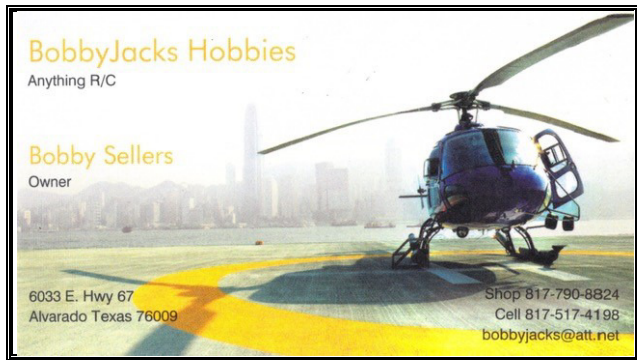
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 1309 Norwood Dr. Hurst TX 76053
www.royshobby.com



JT's Hobby Shop 817 244-6171
 8808 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth TX 76116
jtshobby@yahoo.com

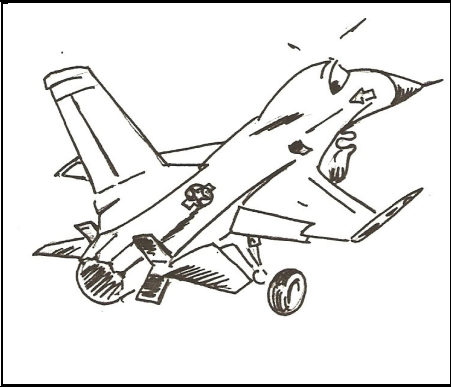
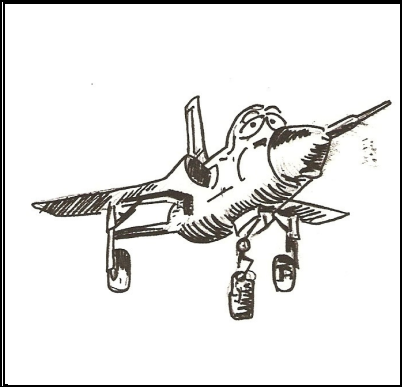
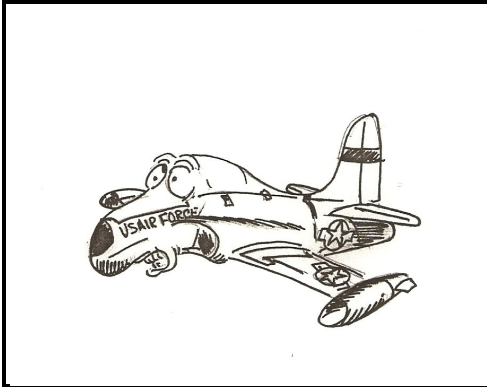


Bobby Jacks Hobbies Shop: 817 790-8824 Cell: 817 517-4198
6033 E. HWY 67 Alvarado TX 76009
bobbyjacks@att.net

HUMOR



Finally got myself a hearing aid. Hmmm, jury is still out on my HMO.



Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	HELIPAD	10X10 Concrete PUGH WITH ground, Could be Self help or contracted	Self /Contract	\$1,000.00	Officers	APROVED 2016-17	will require new Lease /or wait for expiration of 2018 Lease to negotiate Less \$\$
2	Line control Area	Develop area for line control modelers	Self /Contract	\$1,000.00	Officers	APROVED 2017	wait for expiration of Lease
3	Shed Update	Cross Ventilation fan	Contract				Suggest to member ship for Purchase Purchase
4	Larger shed/addon	Larger shed to store more stuff	self/contract				will require new Lease /or wait for expiration of 2018 Lease to negotiate Less \$\$
5	Enclose some of the covered shelter area	utilizing rollup doors that can be pulled down when needed	Self /Contract	\$Unknown			
6	Extend current runway	More stopping distance for models	contract	\$ Unknown			Lease Renewel/cost
7	Tree Removal	Remove trees at approach end of runways. Requires root removal and new plantings	Contract	\$15-\$20,0000		IN WORK	requires Corp Approval will request Corp permission and requirements
8	Solar power lights in PIT Area	Allow for some visibility	Self /Contract	\$400.00	james Meadows	testing in Aug	
9	Weather Station , with wind velocity	post on web site for real field conditions	Self	\$\$	Chris Berardi		
10	Taller Flag Pole	the old one needs replaced	Self /Contract	\$500.00	Mike Schroeder	Getting Pricing	
11	Quad GATES	Members Request	SELF	\$\$	UNK		used in Heli,quadand CL area

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

