



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



**Issue, 6008 August 2022**

**Next club meeting: August 22nd, 7 PM, Location Thunderbird Field**

**Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows***

Greeting Thunderbirds, Hopefully everyone is enjoying the cooler weather! Or at least the day that it rained on some of us! This year's float fly was a great success and the weather was the best that I can remember from years past. Light winds, mildly choppy water, but oh so refreshing! Mel Wells (CD) and his crew of numerous volunteers really put on a great event. Had 35 plus pilots and lots of great flying, and only one or two water rescues. Throw in the many pilot giveaways and raffle items and it totals up to one fun filled day! Thanks to all our members, guests and visitors who participated. Speaking of events and participation; we have mentioned it at several of the past meetings and in the newsletters, so here is the first official Announcement. Mark your Calendars for Oct 1, 2022. To celebrate the club's 60th year we will host a Community Airshow. This event will include flight demonstrations, static displays, simulators, food and more. This event will be open to the public from 1pm to 4pm, with flight demonstrations starting at 2pm. At around 5pm the club will host a member's only Hamburger meal from IN and Out Burgers, You will need to purchase a ticket ahead of time. To make this the grand event that it warrants and should be, the board needs your help! I need some folks to step- up and volunteer to help out with a multitude of tasks, from parking, static aircraft display, simulator attendees, Kids Zone and many other areas. Please contact me or any of the board members if you can assist. This will be a great event to be a part of!

Check out the website and this newsletter for more information.



Blue sky's to you all

James

## Vice Presidents Corner: *by Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds!

I hope this finds you staying cool somehow. Take heart, we are closer to cooler fall weather than last month! (Yeah, I know, it's of little comfort, but worth a try!)

I recently had the honor to be one of the few Airshow announcers at the EAA Airventure Oshkosh 2022. Woody asked me to relay some of my experiences, so here goes...

The days were long, but when you're with nearly half-a-million folks who share your passion for aviation, and they all want to be there, makes for a great week! We had an Airshow every afternoon for a few hours and Wednesday and Saturday we also had a night Airshow on the frontline. I shared announcer duties with 5 other pros for those shows. I was also blessed to be the only announcer for the Twilight Flight Fest (TFF) every evening except Wed and Sat. I'll focus my words here on the TFF due to its unique environment and we also had RC planes there!

TFF started off each night with the EAA Oshkosh Short Takeoff or Landing (STOL) Invitational. Very exciting, fast paced, full-scale STOL action where competitors are scored on shortest takeoff and landing distances.



View from the announcer stand of the Winner of the EAA STOL Invitational, Steve Henry in the yellow #44 "Highlander"

After the STOL event, we had powered paramotors and even a flying car! Yes, you read that right. George Jetson days are here. In fact, his birthday was July 31, 2022 and the world of the Jetsons is just 30 years away! The "Black Fly" from Opener is an ultralight, so no medical or pilot license needed. Mostly computerized flight on 8 electric motors. Google it, it's very cool!



**Black Fly from Opener**

As it got dark, we transitioned to RC flight. It started with several Horizon Hobby Timbers and Radian Night gliders demonstrating ease of flight, "Safe Mode" and more while I interviewed Horizon Hobby and AMA reps about how to get into RC.

Then we had nighttime flight demos from a father/son team from Washington State, a helicopter that was lit in ways I've never seen before - all expertly choreographed to music. Closing out each night was the amazing Jase "The Ace" Dussia from Louisiana. Check him out on YouTube, he's amazing.



It was a great week and getting to blend RC activities into Airshow announcing made it even better! I got to promo our Ft Worth Thunderbird club daily in front of thousands of aviation aficionados talking about our amazing field and free flight training. Who knows, someone may just show up one of these days who heard about us at Oshkosh!



If you've never been to Airventure Oshkosh, you need to put it on your bucket list. It's truly the "Mecca" of aviation. I hope I will see you there next year!

That's it for this month...Here is my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds!

Rob

### Secretaries Corner: *by Mike Schroeder*

July 25th, 2022

Thunderbird Minutes

Meeting starts at 7:00

James welcomed Thunderbird members and asked if we have any new members or visitors.

#### Events

James thanked everyone who attended the Fourth of July celebration. Plenty of hot dogs along with the sides, also some good brisket that Kenneth Killgro stayed up all night smoking for the club.

Float Fly at Camp Joy on August 6. Lake Worth is low but that should not be an issue. There is no flying until 9:00 am as we have to contact the base control tower. This is a bring your own lunch, water will be provided.

Tom Blakeney recapped the SAE event and we had some of the highest rating of satisfaction. Tom was very thankful for the hard work our club does to make SAE successful and great event for the teams.

## **Officers Reports**

**Treasurer's report by Chris Berardi:** Checking and Savings are in good standing. Normal bills. The porta can company is now adding a fuel surge charge to the bill.

If you are at the field the gate needs to be unlocked and open if there is more than one Thunderbird member. It is in our lease that we are to be open to the public if there is a member present.

Chris has caps if anyone needs to buy one. AMA membership dues will be going up when you renew this year. AMA will have information on the cost on their website.

**Safety Report by Sam Corlett:** Sam reminded us about talking to each other while in the pilot's box. Let the others know what your intentions are. Please call out so the other pilots are aware.

Flying at the field is not the same as flying at your house as we follow the AMA and Thunderbirds rules and make it safe for everyone.

**Vice Presidents Report by Rob Lowe:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder:** Motion was made by Pete Lucas and second by Mark Johnson to not read the minutes. Show of hands and the motion passes.

## **Show and Tell**

Ken Knotts showed and talked about the heavy duty plastic boxes he got off Amazon. They are made to be ammo boxes but work great for storing batteries and other equipment.

David Williams talked about the upcoming Allen swap meet and how big it has grown. Swap meet is August 20 weekend.

## **New Business**

Lake Benbrook has a new CORP lake manager filling in for the time being.

Add to the project list a Weather Station

Grant asks if the club could provide large scale start up areas at both start up areas. James proposed for Grant to put together an action plan and present it to the club at the next meeting.

Rex Anderson lost a plane into the woods but while he was looking for his plane he found another. Rex thinks it might be Ed's. Rex never found his plane.

Grant Schroeder talked about the new trainer he is flying which is a Mentor G. Large high wing plane that he is using to break in a Stinger twin 20cc engine.

Ken Knotts made a motion to end the meant at 7:40. Second by Pete and show of hands the meeting was adjourned.

## **Thunderbird members in attendance**

Gary Schindler  
James Meadows  
Ian Waring  
Chip Kiehlbauch  
Gary Rife  
Mark Johnson  
Sam Corlett Jr

Steve Carr  
Reed Smith  
Sam Corlett  
Tab Bowland  
Peter Delvin  
Tom Mullen  
Mike Schroeder

Ken Knotts  
Jason Meadows  
Bill Boro  
Rick Kraft  
Pete Lucas  
Mel Wells

Grant Schroeder  
Woody Lake  
Chris Berardi  
David Williams  
Tom Blakeney  
Rex Anderson

From the Treasury: by Chris Berardi

No Report This Month

Safety Officer submission: by Sam Corlett

Electric Motor Safety

Howdy Folks. I hope everyone is staying hydrated and protected in the sun and able to do some flying. I just got back from the NATS in Muncie where the weather was cool and damp. I wore a jacket two mornings! A far cry from our situation here in North Texas.

While I was there, the topic of motor safety switches came up. This is always a timely topic, but especially so after we have had one of our own experience a bad incident a few weeks ago.

The advances of electric motors, electronic speed controls, and lithium polymer batteries have given us powerful reliable systems, but they also change the paradigms regarding motor safety. These systems generate tremendous torque at a split second's notice, so we need backup protection from accidental starts.

Some groups have rules that require external arming plugs, but in our sport flying arena, not all machines have them. Regardless, I suggest having at least two controls on your transmitter to inhibit power generation. All current Spektrum radios have a menu item for throttle cut which makes it easy to assign a switch to inhibit motor operation even if the throttle is raised. If your transmitter doesn't have this and you're flying an electric model, there is probably still a way to setup a separate "kill" switch. Below, I'll run you through a Futaba helicopter setup I use just as an example. If you have some other system and can't figure out how to create a "safety" or "kill" switch, send me an email and I'll be happy to help you work it out. Safety switches are essential when the unthinkable happens. Something gets dropped on the "hold" switch, the wind blows something into the transmitter and hits the throttle, or while carrying things, the throttle gets bumped. As I mentioned, below is a paragraph I wrote about Futaba helicopter setups. If some of it is foreign, just skim over it. The important point is to have at least two controls that must be set to turn the motor on.

Throttle hold is a *function*. It can be controlled in any condition. (Some radios call them flight modes or banks.) By convention we have also called a condition (bank or flight mode) "hold" or "throttle hold". We normally set the *function* to always ON in condition "hold" and INH in other conditions. But we can also turn it on and off with a different switch in any or all of the other conditions (modes). I do that to keep the motor off and allow me to enter any condition to make adjustments without having to use "condition hold" (which requires going to normal and hitting the button and doing the same to exit). It also serves as a safety switch...

Sorry for the helicopter setup jargon but remember the need for a safety function. Remember not to arm your electric airplane in the pit area, remember to always (even if inconvenient) remove the propeller from electric motors when making adjustments on the machine. And don't be shy in asking another member for assistance.

Having a safety switch is not a license to ignore the danger of a spinning propeller! In the same way that we never point a gun in an unsafe direction, regardless of loaded/unloaded or safety on/off, we must always be in control of our model aircraft. Even if it has redundant safety switches.



Float Fly August 6th







**Texas Scale Masters**

The Max Ficken Texas Scale Championships 2022 will be held September 10-11, 2022--Max Ficken will be at the event stop by and say hello. See the Flyer in this Newsletter.



**Top Gun International**

This year's Top Gun Scale Invitational event, held April 27-May 1, was another great one with ideal weather conditions, including light wind that was mostly down the runway. For those who are familiar with Paradise Field in Lakeland, Florida, where the event has been held since

2010, crosswinds are the norm. More than 100 Scale aircraft were entered in the contest. The following are a few photos of aircraft entered.



Ray Labonte cranks up his CARF-Models AT-6. It won in the Best Pre-WW II category.



Andreas Gietz performs a nice, slow roll with the newly released CARF-Models Fly Baby. This model won the Best Civilian aircraft.



One of the entries in the EDF class was this 737 flown by P.J. Ash. It's hard to believe it's foam constructed!

One of the unique aircraft at the event was this Rafale flown by Nick Morro



Nick Zirolu, founder of Nick Zirolu Plans, poses with some of the models built from his plans that competed at Top Gun this year.



Overall winner Peter Goldsmith poses with his BAe Hawk 100. This model won Top Gun in 2019 as well. This is Peter's third Top Gun win. His first win was in 2016 with an F-104.



This beautiful CARF-Models F-100 is owned and flown by Matt Balazs. It won third place in the Pro Jet class.



## 2022 CALENDAR

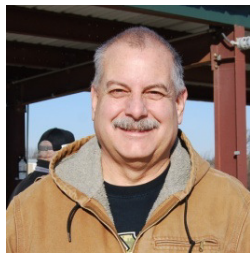
<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
October 1st	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Air Show	Club Officers
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Jet Thunder Over Benbrook Jet Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Texas Electric (Expo) Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
	Alliance Air Show	
	SPA West (Waco)	Todd Blose
November	TOYS for TOTS	Club Officers
December TBD	Club Christmas Party	Club Officers

[WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG](http://WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG)

POSITION	BOARD MEMBER	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	Sam Corlett	safetyofficer@fwthunderbirds.org



**Pres: James Meadows**



**VP: Rob Lowe**



**Sec: Mike Schroeder**



**Safety: Sam Corlett**



**Treas: Chris Berardi**

### Membership

Membership Type	Count
Individual	155
Family	7
Associate	9
Life	14
Service & Gift	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>

## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTIZERS



**JT's Hobby Shop      817 244-6171**  
**8808 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth TX 76116**  
**[jtshobby@yahoo.com](mailto:jtshobby@yahoo.com)**

### Flying Field Rules

#### **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.

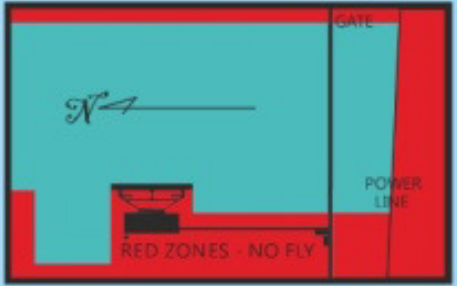
For a complete copy of AMA's Safety Handbook please visit:  
[www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf](http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf)





**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



**Club Projects**

Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	Helicopter Pit Area	Pit area for Heli Area	self	20,000	Mike/SAM	Getting actual cost plans	Approved by CORP
2	Update Freq Board	Update signage a use or Freq. board	self	\$100.00	BOARD	AWAITING ACTION	Waiting on word from AMA on Digital Wallet cards etc
3	Visitor Parking Signage Stations	Post club events and other data	self	\$100.00	Mike	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
4	Starting Stakes for big birds	Post for retaining Large A/C at starting area	self		Grant Schroeder		Awaiting information
5	Additional Storage AREA	Utilize Cargo container	self/contract	\$20,000.00	Chris	Hold	Would it require Lease mod?
6	Toilet	Real Toilet	Contract	?		Further Study	require Corp approval
7	Pit Area Lighting	Lights in Additional Pit Areas	Self	\$200.00	Mike and Ken	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
8	Weather Station	complete with camera and Data port	Self	\$	Chris/Mike	Discussion	Allow member or guest to see and look at actual Field conditions
9	Toilet	Real Toilet	combo	?	Meadows	Discussion	asked the Corp about co-op agreement
10	Members Walkway	Personal engraved brick pathway from Pit area to Flagpole	Everyone		meadows	Discussion	Membership due details



# More Float Fly Photos





# HUMOR



Oh, the boys and their toys

Had a similar one as a boy, it was a Bi-Plane. Most kids had Fire Trucks or Cars. Guess I knew where my heart would be.

Some photos from our TEX Elect Fly-In 2013



# EVENTS

## Max Ficken TEXAS SCALE CHAMPIONSHIP

National Association of Scale Aeromodellers Qualifier  
U.S. Scalemasters Qualifier -AMA SCALE CONTEST  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 10-11-2022

**2022**  **2022**

Hosted by the Greater Southwest AeroModelers  
6903 Randol Mill Road, Ft. Worth TX 650 by 50 grass runway

<p><b>EVENTS</b> 2022 TEXAS SCALE CHAMPION NASA QUALIFIER SCALE MASTERS QUALIFIER EXPERT SPORTSMAN OPEN/ADVANCED TEAM DESIGNER STATIC ONLY COMPETITION AMA SCALE HELICOPTER FUN SCALE EXPERT= PRO-AM/PRO NOVICE=PRO- AMSPORTSMAN NEW EVENT <b>Best Female Pilot 16 under</b> <b>Best Male Pilot 16 under</b> <b>Best Female Pilot over 16</b> No Static Judging Electric Airplane</p>	<p>Club Web Site <a href="http://www.flygsw.org">http://www.flygsw.org</a></p> <p><b>REGISTRATION</b> \$25 1<sup>st</sup> Entry \$10 Additional Entry Sat. Lunch included Drawing for Contestants Gas Turbines not allowed</p> <p><b>ARF's are Allowed</b> <b>Open/Advanced-Pro Am and</b> <b>Electric Classes</b></p> <p>Texas Championship Shirts available by pre-order only call CD's \$20.00 By 9-1-22</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY 9-10</b> <b>REGISTRATION 8:00 A.M.</b> STATIC 8:30 A.M. FLYING STARTS 9:00A.M. Four Flight Rounds</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 9-11</b> <b>REGISTRATION 8:00 A.M.</b> FLYING STARTS 8:30A.M. Two Flight Rounds TROPHY PRESENTATION 1 PM</p>
<p><b>CONTEST DIRECTOR</b> JD Crow 1405 Mill Valley Sq #212 Fort Worth TX 761 Ph. 501-351-3510 jd.crow@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>CONTEST DIRECTOR</b> Lawrence Harville 932 Calloway Ct. Hurst, Texas 76053 Ph 817-781-9615 Lawharv@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Texas Scale</b> <b>Champion 2022</b> ???????????????? <b>PAST TEXAS CHAMPIONS</b> 2021 Darrell Abby Tim Dickey Arizona Phil Kaugy, Mississippi Darrell Abby Lee Rice Sonny Coleman Olen Rutherford, Oklahoma Woody Lake Max Ficken Lawrence Harville Glenn Riley</p>
<p><b>Fun Scale - Pro Am/SPORTSMAN - Pro Am/Pro - Electric</b> Documentation required is a photo or drawing of your plane. <b>Full Documentation required for following classes:</b> <b>Open/Advanced</b> includes purchased, modder-built, or factory-built scale models including ARF's. <b>Expert, Team, Advanced and Scale Masters Qualifier</b> AMA Scale Rules-Scale Masters Rules <b>Texas Champion</b> all scores are combined for highest total. <b>Team</b> Scale not eligible.</p>		

The Max Ficken 2022 Texas Scale Championships 2022 and we want to give you a special head up September 10-11, 2022-- Max Ficken will be at the event stop by and say hello.

The Max Ficken TEXAS SCALE CHAMPIONSHIPS. Some of the best scale planes and pilots will gather to see who is the BEST in TEXAS. The 2021 TEXAS SCALE CHAMPION is from Texas Darrell Abby.

Classes for all levels, including Scale Helicopter, Electric Military, Static only event also, Electric Civilian, Expert and Rookie Classes. US SCALEMASTERS Qualifier--NASA Qualifier.

Check out the attached flyer for ALL CLASSES, Free to the public, Free lunch to contestants, Lunch available to the public, Plenty of parking, Overnight Camping is available.

Shirts for the event-- White Golf style shirts, short sleeve with a pocket, Price \$20.00 per shirt. These are available by PRE ORDER ONLY--none will be available to sell at the event. Let me know how many and what size you want --pay at the contest. ORDER DEADLINE 9-1-22

Sponsored by the Greater Southwest Aeromodellers, Hurst, Texas.

BREAKING NEWS--we are adding:

TWO NEW CLASSES-- NO ENTRY FEE--Assistant pilot are available if needed

Best Male Pilot under 16 years old

Best Female Pilot under 16 years old

Best Female Pilot Over 16 years old

Contest Director Lawrence Harville 817-781-9615 Contest Director J D Crow 501-351-3510





The Fort Worth Thunderbirds present

# Jet Thunder over Benbrook!

## Oct 8, 2022



**Come join us at Thunderbird Field for a day devoted to fun and relaxed Jet flying!  
Event hours are 9AM until 4PM. Pilot briefing at 9AM. AMA required. Our excellent  
runway is 480'x40'**

**All types of jets welcome: Turbine, EDF, Fuel DF. Landing fee is \$20.00 and includes  
lunch from the Thunderbird Grill!**

**There will be a RAFFLE! Grand prize will be an excellent PnP or BnF EDF jet!!!**

**Event Director: Tom Blakeney. Contact at 817-734-1917 or [tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com](mailto:tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com)**

**Directions and field information: <https://www.fwthunderbirds.org>**



The Fort Worth Thunderbirds present



# T.E.X., The Texas Electric eXpo and Tailgate Swap Meet Nov 5, 2022



**Come join us at Thunderbird Field for the best electric event in the area! Lots of relaxed flying, fun and fellowship. Event hours are 9AM until 4PM. Pilot briefing at 9AM. AMA required. Bring your unwanted RC stuff for a tailgate swap meet!**

**All types of electric aircraft are welcome. Landing fee is \$20.00 and includes lunch from the Thunderbird Grill! There will be a great RAFFLE!**

**Event Director: Tom Blakeney. Contact at 817-734-1917 or [tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com](mailto:tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com)**

**Directions and field information: <https://www.fwthunderbirds.org>**