



# Fort Worth Thunderbirds

## Radio Control Association Inc.

# The Pilot's Log



Issue, 6208 August 2024

Next club meeting: August 26th - 7:00 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

### Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

August is about over and with it perhaps some of the temperature will change to a cooler forecast! Speaking of changes! It's with much frustration that I announce that. Our meeting place Host the Rocket Rooster 123 has closed its doors! So the club is once again looking for a new home to have our meetings, until then we will meet at the CERA center on Bryant Irvin or other venues as needed. Last month I announced that I would not seek another term as the club President. Likewise I have also been informed that Vice President Rob Lowe will also not seek another term. There were several individuals who voiced an interest in the President position and I am sure others will do the same concerning the VP position. Elections will take place in October.

Our last event was the float fly! Special thanks to Mel, Ian, Woody, and Robin for making it a great event! Apparently they put in a special order for great

weather, smooth water and the water temp was refreshing.

Next month is the warbird event, so please make plans to attend!

I have spoken often about the generosity of our members. Some provide their time and labor to maintain the fields, others provide flight training, help out at events or activities. Our club is truly blessed and your generosity appreciated. In that same spirit the club recently received an aircraft from the estate of Daryl Clay. The club appreciates the donation by the family.

If you're missing a T28 let me know, it's been found. The aircraft was found by Grady Smith on or about the 12th Aug 2024.

Ya'll stay cool and safe  
James

### Vice Presidents Corner: by *Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds. I hope this finds you staying cool somehow? (Send instructions if you figured out how to do that!). With the immense heat, please be sure you're taking precautions to not over-heat and get dehydrated while you're flying. Please drink lots of water and use sunscreen. I see a lot of folks in the airshow industry who haven't been very diligent with sun protection over the years and are now paying the price with skin cancer and other issues. We want you to stay as healthy as are while you enjoy our wonderful hobby.

You'll see in the President article in this month's newsletter that I will not seek another term as your VP.

It's an absolute honor to be part of your officer team and we have made some amazing progress in the last few years. Our club is full of amazing leaders and it's time for you to step up and take on one of the open officer positions. If you have questions about what it entails please holler! You will find it more rewarding than the work it involves.

This is my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds. See ya at the field!

Rob

**Secretaries Corner: by Mike Schroeder**

July 22, 2024 Meeting at Rocket Rooster 1, 2, 3

Meeting Started at 6:30. James welcomed everyone and asked if there are any new members or guests. None at this time.

James let everyone know that we only have two board members tonight, James and Mike. We will try to answer all the questions.

**Events**

**Float Fly August 10 at Lake Worth, Camp Joy Park:** All approvals have been done and the NOTAM will be done with the JRB. Several nice raffle prizes. Bring your own lunch, drinks will be available. Landing fee is \$20.00

**Electric Fly In:** Is coming on October 26. More details to come.

**Warbird Fly-In:** Make up date for our Warbirds over Benbrook is September 14. More details to come. Raffle prize is an F-86 and a Hellcat. Dave Williams is the CD

**Officers Reports**

**Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder:** Bill Lake made a motion to not read the minutes and was second by Gary Nelson. Show of hands and the motion passes.

**Facebook:** Discussion about Facebook and who can post. There are several administrators and there are two Facebook pages (locations). One Facebook page is not used and was set up a long time ago. Nobody knows the logon password. Many attempts have been made to remove the account and we cannot get rid of. Nothing currently is posted on the old Facebook page.

**Show and Tell**

Dave Williams showed us a plane called a Round Tulip interesting build that is a flat circle. An interesting thing Dave learned was that if you do not curve the leading edge the plane is very unstable. All electric.

**Old Business**

Thanks to all the club members who showed up for the July 4th event and helped out. Thanks.

Pot holes in the road that are not being maintained by the COE. James says he will contact the COE. Motion was made by Mike Schroeder to give James one month until the next meeting to get some results. If nothing has been done in one month then Bill is to write a letter to Rep Kay Granger seeking assistance for the repairs. Rex Anderson second and a show of hands and the motion passes.

**New Business**

**SAE:** SAE will be held May 2 to 4th. Working on getting a new SAE host, details to come.

**Swap Meet:** Suggestion about having a large swap meet. Richardson's meet has been canceled. Need a volunteer to step up and run.

**Elections:** Elections for new officers is coming. James made it official he is not going to run again and the Thunderbirds will need a new president next year. Thanks James for all your hard work over the years. Many thanks for getting our lease for twenty years.

**Thunderbird Members in attendance**

Pete Lucas  
Scott Hays  
Ian Warring  
Rick Kraft  
Ron Anderson

Mark Johnson  
Dave Williams  
Mel Wells  
Tab Bowland  
Tom Blakeney

James Meadows  
Rex Anderson  
Woody Lake  
James Reston  
Glen Cashion

Mike Schroeder  
Fred Neal  
Gary King  
Bill Lake  
Gary Nelson

**From the Treasury: By Chris Berardi**

No Report this month.

## ***Membership Update***

Here is our latest membership count as of 04/15/2024.

<b>Membership Type</b>	<b>Count</b>
Individual	104
Family	5
Associate	2
Life	15
Service & Gift	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127</b>

### **Safety Officer submission: by Sam Corlett**

No report this month.

### **Ken Knotts Tribute**

Every Thunderbird who has aviated at either of our fields in the past two decades (and more), will know of and recognize one of our most dedicated members. There isn't an area of the club that hasn't been touched by his enthusiasm, dedication, determination, and hard work.

He is an avid, lifelong modeler from the early days of control line when he attended the nationals in Dallas back in the '60s, to modern days and radio control when he attended the 2019 nationals in Muncie.

His love of the hobby extended to those of us in it. Between flights we would be entertained by an apparently limitless supply of jokes and one-liners: While flying he was generous with encouragement, guidance, and sharp critique, particularly if you had any aspiration toward contest flying.

For those of you who might not be familiar with him personally, you have observed the legacy of his effort each time you drive down Joe Jopling Lane and view our pristine flying site. Since we moved there in 2012, his weekly attention to all aspects of care and maintenance has metamorphosed what was once a wild and thorny scrubland. It's hard to imagine how it was even possible to transform it into what it has become today.

I am of course speaking about Ken Knotts. In recent months, changes to his health have meant that Ken has been unable to make his regular trips to the field. Last week, he mentioned that he would like to fly at the field one more time and that he would need a little help.

The board thought we would take this a step further and invite Thunderbird members and friends to come out and witness Ken's final flight. Ken was totally surprised as he only expected a small contingent of the usual Thursday afternoon suspects. It was a great time had by all but especially by Ken and his wife Joyce.

The turnout was overwhelming with Thunderbirds past and present paying tribute to a great individual who has given so much and impacted so many.



**Update:**

Last Thursday the Thunderbirds turned out to greet and show their love for Ken Knotts. While we thought that quite a few of our members would show up, the turnout was even greater than what anyone wished for. An unofficial tally was 70 plus in attendance with the parking lot full. All of us thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to mix and mingle with each other, and of course, to meet the man himself.

**Ken wrote a letter to all of you and we'd like to share it here.**

**August 2, 2024**

**WOW, my head is still spinning from everyone's presence for my Last Flight reception. I mentioned to Bill Lake that I had just about quit flying but I would like one last flight. He asked if next Thursday would be OK, and I said sure. I had no idea that everyone would put on such an impactful event. I was glad that this was a happy event with so many friends smiling and shaking hands. I really, really, really appreciate all the efforts by so many friends to make the picture board and well wishes on the back.**

**My language skills are inadequate to express the emotions I felt seeing everyone take the time to share this life event with me. I have been involved with control line airplanes from a very young age and for the past many years with radio controlled airplanes. It allowed me, as many others, to enjoy the dream of flight without the expense, training and risk of operating a full scale airplane. From those memories, I have always wanted to share that dream with our youth and those young at heart. My years with the Thunderbirds have been so memorable, and I cherish the many friends and great memories through the years.**

**We have been blessed by many Thunderbirds who have come before us, like Joe Joplin, to make our airfield beautiful and to ensure it was maintained through the years. I'm proud to know that there are many more Thunderbirds to come that will maintain the field and keep that dream alive for our youth. The US flags flying proudly made the perfect connection of the value that the Thunderbirds provide to our community and country.**

**When I finally got around to flying, I started to imagine all that could go wrong. Thankfully it didn't, and all went well! I want to thank everyone who said the flight looked good. The memorabilia of the shirt, the picture board, the thermos and the Thunderbird cap are all fantastic, and I appreciate the skill and thought put into each one.**

**I was amazed to see the parking lot full when I arrived. I want to thank everyone for joining me for this special event.**

**Godspeed and love you all!**

**Ken Knotts**



**August Float Fly**



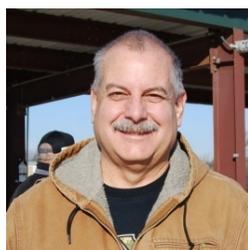


## 2024 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
September 14	Warbird Fly-in	Dave Williams
TBD	EDF Electric Jet Fly	Tom Blakeney
October 12.	Fun Fly and Demo	Club Officers
October 26	Tx Electric Expo	Tom Blakeney
October 31	Halloween Fly in	
December first weekend is the CORP youth deer hunt		
December Christmas Party		

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

POSITION	BOARD MEMBE	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



# SUPPORT OUR ADVERTIZERS

[jtshobby@yahoo.com](mailto:jtshobby@yahoo.com)



**JT's Hobby Shop      817 244-6171**  
**8808 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth TX 76116**

**www.ventrexcollectibles.com**  
**817-615-4080**  
**304 THOMAS PLACE**  
**EVERMAN, TX 76140**

**Ventrex Collectibles**  
**& R/C Hobbies**

VENTREXCOLLECTIBLES

## Project List

FW THUNDERBIRDS  
 2022 PROJECT LIST  
 3/27/2024 7:23 PM

Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	Update Freq Board	Update signage a use of Freq. board	self	\$100.00	BOARD	AWAITING ACTION	Update Boundries and rules
2	Lost Aircraft Security	Provide a means to secure lost aircraft Found and returned	self	\$100.00	MEADOWS	Purchase approved	
3							
4	Additional Storage AREA.	Utilize Cargo container	self/contract	\$20,000.00	Chris	Hold	Would it require Lease mod?
5	Weather Station	complete with camera and Data port	Self	\$	Chris/Mike	Discussion	Allow member or guest to see and look at actual Field conditions
6							
7	Members Walkway	Personal engraved brick pathway from Pit area to Flagpole	Everyone		meadows	Discussion	Membership due details
8	Toilet	Real Toilet	combo	7	Meadows	Discussion	asked the Corp about co-op agreement
9							
10							

# 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)

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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 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

RED ZONES - NO FLY

POWER LINE

GATE

## Events

**WARBIRDS OVER LAKE BENBROOK**

Date September 14th 2024      Safety Briefing: 0900 Hrs  
Landing Fee: \$30.00

Location: Thunderbird Field Fort Worth TX  
4300 Windscott-Plover Rd  
32.610251, -97.485157

Open Flying to all Military Aircraft WWI to Present, Jets welcome. 450' concrete or adjacent grass runway, covered paved pit area, concessions, and raffle items. Free lunch to registered pilots.

Contact: Dave Willams [ddwilliams1@GMail.com](mailto:ddwilliams1@GMail.com)  
(512) 913-5313



## CLASSIFIED SECTION

For Sale: \$60.00

O.S. 91FS Surpass 4 stroke engine with muffler.  
Compression good no binding.

If interested contact Woody at: [wylake@yahoo.com](mailto:wylake@yahoo.com)



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O.S. 91FS Surpass 4 stroke engine with muffler.  
Compression good no binding.

If interested contact Woody at: [wylake@yahoo.com](mailto:wylake@yahoo.com)



## FOR SALE ITEMS

Below information was sent from a member who wants to list some items for sale.

All planes are electric. New means without box, new in box means that.

### New

Ugly stick two of them	\$100ea
Arrows Bigfoot	\$100.
Carbon cub	\$100.
Ascent trainer	\$100.

### New in box

FMS 140mm sky trainer	\$200.
Elite Cherokee 1.3m	\$200.

2 FMS 1100mm Typhoon	\$200.
Horizon P47D Razorback 1.2m	\$200.
F4U-4 1100mm	\$200.
Horizon T-28 Trojan 1.1m	\$175.
Supermarine Spitfire M 1085mm	\$225.
Super cub floats	\$20.
P-51	\$200.
P-40 B 980mm	\$200.
P-40 B 1400mm	\$175.
Sport Cub Trainer 414mm	\$150.
Arrows Husky 1800mm	\$250.
Misc batteries and charger	
DX 6 controler and B	\$200.
Radiomaster TX16S	\$175.

Misc servos and receivers controller platform, plus tools exc.

Contact Val Babineaux (817) 538-0571 for additional information