



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



Issue, 6201 January 2024

Next club meeting: January 22nd- 7 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

Welcome to 2024!

Hope this newsletter finds each of you well and warm. Thanks to all who came out to make our first event of the year a success!

It was a multiple good time, with a toy drive for Cooks Children's Hospital, a catered meal for lunch and of course the traditional good luck smorgasbord of good luck food. It was also quite cold and a bit windy. But in true Thunderbird fashion membership came, participated and enjoyed our family get together. A few members even went home with some additions to their hangers from our member's only giveaway. Hope they will enjoy the radio and aircraft!

Speaking of events! It's time to fill our calendar of events. This will be a key task at our upcoming meeting. Please come prepared to discuss key dates, to include a makeup date for events or activities that we will host at the field or would like to inform members of at other venues!

Additionally the club can always use new Contest Directors (CD), Co-CD's and Event Managers. If you're interested please let a board member know!

Please enjoy this time at the field with cooler weather, but please be careful, dehydration as well as on the extreme side hypothermia is possible!

See you soon

James

Vice Presidents Corner: by *Rob Lowe*

Greetings to all. Not much to report on this month as James has already covered most of the items. We are still working with AMA and FAA on our FRIA. We do not have any updates at this time.

A virtual low pass to all.

Rob

Secretaries Corner: by Mike Schroeder

No report as there was no December meeting.

Cooks Children’s Hospital Toy Drive: Thanks for all the gifts. The Thunderbirds were able to make two very large toy drops. Well over one hundred toys. The second drop-off after our News Years Day party/Black Eye Pea Fly-In was really appreciated as the hospital is in need of more toys for the kids birthdays. Thanks you for the generous giving of so many toys. Thunderbird members, you are great!



From the Treasury: By Chris Berardi

Club Shirts

The first batch of shirts have arrived and have been delivered. The final cost was \$35 cash or \$37 if you pay via PayPal. If you received your shirt but have not yet paid please do so by sending your payment to the club’s PayPal email address: mikadopilot@gmail.com - this is a business account so it does not accept Venmo. Alternatively, you can mail your check payable to Fort Worth Thunderbirds. Send it to me at the address provided on our membership page.

The second batch of orders has also been received! These will be available at the January club meeting at CERA (Corporate Employee Recreation Association) on Bryant Irvin Road. Same price as for the first batch of shirts. Incidentally, although there is no food or drink there, many club members meet beforehand at one of the numerous restaurants close by and then head over to CERA just in time for the meeting’s start at 7pm. If you are reading this - we hope you can attend.

Coming Soon - Remote Identification

After all of that headache these past few months, the FAA blinked. It wasn’t really their fault in that the cause of the delay was more or less out of their hands. Presumably, many of you have also tried to purchase a remote ID device. Mine has been on order for months and there is no availability or shipping information available. Access to a remote ID device was cited as one issue and there were several other points of interest noted in the news release such as the cost being many times higher than the oft quoted \$50.

If you haven’t seen it, the AMA has posted a link to a video detailing more of the circumstances around the delay. A quick search should get you the link. Regardless, we won’t need to have remote ID in our models (for those of us who may fly on occasion outside a FRIA) for another 6-months or so.

2024 Membership Renewals

Right after Thanksgiving I began accepting your 2024 dues. Due to the volume of renewals I tend to mail out the keys in batches, so you may end up waiting a week as Friday seems to be the best day to get them mailed off. If you have not received your key after a two week period, please call or email me and I’ll look into it. The USPS has gotten quite slow even with first class mail and I’m seeing more instances where a letter is taking in excess of a week even for short distances.

The dues remain unchanged for 2024 at least for normal renewals and new memberships; however, the club has discussed the idea of increasing dues but not yet established by how much or when. In part because I need to complete some analysis of what we need to keep our books balanced while providing for contingencies and new projects.

2024 dues are payable by the first club meeting (January 22nd) though many of you have already renewed much earlier. Around 95% submit on the club's web site using the PayPal links and this is the preferred method as it keeps things orderly and efficient.

Regardless of whether you are new or renewing: Please complete and submit a contact/application form! Why, you may ask.... It may not surprise you but people move, change their phones, create new email addresses and don't provide these changes to us. Then keys and letters go missing or confusion mounts when the PayPal verified address doesn't match the membership information. All of this causes delay and rework. Lastly, we have a new option on the membership application for you to accept (or decline) SMS text messages. The promise is to alert the membership only of significant activities and events where that information could be beneficial. For example, the cancelation of an event, lack of power, field closure, and other scenarios. If you don't approve, then we won't send you these messages - hence the need to complete the application form.

The board and many helpful members have completed several key projects this past year including the erection of our new shelter area at the north end of the parking lot. I can tell you that the goals and projects the board have established are for the benefit of our entire membership; our aim is to put our membership dues to full use maintaining and improving the club's flying site, infrastructure, projects, and entertainment throughout the year.

Every club member has a say in the what, how and when we set these objectives. All you need to do is come to a club meeting or communicate with one or all of the board members. We are always in need of leaders from within the membership to help navigate the club to even greater achievements. It takes a village as the adage says; it takes all of us pulling together to get these projects started and completed. This is your cue to become involved in one of the most renown clubs in the nation - please let us know how you would like to help whether mowing and edging, rebuilding run stands, painting fences or managing an event. You won't be turned away ☺

Membership Update

Things are in flux the month of January as members send in their renewals, so I won't post our membership till the February issue of the Pilot's Log. However, I have processed about 75 memberships to date and I'm expecting a large influx around the January meeting. If you want to renew at CERA I'll be there with keys and the ability to process credit cards or cash/check.

That's about it for this month. See you at the field.

Safety Officer submission: by *Sam Corlett*

Happy New Year!

I'm looking forward to the new flying season. I anticipate getting together with old friends and making new ones with some of the folks that have recently joined the club. If you see someone you don't know, make sure and introduce yourself. Participating together increases the fun and makes things safer as well. Sharing and learning is a big part of what has made this hobby enjoyable for me the last 40 years.

As you go out, a couple of words of wisdom. Make sure things are ready and that they are doing what you expect. Take your time and enjoy the process of double checking and ensuring proper operations.

One huge caution: nothing is more dangerous than a spinning propeller and nothing has more starting torque than an electric motor. If you are checking out, trouble shooting, or setting up an electric plane, don't be lazy about it. Take the prop off while you are working. NO EXCUSES! Do it. Over the last few years a tremendous amount of Thunderbird

blood has been seen, and you would be shocked to learn of the number of emergency room visits! One mistake is all it takes.

So, be safe, be friendly and let's enjoy flying.

Sam

Black Eye Pea Fly-In



Misc Field Photos



2024 CALENDAR

DATE

EVENT

POINT OF CONTACT

January 1st

Black Eye Pea Fly-in

Club Officers

www.fwthunderbirds.org

POSITION	BOARD MEMBE	EMAIL
President	James Meadows	president@fwthunderbirds.org
Vice Preside	Rob Lowe	vicepresident@fwthunderbirds.o
Secretary	Mike Schroeder	secretary@fwthunderbirds.org
Treasurer	Chris Berardi	treasurer@fwthunderbirds.org
Safety Office	Sam Corlett	safetyofficer@fwthunderbirds.or



Pres: James Meadows VP: Rob Lowe Sec: Mike Schroeder Safety: Sam Corlett Treas: Chris Berardi



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



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



Additional Black Eye Pea Photos



HUMOR



Proverbial Snow Birds