



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



**Issue, 6401 January 2026**

**Next club meeting: January 27th - 7:00 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road**

**President's Desk by Scott Hays**

It's hard to believe that 2025 is in the books, and we are well through the first month of 2026. Although it is now starting to get a little colder, November and December had some great days for us to get in some bonus flying for the year. It has been great getting to know more of you over the last few months at the field. I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

I would like to start first by thanking the outgoing board members:

<b>Ron Anderson</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Mike Schroeder</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Sam Corlett</b>	<b>Safety Coordinator</b>

I so appreciate their time, leadership, and commitment to our club. If you haven't already had a chance to thank them, I would encourage each of you to give them a shout out next time you see them. Again guys...thank you very much.

I would also like to welcome our new board members:

<b>Rob Solis</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Fred Neil</b>	<b>Safety Coordinator</b>

I know both of these two men have been working hard this past 6 weeks on a seamless transition and are ready to hit the ground running.

As we bring together the new board we are very focused on insuring that we a serving the needs of the members. One of our main objectives is to insure we have a facility that is well maintained and safe. A place that we can go and fly, socialize, have fun, and continue to grow our great hobby. This happens when all of us are willing to volunteer in the activities that help us achieve this goal. Some of these activities include weekly mowing and field maintenance, special work projects, volunteering at SAE, participating and helping at events, becoming a CD, becoming a club training pilot. The list can go on and on....there is something for everyone.

**We as a board are always open to new ideas and suggestions. The club is structured in such a way that each one of you has a voice in its direction. Your voice is truly heard and you become an active participant in the direction of the club, when you attend club meetings. This allows you to make motions, engage in discussions, and be part of the voting process. I realize that we all have busy schedules but I encourage you to attend as many meeting as possible so you can be a part of the direction of your club. The strength and health of our club is our members...each one of us and our participation.**

**We already have some exciting things happening at the field. Over the next several weeks we will be replacing the starting stands with new and improved versions. Since we are using pressure treated lumber there is a drying process that is required before we can stain them. I would like to thank Gary King for taking the lead on this project and doing the design and construction. Also thanks go out to Mark Wheeler for assisting.**

**4 by 6 mats have also been installed in the helicopter area for pilots to use for takeoffs and landings, as well as pilot stations. These mats provide a level surface and also reduce the amount of grass and dirt that can be pulled into the helicopters motors, engines and bearings.**

**We also are working on updating the information board that will include AMA and field guidelines, all first aid, trauma supplies, AED as well as other field information.**

**This year we will also continue working on improving the grass runway, the runoff areas at each end, and the edges around the concrete runway. We will be scheduling a work day in early spring to complete this work. More to come as we lock down a date.**

**Rex also has some exciting changes coming to our training program. He is in the process of standardizing and updating our training fleet of planes. He has expanded training to include different skill levels, including EDF's and FPV. We will also be increasing the number of training pilots. Volunteering to be a training pilot is NOT a commitment for every Thursday night of training. We expect to be able to rotate training pilots to a once a month commitment. (More frequently if you would like) If you would like to become a training pilot or learn more please reach out to Rex.**

**Our first event of the year, The Black Eyed Pea was a great success. Great food, great weather and some great flying. Thanks to all that were able to attend and we appreciate those that provided the awesome food. We are also in the process of finalizing our events and dates for the year. We have some details to work through but several of these events have the potential to be really BIG! I have also been approached by several groups that would like to come to our field and provide information and demo flights around specific areas of our hobby.....we will let you know more as we work through the details. We have some awesome events coming in 2026....There will be something for everyone!**

**And lastly SAE is right around the corner. We will be reaching out for volunteers very soon. If you have never had a chance to be involved in SAE it is a must. Tom Blakeney once told me, "for four days it is the most exciting RC event in the world"...and he is right. Clear your schedule for April 16-19.....You don't want to miss it!**

**Don't forget our club meeting, Monday Jan 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the CERA Recreation Center. Our guest speaker will be Bill Lake.**

Thanks to all of you for making our club great! Have Fun Today....GO FLY!!!!

Scott

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

Hello Thunderbirds

It is time to mark your calendar for the 2026 SAE Aero Design West competition taking place April 16-19, 2026, at Thunderbird Field. The SAE Aero Design Competition brings teams from around the United States, and the World to compete in Fort Worth at Thunderbird Field. Students compete in three design classes-Micro Class, Regular Class, and Advanced Class. In each class students design, build and fly aircraft according to design criteria specified by the SAE.

We once again have the honor of hosting one of the premier aviation events in the country. We will need volunteers to set up on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and volunteers to staff and help make this event happen on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. I will be reaching out to you as plans come together. I will be asking you to volunteer your time and energy to help make this event a success. The Thunderbirds host this event 2 consecutive years on a 3 cycle. We have had the honor of host the SAE Aero design competition for many years. It is also our biggest fundraiser, enabling the club to provide and maintain a primer flying sight.

If you are new to the SAE event, I can tell you it is a fantastic experience for both the college students involved and the Thunderbirds. The SAE team and the Fort Worth Thunderbirds SAE committee will be working to plan and organize this event. Remember this is the largest fundraising event we have hosted and we will need volunteers to make this event better than last year. So, make sure to mark your calendar.

Thank you.  
Mark Johnson  
Vice President  
SAE Volunteer Coordinator

**Secretary's Corner: by Robert Solis**

No Report this month.

**From the Treasury: by Chris Berardi**

No Report this month.

**Safety: by Fred Neal**

Hi Everyone,

I would like to thank all the members for your confidence in me for electing me as your new safety coordinator for 2026. I will do my best to live up to my position.

Now that the holidays are over and we are getting back to flying. It is getting colder and colder. I would just like you to think about the possibility of frostbite as well as dehydration. Please keep yourself warm and hydrated.

I believe along with all the other existing and newly elected other officers that we are excited about the coming year of flying as well as all the other events that have been planned for our club.

Again be safe and keep the rubber side down and I will see you at the airfield.

Thanks again,

Sincerely

Fred Neal

Safety Coordinator

**Field Manager: Rex Anderson**

Some of Rex's field maintenance crew past and present.

Top Row: Neil Poort, Ken Knotts, Bill Lake

Bottom Row: Mel Wells, Ian Waring



**Black Eye Pea Flyin**



**Thunderbird of the Year Award Mel Wells**

**Life Membership Award Ian Waring**

## The Sky was like a Zoo!

The de Havilland Aircraft Company (UK) was a pioneering British manufacturer, founded in 1920 by Geoffrey de Havilland, famous for innovative aircraft like the Moth biplane, the wooden WWII Mosquito, and the groundbreaking Comet, the world's first commercial jet airliner, though it faced early jet setbacks before a later revival. De Havilland Aircraft Company also established De Havilland Canada in 1928, which developed iconic bush planes like the Beaver and Twin Otter, with the Canadian entity continuing today under the same name, producing utility aircraft.

Founded in 1928 as a subsidiary of de Havilland Aircraft (UK), De Havilland Canada built the DH.82 Tiger Moth as a primary trainer for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. The company's most significant contribution to the war effort was the de Havilland DH.98 Mosquito. The Mosquito became a highly effective tactical bomber, built almost entirely out of wood.

After World War Two, De Havilland Canada decided to build aircraft uniquely suited to the harsh Canadian operating environment. In keeping with the idea that they would be Canadian-built planes, De Havilland Canada chose to name their aircraft after animals native to Canada.

### Chipmunk DHC 1

The first post-war project De Havilland Canada decided to undertake was to build a primary trainer aircraft to replace the de Havilland Tiger Moth. The Chipmunk was designed to be an all-metal single-engine tandem training aircraft with the traditional tail wheel landing gear.



or land anywhere, the Beaver first flew in April 1948. The US Air Force and Army saw the Beaver as the ideal aircraft for delivering goods to remote locations and mapping troop movements and used the Beaver in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.



### Beaver DHC 2

Named after the hard-working dam-building beaver, the DHC-2 Beaver was purpose-built for Canada's rugged north. Designed to be an all-purpose aerial truck that could take off

### Otter DHC 3

Capable of performing the same role as the Beaver, the DHC-Otter is a larger aircraft capable of seating between 10 and 11 passengers. Like the Beaver, the Otter could be fitted with skis or floats.

The amphibious floatplane version of the Otter had a unique four-wheel undercarriage that could be retracted into the floats. The first Otter flew on December 12, 1951, with the US Army becoming the Otter's biggest customer. The Otter became a very proficient bush plane and, despite its age, remains a highly sought-after aircraft today.



### **Buffalo**

Initially called the Caribou II, the Buffalo was a bigger Caribou with turboprop engines and a T-tail. (No Photo)

### **Twin Otter DHC 6**

Last but not least is one of De Havilland Canada's biggest successes, the DHC-6 Twin Otter. Starting life in 1964 as a twin-engine variant of the earlier Otter, the Twin Otter was designed to be a civilian commuter aircraft and utility transport.



### **Caribou DHC4**

Compared to its earlier aircraft, the DHC-Caribou was the Canadian manufacturer's first plane powered by twin engines. Keeping in line with earlier STOL designs, the Caribou was primarily a military aircraft but did find a niche role as a civilian cargo aircraft.

The parent company, De Havilland Aircraft Co (UK) was far more creative in naming their designs. The following are but a few:



**Mosquito DH 98**



**Dragon DH 89**



**Hornet DH103**



**Tiger Moth DH 82A**



**Fox Moth DH 83**



**Flamingo DH 95**



**Dove DH 104**

Click on the following link for the “Beaver Ballad” by the /Fretless Bargirls’. Turn on your sound.  
Enjoy: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w\\_v0k57KhE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w_v0k57KhE)

### **TRAITS OF SUCCESSFUL RC CLUB: BY DAVE SCOTT / R/C Flight School**

Assuming that there is a willingness to take steps to increase flying activity at your club, please don't let perfect be the enemy of good! That is, just because you can't do everything that has worked for other clubs doesn't mean that you shouldn't do anything. Giving a few of these strategies a try is certainly better than doing nothing at all.

All successful clubs promote a policy of never allowing a spectator to sit off to the side by themselves; rather, they encourage their members to introduce themselves and, if the spectator expresses an obvious interest, invite them to check out the planes and to sit with the members. Furthermore, it's counterproductive to send a new visitor/potential member home with instructions to search for the information they'll need to get started in the sport. Newbies don't yet know what questions to ask, so have all the printed forms needed to join the club and the Academy of Model Aeronautics (and, if possible, a printout of an RTF basic trainer) ready to hand out to interested spectators before they leave.

When talking with a potential member, current club members refrain from airing dirty laundry and discussing tales of failure. Instead, they accentuate the positives of how technology is making it easier than ever before to fly and that, by joining the club, he or she will have access to a dedicated flying site and experienced pilots who can offer advice when needed.

As long as a person's equipment is airworthy, leaders of clubs with high retention rates hold off on pointing out everything they would change or improve upon, and do their best to help that person experience as soon as possible the thrill of seeing his or her airplane in the air.

Unless it's appropriate, leaders of active clubs avoid framing a member's equipment as inferior and trying to persuade him or her to purchase ever more complex/expensive equipment under the guise that it will make that person a better flier. Instead, they emphasize that the main things are to have fun within the flier's comfort zone and that, while good equipment is important, correct practice is a lot more important.

Rather than promoting 3D flying and complex 3D equipment setups as the be all and end all after learning to fly, leaders of successful clubs give practical recommendations based on what they feel gives each member the greatest likelihood of success based on that person's immediate skills and interests. That is, effective leaders correct the impression that the route to becoming a better pilot is to mold oneself after the club's best 3D flier; they, instead, hype the fact that the awesome (unique) thing about the hobby is that there are so many different options available to pilots and that they can change their interests any time they want.



## Contest Director/Event Manager Information

The is a repost of a previous article

Attending, creating, and participating in model flying events are the most enjoyable activities within model aviation.

AMA sanctions nearly 2,500 events each year. Approximately 2/3 of these events are fly-ins or noncompetition events. Through discussions with several AMA officials, it became clear that there was a need to create a position that is similar to a contest director (CD), but one that focuses on the noncompetition events that are prevalent today.

The CD credentialing process focuses on Competition Regulations and how to make sure that contests are run fairly and by the rules. In noncompetition events, the need is more about overall safety of the sites and events. Creating an event manager (EM) position to focus on these types of events makes sense.

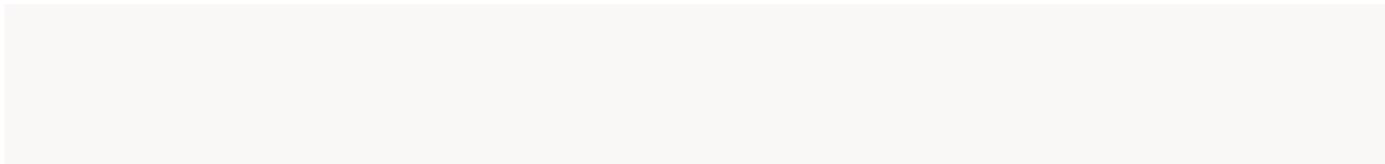
We believe that there are many AMA members out there who are already running non-competition events for their local clubs. Now they will be able to obtain an AMA-recognized official position so that they can sanction these events.

The table below provides a brief overview of both positions.

	<b>Contest Director</b>	<b>Event Manager</b>
<b>Event Classes</b>	Authorized to administer all event classes.	Authorized to only administer class C, C-Restricted, and D events (nonrule book).
<b>Responsibilities/Authority</b>	Acts as a representative of AMA and has full authority over the event.	Acts as a representative of AMA and has full authority over the event.
<b>Liability Coverage</b>	Primary, vicarious liability coverage while performing CD duties during the event.	Primary, vicarious liability coverage while performing EM duties during the event.
<b>Requirements/Prerequisite</b>	Successful completion of online test specific to CD duties/responsibilities. Three consecutive years of AMA membership.	Successful completion of online test specific to EM duties/responsibilities. One year of AMA membership.
<b>Dues Credit</b>	50% discount on annual dues with qualifying event.	50% discount on annual dues with qualifying event.

Are you wondering why you should consider becoming a CD or EM? As Jim T. Graham of RC Groups fame and Model Aviation “Born to Fly” columnist says, "I guarantee being a contest director will make the hobby better for you, but, even more important, it'll make the hobby in general better."

The process to obtain either CD or EM accreditation is completely online. There is a \$25 administration fee to go through the process. Go to [www.modelaircraft.org/contest-director](http://www.modelaircraft.org/contest-director), and the process is explained on the page. We hope that the video and documentation will simplify the process and encourage you to become a CD or EM for your club!



**From the Editor's Desk: by Woody**



Greetings to all. Just a reminder that our newsletter is a member's document. If you have any aviation related article you would like to share please get it to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

wdylake@yahoo.com

**2026 CALENDAR**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
January 1	Black eye Pea	Board Members
April 4	Cubs & Cousins	Mark Johnson
April 16 thru 19	SAE	Thunderbird Club
May 16	War Bird	Grant Schroeder
June	Turbine	<b>Need a CD</b>
July 4th	Picnic	Board Members
August 15	Float Fly	Chris Berardi
September	EDF Jet	Scott Hayes
October 3	T.E.X eXpo	Tom Blakeney
October 17	Members Day	Board Members
IMAC	<b>Need a CD</b>	<b>?</b>
Helicopter Fun Fly	<b>Need a CD</b>	November

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

POSITION	BOARD MEMBER	EMAIL
President	Scott Hays	hays2441@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Mark Johnson	mijohnson64@att.net
Secretary	Robert Solis	robdogsolis@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Berardi	mikadopilot@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Fred Neal	fredneal@sbcglobal.net



*Pres:* Scott Hayes



*VP:* Mark Johnson



*Sec:* Rob Solis



*Safety:* Fred Neal



*Treas:* Chris Berardi



*Field Manager:* Rex Anderson

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# Flying Field Rules

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)

## More Black Eye Pea Photos





**2026 Club Officers and Staff**

**Thunderbirds Events**

**CUBS AND COUSINS**

**CUBS 'N' COUSINS FLY-IN**



**DATE: APRIL 4th 2026**  
**LOCATION: THUNDERBIRD FIELD**  
**TIME: 0900 - 1500**  
**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)**

# WARBIRDS OVER THUNDERBIRDS

MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2026 AT FORT WORTH THUNDERBIRD FIELD

3602 WINSCOTT PLOVER RD, FORT WORTH, TX 76126



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!  
@FORT WORTH THUNDERBIRDS  
RADIO CONTROL ASSOCIATION



CONTEST DIRECTOR: GRANT SCHROEDER  
GRANTSCHROEDERBELLAIREII@GMAIL.COM

## AREA EVENTS



Spitfire Flyin March 28<sup>th</sup> GSW Club