



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



Issue 4473, July 2020

Next club meeting: July 27th, 2020, 7:00pm at our flying field

## Presidents Corner: by James Meadows

Greetings all! Hope all of you and your families are doing well. Hopefully, each of you had wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It was hopeful that we could have gotten together for our annual 4th of July event, but the current situation dictated otherwise. In addition, we have cancelled the Float Fly scheduled for the 2nd of August. Thinking positively we will eventually be able to have an event in the near future. In the meantime please continue to practice social distancing and appropriate mask wear. We will get thru this!

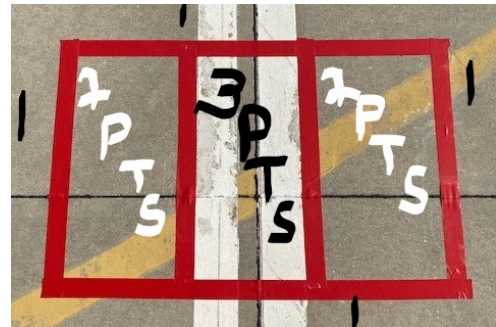
In the interim, I am pleased to announce that the Board is hosting a virtual fun fly activity. On the North end of the runway I have laid out a red rectangle, divided into three, section. This is a spot landing event. Those who wish to participate must provide an unedited video of the aircraft approach and touchdown of the main gear in the scoring zone. Helicopters may participate, but must auto rotate to touch down. All participating aircraft must be in forward movement upon touchdown in a standard procedural landing. Videos, must be from the side and be taken from the pilots box. This may require a team effort. Videos should be less than a minute in length, one entry per pilot. All Thunderbird members are welcome to participate and a prize will be awarded at the August Club meeting. Please participate, and be safe when flying and videoing your submission. Deadline for submissions is 15 Aug 2020. Send to [president@fwthunderbirds.org](mailto:president@fwthunderbirds.org).

### Scoring

Landing in the center section = 3 points

Landing in the box to the left or right of centerline = 2 points

Landing anywhere close to the box = 1 point



Had a good phone discussion with the Corps of Engineers, concerning some of our ideas on improving the field. Discussion included the addition of a restroom facility, training center, tree removal and planting, and an RV parking area. While no decisions were finalized, we expressed our desire to renew our lease and improve the field, in a cooperative team effort that has been in the hallmark of a relationship with the Corps since 1962.

I also met with Michael Kurilecz who is representing a party considering a donation of various aircraft for the club to use in our training program. We met for about an hour and discussed our training program, future expansion plans, and how we might use the donations. Regardless of the final outcome it's an honor to be considered and just another example of the positive reputation the Thunderbirds have in the RC Community.

Last month Mel Wells brought to the floor an estimate to secure new signage for field. The proposal was approved and Mel wasted little time in getting it done. Mel has been working steadily to get them installed. Thanks Mel.

This month's new business item is to discuss the painting of the parking lot, pit area, and runway markings. Total cost of this effort will be \$1700.00. The vendor has a solid reputation, and is a fellow RC flyer to boot.

The July meeting will be at the field, with the business meeting starting at 7 Pm. Water will be provided and I strongly recommend you bring a chair, and come early to get a flight or two in before and/or after the meeting.

Thanks for being a Thunderbird.

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

I don't have anything viable to add for a VP article this month. However, I did think maybe some updated info/reminder of where we are as RC/Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) operators right now with the evolving regulations/laws.

Please see the following paragraphs. These are a cut/paste from the FAA website and show the current info for non-commercial UAS operations. It has a lot of good links built into the info, which hopefully would come thru in the electronic/digital version of the newsletter. The links at the very top of the doc show where it comes from on the web FYI. This info along with the collective embedded links presents a pretty thorough collection of reference material for those that are interested in having it.

[FAA Home](#) ▶ [Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#) ▶ Recreational Flyers & Modeler Community-Based Organizations  
**Recreational Flyers & Modeler Community-Based Organizations**

The agency is working with stakeholders to develop test administration requirements for the online aeronautical knowledge and safety test [More information is available here.](#)

There's a law (PDF) that describes how, when, and where you can fly drones for recreational purposes. You are considered a recreational user if you fly your drone for fun. It is important to know when and where you can fly and how to register your drone.

Following these rules will keep you and your drone safe and will help keep the airspace available to everyone.

1. **Register** your drone, **mark** (PDF) it on the outside with the registration number and carry proof of registration with you.
2. Fly only for recreational purposes.
3. Fly your drone at or below 400 feet above the ground when in uncontrolled (Class G) airspace.
4. Obtain authorization before flying in controlled airspace (**Class B, C, D, and E**). You can obtain authorization in three ways:
  - a. **LAANC**
  - b. **DroneZone**
  - c. A written agreement with the FAA for fixed flying sites. For more information about fixed flying sites, contact us at: **UAShelp@faa.gov**.

NOTE: Flying drones in certain airspace is not allowed. Classes of airspace and flying restrictions can be found on our **B4UFLY** app.

5. Keep your drone within your visual line of sight, or within the visual line-of-sight of a visual observer who is co-located (physically next to) and in direct communication with you.
6. Do not fly at night unless your drone has lighting that allows you to know its location and orientation at all times.
7. Give way to and do not interfere with manned aircraft.
8. Never fly over any person or moving vehicle.
9. Never interfere with emergency response activities such as disaster relief, any type of accident response, law enforcement activities, firefighting, or hurricane recovery efforts.
10. Never fly under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Many over-the-counter medications have side effects that could impact your ability to safely operate your drone.
11. Do not operate your drone in a careless or reckless manner.

**NOTE:** Recreational flyers should know that if they intentionally violate any of these safety requirements, and/or operate in a careless or reckless manner, they could be liable for criminal and/or civil penalties.

For more information, read [Advisory Circular 91-57B](#).

### **Changes Coming in the Future**

The law also requires:

1. Drone operators to pass an online aeronautical knowledge and safety test and carry proof of test passage.
2. The FAA to issue guidance for how it will recognize community based organizations.

The FAA is incrementally rolling out these features and requirements.

Check our [website](#) for the latest updates or follow us on [social media](#) for the latest news.

### **June Club Meeting Minutes: by *Mike Schroeder***

Thunderbird Club Meeting Minutes June 22, 2020

Meeting Started at 7:00pm or 1900 or for you Marines the Little Hand is on the 7 and Big Hand on the 12 or if you have a digital clock, well you know the drill.

James welcomed members and asked if there are any new members or guest in attendance. Tim Ott, Mo Culverwell and Giorgio Milo attended their first meet. Welcome to the Thunderbird meeting.





needs new hats or shirts to get with Chris so he can make an order.

**Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder:** Ken Knotts made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and was second by Tom Mullens. All were in favor except for one who opposed.

**Vice President Report Rob Lowe:** Intro to our guest speaker Sam Corlett who talked about his pattern flying competition with RC helicopters. Sam is flying a T Rex 760 electric helicopter with 760mm blades. Sam gave us a brief history of the progression of how the controls have improved. The terms used and the basic principles of how the helicopter moves around. If you would like to know more just ask Sam and he will be glad to explain.

### Old Business

Mike Wharton held an estate sale which went great with most everything selling with all the proceeds going to the widow. There were two trainers donated for the Thursday training night which will help out a lot.

Tracy donated two planes to the club to be auctioned off when we do the raffle. A Kaos 46 size and a Magic 46 size.

### New Business

Mel has gotten bids for replacing all the signs at the flying field as the old ones are faded. A motion was made by Pete Devin to replace the signs and was seconded by Tom Blakeney. The motion passed with no opposed. Mel will get the signs order.

Meeting adjourned 7:55

### Upcoming Events

**July 4, 2020 Fun Fly:** Still depends on the Covid 19 virus if we have our fun fly. Still questionable if we serve food and drinks. (Cancelled)

**August 2nd Float Fly:** Woody cancelled this Float Fly due to COVID-19 concerns.

**October 17-18 Alliance Air Show and Jet Event** are in conflict with each other. CD might still hold event and we will have to choose where we go. As we get more information we will pass on.

**September 12<sup>th</sup> Warbirds Over Lake Benbrook:** Still a go.

### Club Business

A phone call meeting with the Corp on June 25 since the Corps is not meeting in person. We are exercising our option for the continuation of our lease and to iron out terms. Also discussed other improvements the Thunderbirds would like to see done.

**Treasurers' Report by Chris Berardi:** Last two weeks we have had six new members join which puts us at 185 members. Cash and savings account are in good standing. Chris discussed the rising cost of the porta-can and we should look into building a bathroom. Expenses of standard items of electric, gas for mowers and several other items. The question was asked if there is anyone who

### Members in Attendance

Sam Corlett  
Sam F Corlett  
Chris Berardi  
Tom Mullen  
Rob Lowe  
Rex Anderson  
John Herder  
Giorgio Milos  
James Meadows  
Peter Lucas

Tim Ott  
Grant Schroeder  
Woody Lake  
Kenneth Kilgo  
Roger Spencer  
Mel Wells  
TomBenke  
Peter Devlin  
Tab Bowman  
Dave Dingman

Gary Alpin  
Paul Mayhan  
Ken Knotts  
Chip Kiehlbauch  
Bill Lake  
Mo Culverwell  
Gary James  
Daniel Boamah  
Ed Kettler  
Tom Blakeney



**From the Treasury: by Chris Berardi**

No Report this month.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	142
Family	13
Associate	8
Life	12
Service & Gift	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>

**Safety: by Ed Kettler**

A picture is worth a thousand words.



**For the SPA Flyers**



Members' Projects: by Woody

*Betty Boop Pistol Packin Mama*

Last month I submitted an article about the B-17F “Betty Boop Pistol Packin Mama” but failed to add a most important photo of our Father in Law Marshall Peck. Marshall was the radio operator/gunner. To the best of our knowledge Marshall was the last surviving member of Crew 15. Alas Marshall has passed and joins his fellow crew members.



Pilot Figure

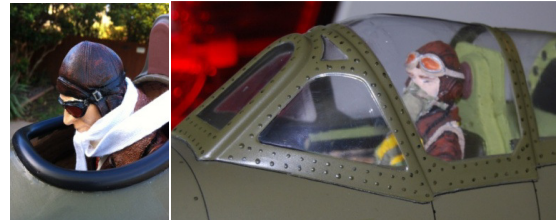
After my recent purchase of the Carbon Z T-28, I got to looking at the included pilot and decided he had to go. He resembled a person that's had too much espresso (caffeine).



In any case I decided on an ‘Aces of Iron’ pilot figure. I’ve worked with these before and liked the results. Their web site: [acesofironproductions.inc](http://acesofironproductions.inc). Their website has painting instructions to get you started. I’ve had my best results using Acrylics and get them from ‘Michaels’.

Painting is straight forward, select the color, appropriate brush, and be creative. I usually tone down the flesh color with a dab of burnt umber. The jacket base coat was painted black, let to dry, and then lightly ‘dry’ brushed with burnt umber to bring out the highlights. The same technique was used on the harness, dark olive drab, let to dry, and ‘dry’ brushed a lighter olive to bring out the highlights.

This is the third pilot I’ve painted; SE-5, MK9 Spitfire, and the T-28.



The technique I described above is by no means the only recommended process. It’s just the one I use, simplistic, and with good results.



## A Day at the Field

Despite concerns over the COVID-19 virus it's good to see members still enjoying our hobby.



## Summer Float Fly (Cancelled)

After much consideration based on the recent upswing and uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus, I have decided to cancel our Summer Float Fly (2nd August). This decision is based on safety concerns for our registered pilots and guests. I wanted to post this notice in advance and eliminate any questions/doubts of the status.

Hopefully this shall pass soon and we may resume activities in our beloved hobby.

Stay safe out there.

Woody



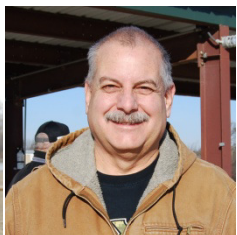
# THUNDERBIRD TENTATIVE 2020 CALENDAR

August 2nd	Summer Float Fly	CANCELLED
September 12	Warbirds Over Lake Benbrook	Ed Kettler
September 25-26	Warbirds Over Texas	North Dallas RC Club
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	Gary Rife
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



## Blasts from the past photos

The following photos are from our 'Old Farts Four Stroke Fly-In' in 2011. Many fond memories and good people here. Unfortunately many have past to blue skies and gentle breezes. Check out the last photo, remember how we managed "frequency Control" back in those days?





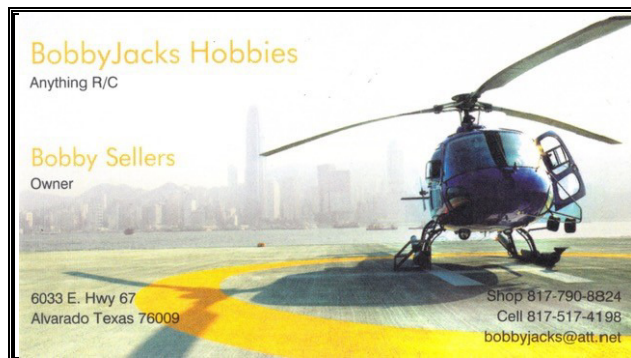
## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTIZERS



**Roy's Hobby Shop** 817 268-0210  
1309 Norwood Dr. Hurst TX 76053  
[www.royshobby.com](http://www.royshobby.com)



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



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



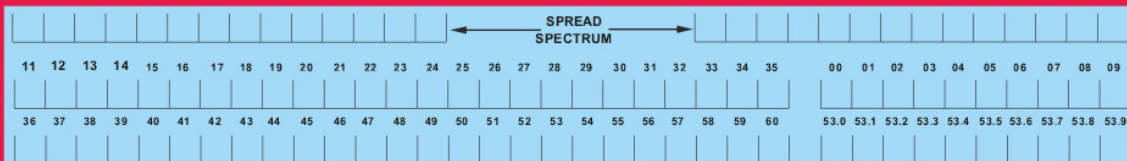
## HUMOR



**We're gonna need a bigger boat!**

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 condition s	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

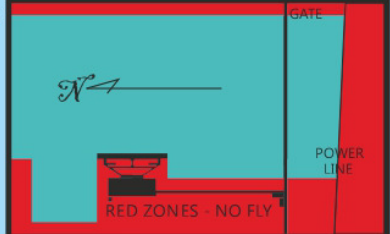




**CURRENT AMA CARDS ONLY. NO OTHER CARD IS ACCEPTABLE.**

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](http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf)