



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



Issue, 6007 JULY 2022

**Next club meeting: July 25th, 7 PM, Location Thunderbird Field**

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

Hello Thunderbirds, Hope your all staying as cool as possible, and still getting some flying in!

Thanks to all of you, who came out to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with us. While we never got around to all the activities that were planned, it was a great time. The temperature for the first part of the day was tolerable, and the food! Well, let's just say it was as close to perfect as you can get. Big thanks to the Board and others for setting up, tearing down, cooking and serving! Special thanks to Ken Killgo who prepared, and then stayed up all night smoking the briskets. YUM! By all accounts the

parking lot sale was a success as well, with many items changing hands.

The next big event is the float fly; this will be at Camp Joy Park in Fort Worth. So clear your calendar for August 6<sup>th</sup>. Mel Wells is the CD for this event. Please check the website for more information. It will be a great time and an excuse to get a little wet.

Stay cool and we will see you all soon.

James

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

Hello Thunderbirds! Wow - who ordered summer on the surface of the sun? It is crazy hot and dry this year. Not to tread into Sam's Safety area, but please be sure you are staying hydrated and using sun protection when you're out flying. We want you to stay healthy and flying safely! Speaking of beating the heat, don't forget our next event is the annual Float Fly on Aug 6th. Look for more info in this newsletter for details!

Lastly, it's never too late to find ways that you (yes YOU!) can help our club. Officer elections are a ways off, but maybe this is the year you will act on the gut feeling that you would be great in one of our leadership roles. We have folks leading in field maintenance, field supervisor, regular officer positions and so much more!

**WE NEED YOU!** Please start thinking about where you will serve at a higher level next year.

I can't wait to work alongside you! Here's my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you, Thunderbirds! See ya at the field!

Rob

**Secretaries Corner: by Mike Schroeder**

**June 27, 2022**

**Thunderbird Minutes**

**Meeting starts 7:01**

**James welcomed everyone and asked if there are any new members. New member, David Leschber is attending his first meeting.**



**James points out a table with donations that are free to take.**

**Events**

**Planning for July 4th is on going with the officers taking care of the event. There will be a swap meet and lunch will be provided. Kenneth Kilgro will cook several briskets and the sides will be provided by the Thunderbirds. Also there will be old fashioned hot dogs provided. James is in charge of planning different competition games to take part in.**

**Float fly is coming up on August 6th, Lake Worth at Camp Joy. CD is Mel Wells**

**Thunderbird sixtieth anniversary is this year and the board is working on a celebration party. Updates and**

**details to come along with dates. As of right now we are looking at the end of September.**

**Officers Reports**

**Treasurers Report by Chris Berardi: Chris gave us an overview of the clubs finances and expenses. Checking and savings account in good standing. Chris did talk about the cost of the porta can has gone up again in price and this company is still the cheapest. We are still looking to see if the clubs options has other on the porta can.**

**Safety Report by Sam Corlett: Sam's message today was to remember to protect and sunscreen up. Use arm protection sleeves if you can and cover the back of your neck. Drink lots of water and start drinking water before you leave the house. Also don't get complacent and cut corners when working or setting up your plane. Take the time do the right thing.**

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

**Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder: Motion was made by Ken Knotts to not read the minutes and second by Rob Lowe, show if hands and passed.**

**Show and Tell**

**Phil Dunlap talked about the 3D printed missiles that Sam printed for his jet.**

**Johnny Hunt talked about his chair that converts into a plane stand with some 3D printed parts.**

**Grant Schroeder talked about the Apple Air Tag to help find your plane if it goes down in the woods.**

**Project List**

**Storage container shed on the other side of the shed we are still talking about.**

**CORP has said no to putting in a bathroom and will not help pay for the porta can.**

**Helicopter pits area cover has been approved by the CORP and we are working on pricing. As of now cost around eight thousand.**

**New wind socks installed by Ken Knotts**

Woody Lake talked about a news letter that he receives from 'down under', Australia. If anyone is interested in reading a copy please email Woody and he will email you a copy.

Motion was made by Ken Knotts and second by Tab Bowland to reserve 'In and Out Burgers' for the Sixtyith Anniversary Air Show celebration. Show of hands the motion passes.

Meeting adjourns at 7:38

### Thunderbird Members in attendance

Bill Lakes  
Sam Corlett  
Brian Lowe  
Nick Sutterer  
Ian Waring  
Reed Smith

Ken Knotts  
James Meadows  
Kenneth Killgo  
Johnny Hunt  
Roger Jones  
Tom Blakeney

Tab Bowland  
Mike Schroeder  
Mark Johnson  
Phil Dunlap  
Charles Weaver  
David Leshber

Chris Berardi  
Rob Lowe  
Grant Schroeder  
Woody Lake  
Gary Schindler  
Mark Ehlers

#### From the Treasury: by *Chris Berardi*

##### Post Picnic

What a great day we all had! The weather, while warm, wasn't Texas hot. A light breeze and plenty of shade made for a most pleasant early afternoon though by 2pm most of us were had full bellies and were ready for a nap. There was plenty of food for everyone including a number of guests and enough left overs for a couple of members to take home a readymade supper.

About 45 members plus guests showed up to partake of 3 nicely smoked briskets, nicely prepared by Kenneth Kilgo. To compliment that we had potato salad, baked beans, onions, pickles and of course, hot dogs. There were no complaints!

A thank you to the club officers who put this together and several other people who tied up the loose ends including food purchase and preparation, set-up and take-down, food service and the inevitable clean-up. If you didn't make it this year, you missed something tasty.

##### Gate Lock Protocol

Our agreement and lease with the Corps of Engineers has very specific language regarding access to the flying site. As a member of the club, you receive a key to the gate lock. You can open the field to other members and also the public.

We have the privilege of being able to close the field for club hosted events with adequate and posted notification to the public. We cannot close the field to the public at any time without a formal notification other than when club members are not present.

Due to security, we can permit a single club member to be at the flying site, with the gate locked. However, when two or more members are at the field, the gate must be unlocked and open to the public.

Recently, it has been brought to the board members attention that there are times when a group of club members are at the field flying (usually early in the morning) with the gate closed and locked.

This is a violation of our lease that could result in a follow-up by the CoE at minimum or administrative action.

Please note well: Keep the gate open and unlocked if there is more than one member present at the field.

Lastly, be sure to check that a member remains at the field when you leave. The last remaining member has the responsibility to close and lock the gate while ensuring that the public have been informed to locate their vehicles outside the gate. They can continue to fly but must exit the site.

## AMA Membership Price Hike

If you haven't heard about it yet, I'm sure it will be creeping into conversations within the next month or two. It has been announced that our regular AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) membership fees will be increasing. An Open membership will increase from \$58 to \$75. If you are over 65 years of age, your Open membership is discounted to \$65.

You can lock in the old prices by renewing before mid-September; I would give you a date but the AMA web site contains several errors including the dates. Check your communications from the AMA either via email or in the *Model Aviation* magazine as this is bound to be a discussion topic. You can read the error filled announcement here: [Membership FAQ](#)

## Battery Tech

Have you noticed that we've been hearing about the fabled new battery technology for about a decade? I liken this to the "flying car" that has been presented in dozens of books and magazines of the past 50 years in my experience. The flying car sounds like a great idea notwithstanding the fact that the basic design criteria of a car is polar opposite to that of a car. Probably the closest we have come is to recline in the first class section of an Airbus A-380, doing 600mph in a fully air conditioned environment - surpassing the comfort of most automobiles.

But yet real battery tech innovation is coming. Solid state batteries engineered by Toyota are leading the way. A solid state battery replaces the liquid solution that carries the charge between the anode and cathode with a

## Safety Officer submission: by Sam Corlett

The field has been a little quieter than normal. April, May, and June the wind was crazy! Now the wind is gone but it is crazy hot! So the obvious is worth mentioning: Protect yourself from the sun, bring water to the field.

Also, even though the field isn't busy, let's not get complacent. Follow safety procedures. Follow check lists when assembling your machines. Communicate with others. Here is a video of what can happen when we don't keep others apprised of what we are doing: (Warning, if you haven't seen

dry material. Solid state batteries are lighter, have a higher charge density, won't catch fire, and can be charged at much higher rates. This is why they are attractive to automakers with Toyota being the biggest inventor and investor. It will be another 5-10 years before they can scale this up for widespread use in EVs (Electric Vehicles) although Toyota will have a vehicle for sale around 2025 (check the link to read more about it).

On the downside, it is unlikely that RC model aviation will have first dibbs on the technology, so don't throw away your lipos just yet. [Toyota Battery Tech](#) As an aside to modern lithium polymer technology, look up the "Edison Cell." This is a nickel iron sulphate battery that has some amazing characteristics, though unsuitable for model aviation. However, the Edison cell is fascinating and is still being manufactured for critical uses today.

## Membership Update

Here is our latest membership count as of 07/27/2022.

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

That's about it for this month. I hope to see you at the club meeting this coming Monday at the field. Try to make it out to the field on Thursdays for club flying, training sessions and friendship.

this, it's shocking, but thankfully no personal injuries were sustained):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9c89qCNv2-c>

I'm sure we could all pick out things in this video to comment on, but the failure of pilots not being in defined pilot stations and standing close enough to communicate seems to me to be a critical oversight.

Stay safe. Hope to see you at the field!

Sam



July 4<sup>th</sup> Club Picnic







**Meet our Field Maintenance Crew**

...and all this time you thought it was 'little green men' that came out at night.

**Neil Poort**




**Johnny Hunt**




**Ian Waring**




**Mel Wells**




**Bill Lake**




**Bill Boro**




**Ken Knotts**




## 2022 CALENDAR

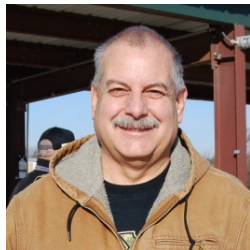
<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
August 6th	Float Fly	Mel Wells
September	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Air Show	Club Officers
October 1st	Jet Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
October 29th	Texas Electric Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
	Alliance Air Show	
	SPA West (Waco)	Todd Blose
November	TOYS for TOTS	Club 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**

## 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)



← SPREAD SPECTRUM →

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**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.

- Neither the Thunderbirds nor the Corps of Engineers is responsible for accident or injury.
- Place your AMA card in the proper slot above before turning transmitter on.
- All engines must have effective mufflers.
- 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.
- Aircraft must follow the takeoff and landing pattern in effect.
- Landing aircraft have the right-of-way over aircraft taking off.
- Running aircraft shall not be left unattended.
- No more than 5 pilots shall fly in each designated zone at one time.
- LMA rules are posted in the bulletin board

FW THUNDERBIRDS  
 2022 PROJECT LIST  
 6/19/2022 12:38 PM

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	Flag Poles	2nd and 3rd Flag Pole	s	\$5,312.00	Rob/Mike	Discussion	Resinded
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



# Vintage Thunderbirds Photos





## HUMOR



**'Getta Long 'Lil Doggies'**



**Remember when we needed these? Feeling Cooler Yet?**



# EVENTS



## FW THUNDERBIRDS AUGUST FLOAT FLY



DATE: AUGUST 6th, 0900-1500 // LOCATION: CAMP JOY PARK (LAKE WORTH)

Open to all types of R/C seaplanes, fixed or rotary. Join us at beautiful Camp Joy Park on Watercress Drive Lake Worth, TX for a great float fly.

GPS Coordinates: 32.8145, -97.4905

Raffle items: Horizon Carbon Cub (RTF) with Floats, Fuel, Misc RC Equipment.

Pilot give-a ways to all registered pilots. Pilots please bring your own lunch, Thunderbirds will provide drinks. AMA required. This is an AMA sanctioned event (13223). Landing fee \$20.00

Contacts: [mel.wells92@gmail.com](mailto:mel.wells92@gmail.com) or Woody: [wylake@yahoo.com](mailto:wylake@yahoo.com)

Club web site: <http://www.fwthunderbirds.org>

## Float Fly August 2020

