



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



**Issue, 6307 July 2025**

**Next club meeting: July 28<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm - Location – Thunderbird Field**

**President's Corner: by *Ron Anderson***

No Report this month.

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

Hello Thunderbirds! Wow – Sumer has arrived. I hope you are getting a chance to get some flying time in! So far it has been cooler and wetter than normal. Keeping the field mowed has been a challenge. But Rex and the mowing crew have done a great job.

Temperatures are starting to climb so be sure you are staying hydrated and use LOTS of sun protection when you are flying. We want you to stay hydrated and fly safely. Also speaking of the heat, our annual Float Fly is on August 9th from 0700-1400 at Camp Joy Park located on Lake Worth. See the flyer for more information. Lastly, it is never too late to find ways that you can help our club. We are always in need of volunteers to assist with field maintenance, event planning, and leadership roles. We will need a CD for next year's Float Fly as Mel Wells is stepping back from running this event. You can help make the club better by stepping up and lending a helping hand. We are always looking for ways to improve your flying experience.

That is, it for this month, and my salute to you, Thunderbirds!

Mark

**Secretary's Corner: by *Mike Schroeder***

**Thunderbird Meeting Minutes June 23, 2025**

Meeting starts at 7:01 and is called to order by Ron Anderson. The question was asked if we had a quorum, in which we did with twenty four members. No new members or guest were present.

**Old Business**

First concern from Ron is getting the frequency board updated. We really need to update the safety rules and design. Sam has some information and will get with a committee to gather their input. Members who volunteered for the committee are Mark Johnson, Sam Corlett, Mel Wells, and Fred Neil. A suggestion for the committee was to discuss the safety issue with electric planes and props. There should never be a prop on an electric plane in the pits area if any work is being performed on the plane. The area for work to be done on an electric plane with a prop on it will be at the start up stands. If you are working on your electric plane in the pit areas with the prop it needs to be taken off no excuse! Bill Lake makes a motion for the committee to be formed to put together and present to the club the guidelines. Second by Sam and a show of hands the motion passes.

Fred gives the attending meeting members a lecture and makes a statement about prop safety.

Task item completed, Rex now knows where his new mowers are.

## Reports,

### **Vice Presidents Report by Mark Johnson:**

In the process of reworking the starter stands. In the works.

### **Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder:**

Nothing to report at this as there was no meeting last month. We now have FAA FORM 7711-1 UAS 49 USC 44809 AUTHORIZATION 2025-CB-SPL001

Meaning we have CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER OR AUTHORIZATION for our field to fly up to 700 feet. Our ceiling has been raised from 400 to now 700 feet. YEA!

### **Treasures Report by Chris Berardi:**

Checking and savings are in good standing. Bills are back to normal after all the cost of the SAE. If you need a new badge please email Chris to have him order you a new badge. An order was taken for new shirts and if you want one please get with Chris. Cost will be close to forty dollars. Also, there are new hats to buy too.

### **Safety Report by Sam Corlett:**

A lot of issues to address about electric planes and the props. Some policing of the ducted fan jets too. Seems there are a few Thunderbird members that still taxi out from the pit area to the runway on their engines. No engine means no engine for everybody. It was mention that several times these same pilots have been reminded that it is a no engine run area and they have stated "I don't follow the rules" This is a safety issue, trip, stumble or fall and jam the throttle with a live plane and we can have a real issue. Don't be that person.

A drafting of a violation letter to be sent out to those who violate the rules with at least a warning up to removal from the club. The Thunderbird club board really does not want to be forced to kick out fellow Thunderbird members because these few members seem to not want to follow safety rules.

## *Guys it is for the safety of all.*

### **SAE Report by Tom Blakeney:**

Tom thanked all the volunteers for their hard work and commitment to making it work. Tom presented the club with a very nice check from SAE. The club has a nice base line of equipment for these extras large events that most clubs do not have. The investment equipment is now paying big dividends for the Thunderbirds.

## New Business

There was a jet found by the CORP in the lake and was returned to the club. There was no identification on the jet to who the owner was per the AMA guideline and now the FAA rules. The owner has been found and the jet is being returned. Please check your plane and follow the FAA rules and the AMA requirements are followed.

Spinks Airport wants to know if the Thunderbirds can do a static showing of planes on September 27. More details to come.

July 4th club picnic. Tab will be doing the honors of cooking with the help of the famous club member Bill Lake. There will be a SWAP meet and the start time is how early you want to get there to get that prime spot to set up. The flyer will be resent the week of the forth.

A motion was made by Scott Hays and second by Fred Neil to discuss and look into putting in several fans to move the air around. The volunteers Scott Hays, Melvin Bowser, Mark Johnson and Rick Kraft will look into it and get back with the club.

Fred Neil made a motion the adjourn the meeting, Second by Bill Lake. A show of hands and the meeting adjourns at 8:04.

## Thunderbird Members in Attendance

Steve Carr  
Fred Neil  
Mark Johnson  
Ron Anderson  
Rick Kraft  
Glenn Cashion

Johnny Hunt  
Robert Solis  
Mel Wells  
Rex Anderson  
Chris Berardi  
Gary Nelson

Woody Lake  
Larry Moyer  
Melvin Bowser  
Sam Corlett  
Ken Killgo  
Tom Blakeney

Ian Waring  
Roy Thottam  
Tab Bowland  
Bill Lake  
Scott Hays  
Mike Schroeder

### Treasurer's Report: *by Chris Berardi*

No Report at this time.

2025 Membership count as of 03/20/2025

Individual	93
Family	7
Associate	7
Life	16
Service & Gift	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>

### Safety: *by Sam Corlett*

No Report at this time.

### Field Manager: *Rex Anderson*

No Report this month.

### 2025 July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration





**Float Fly 2025**

Dust off your float plane our Float Plane Fly-In is just around the corner. Our Float Fly Event has been a favorite for at least the past 20 plus years. Event directors (EDs) have included Tom Blakeney, Terry Thorpe, Woody Lake, and the current Event Director Mel Wells. I'm sure I've missed some with my apology. It's been a long successful run but it's time to pass on the proverbial 'ED' baton to the next generation. If anyone is interested and would like some OJT (on the job training) you're welcome to join us in this year's planning/organization phase for this event. Looking forward to seeing all.





# RC Float Plane Basics

Converting your favorite model to an RC float plane can be a lot of fun. It can also lead to a lot of frustration and wasted money if you “dive” in without doing your homework.

## What makes a Good Float Plane?

RC airplane floats don't have the friction of the wheels to keep the airplane from rotating or moving sideways. A short and stubby airplane will basically spin around wherever it wants...

The tail moment of a longer plane's vertical fin will keep the plane turned towards the wind in the same way a weather vane points toward the wind. When flying from the ground you have to look at the wind sock to determine which way to take off. A good RC float plane IS a wind sock!

Besides having a long tail moment, it's smart to start with a plane that can fly stable and low speeds until you get used to taking off and landing on the water.



If you're looking for the quickest and easiest route, E-Flight offers a set of floats that will fit their 25 size high winged park flyers which make perfect RC float planes once you master the basics of flight. These floats are made specifically for these planes and are a breeze to install even if you are completely new to water flight.



Size is important too, the bigger and heavier your plane is the better it will handle wind and ripples on the water. This is definitely something to keep in mind if you plane to fly from a large lake where waves may be an issue...

You're trusty old high wing trainer makes a perfect RC float plane. Adding floats to larger planes is not quite as straight forward as slapping a set of E-Flite floats on an E-flite plane.

But no worries, we're about to get into the details of choosing and installing your own floats.

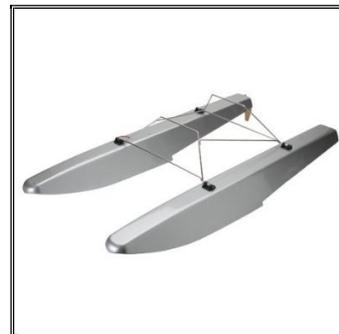
## What Floats to Use?

Have you decided on a plane? Good, the next step is finding the perfect set of floats for it...

Before we talk about the size of the floats, you need to determine what type of float you want to use. You can buy ABS plastic, balsa built, or foam core. This choice is yours. This article on RC airplane floats breaks down the pros and cons of each type.

## What Size Floats?

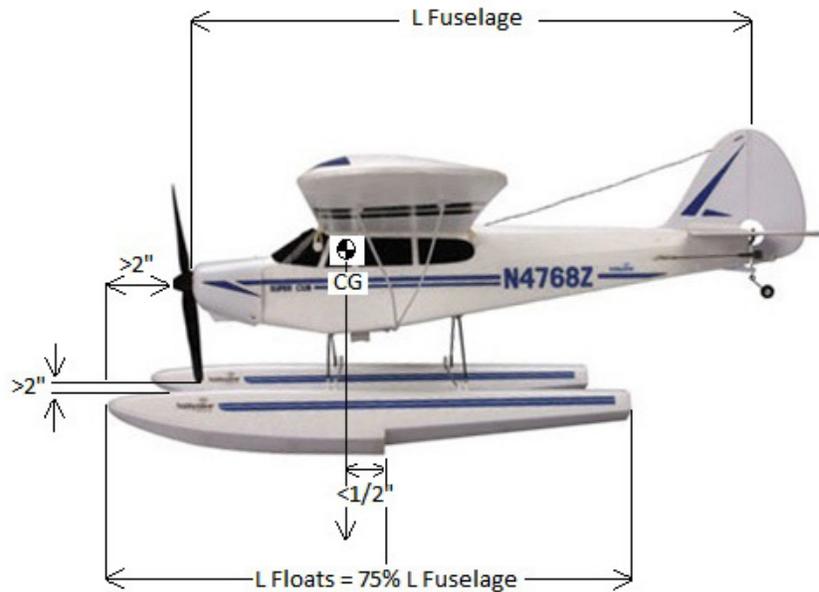
Some floats specify that they're good for a certain amount of weight. Others like these Hangar 9 40-Size Wood Floats are made for planes with a specific engine size.



More than likely you'll be able to find a set of commercial floats that will come pretty close to this critical dimension. It doesn't have to be exact, but it does need to be pretty close.

If you can't find a set with the length you need, no worries. Just make your own set of foam core floats.

## Critical Aspects of Installation



**Installing the floats...** Ahh, this is where most of the problems occur if you don't know what you're doing... There are several things at play that must be "fine tuned" for your RC float plane to have the correct angle of attack for creating lift once the plane is up on the step skimming across the water...

### Center of Gravity

The first thing you need to do is locate the center of gravity of your airplane. It's best to make sure the CG is set the original specifications set forth in the manual.

#### **NOTE**

**Make sure the plane is balanced before you install the floats. After the floats are installed, balance the plane again by adding weight to the floats, not the airplane. This way the plane will still be balanced should you decide to remove the floats.**

### Position of the Step

The "step" of the float needs to be located at or just behind the center of gravity of the airplane. As a general rule 1/2" to 1" should be about right for most average sized RC float planes.

The front of the floats should stick out a couple inches past the propeller in order to keep the plane from nosing down into the water.



The last thing you want is for the propeller to cut the front of your floats off! So be generous and give yourself a comfortable couple inches of clearance between the propeller and float. It may be a good idea or even necessary to install a [3 bladed propeller](#) to give you the added clearance and torque.

### Float Spacing

You will want to space the floats apart by at least 25% of the wing span, which is a bit further apart than most wheels on traditional landing gear. Mounting the floats any closer together may result in a spectacular splash and your plane rolls over in the water!

### Mounting Angle

No matter how much power you have, your RC float plane will stubbornly refuse to lift off the water if the attitude of the plane is too low once the plane is riding up on the step of the floats. In this situation, your RC float plane is nothing more than a speed boat with wings!

If the nose is angled upward too much the plane will want to lift off too early and may stall.

Mounting your floats to the airplane at the correct angle is absolutely critical. Doing so incorrectly is the source of most RC float plane problems....

You want to get the floats parallel to the attitude of the airplane. First mount the front of the floats to obtain the proper propeller clearance. Then adjust the back of the floats until you get the top of the floats parallel with the horizontal stabilizer of the airplane.

This should put you pretty darn close to where you need to be. The wing incident relative to the top of the floats should be a couple of degrees positive. If not, you need to slightly increase the height of the front mount until you achieve a 2-3 degree positive wing incident.



### Power Requirements

You're going to need a bit more power to fly your airplane with a set of floats. Why?

For starters floats weigh a bit more and create a bit more drag while flying than conventional landing gear. But that's almost negligible compared to the significant amount of friction created by the floats dragging through the water on takeoff.

So how do you know if your plane has enough power to lift off from the water? An old rule of thumb is if your plane can take off in grass a couple of inches tall at three quarters throttle, she can handle a set of floats.

### Is Flying a Float Plane Hard?

If you can take off and land a tail-dragger confidently, you can fly from the water. But there are a few things to consider before picking up your first RC float plane.

### Taxiing

Water taxiing is probably the hardest thing to get used to. On a calm day, there's nothing to it! Add a little wind and you just might be pulling your hair out watching your plane chase its tail around the water going everywhere except for where you intend for it to go.

A good water rudder set up is worth its weight in gold on a breezy day. But even with a water rudder, you'll find taxiing in the wind is a challenge to say the least. It takes some practice learning to work with the wind, not against it...

When turning down wind it's important to use the ailerons to keep the wing from rising up and getting caught by the wind, otherwise your plane has a good chance of flipping over. Especially if it's a high wing trainer.

At this point it's time to relax the elevator as you apply full throttle.

Just like taking off from land, gently add elevator until she lifts up off the water for the climb out.

Once airborne the different vertical weight distribution along with the aerodynamic effects from the floats may cause her to be just a bit less agile, every plane is different. For the most part you'll find that your airplane behaves just about the same with floats as it does with wheels.

Landing a float plane is the same as landing any other airplane. You might want to come in a little hot the first couple of times as the floats may cause her to slow down a bit quicker than you're used. Just sit her down nice and easy on the floats just like the mains of a tail dragger.

**Have Fun!**



## 2025 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
August 9	Float Fly Camp Joy Park	Mel Wells
September 27	Warbird/Dawn Patrol Fly-in	Mark Johnson
October	FW Thunderbirds Airshow	Club Officers
October 25	Electric Expo	Tom Blakeney
TBD	3D Smack Down	Reed Smith

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

POSITION	BOARD MEMBER	EMAIL
President	Ron Anderson	president@fwthunderbirds.org
Vice President	Mark Johnson	vicepresident@fwthunderbirds.org
Secretary	Mike Schroeder	secretary@fwthunderbirds.org
Treasurer	Chris Berardi	treasurer@fwthunderbirds.org
Safety Officer	Sam Corlett	safetyofficer@fwthunderbirds.org



***Pres: Ron Anderson***



***VP: Mark Johnson***



***Sec: Mike Schroeder***



***Safety: Sam Corlett***



***Treas: Chris Berardi***



***Field Manager: Rex Anderson***

July Meeting Club Raffle Item



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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)

**Sunrise at Thunderbird Field**



**Sunrise Camp Joy - Float Fly Site**



## EVENTS




### FW THUNDERBIRDS AUGUST FLOAT FLY




**DATE: SATURDAY AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup> - 0700-1400 LOCATION: CAMP JOY PARK (LAKE WORTH)**

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

Raffle items: Avios Twin Otter, Saito 65FS, Fuel, Hitec Charger, and more

GPS Coordinates: 32.8145, -97.4905

AMA required. This is an AMA sanctioned event (18752) - Landing fee \$30.00.

Bring your own lunch, Beverages Provided, Pilot Give-A-Ways: Misc RC items/Equipment

Contact: Mel Wells: [malekat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:malekat@sbcglobal.net)

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



## 2025 Richardson RC Club Swap Meet And Auction

### TABLE SALES OPEN!

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

**August 16th**  
Swap Meet 8am-12pm  
Auction begins at 11am







**First Baptist Church**  
1001 N Central Expressway  
Richardson, TX 75080  
(Swap Meet Inside Gymnasium)

Tables \$25  
Large Aircraft \$10  
Admission \$5








We are thrilled to announce that the 2025 Richardson RC Club Swap Meet & Auction is coming up on Saturday, August 16th, and you don't want to miss it!

TABLE SALES ARE GOING FAST! To reserve your tables, visit [www.rrcc.org](http://www.rrcc.org)

Swap Meet: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Auction Begins: 11:00 AM

This is our main fundraiser of the year and the perfect chance to buy, sell, trade, and talk all things RC with fellow enthusiasts from across the region!

120 Tables (6' x 2.5') – \$25 each

50 Large Aircraft Spaces – \$10

Admission – \$5 per person

We will have several raffle prizes! Massive thanks to our sponsors.

HORIZON HOBBY

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**CONTACT WOODY AT: [wvylake@yahoo.com](mailto:wvylake@yahoo.com) or (817) 675-7613**

