



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



Issue 4481 March 2021

Next club meeting: March 27th, 1400 (2pm) 2021, at our Flying Field

Presidents Corner: by James Meadows

March madness is here and it's not all about basketball! Lots of things are happening in the world. Looks like we are getting ahead of this Covid-19 thing, which drastically changed the way we work, play and interact with one another. The Governor has opened up Texas and relaxed restriction in the State and perhaps we will be able to return to a form a normalcy. I am excited to say that planning for the May Warbird Event and the August Float Fly is underway. So please put a place holder on your calendar. Received several questions about a meeting site. I wish I could say that we have found one, but the search continues. I am optimistic that with more and more venues opening up, that we can find one in the next few months. But until we can locate a site and with the time change, the next meeting will be at Thunderbird Field.

With daylight savings time upon us, I would like to remind everyone, members, guest and folks who are wanting to learn about flying RC Aircraft that our Thursday training will be kicking off. If you are a member and want to assist as an instructor, for ground, or flight training, let us know. If you are just a little rusty and want some dual stick time, new to the hobby or want to introduce someone to the wonders of flight then, please come on out!

I am really excited about the rest of 2021 shaping up to be a great year, despite all that has transpired up to now with Covid 19. Our Lease is under review by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and slowly, but steadily moving forward. In August 2019 The Corp hosted a public forum and public comment period for their new 25yrs planning document. The officers at the time attended and made comment at that meeting. Earlier this month the draft plan was released for public review and comment. I am including the link to that report. <https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/About/Lakes-and-Recreation-Information/Master-Plan-Updates/Benbrook-Lake/>. It's an interesting read, but I will warn you it is long read. The report details the history, the soil, vegetation, wild life, demographics of users. What the land is being used for, impacts of such use. It also discusses future development to meet the goals of the USACE and the general public's need. Thunderbird field and the club are mentioned in several sections, in a positive light. As you can imagine, some of the language that was used in the 1972 plan is being updated to reflect terms of today. With that said the field is being reclassified as a High-Density Recreation area (HDR). It's basically saying that as the area grows, so will the use of the park areas. That can be a positive for us, as we continue to grow and maintain our site as a premier RC facility. That will require, that we continue to be good stewards of the land, good neighbors and partners with the USACE. It also points out one other fact, which we lease directly from the USACE. Kind of makes us Special! It also means that while the Great State of Texas has relaxed most restriction, our lease is with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) which is federal and as such some restrictions, such as the wear of masks and maintaining social distance may still be expected.

Please be safe, do those pre-flights, know the rules and your ability, and watch out for one another. See you at the field soon!

Vice Presidents Corner: by Rob Lowe

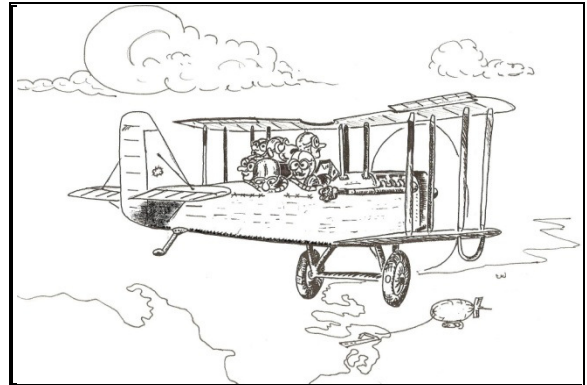
Hello Thunderbirds. It's hard to believe we've been at this pandemic thing for a year. Your officers are still working on finding a meeting location for our monthly meetings. As you know, Buffalo West was a casualty of the pandemic. For now, we will continue to meet at the field where we can social distance and squeeze in some flying before or after the meeting! Bring a chair and something to fly! This month's meeting will be Saturday March 27th at 2pm at the field.

That being said, we still need your input on meeting ideas. Is there something you'd like to hear about, a person you'd like to hear from or something you would like to learn more about? Let me know and I will do my best to make it happen. Thanks in advance for your thoughts and feedback!

Please take a look at the other articles in this month's newsletter. There is some great info that will help you and

all of us as we work to improve our club, our field and the great privilege it is to be a Thunderbird!

Here's my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you, Thunderbirds! See ya at the field!



Rob

February Club Meeting Minutes: by Mike Schroeder

Club meeting February 27, 2021

Meeting starts at 12:15, foggy with light rain at the Thunderbird field

New Business

Welcome to our monthly meeting. James had to work this weekend and Rob is sick. The meeting was run by Chris Berardi, Bill Lake and Mike Schroeder.

The board would like to form an advisory committee that members can be on to discuss topics and advise the board of their recommendations for the club. The details of scope and size are being discussed. If you want to help out please contact a board member. Some of the topics to discuss would be a Training officer, Training center design, Training center function, membership, dues and many more. If you are interested in helping out please contact a board member.

Officer Reports

Treasury Report by Chris Berardi: We have paid several bills, electric, port-a can and the lease will be soon finalized. Several deposits were made in February and all accounts are in good standing.

Chris attended the Fort Worth city council meeting about the growth of Fort Worth. The south west area of Fort Worth is expected to grow by a hundred thousand new residents in the next four years. We as a club should be thinking about how to promote our organization and connect with the community.

Safety Report by Bill Lake: Bill talked about what key you are to use to open up the AED locker, first aid kit and the lost and found box. Your gate key. If the AED is needed you do not want to be wasting time trying to figure out the lock. The

gate key unlocks everything. There was some discussion that club members who lock up the gate entrance to keep the drive though lookers out. That presents a problem if you have to call 911 for help. No solution at this time was determined. The board would like to have another CPR — AED training class this year and will try to set up. There is a need for a training officer to be added to the board.

Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder: Talked a little about how James is in the final crunch to get the lease done along with getting approval for a training center. Once we get CORP approval for the training center the next big hurdle will be fund raising and design function of the training center.

Other Business

Ken Knotts will be taking in both the mowers in for their annual service getting ready for the season. The CORP wants the club to give them a mowing schedule to make sure we are not over mowing.

Chris has a few Thunderbird caps for sale if anyone wants one. Contact Chris.

Nothing was voted on at the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 by Chris

Members in attendance

Chris Berardi
Bill Lake
Johnny Hunt
Phill Dunlap
Tracy Smith

Sam Corlett Sr.
Sam Corlett
Pete Lucas
Ken Knotts
Chip Kiehlbauch

Ed Furche
Grant Schroeder
Mike Schroeder

From the Treasury: *by Chris Berardi*

Direct Your Own Contest

No doubt you have spent the past year wondering what to do with yourself and new aircraft. Sure, you probably have taken it up for a maiden flight, but where's the joy after that if you can't really show it off?

So now we all wait for the air to clear and the impositions to be lifted and our flying calendars to fill once again with events. I know that I'll be playing catch-up to some of my favorites and certainly hope that there are interested pilots to run them. The Thunderbirds have always been a busy club hosting some of the most well established events in District VIII. You name it, and our club has hosted it: We've had Masters Scale, Formula 1 Pylon Racing, IMAA, IMAC, Schuller Cup, Heli Heatwave, Warbird, Electric, Float Fly and many, many more.

All of these events require a critical catalyst and a driving force to implement, and many of these events have had the same club members at the helm for years, and in some cases, decades. But time marches on and waits for no pilot. To continue, we need new leadership to take the reins, or should that be the stick? (Talk about mixed metaphors - sailing, horse-riding and flying all in the same paragraph!)

What we need is you - that's right, somebody reading this has been wanting to host, I don't know let's say a jet rally...wouldn't that be a great addition to our calendar? There are probably close to a dozen pilots that hold turbine waivers in the club and it is highly probable that if we host a jet rally it would be a tremendous success. And success means furthering the future of the club, supporting the membership and building influence with the City of Benbrook and the Corps of Engineers. Notwithstanding those benefits, we would all get to fly our hangar queens or we could hang around socializing and spectating.

Sometimes I feel like the aeronautical equivalent of a rock band groupie, waiting to catch my favorite airframe take to the skies imbuing my senses with the scent of kerosene and a turbine whistle.

To make this happen we need more of you to become Contest Directors or Event Managers. It's really not that difficult and the club will support any new licensee by paying the AMA fees for becoming one. You can then be a new club leader helping to organize our new events for the betterment and enjoyment of all. There are benefits of becoming a "CD" or "EM" too: Reduced or no-cost annual AMA license renewal for one.

If you are wondering what you would actually need to do as part of initiating and hosting an event, next month I will be publishing a handy checklist of use for any event you might be considering; no need to reinvent the wheel as the Thunderbirds have plenty of experience running all manner of fun-fly through national contests. You'll be able to lean on that expertise to establish your own event while giving us all the opportunity to taxi out our hangar queens. For more information, please contact any club officer or Contest Director and look for the event guide next month.

Last Flight

It is with great sadness we note the passing of Tracy Kobs, a member of long standing. Tracy grew up working in the fields of Oklahoma. He realized that he didn't want to do that for the rest of his life and with great purpose set about putting himself through college. Ultimately, Tracy became a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology of such note that he received the Gold Headed Cane award. You can read about his incredible life in the Fort Worth Star Telegram obituary. We wish Tracy clear skies and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Membership Update

We will soon be publishing our annual member directory as most members have completed their renewals for 2021. While the club maintains an excellent roster the AMAs online roster is almost unusable. In the past updates could be made in bulk for regular entries. Special updates that required multiple entries or emailed confirmations were only needed for instructor pilots, contest directors or officers. When the AMA rolled out their new website last year they also updated this process. Now every entry, whether that is an addition, removal or update requires multiple online transactions that can take quite a bit of time to complete. This is fine for a single member update but wholly unworkable when dealing with dozens. I have been in contact with the AMA about this and it is still unclear how or when they will fix it.

Here is our latest membership count as of 3/17/2021.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	143
Family	6
Associate	8
Life	14
Service & Gift	2
TOTAL	173

That's it for my report this month; stay safe and warm, I'll see you at the field.

	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	Bill Lake	safety@fwthunderbirds.org

Safety Officer submission: by Bill Lake

Greetings. Your dedicated Safety Officer here. I realize that safety is typically something we all want someone else to take care of. I see my particular role as doing what I can to ensure the safety of all our members and guests at Thunderbird Field. From what I have gathered by speaking with many of you, the vast majority are highly supportive of the safety measures (and thus the “rules”) levied by the AMA and by the Club. Then there is that ten percent who either don’t get the message, or don’t care. I will endeavor to help educate and inform the folks who didn’t get the message, and we can all help those who don’t care or choose not to abide, to find another club.

I had a very fruitful discussion with the AMA Safety Lead this past week. I learned a lot and I want to use that knowledge and insight to promote greater awareness and compliance by the Thunderbirds with the objective of leading to an injury free year in 2021. It is not just a catch phrase –“Safety is everyone’s responsibility”. Please take it seriously. If you see something; speak up, identify the problem, and correct the situation on the spot.

If you have not visited the AMA website (www.modelaircraft.org) recently, I urge you to do so. The AMA Safety Handbook is a great place to start. The introduction includes the following statement:

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.

The local airfield rules are posted on the frequency board. Please take a moment to review those ten rules, shown below for your convenience.

Note the following statement also on the frequency board, above the rules – “All AMA, Corp of Engineers and the following rules apply to everyone flying here.”

The graphic shows a frequency spectrum chart at the top with channels 11-35 and 00-09, and 36-60 and 53.0-53.9. Below the chart is a red banner with the text: "CURRENT AMA CARDS ONLY. NO OTHER CARD IS ACCEPTABLE." and "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." Below the banner is a list of 10 rules. To the right is a diagram of a runway layout with a north arrow, a gate, a power line, and red zones labeled "RED ZONES - NO FLY".

CURRENT AMA CARDS ONLY. NO OTHER CARD IS ACCEPTABLE.
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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

Here are a few safety tips from the “Do you know?” files:

- Do you know that all fixed wing flying is from the pilot boxes and the limit is five flyers at any one time?
- Do you know that flying is conducted from only one end of the airfield at a time?
- Do you know all flying (except helicopter area) is conducted east of the runway?

- Do you know your gate key accesses the Emergency First Aid Kit and the AED?
- Do you know that an airplane over 55 pounds must be registered and comply with the LARGE MODEL AIRPLANE OVER 55LBS and PERMIT TO FLY?
- Do you know that Turbine operations are governed by AMA Document 510-A?
- Do you know turbine operators must be trained and certified and the AMA card must show a turbine waiver?
- Do you know turbine operations require two types of fire extinguishers (owner provided)?
- Do you know it is a requirement to display your AMA card on the frequency board prior to turning on the transmitter?
- Do you know the starter stands are not designed nor stressed to support your weight?
- Do you know it is an AMA requirement that you review the AMA Safety Code annually?
- Do you know that by reading the information below, you have met that review requirement for 2021?

AMA SAFETY CODE

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 flight line, 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

In Memoriam Tracy Kobs

Tracy's dry wit and gentle demeanor will be missed by many Thunderbirds that have come to know him. Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with his family. Blue skies and light breezes straight down the runway my friend.



March Madness:

Well it appears the 'Pooh' Bear was right. March has been a blustery month thus far with no relief in sight. In addition to the windy condition, I trust everyone remembered to set their clocks ahead one hour. Also with the beginning of Day-Light-Savings time, it marks



the start of our traditional *Flight Training program*. Please pass the word to anyone, with a desire to learn to fly RC airplanes, that our instructors are available Thursday afternoons from 4pm till 'we can't see the plane any longer.



L-19 1/3 Scale: Peter Goldsmith Designs



Just in time for your winter building project, this Bird Dog kit is just the ticket for all your club tow plane needs! The finished model has a 143-inch wingspan and is intended to use a DA 150 engine spinning a Falcon 30x12 prop. It weighs in at 47.2 pounds.

Hoosier Dawn Patrol 2014: by Model Aviation



Hoosier Dawn Patrol celebrates eleven years as WWI hits 100 year mark. Model Aviation digital event coverage Photos, video, and event coverage.

This year, the Hoosier Dawn Patrol held its 11th annual event August 7-10 at the AMA's International Aeromodeling Center, in Muncie, Indiana. Traditionally, the event starts on a Friday, but pilots began arriving as early as Tuesday this year! The weather was perfect on Thursday, August 7 temperatures in the 70s, sun, and little to no breeze so the event began a day early.

Dawn Patrol is a reference to a 1930 World War I movie 'The Dawn Patrol'. 'The movie is centered on the pilots and aircraft of the First World War. As this romanticized era of aviation became more popular, coupled with the 100th anniversary of the start of WW I, aeromodeling Dawn Patrol events started popping up across the country.

Steve Percifield continued his role as CD for the Hoosier Dawn Patrol, in which 46 pilots participated. As in previous years, many pilots arrived ready to fly, often bringing more than one aircraft. In all, a total of 75 airplanes were at the event. The flightline was full of great-looking WW I warbirds ready for takeoff.

Despite the rain Saturday afternoon, the weekend offered excellent weather—allowing for plenty of flight and camaraderie. WW I aircraft dotted the skies as pilots participated in flybys, barnstorming, formation flying, and general open flying. Most aircraft were 1/4 or 1/3 scale, but all WW I-era aircraft were welcome. Lee McDuffee scored a hat trick this year by being the first in the air each day with his 1/4-scale Sopwith Pup.

Pilots walked away with a few nice raffle prizes including a painting and discounts donated by Balsa USA.



Flying started just after 6 a.m. on Friday morning, hence the title 'Dawn Patrol.' Photo by Steve Percifield.



Many pilots had caffeine on hand to help kick start the event. Photo by Steve Percifield.



Lee McDuffee holds the honors of first flight on Friday morning with his Sopwith Pup. Photo by Steve Percifield.



The majority of aircraft ranged from 1/4 to 1/3 scale. Photo by Jennifer Orebaugh.



Pilots participated in open flying and impromptu formation or combat flying. Photo by Jennifer Orebaugh.



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI. Photo by Jennifer Orebaugh.



THUNDERBIRD 2021 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
24 April	SPA Contest	Gary Alphin
8 May	Warbirds Over Lake Benbrook	Ed Kettler
15 May	SPA Contest	Pat Ensign (Texas Wings Field)
11-12 June	Warbirds Over Dallas	Ed Kettler
19 June	SPA Contest	Frank Cox (Golden Triangle Field)
4 July	Independence Day	Club Officers
8 August	Float Fly	Mel Wells
	Jet Fly	Tom Blakeney
23 October	SPA West Championship	Todd Blose (Waco)

WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG

Club Officers 2021



Pres: James Meadows



VP: Rob Lowe



Sec: Mike Schroeder



Safety: Bill Lake



Treas: Chris Berardi

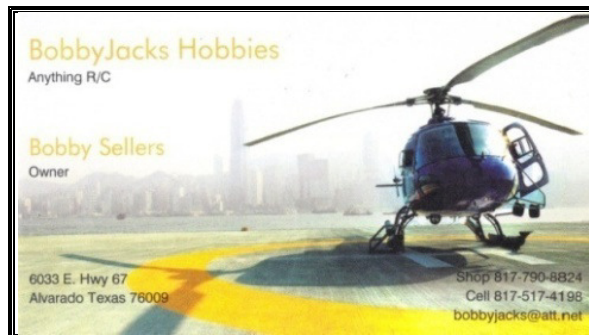
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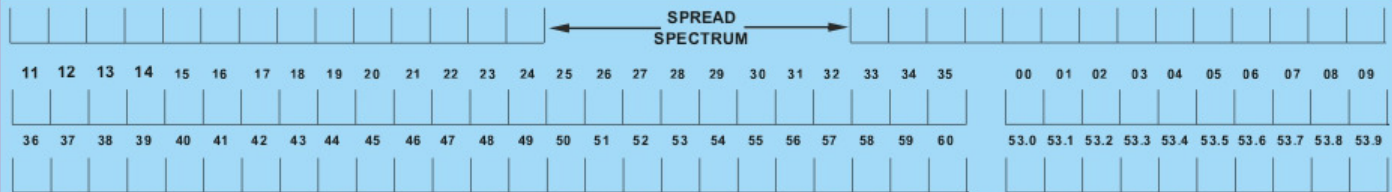
Roy's Hobby Shop 817 268-0210
1309 Norwood Dr. Hurst TX 76053
www.royshobby.com



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



Bobby Jacks Hobbies Shop: 817 790-8824 Cell: 817 517-4198

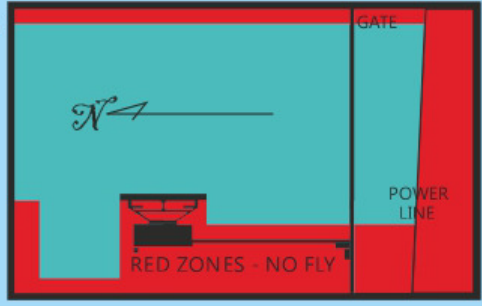


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7. Landing aircraft have the right-of-way over aircraft taking off.
8. Running aircraft shall not be left unattended.
9. No more than 5 pilots shall fly in each designated zone at one time.
10. LMA rules are posted in the bulletin board



**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.
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- 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

HUMOR



Nostalgia

Our 'sister' club, Greater Southwest GSW, hosted a bi-plane fly-in a few years back. These folks hold a variety of great events annually. Their field is located in the Mid-Cities area and well worth a visit or participant. The following are some photos of the bi-plane event.



EVENTS



TEXAS WINGS SENIOR PATTERN ASSOCIATION



MAY 15, 2021

BIG PRIZES! BIG PRIZES! **LOTS OF GREAT PRIZES THIS YEAR!**

REALLY IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- **RAFFLES -- TOY AIRPLANE STUFF AND THINGS FOR YOUR SHOP**
- **LUNCH INCLUDED FOR PILOTS AND WORKERS**
- **OUTDOOR FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT!**



MORE DETAILS:

- Where: [Texas Wings Flying Club](#)
14625 FM 1220 (Morris Dido Rd)
Newark, Texas
- When: 8:00 AM check-in and registration
8:30 AM pilot meeting
- What: SPA Aerobatic Contest
- All Classes will be flown
 - SPA aircraft & powerplant rules apply
 - See the [SPA website](#) for rules and maneuvers

SPONSORED BY:

Texas Wings | JT Hobbies | Master Airscrew

Buzzardaire | Laserworks

CONTEST DIRECTOR:

Pat Ensign, Cell: 816.835.6580, buzzardaire@gmail.com