



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



Issue, 4483 May 2021

Next club meeting: May 24th, 2021, 6:30 pm, Thunderbird Field

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

April Showers bring Mayflowers and perhaps gale force winds, but I believe we are due for better days ahead in the weather department! Despite a rather brisk wind, we had some warbird pilots and aircraft thunder into the blue skies at Warbirds over Benbrook on May 8th. Turnout was great, with folks enjoying time outdoors, burgers and chips and Good conversation. One aircraft a PT-19 was lost in a training sortie, the Seagull PT-19 was truly a beauty to watch fly, our sympathies go out to Mr. Weaver on the lost.



The day culminated with a raffle drawing for various warbird ARFS, and other RC related items to pilots and guests. Thanks to all who came out, and to our host, Ed

Kettler, cooks Tab Bowland, Gary Alphin and Robin Blakeney and Mrs. Kettler for working registration and ticket sales.

We are looking for the few, the proud and able to host an event. Several of our long time Course Directors want to pass the torch, so to speak. So, if you are interested, and want some on the job Training, reach out to one of the board members and we can put you on the list and match you with an event coordinator. We could use your assistance.

Last month at the general membership meeting, we had some spirited and lengthy discussions on fire Extinguishers, and who is responsible for having them, using them etc. I won't go into the details again, but I want all to know that we are working several solutions to the concern and questions discussed. I also must say, that while I was not excited by the way the topic came up, I am excited about the conversation it sparked, the renewed interested in looking at safety and field operations. The board is therefore looking at a multitude of ideas, suggestions and changes to allow the Fort Worth Thunderbirds to maintain our status as a World class Club and facility. More to come, I assure you

Thanks to each and every one of you for being a Thunderbird! Happy flying.

Vice Presidents Corner: by Rob Lowe

Hi Thunderbirds. I hope you are finding time to get out and fly in between the rain drops! We will all be wishing for rain come July is my guess, so just smile and remember what it smells like!

Speaking of water, as James said above, we continue to work the issue of fire extinguishers for the field. We continue to explore solutions and I'm confident we will find some great solutions. We will be gathering some of our members to help us collect input and ideas and to represent various subject matter expertises related to the subject. As Uncle Sam says, "WE WANT YOU" - we need your thoughts and input as we move forward. The small group (ok call it a committee maybe?) will need all of our perspectives to come up with the best solutions. If you have thoughts on the subject, please holler at any of the officers and we will ensure your input gets included. Thanks in advance for not just letting someone else contribute - WE NEED YOU!

April 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes: by Mike Schroeder

Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder

Meeting starts at 6:26 PM

James welcomes any new guest or new members. Steve Carr is visiting.

Recap events

SPA -Gary Alphin: Fifteen pilots competed and the competition was good. They did not have to fly the final round as it was getting late. A great day to be flying and also make a little money.

Upcoming events

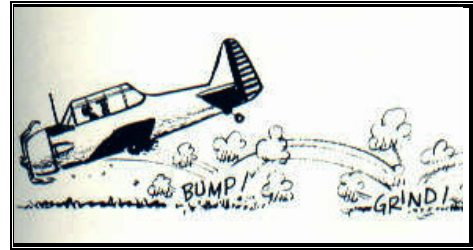
Warbirds over Benbrook Lake, May 8: CD is Ed Kettler who is gathering up raffle prizes. So far it sounds like there may be a few giant scale warbirds coming to the event.

July 4 Fun Fly and picnic: Officers host this event cooking your favorite hot dog to celebrate the day with friends. There will also be a parking lot swap meet so round up those items to sell or trade. Fun fly events for the day.

We also continue to discuss possible future locations for monthly meetings as the pandemic restrictions begin to ease. If you have ideas/locations that might be convenient for most, please let the officers know.

Go get some traffic pattern proficiency in this month (see Bill's info below)! I hope to see you at the field soon.

Here is my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you all...



Float Fly, August 8: CD is Mel Wells and this event will happen at Camp Joy Park on Lake Worth. More details as we get them.

Jet Fun Fly, September 25: CD for the event is Tom Blakeney and Dave Hudson. Turbine and EDF Jets. More details to come as we get them.

TEX Electric Flying Event, October 30: CD will be Tom Blakeney. The last TEX event we had a huge turnout and we had planes flying right up to dark. Tom has hosted this event for many years and it is always one of the biggest events for the club. More detail when we get closer to the event.

Officers Reports

Vice President Rob Lowe: Nothing to report at this time

Treasures Report Chris Berardi: The checking and savings accounts are in good standing. Some expenses that club had was the mower maintenance, port-a can, ordering new member badges and had to order fifty new keys. We will have this year's lease coming due very soon.

Secretary Report Mike Schroeder: Nothing to report at this time. Motion to suspend the reading of the minutes by Bill Lake and seconded by Rob Lowe. Motion passed with a show of hands of all hands for the motion and with only one opposed (REX).

Show and Tell

Bill Lake selling twelve planes from an estate sale. See Bill to make offer or see what the price is. The club is getting a portion of each sale.

Cancer Awareness Ribbons for one dollar apiece. All proceeds will go to Cancer support. Please help support and donate what you can to help out.

James Meadows showed us a Champion gas engine 6cc with no ignition system and operates like the OS gas engine glow system. Showed a US Air core kit from the mid 80's that uses a 52 glow.

Rex Anderson demonstrated the use of snap ring pliers to disconnect LIPO battery connections instead of pulling apart with your hands. Simple and works great. Rex also showed us the product called Evapo Rust which is a rust remover. Rex had a glow engine that was rusted on the propeller crank area and after using the product it looked brand new. You can order from Amazon or pick up at the car parts store.

Charles Weaver showed us his PT-19 which was a Seagull ARF that was a nice looking build.

Old Business

The lease proposal looks good for the basic field renewal and does not look good as for getting a training center building. The CORP has issues with long term building left behind for the CORP to clean up. Still negotiating addition of a toilet but no answer at this time. CORP wants to renew lease the old way that we had before. The board will take a look at the project list and revise it and see what new things we might need to be to add,

New Business

Rules: We have to follow the rules of safety and the safety officer is here to educate you and not to be an enforcer watch dog. The whole reason for a safety officer is that everyone has safe a place to have fun and not get hurt or hurt anyone else. *Rules that we have are paved in*

blood as someone did something wrong and got hurt so, hence we had to make a rule and guidelines to try and prevent another injury. One example is to not taxi from the pits area to the flight line. Throttles have been bumped and the plane flies out. Please do not ignore the rules thinking it does not apply to you, set the bar higher and be safe for others to have fun too. Everyone is a safety officer and Thanks for the help

Cigarette Smoking in or around the pits area: Please be aware that there are no guidelines on smoking but most of our members do not smoke. There have been several complaints about a few people smoking in the pit area. We do not want to start making a rule that have to be enforced of 250 feet away against our smoking club members in and around the pits area. Please be aware of other members and move away to out into the parking lot if you need to smoke.

Also the grounds crew has mention there seems to be a lot of cigarette butts in the pits area, taxi way and grass area. Please throw the butts away in a proper trash can and stop littering the grounds. The grounds crew are volunteers of their own time and your help in clean up would go a long way.

Fire Extinguishers: The AMA turbine waiver that the turbine pilot's sign calls for two fire extinguishers on sight for turbines. Paul was making a motion that the club to supply the water extinguishers and the turbine pilots to supply their own dry powder extinguisher. Discussion continued and the motion was tabled as there was no second for it. A motion was made by Tom for the board to review and come back to the club at the next meeting with suggestions on how the club could supply the benefit of two water extinguishers. Second by Tab and show of hands it passed. The board was informed by Tom that this issue was brought up when he was president and he would help us shed some positive light on the subject. Chris brought up that the biggest fire the club had was at the old field when a helicopter crashed and set the grass on fire and burned close to two acres before the fire department arrived. If a Thunderbird member catches the field on fire there is a possibility that the club could lose the lease. The CORP lease with the Thunderbird club states that if there is a fire we could lose our lease. The board is trying to be proactive in preventing a fire from any plane that crashes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Rex and second by Dave Williams, show if hands and all in favor.

Meeting adjourned 7:25

Members in Attendance

Peter Lucas
Johnny Hunt
Bill Lake
Ken Knotts
Tom Blakeney
Woody Lake
Pete Palasota
Jeff Opel
Ron Schwarzkopf
Nick Morrow

Paul Bloxham
Don Top
Buck Garza
Chris Berardi
Charles Weaver
Dave Digman
Tab Bowland
Sam Corlett
Dave Williams
Mel Wells

Steve Carr
Rex Anderson
Richard Byrd
Pete Delvin
Gary Alphin
Rob Lowe
Mike Schroeder
James Meadows

Treasurer Report: by *Chris Berardi*

No Report at this time.

Membership Update

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

	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: by *Bill Lake*

This month's safety talk is about the traffic pattern. One of the things I noticed this past week was the effect of cross winds on runway alignments and the risks posed to persons in the vicinity of the pilot boxes and the starter stands. Cross winds have always presented challenges for takeoffs and landings. To keep it short, I will focus only on the landings; better said – the pattern to landing. A good landing begins at the base turn, otherwise known as the perch. Standardizing your airplane's altitude and distance out from the runway can do much to make the rest of the approach successful. A good position allows for a reasonable bank angle that allows the nose to fall naturally, setting up a descent rate that gets the airplane to a comfortable altitude a reasonable distance short of the threshold. Consistency goes a long way toward proficiency.

Crosswind factors necessitate the movement of the downwind position closer or further from the runway, depending on the wind direction. For example, take the left hand pattern landing from the North to South. With a wind from the West, it is necessary to adjust the downwind leg closer to the runway, or shallow out the bank angle, or reduce the decent rate due to more time in the turn (reduced ground speed). With a turn into the wind, an increase in power may be necessary.

Many approaches this weekend did not adjust for the wind and ended up angling in toward the runway. This poses several potential safety concerns. One is that the aircraft spends a fair amount of time pointed at the starter stands and pilot boxes, not to mention the pavilion. Secondly, the angling approach creates a much shorter time wings level on final (if any), thus presenting the potential need for larger than normal corrections. Large corrections expose more wing planform to the crosswind, thus making the need for additional large corrections more likely. Not a desirable situation low to the ground, with time running short, and the pucker factor growing. The view from the north end of the runway in such a situation can become rather disconcerting, to say the least. One technique is to mentally picture a wings level roll out on final that allows for small corrections to compensate for wind effects and runway alignment. Techniques include a crabbed approach (wings level and slight heading adjustment into the wind providing a stable ground track along the runway line); wing low approach; and/or minor rudder inputs to realign the nose of the aircraft. Regardless of alignment technique, a well stabilized final approach greatly improves the likelihood of a successful landing, possibly even one greeted with applause.

SPA Spring Opener: by Ken Knotts



Pilots left to right – Pat Ensign, Adam Rush, Blake Arnold, Chris Berardi, Gary Alphin, Dave Dingman, Alan Schreiber, Todd Blose, Ken Knotts, Nathan Haycock, Max Blose, Danny Jackson, and Bobby Zikes. Not pictured – Stephen Byrd and Wayne Gallagan.

The SPA spring opener was at Thunderbird Field on April 24. As always, weather for this time of year can be very iffy. The predicted strong winds from the northwest were a little gentler and the bright clear sky turned into a partly cloudy, rather cool day. A total of 15 pilots tried their skills on the new 2021/2022 maneuvers.

The competition was fierce, and the scores showed how close they were, especially in Expert. Winner Todd Blose won two of the four rounds and Stephen Byrd also won two rounds and finished second. Pat Ensign was third and Wayne Galligan fourth.



Todd

Senior Expert winner David Dingman won three rounds and second place finisher Danny Jackson won one. Ken Knotts was third.



Dave

Advanced winner Gary Alphin won two of the three rounds flown second place finisher Chris Berardi won the other. Max Blose was third.



Gary

Sportsman winner Blake Arnold won the last two of four rounds while second place finisher Bobby Zikes won one round and third place finisher Nathan Haycock won one round.



Blake

Basic Class had two competitors with Adam Rush winning all four rounds and Alan Schreiber in second.



Adam

There were no airplanes lost during the competition though the gusty winds gave some pretty bumpy landing approaches.

We tried some new scoring helpers. It is a wheel that you grip between your thumb and a finger with your index finger on top of the 10. When you see a ½ point mistake you move your finger down into the notch, then to the top of the next point for the next ½ point mistake, etc. You can move it two steps for a more serious mistake. When the maneuver is completed, look at the score. Works well and eliminates the impression scoring.



Before the competition got underway, Pat Ensign ran a “Create your own Routine” competition. All the experts participated and the results matched the finals in the contest.

We want to thank the Fort Worth Thunderbirds for the use of the beautiful facility. We would also like to thank cook Tab Bowland and Jeanne Alphin, score entry Brian and Kelli Alphin, photographer Keith Knotts, score runner Ian Waring and others who I have failed to mention



What's a four letter word for incompetent starting with a Z and ending in an O?



Owwww, now that was scary Chris!



Warbird: by Ed Kettler

Despite forecasts for strong winds (25-30 knots), we had a very strong turnout of 28 registered pilots and about a dozen other members and visitors. There was some great flying and the infield was full of awesome warbirds,

including two Do-335 Pfiels and two OV-10 Broncos. Surprisingly, there were no Mustangs at the event??!



The Texas Warbird Thunder Team tore up the skies, with our own Grant Schroeder sporting an F6F Hellcat that flew like it was on rails (well, he did confess to having gyros).



The field was in awesome shape, thanks to Ken Knotts and his loyal crew. Several visitors said it was the nicest field they have been too! Gary and Jeanne Alphin and Tab Bowland fed the hungry crew from the out of the shed to keep everything from blowing away. There were lots of “great burgers” comments, so thanks to the cooking team.



A Special Thank You to Robin Blakeney, and Mercy Kettler for their support with registration and raffle duties.

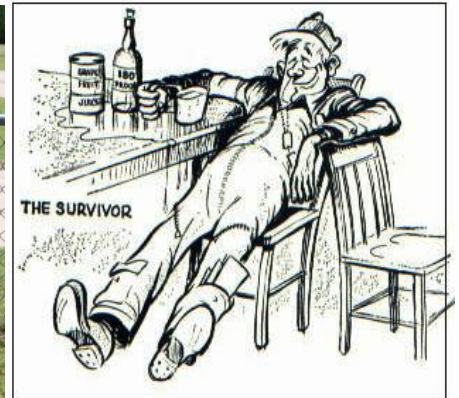


We had a lot of great prizes for the raffle, and I want to thank Joey at JT’s Hobby for helping us out. Our big raffle prize was an 86” A-1H Skyraider in AF Vietnam “sand and spinach” camo from Legend Hobby. Legend sent us lots of goodies for pilot handouts like hats, knives

and Remove Before Flight key rings. They are Texas based, and not only stock Seagull and other ARFs, but design their own planes. I will be spending money there soon! Ray Thompson went home with the very large box, despite several “helpful offers” from attendees.

Thanks to everybody who came out and made it a successful event!

Remember June 11-12 at North Dallas for Warbirds Over Texas!



It's not over till the paperwork is done

Finally, It's "Miller Time"





THUNDERBIRD 2021 CALENDAR

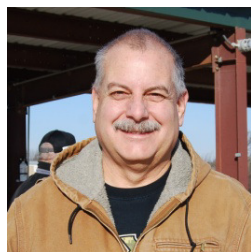
<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
11-12 June	Warbirds Over Dallas	Ed Kettler
19 June	SPA Contest	Frank Cox (Golden Triangle Field)
4 July	Independence Day	Club Officers
8 August	Float Fly	Mel Wells
October	Jet Fly	Tom Blakeney
October	Electric Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
23 October	SPA West Championship	Todd Blose (Waco)

WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG

POSITION	BOARD MEMBER	EMAIL
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Safety Officer	Bill Lake	safety@fwthunderbirds.org



Pres: James Meadows



VP: Rob Lowe



Sec: Mike Schroeder



Safety: Bill Lake



Treas: Chris Berardi

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Flying Field Rules

SPREAD SPECTRUM

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

Bobby Jack's Hobbies

As most of you probably know Bobby Sellers has passed away. I received the following Text message from a friend if anyone is interested in purchasing some RC equipment at good prices.

My friend Bobby Sellers has passed away.

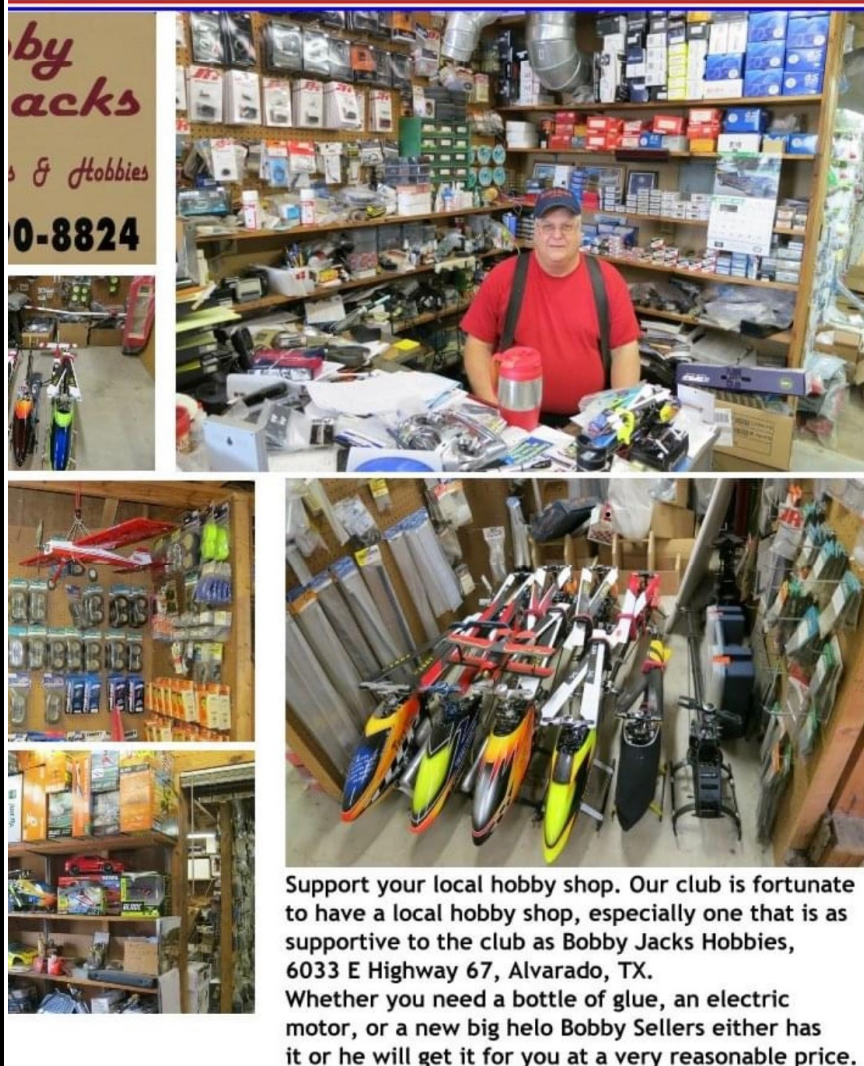
He owned BobbyJacks Hobbies in Alvarado, Tx.

The entire inventory will be sold over the next couple of weeks, There will be a sale this coming Friday, May 21 at 6033 East Highway 67 in Alvarado, Tx.

Everything will be discounted in price. The sale will start at 9:00 am.

This is a cash & carry sale, no checks or plastic.

No shipping, you must come, look & buy in person or send someone there to buy for you.



ADDITIONAL WARBIIRD PHOTOS





ADDITIONAL SPA PHOTOS

