



# Fort Worth Thunderbirds

Radio Control Association Inc.

## The Pilot's Log



Issue, 6305 May 2025

**Next club meeting: May Meeting is Cancelled due to Memorial Holiday**

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

No Report this month.

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

Hello Thunderbirds! How time is flying. We are cruising past the middle of May already. Temperatures are rising and we all need to remember to hydrate frequently and keep a watchful eye out for our local animal wildlife.

The SAE Aero Design 2024 event has come and gone. I have had nothing but positive comments from both Thunderbirds and SAE staff. I want to thank everyone that helped pull this event off. We can look forward to hosting again next year.

The Fort Worth Thunderbirds hosted students from Trinity Valley Middle Schools STEAM program. We provided the students with instruction in basic aircraft operation, safety, and provided them with the opportunity to fly an RC aircraft with an experienced instructor pilot. We were grateful to Reed Smith and Instructor Mrs. Cornelius for asking us to host Trinity Valley School.



In the meantime, mark your calendars for our upcoming events! Stay tuned for more updates and happy flying!

Mark

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

Thunderbird Meeting Minutes April 28, 2025

Meeting starts a little late due to technical problems, 7:15

Ron rang his bell to get everyone's attention. Mark called the meeting to order and asked if we had a quorum, which we did with thirty members in attendance.

## Old business

Ron talked a little about the past weekend swap meet. It was scheduled to start at nine but it was already crowded at seven with lots of deals. The parking lot was full and lots to buy. The club sold several estates of past club members who donated to the club. Ron has not counted the money, but it looks like it was very successful. Discussion about having more swap meets as some would like once a month, but it seems like the majority are leaning to doing twice a year. Nothing was voted on. Scott Hays mentioned once a quarter and talked about the many different ways the club could make money. Rent a place, rent out tables, two day event, other clubs are not doing it anymore. Lots to look into and discuss at the next meeting. Fred Neil says he has followers, 300 of them.

## Reports,

**Vice Presidents Report by Mark Johnson:** Not much to report but to remember that the SAE is this weekend and the 'Cubs N Cousins' fly-in is coming up in May.

**Treasurer's Report by Chris Bereadi:** Last month the club voted on adding another position on the board, a Field Manager. The constitution is being updated to add this position and will be up for review by club members when it's done. Chris showed us where there was a need to clean up the language in the constitution in a few areas and is working on it. There are hats for sale plus there is a new dark blue hat along with the standard red ones. Shirts are to be ordered if you want one please get with Chris. Checking and savings are in good standing.

Dave Williams is out and we do not have anyone to take up the Jet Fest at this time. Chris was looking for someone to do it but there are not any jet guys to take up the lead.

**Safety Report by Sam Corlett:** Sam wanted a show of hands to how many people had been nicked or cut by a prop. All but three held their hand up. We are not safe enough with that many getting cut.

**Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder:** Two new members were at their first meeting, Larry Moyer and Kelby Harvey. Welcome and glad to meet you.

## New Business

Mark Johnson gave a brief overview as to what to expect at the SAE event this weekend. Greg Cashion briefly talked about SAE safety and the no go zones that going to be fenced off with orange fence.

CPR Training is delayed due to the trainer breaking his arm and will not be able to train for a while. We will let you know when we are going to schedule again.

AMA and the FAA have raised our flying field ceiling height from 400 to 700. The letter will be posted on the website if it is needed.

Motion to close the meeting was made by Mark Johnson and second by Bill Lake. Show of hands the motion passes.

Meeting adjourns at 8:15

## **Thunderbird Members in Attendance**

Bill Lake	Tom Blakeney	Robert Solis	Wayne Lemkelde
Robin Blakeney	Woody Lake	Mel Wells	Larry Moyer
Terry Davis	Ken Knotts	Joyce Knotts	Mark Elhers
Mark Johnson	Kelby Harvey	Gary King	Steve Elhers
Bill Kunz	Rob Lowe	Scott Hays	Tab Bowland
Chris Berardi	Fred Neil	Ron Anderson	Mark Davenport
Roy Thottam	Sam Corlett	Glen Cashion	James Meadow
Nathan Blake	Richard Menifoe		

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

**No Report at this time.**

**2025 Membership count as of 03/20/2025.**

<b>Membership Type</b>	<b>Count</b>
Individual	118
Family	11
Associate	8
Life	16
Service & Gift	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>153</b>

**Safety: by Sam Corlett**

**Safety is No Accident!**

We have all seen or heard the slogan throughout our lives. No one seems to know who first used the phrase, but of course it is a catchy double entendre.

One meaning is that we define being safe in our endeavors by not having accidents. (The Oxford dictionary defines an accident as: an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury.)

The second meaning, which is normally the point of the slogan: safety doesn't happen by chance. Safety requires purposeful thought or design.

The organization I work for has espoused a Safety Management System (SMS) in a written order for incorporation in its organizations. Full scale aviation has adopted a form of the SMS and it generality includes 4 tenants:

- 1) Define Your Aviation Values and Personal Minimums
- 2) Stick to Your Personal Minimums
- 3) Update Your Operating Policies
- 4) Contribute to the Community

While these may not seem to translate directly to our modeling activities, there are takeaways. Know the limitations of your equipment and experience.

- 1) Don't get "suckered" into trying something to impress someone else.
- 2) Find what works for you and improve on it in all areas:
  - a. Flying
  - b. Ground Handling
  - c. Maintenance
- 3) Talk and share with other modelers and enjoy the experience of going to other modeling events.

A bad accident happened recently at the field. It shows that even when experienced modelers consider factors, we don't always go far enough. Electric motored aircraft have a completely new set of safety concerns! When doing any radio setup work, including gyro programming, the propeller must be removed. The club member involved in this accident was

extremely fortunate to not have suffered catastrophic blood loss, or serious nerve and tendon damage. Here is the description of what happened in his own words:

“I was setting up a Spektrum gyro using forward programming with a Spektrum NX10 for a friend. Forward programming can only be done with the receiver powered. When finished, I exited forward programming and the motor immediately came to life. The prop should have been removed, but wasn't.

Any time a pilot is working with forward programming, fail safe settings or any servo setting with the receiver powered, the prop **HAS TO BE REMOVED.**”

So remember the 3 D's: Don't do anything Dumb, Dangerous, or Different!

Sam Corlett

#### Field Manager: Rex Anderson

After recovering from SAE I wanted to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the members who stepped up to make the 2025 SAE East a true success. I have received nothing but positive comments about our support for the event. It was the way each of you saw something that needed to be done and without direction you stepped forward and got it done. I have received way too much credit for what all of you did. By making me look good you have made the club look exceptional in the eyes of many of the SAE and Lockheed sponsors.

Now, continuing with that can do, step up and do what needs to be done without hesitation attitude, yesterday we had an event at the field that could have ended in disaster. One of our pilots was gravely injured by a spinning propeller cutting deeply into his arm. Larry Moyer jumped into action. He stopped the bleeding, called for EMTs and made sure our pilot; his friend received everything he needed. Our pilot will have surgery this afternoon and I know we all wish him well for a speedy recovery.

**Safety First!** There will be those of us who will say, "I would never do that", right up until the time we do it. This should be a learning experience, a time to reflect on the times we have said its OK; this will just take a minute. A second is all it takes. Fly Safe!

Rex Anderson  
Thunderbird Field Manager

#### SAE





**Cubs ‘N’ Cousins Fly-in: By Mark Johnson**

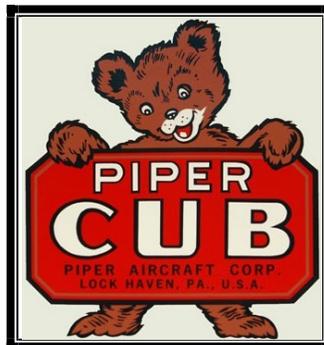
Thunderbird field hosted Cubs and Cousins on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>. We had 13 pilots registered for the event. Fewer than hoped but I think possible chance of bad weather may have kept some away. Jason Meadows took both the best of show and pilots choice awards for his yellow cub and blue and white cub. Mark Peterson took home the award for most distance traveled to attend the event.



Thanks to Rick Kraft and Bill Lake for their help with cooking hot dogs. The Johnson County Fliers canceled their fun fly due to the possibility of bad weather.

Following the Cubs and Cousins event, the Thunderbirds had the pleasure to host a Boy Scout Troop who is working on earning their Aviation Merit Badge. Ten Scouts took part and reported having lots of fun. A big thank you to Rex Anderson, our Chief Instructor, Sam Corlett and James Meadows, for giving the Scouts the opportunity to fly.

Mark Johnson





## 2025 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
June 28	Jet Jambore	Cancelled
July 4	July 4th Picnic	Club Officers
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*

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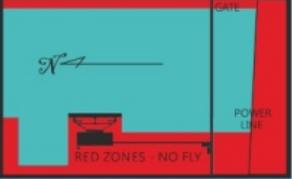
### Flying Field Rules



**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



# HUMOR



## Economy Class Seating

### **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)