



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



**Issue, 4489 November 2021**

**Next club meeting: November 21st, 2021, 3:00pm, Thunderbird Field**

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

Happy Thanksgiving Thunderbirds.

As we begin to close out the year 2021, and what a year it's been, I want to let you know that the Board is hard at work, putting together the details for the elections and the Holiday Party.

Looking back at 2021 we started the year with a modified Christmas extravaganza in January, only to freeze in February, and then flood in June. It wasn't all about the weather though.

We did manage with the help of some dedicated souls, to host successful Warbird, 4th of July Celebration, EDF/Turbine and Electric fun-fly events and a few Senior Pattern events. Additionally, we got the parking lot restriped; runway and pit areas painted, and assisted a Scout to complete the trail to Eagle Scout. We had well attended meetings despite the lack of a venue and some intense discussion, resulting in improvements to our safety program and fire protection measures. These are great achievements in a year that has been different. Perhaps the best thing about 2021 is that we did it together! So, I am extremely thankful to you for being a part of the Thunderbird family. I look forward to the New Year, and the adventures, changes and experiences we will share.

Hope you all have a safe and wonderful Holiday season, see you soon!

James

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

Hello Thunderbirds! Can you believe it is November already! Wow this year has flown by (pun intended!). I hope you have been able to get out and fly a lot this fall. We have had some amazing weather and are blessed to live in a place where we get to fly year 'round. I've been thinking recently about these and how thankful I am for all the things that make being a Thunderbird amazing.

We are blessed with likely the best field in the country - the result of great vision, leadership and a lot of hard work from our predecessors. I'm thankful to be part of your leadership team and work alongside a group of servant leaders who truly have the club and your best interest at heart. I'm also thankful for a club with so many members who are truly engaged in the club's activities. I think we have all been part of organizations where a very small group are the only ones making it all work. As Thunderbirds, we have so many folks in our club that not only participate in activities, but actively lead, organize and contribute. It truly makes it easier on all of us when each of you helps carry the load. I am truly thankful for each of

you and grateful to be a Thunderbird! I hope each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, get to spend time with family and friends and GET OUT TO FLY!

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

Rob

### October 2021 Meeting Minutes: by Mike Schroeder

Club meeting Monday October 25, 2021, 6:30 pm at the Thunderbird field

James tested the new sound system with a glass of water. Welcome to all and there were no new guest or members

#### Event Recap

1. Jet fly was a great success, Tom did a great job.
2. Electric Fly in is this coming Saturday October 30.
3. Warbirds over Dallas with tickets online.
4. Christmas party is first weekend on December 4 at the Botanical Gardens. More details to come.

#### Officers Reports

**Treasury Report by Chris Berardi:** Checking account and Savings account are in good standing. Membership is at 208. Renewal is January 1, 2022 and the gate lock will be changed to new lock. Please start looking to renewing your membership.

**Safety Report by Bill Lake:** Two incidents of fires this past month. Woody lost a plane on takeoff. Caught on fire and burned completely up on the runway. Tab was able to put the fire out with a fire extinguisher.

The second fire was a turbine that went in at the edge of the lake and caught on fire. Reed was able to deploy the water fire extinguisher to help the others put out the fire. Thanks to Gary for letting the officer board know so the equipment can be replaced and refilled.

Bill Lake had an incident where the wing came off one of his planes and not sure why, but probably pilot error. Be safe, Be smart

**Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder:** Motion from Tom to suspend the reading of the minutes and there was a second from Bill. A show of hands and it passed to not read the minutes.

**V.P. Report by Rob Lowe:** Nothing to report at this time.

#### Old Business

No update on the lease. Asked the CORPS about why the pot holes were not filled on the main road and waiting for reply. Asked why our gate was not painted yellow also and we were told that we can paint if it we want.

Pilot AMA card board and rules showing the open flying map might be need to be updated. There are houses at the south end by the power lines. Board will look into it.

## New Business

**Officer Election:** Bill Lake is retiring from Safety officer. Nominations are still being taken for remaining officer positions. Mel Wells and Sam Corlett have stepped up to run for Safety officer. Ballots will be emailed out in November.

Thunderbird of the year nominations are still being taken.

Thunderbird Life member nominations are still being taken.

**Electric Fly in October 30:** A \$20 dollar landing fee that includes lunch. Big raffle prize and tail gate swap meet.

**Rex Anderson:** Rex spoke about our newest pilot Hudson. Hudson donated several Home Depot gift cards to his instructors which were donated to the club. The Home Depot cards will go to buy yellow paint for the front entrance gate and extra material for repairs.

**Winter club meeting:** The board is looking for an indoor meeting location. Suggestions are welcomed.

## Show and Tell

Ed Kettler talked about the loss of his Messerschmitt ME 410 that went down and was stuck in a tree over the water. Ed waded out up to his neck to rescue the plane and realized that this was not a safe thing to do as he was so focused on retrieving the plane. Ed was able to locate the plane because of an onboard sound system that he could hear.

James and Jason Meadows showed Jason's F-18 Blue Angels plane that he has detailed out to match the real Blue Angels plane by cutting off the missiles for starters. Also applied a clear coat on the plane to bring out the details.

Ed Kettler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Rex Anderson. Show of hands and the motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

### **Thunderbird Members in Attendance**

James Meadow	Jason Meadow	Bill Lake	Chris Berardi
Sam Corlett	Woody Lake	Chip Kiehlbauch	Ken Knotts
Tab Bowland	Peter Lucas	Johnny Hunt	Phil Dunlap
Mel Wells	Ed Kettler	Mike Schroeder	Steven Car
Ian Warring	Rex Anderson	Mark Elhers	Tom Blakeney
Zeke Bowden	Kenneth Killgor	Rob Lowe	

## From the Treasury: *by Chris Berardi*

### **Christmas Party 2021**

Ready to party like it's ~~1999~~ 2021? You read it right; we are indeed going to have a Christmas Party this year. That said, there will be some differences to account for various factors including COVID and cost.

- ★ No alcohol
- ★ 75 person maximum attendance
- ★ Higher ticket cost
- ★ Fewer door prizes

## **Where and When**

**Our event will be held Saturday, December 4th at:**

**Fort Worth Botanic Garden  
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107**

**The party will begin at 6pm when we will collect your tickets and you find your seat. If everything moves along we should be ready to eat between 6:30pm and 7:00pm.**

## **Tickets**

**An opportunity to purchase tickets will be sent on or about Sunday, 21st November. The ticketing is all self-serve via a ticketing portal: You will need to bring your ticket to the event (on your phone or paper based). If you plan on attending respond promptly as we can only allow 75 attendees. Tickets will cost \$20-\$25 per person depending on the caterer's bid. This caterer and menu is currently being evaluated by the board. Yes, it will be catered meal - you won't need to bring your own food. A provision has been added for vegetarian needs also.**

## **Event Activities**

**As usual, the party is also our last club meeting of the year. We'll cover some existing and noteworthy business before diving into details of the 2022 board members, Thunderbird of the Year and other awards and commentary.**

**Of course, we are having door prizes though scaled back from what we have done in previous years. Nevertheless, there will be lucky members and the prizes will be relatively high value (i.e., fun!).**

**I know I'm going to attend - I've got some idea of the menu and don't want to miss it! I hope you do too.**

## **Voting 2021**

**For this year, only one board member position is yet to be determined. Most board members have volunteered to remain an additional year as there were no nominations by the membership at large for any position other than Safety Coordinator. At the October club meeting, nominations were put forth for two candidates: Samuel (Sam) Corlett and Melvin (Mel) Wells. Therefore, voting will be scheduled to determine who will fill that board member position. Expect a secure email link to the voting booth sent to all Individual members by Saturday, 20th November.**

## **A 30 Year Snippet of Club History**

**I thought you might be interested in looking at a list of key personnel over the course of 30 years. We actually have this data going back another 10+ years but it is missing data with earlier years being the worst. That's to be expected because back then, everything was on paper and the club maintained most of that in a storage building owned by Benbrook. That storage shed fell into disrepair and subsequently burnt to the ground.**

**On one occasion somewhere around 2000, I went into the storage to take a look around. Most everything at that point was water damaged and covered in animal droppings, dead creatures of all kinds and worse. It was unrecoverable and I lamented the fact that our history was being lost. Things are a lot better now with most everything being in an electronic format; however, as you can imagine that is not without problems either. Not the least of which is ever changing hardware standards, software and licensing, and you can still lose data in more inventive ways though not entirely of your own deliberate creation.**

**Anyway, have a poke around at our history and if you remember something from our distant past, be sure to let the board know so that we can update our records.**

Year	President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Newsletter Editor	Safety Officer	Thunderbird of The Year	Web Master
1990	Ronnie Morrison	Eddie Frazier	Ed Barnard	Paul Sandoval	Steve Mottin / Johnson	N/A	Paul Sandoval	
1991	Eddie Frazier	Jeff Powell	Randy Scroggins	Roger Spencer/Mike Hicks	Helmer Johnson	N/A	Helmer & Jane Johnson	
1992	Jeff Powell	Randy Scroggins	Steve Mottin/ Mike Hicks	Mike Hicks	Helmer Johnson	N/A	Travis Berry	
1993	Charles Lapinski	Ernie Harwood	Mike Hicks	Mike Hicks	Johnson / Osborn	N/A	Ernie Harwood	
1994	Jeff Powell	Jimmy Mackey	David Darcy/Mike Hicks	Woody Lake	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Chuck McLeroy	
1995	Jimmy Mackey	Kirk Wicklund	Keith Miller	Woody Lake	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Charles Osborn	
1996	Jimmy Mackey	Kirk Wicklund	Keith Miller	Woody Lake	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Charles Osborn	
1997	John Rickles	Kirk Wicklund	David Shoemaker	Woody Lake	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Mike & Robin Hicks	
1998	John Rickles	Kirk Wicklund	David Shoemaker	Woody Lake	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Woody Lake	
1999	John Rickles	Dean Smith	Joe Jusko	Andy Corso	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Roger Cirelli/Chuck McLeroy	
2000	Will Campbell	Chris Berardi	Joe Jusko	Andy Corso	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Will Campbell	
2001	Chris Berardi	Dick Miller/Neil Lyle	Joe Jusko	Andy Corso	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Neil Lyle	Chris Berardi
2002	Chris Berardi	Neil Lyle	Woody Lake	Fitz Walker	Charles & Shirley Osborn	N/A	Neil Lyle	Chris Berardi
2003	Ray Thompson	Larry Carter	Monty Smith	Glenn Pannell	Chris Berardi	N/A	Chris Berardi	Chris Berardi
2004	Dave Dingman	Justin Moore	Monty Smith	Oscar Slaughter	Chris Berardi/Toyse Woody	Woody Lake	Woody Lake	Chris Berardi
2005	Dave Dingman	Will Campbell	Monty Smith	Glenn Pannell	Chris Berardi	Woody Lake	Dave Dingman	Chris Berardi/Toyse Woody
2006	Will Campbell	Justin Moore	Lori Campbell	Oscar Slaughter	Woody Lake	Claude Barnes	Bob Bishop	Justin Moore/Joe Jopling
2007	Will Campbell	Len Minco	Lori Campbell	Oscar Slaughter	Woody Lake	James Brown	Len Minco	Joe Jopling
2008	Will Campbell	Len Minco	Jason Skrasek/Ken Knotts	Bob Hoover	Woody Lake	Gary Alphin	Joe Jopling	Ray Cervantes
2009	Will Campbell	Len Minco	Ken Knotts	Bob Hoover	Woody Lake	Gary Alphin	Bob Hoover	Brian Alphin
2010	Dave Dingman	Gary Alphin	Ken Knotts	Bob Hoover	Woody Lake	Gary Alphin	Ken Knotts/Gary Alphin	Brian Alphin
2011	Dave Dingman	Gary Alphin	Ken Knotts	Bob Hoover	Woody Lake	Jimmy Newton	Joe Jopling	Brian Alphin
2012	Ken Knotts	Will Campbell	Gene Hodges	Gary Alphin	Woody Lake	Jimmy Newton	Ken Knotts	Brian Alphin
2013	Ken Knotts	Will Campbell	Tab Bowland	Gary Alphin	Woody Lake	Jimmy Newton	Ian Waring	Joe Jopling
2014	Gary Rife	Tom Blakeney	Tab Bowland	Gary Alphin	Woody Lake	Steve Ehlers	Ken Knotts/Tab Bowland	Joe Jopling
2015	Tom Blakeney	Verne "Sarge" Bell	Tab Bowland	Chris Berardi	Woody Lake	Mel Wells	Tab Bowland	Ken Knotts
2016	James Meadows	Gary Cummings	William "Bill" Lake	Chris Berardi	Woody Lake	Mel Wells	Ken Knotts	Ken Knotts
2017	James Meadows	Gary Cummings	William "Bill" Lake	Chris Berardi	Woody Lake	Mel Wells	William "Bill" Lake	Ken Knotts
2018	James Meadows	Rob Lowe	Mike Schroeder	Chris Berardi	Woody Lake	Ed Kettler	James Meadows	Ken Knotts
2019	James Meadows	Rob Lowe	Mike Schroeder	Chris Berardi	Woody Lake	Ed Kettler	Rex Anderson	Ken Knotts
2020	James Meadows	Rob Lowe	Mike Schroeder	Chris Berardi	Woody Lake	Ed Kettler	Not Awarded	Ken Knotts
2021	James Meadows	Rob Lowe	Mike Schroeder	Chris Berardi	Woody Lake	Bill Lake	TBD	Ken Knotts

Membership Type	Count
Individual	182
Family	9
Associate	9
Life	14
Service & Gift	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>216</b>

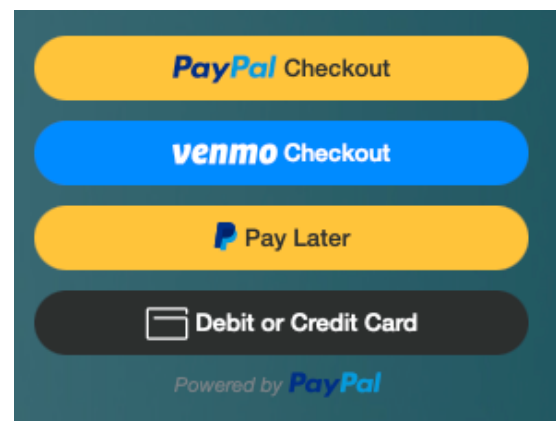
## 2022 Membership Renewals: By Chris Berardi

It's that time again....

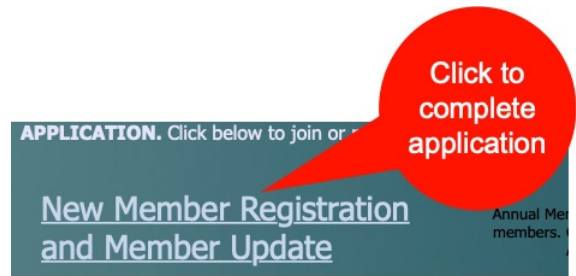
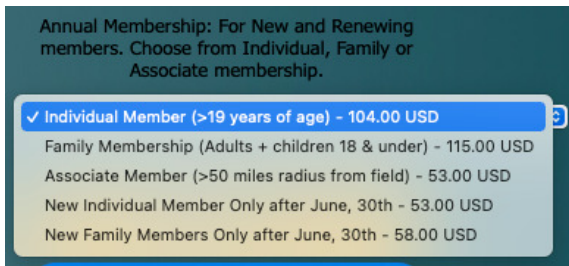
Like death and taxes, annual dues are once again - due! Nothing like a little redundancy to begin a paragraph, is there? Not much has changed in the overall process but I would like to point out a few things that are important for you to know.

Most definitely the preferred payment method is via PayPal. Yes, you can certainly send me a check in the mail and fill out the application form online; my address is on the Membership page of our web site.

This year we have been able to add Venmo to the checkout process. Members have asked for that in the past because they thought it had lower fees than PayPal. This isn't true because PayPal owns Venmo. Nevertheless, you can now choose Venmo over PayPal if you desire.



You'll see that we have updated the membership descriptions for the checkout items. In addition, the dollar amounts have increased slightly to account for the new fee structure PayPal imposes on transactions.



Lastly, and most importantly - regardless of whether you are new or renewing, please complete an application form! Each year, a dozen memberships get delayed, keys are lost in the mail, emails bounced because of information changes. Please fill out all parts, indicate your desire to receive club emails, your turbine waiver status and so forth. This really helps to update our records and keep you in the loop.

### What About My Key?

You can send in your 2022 renewals now. Keys will start going out in the mail the first week of December. This allows me economy of scale with respect to the time needed to get things packaged. I already have the locks and keys for 2022 and the new club decals (stickers) will arrive on November 24th. As always, feel free to reach out to me or one of the officers if something seems amiss.

That's about it and with your continuing support and that of our Corps of Engineers and other community partners, we'll have another great year. Thank you!

### Safety article for newsletter: by Bill Lake

#### THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM

If you have taken the time to read any of my monthly safety articles, you might recall discussions on pre-flighting your airplane before EACH flight and thoughts on how to dust off your airplane after a long layover. This dissertation addresses a similar topic and that is what should you do when you have a survivable mishap? It might be as simple as a hard ground loop on takeoff, or a "solid" carrier landing or an unintended engine out landing. What they all have in common is that: something went awry; the airplane survived to fly another day; and you are going to trouble shoot what caused it. Maybe it was too much or too little rudder on takeoff roll. Maybe it was too lean a fuel mixture. Or maybe it was wind shear, stall or a misjudged flare.

The question comes down to this ... how much post-flight inspection or root-cause analysis should you do and how much do you do? Here is a recent situation to emphasize my point that maybe a little more analysis would have been warranted.

The airplane was readied for flight. It was a beautiful day at Thunderbird Field. Two minutes into the flight, the engine quit. Rather unusual for an electric motor, but a dead-stick landing was obviously the next maneuver. Fortunately, the pilot practices frequently for this potential eventuality and it showed. Post landing, an inspection quickly identified the problem. Due to a little inattention, inadequate preflight preparation, or some other distraction, the two batteries powering the motor were improperly secured in the fuselage. During the flight, they wrestled free of the binding and moved about inside the fuselage enough to disconnect. A separate battery powering the receiver and flight controls saved the day.

So, what was the corrective action? An easy fix ... reattach fresh batteries properly and re-fly the sortie. During the subsequent flight in a maneuver requiring positive G loads (as most do), the airplane failed to respond to pilot inputs. The result was a near total loss of a beautiful flying machine upon ground impact. Post-mortem analysis concluded it was most likely that the earlier movement of the unrestrained batteries had shifted into either the receiver or (most likely) the flight control



battery during the previous mishap, loosening the electric connection enough to permit continuity until in flight G loads severed the connection enough to cause complete flight control failure.

Lesson learned? Absolutely! Disheartening? Darn right. Several careless mistakes resulted in the loss of a beautiful

flying machine and not just a little pilot pride. We have all been there. So, take some extra time and attention to detail after an anomaly takes place and ensure there are not additional unintended consequences from that hard landing or unusual flight control activity. The first observation may not be the only after effect. Haste makes waste and the airplane you save, may be yours to fly again.

Texas Electric Expo TEX October 2020





## Members' Airplanes

The following photos are compliments of Ron Shue. Ron is a close friend of Bill Lake and was at our field last Thursday getting these amazing shots. The old adage is true, "a picture is worth a thousand words".



### Newsletter Request: by Woody

Greetings Thunderbirds I'm requesting members submit any articles, photos, etc, you would like to see in our newsletter. I find that after all my years in this position I may be getting tunnel vision on subjects and would like to solicit your items of interest to diversify content. Any and all aviation related articles/photos are welcome.

Appreciate your help.

Woody





# 2021 CALENDAR

DATE

EVENT

POINT OF CONTACT

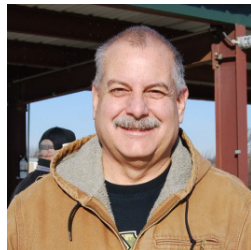
December 4th

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	Bill Lake	safetyofficer@fwthunderbirds.org



*Pres: James Meadows*

*VP: Rob Lowe*

*Sec: Mike Schroeder*

*Safety: Bill Lake*

*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

← SPREAD SPECTRUM →																																			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	53.0	53.1	53.2	53.3	53.4	53.5	53.6	53.7	53.8	53.9	

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)

**FW THUNDERBIRDS  
2021 PROJECT LIST  
8/15/2021 10:19 AM**

Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	Shed Update	Cross Ventilation fan	Contract	?			Suggest to member ship for Purchase Purchase
2	Additional Storage AREA	Utilize Cargo container	self/contract	?			Would it require Lease mod?
3	endcaps on pit shelters	utilizing rollup doors that can be pulled down when needed	Self /Contract	?			Committee
4	FANS	Install Fans in pit area	self help	?			
5	Update Freq Board	Uodate signage a use or Freq. board		?			condsier policy revision to allow members to wear in lanyard
6	Grass fire Extinguisher	extinguisher for grass fire, storage, security,		\$500			Eagle Scout project Set for Sept 4,2021
7	Meeting Location	Need a place to meet	Self Help	?			Need to locate a meeting venue, to host general club meeting
8	Toilet	Real Toilet	Contract	?			require Corp approval
9	Helicopter Pit Area	Pit area for Heli Area	?	?			Provide sneter area in the Heli area to match fixed wing Pits, Will utilize the parking area that is in the current lease



## Events



### **Christmas Party December 4<sup>th</sup> - 6: pm**

**Fort Worth Botanic Garden  
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107**