



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



## Issue 6111 - November 2023

**Next club meeting: November 27th - 7 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road**

### Presidents Corner: *by James Meadows*

Greetings Thunderbirds,

Hard to believe that November is already here and December is just around the corner! The weather has been a tough foe this year. It's been extremely hot or excessively wet. Our Holiday celebration was rained out and we are looking at a tentative date of 2 December as the makeup date. More to come as we try and get that coordinated. Also in the future are elections of the club officers or board member. At the last club meeting, each of the current board accepted nomination to continue in their current roles. Selection of Thunderbird of the year is also underway!

For 2024 we will kick off things with our annual Black-eyed Pea event. It's always a good time and hopefully will start 2024 off with positive weather!

Thank to each of you for your continued support of the thunderbirds. I hope that you enjoy the thanksgiving holiday!  
James

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

Hello Thunderbirds! Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you've had a chance to fly in between the rainy days. We sure need the moisture!

No updates on our FRIA application. AMA continues to work with FAA and has asked a couple clarifying questions of us, but nothing official back yet. We will keep everyone posted as we get more.

Please see James' info above for updates on a number of subjects. I want to "foot-stomp" his message on the officers and elections. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please let any of us know. Your current leadership team has agreed to stay on if no one else runs for those positions. However it is a great opportunity for you to help the club and lend a hand.

Here's my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds! I hope to see you at the field soon!  
Rob

### Secretaries Corner: *by Mike Schroeder*

October 23, 2023 Thunderbird Meeting Minutes by Mike Schroeder

Meeting starts at 7:00

James Welcomes everyone and asked if there are any guest, new members or someone's first meeting. None at this time

## Updates

**Club Party:** Chris talked about club party and went over the cater menu, show of hands what to order. Toy drive, one toy gets one meal ticket, only one meal ticket per family member. Toys are to benefit Cook Children's Hospital where they try to have a toy for each patient on Christmas Day. There will be a Swap meet also, so bring items you want to get rid of or some cash to buy that item that you really need.

An email will go out with more detail, just watching the weather right now as we might have to push back due to rain.

**Electric Expo:** CD Tom Blakeney. November 4, Lots of great raffle items and Pilot prizes. Starts at 9:00 with pilot and safety briefing. There will also be a Tailgate Swap Meet in the parking lot. So bring something to sell or some cash to buy what you need.

## Reports

**Safety Report** by Sam Corlett: Sam gave a presentation on risks

The hobby— sport we are in have risks that need to be managed. Things that go wrong, what can go wrong you say?

1. Identify the hazards. Assess the risk, Remove the risk.
2. Implement Controls. How serious is the risk and address the risk, training and new check list, Communication. What's the worst that can happen?
3. What am I doing to prevent the risk? "Knock it off" phrase. Makes people stop and think about what the risk is.
4. AMA Safety coded Club Rules are on the frequency board at the field and are worth the time to read.
5. Everyone is a Safety Officer when at the field. See something say something.

**Treasurers Report** by Chris Berardi: Starting to set up for 2024 membership's renewals. Ordering new gate lock keys and typing up renewal letter. No big bills this moment, checking and savings in good standing.

**Nomination for Thunderbird of the year.** Please send to Chris or a board member. One person was nominated at the club meeting.

Several things to be raffled off at the Club party.

**Secretary Report** by Mike Schroder: Pete Lucas made a motion to not read the minutes, Second by Dave Williams. Show of hands all approved except for one. I'm watching you.

**VP Report** by Rob Lowe: Rob is still working on getting the FRIAR approved. Right now it is on standby as the FAA has extended the deadline by six weeks. We expect to all be done in that time frame.

**Show and Tell:** Nothing at this time as we are trying to speed up so we can all go watch the Rangers smear the Astros.

**Thursday Training** by Rex Anderson: Training is now over for this year. Rex has offered if anyone wants meet up for some training he is open to scheduling a time to meet at the field. Please email or call Rex to set up a day and time.

**Project List** is still ongoing. If there is anything that you would like to talk about adding to the list please get with James.

## Officer Nominations

That time of the year again to nominate club members to run for an officer position. All present officers were nominated to run again. If anyone wants to volunteer their time please run.

Ken Knotts nominated James Meadow for President and James accepted the nomination

Rob Lowe nominated by Tab Bowland and Rob will accept when back in town

Chris Berardi nominated by Mark Johnson and Chris accepted

Sam Corlett nominated by Pete Lucas and Sam accepted

Mike Schroeder nominated by Fred Neil and Mike accepted

**Trinity Valley School Youth Fly** Reed Smith: Reed filled us in on what he has been doing at his school TVS. Reed has been leading a flying class at school and the school would like to do a field trip out to the Thunderbird field. Should be ten to twelve seven and eight graders coming out to the field November 8th from 12:30 to 2:30. Rex Anderson is going to be in charge of buddy box training of the students. Chris, Sam Rex and Ken have said they will be there to help out.

Ken Knotts made the motion to end the meeting  
 Tom Blakeney 2<sup>nd</sup>, Show of hands the motion passes.  
 Meeting adjourns 8:05. Off to see the Rangers smoke the Astros

**Thunderbird Members in Attendance**

<b>Ken Knotts</b>	<b>Tab Bowland</b>	<b>Mel Wells</b>	<b>Woody Lake</b>
<b>Kenneth Killgo</b>	<b>Terry Davis</b>	<b>Mark Johnson</b>	<b>Pete Lucas</b>
<b>Dave Williams</b>	<b>Chris Berardi</b>	<b>Johnny Hunt</b>	<b>Rick Craft</b>
<b>Melvin Bowser</b>	<b>Sam Corlett</b>	<b>Chip Kiehlbauch</b>	<b>Chester Shaw</b>
<b>Randall Shaw</b>	<b>James Meadow</b>	<b>Scott Ayes</b>	<b>Fred Neil</b>
<b>Tom Blakeney</b>	<b>Reed Smith</b>	<b>Rex Anderson</b>	<b>Mike Schroeder</b>

**From the Treasury: *By Chris Berardi***

Here is our latest membership count as of 09/19/2023.

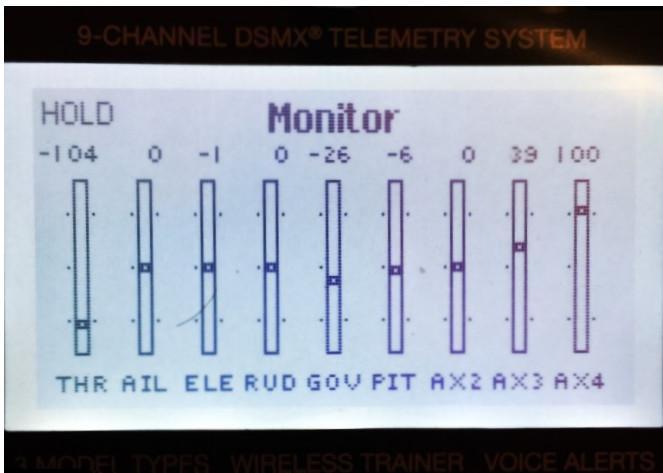
<b>Membership Type</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>Individual</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Associate</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Life</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Service &amp; Gift</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>205</b>

**Safety Officer submission: *by Sam Corlett***

I've recently seen a few RC crashes and a couple of near crashes due to radio issues. Luckily, now days we don't have the problems we faced 30 years ago with interference, frequency congestion, monitoring, or bad reception. The RF link to our models is normally very good. However, we have some new issues to deal with. I still see problems with batteries, servos, and connections of course. Today, our systems have much greater capabilities and options. But with that

complexity, we now have more issues caused by improper setups, both of transmitters and receivers.

One of the tools that I rely on first thing when someone asks me to look at a setup is the channel monitor. I think almost every computer radio now has this function. I especially like when you can see all channels at once like in this Spektrum radio:



This allows me to check to see that all controls are set to function as expected, not only with the primary sticks, but with all switches. How things change with switch positions, what switches are tied to what channels and by holding the sticks in the corners, what dual rates are on what controls. If the setup is complex with more than one channel for a single function (multiple elevator or aileron servos, for example), is the mixing

working properly? If the sub-trim needs adjusting, what channel is the 3<sup>rd</sup> aileron on the left side? Does the trim function work properly on all channels? Does flipping a switch inadvertently turn on or off some mix that changes a servo position unexpectedly? Does a flight mode switch actually change a particular channel in a way that is expected to notify the receiver or gyro? Just looking through this screen can verify a lot of issues. Does throttle hold or kill function as expected?

Obviously, these issues especially arise when setting up a new model or “re-setting” an older one. Often, I like to copy a similar model to a new setting when making a model’s initial setup. Here we need to be very careful to make sure everything is doing what we want it to, and *only* what we want it to.

If we’re thorough, using the output monitor can allow us to do a good job on the initial setup, even before we turn on the receiver!

I wish you a Merry Christmas and safe flying!

Sam Corlett

## Electric Fly-in

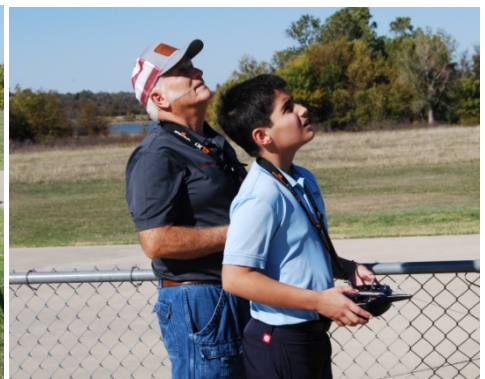






## Trinity Valley Training Session

Reed arrived at the flying field with the Trinity Valley students in tow. Following introductions a brief intro to our field's flying safety rules and some transmitter familiarization. Then off to the flight simulator for pilot/aircraft visual situation awareness training. Students were then coupled with an instructor getting final instructions before flight. Students had opportunities for hands on flying under the guidance of the instructors. Alas only one minor mishap. All in all it was an enjoyable fun day of flying. The students had a good time as well.







## 2023 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
December 2	Christmas Party/ Christmas Toy Drive	
January 1 2024	Black Eye Pea Fly-in	

[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	Sam Corlett	safetyofficer@fwthunderbirds.org




*Pres: James Meadows VP: Rob Lowe Sec: Mike Schroeder Safety: Sam Corlett 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



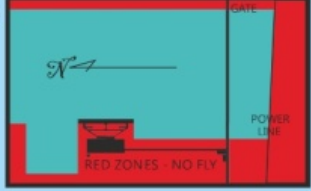
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35      00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09

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:

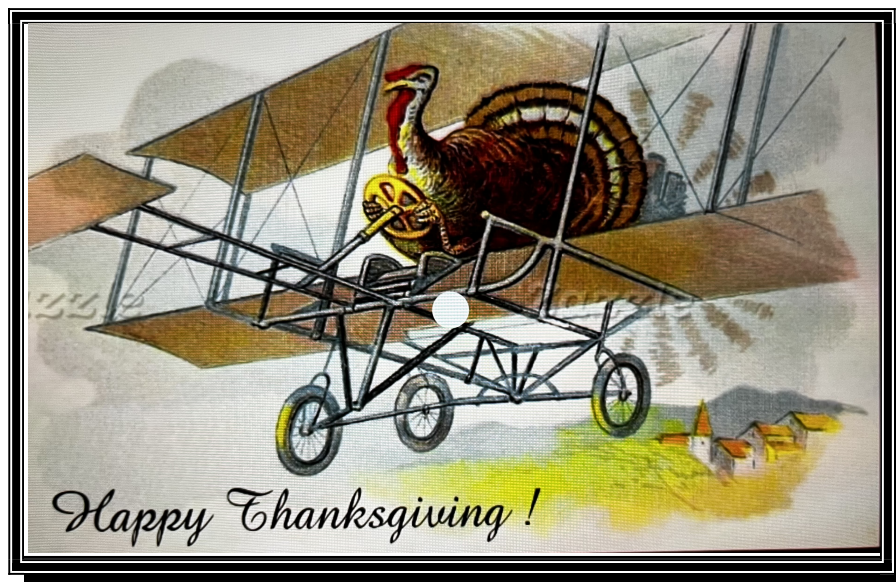
- I will not fly a model aircraft in a careless or reckless manner.
- I will not interfere with and will yield the right of way to all human-carrying aircraft using AMA's *See and Avoid Guidance* and a spotter when appropriate.
- I will not operate any model aircraft while I am under the influence of 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  
2022 PROJECT LIST  
3/19/2023 12:42 PM

Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	Update Freq Board	Update signage a use or Freq. board	self	\$100.00	BOARD	AWAITING ACTION	Setting up Membership Action Committee
2	Lost Aircraft Security	Provide a means to secure lost aircraft Found and returned	self	\$100.00	MEADOWS	researching need and solution	OC
3	Starting Stakes for big birds	Post for retaining Large A/C at starting area	self		Grant Schroeder		Awaiting information
4	Additional Storage AREA	Utilize Cargo container	self/contract	\$20,000.00	Chris	Hold	Would it require Lease mod?
5	Weather Station	complete with camera and Data port	Self	\$?	Chris/Mike	Discussion	Allow member or guest to see and look at actual Field conditions
6	Additional Bleachers	Provide addition guest seating for events and competitions	Self	\$?	Not assigned	Discussion	need to assign to POC
7	Members Walkway	Personal engraved brick pathway from Pit area to Flaggpole	Everyone		meadows	Discussion	Membership due details
8	Toilet	Real Toilet	combo	?	Meadows	Discussion	
9	RUNWAY	Paint lines of runway/taiways	contract	2000	Mike	completed	Completed
10	Helicopter Pit Area	Pit area for Heli Area	self		Mike/SAM	completed	90% awaiting Electrical completion



***Wishing all a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving.***

***From your club officers and staff***

***FYI: Macy's is having a sale on Stretchy Pants***