



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



Issue, 6311 November 2025

Next club meeting: November 24th - 7:00 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

President's Desk *by Ron Anderson*

It is hard to believe the calendar year is rapidly coming to a close. We have finally received the cooler weather we have been looking forward to. It has been a while since we needed to think about dressing in layers.

A huge THANK YOU to Tom and Robyn for hosting the TEX eXpo event. Augmented by the culinary expertise of Wayne and Tab, the event was exceptional with a large turnout, lots of good flying, good weather, and the always delectable T-burgers .

Toys for Cook Children's Hospital will be collected at the November meeting. Only new toys please. Your generosity will put a smile on the face of children confined to a hospital during the holidays.

The calendar of events is coming together and it looks like we might have a lot going on this coming year. We still need a CD for a turbine event in June and a CD for an IMAC event. Ideas alone don't get the job done. We need volunteer(s) to put the events together. If you are a turbine guy this is your time to step up and put on a show. "The hard work of a few for the enjoyment of many."

A few foot stompers on the topic of safety. Safety rules are not always to our individual liking but they are built on past mistakes. They are about you as a pilot and a person and the safety of others. I once heard someone say that integrity is defined as "Doing the right thing even when no one is looking". Injuries result from carelessness, equipment failures, and unfortunately, too often, a failure to comply. Willful violations will not be tolerated. It is not about convenience. It is about compliance and mishap prevention.

- Pay attention to your loose clothing and neck straps
- No arming of airplanes in the pit area with propellers installed
- No power taxiing until out in the arming area – NO EXCEPTIONS
- Worth repeating -- keep everything away from spinning propellers

2026 Officer Selection is upon us and the results will be announced in December. A special note of appreciation to all who stepped up to run for office.

The next club meeting will be 7 PM, Monday, November 24th, at CERA on Bryant Irving.

Vice President's Corner: by Mark Johnson

November is here and it is a month to be thankful!

Greetings Thunderbirds, it is hard to believe that November is already here, and December is just around the corner! Remember November is a month to be thankful. Take the opportunity to donate a new toy to our annual Cooks toy drive.

Also, the election of club officers and board members in the works. The office of President, Vice President and Safety officer are on the ballot. The board is currently engaged in the process of selecting the Thunderbird of the Year for 2025.

We will kick off 2025 with our annual Black-eyed fun fly, Bring your dish of black-eyed peas or side dish. Get in your first flight of the year and enjoy fun and fellowship to bring in the New Year.

Secretary's Corner: by Mike Schroeder

Thunderbird Meeting at CERA October 27, 2025

Meeting starts at 7:01. Ron calls the meeting to order by ringing his desk bell. Welcomes everyone and asked if there are any new members or visitors. A guest that will be a new member attending was Dereck Kneeland who is the drone FAA Part 107 high school teacher at Crowley. Norm Robinson old member getting back into the hobby. Also Dylan Napier long time member rejoining and Jason Mitchel who is the Golden Triangle RC club president. Golden Triangle is in the process of rebuilding and updating their place.

It was mentioned that there is an area at the park by the boat ramps that could be used for RC boats. If you go over to that side of Mustang Park you will have to buy a park pass since it's not part of Thunderbird Field.

Reports

Vice President Report Mark Johnson: Mark talked about how to care for your batteries and that the RED CANS of sand are not for batteries disposal. The red buckets of sand are for putting out fires. Please take your bad batteries and discard the batteries at your home.

Safety Report Sam Corlett: Nothing new to report here but did want to talk about a GSW pilot. The pilot was starting a DLE 120 with a carbon fiber prop and cut three fingers really bad. Thank goodness that there was another pilot there to take him to the hospital. The three D's are "Don't do anything Dumb, Dangerous, Different" and it might save you from hurting yourself.

Treasury Report by Chris Berardi: There has been no new membership as all are waiting until January 1 as we do not prorate membership this late in the year. Be prepared to start renewal coming up in December. January 1 you can renew at the New Years day fly. The gate lock will be changed out New Years Day and you will need the new key to get in. Porta Can service has been an ongoing issue. Chris talks to the rep every time the can has not been cleaned and we get credit. Supposed to be cleaned on Wednesday.

We bought twelve new pit tables to replace the ones we had. Rex was able to get a very nice price as the tables were reduced because of the season.

Checking and savings are in good standing.

T.E.X. eXpo report by Tom Blakeney: The electric fly 28 pilots for the day with some very great raffles. After food expenses the electric fly netted \$1047 which was given to Chris to deposit. Thanks to Rex for the set up and to Tab and Wayne for cooking. Perfect weather for the event and the rain held off until Tom left.

Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder: Minutes are in the newsletter for everyone to read. Nothing new to Report at this time.

Just a reminder we will be collecting toys for Cook Children's Hospital at the next meeting.

Field Report by Rex Anderson: Take you bad batteries home to dispose. You can take them to Home Depot or Lowes for dispose of too. The RED CANS of Sand are for putting out fires.

Thursday Training night is over until next year.

Next Year's Events Schedule

<u>Event</u>	<u>CD</u>	<u>Month</u>
Black eye Pea	Board Members	January 1
Cub & Cousins	Mark Johnson	April 4
SAE	Thunderbird Club	April 16 thru 19
War Bird	Grant Schroeder	May 16
Turbine	?? Need a CD	June
July 4th	Board Members	July 4th
Float Fly	Chris Berardi	August 15
EDF Jet	Scott Hayes	September
T.E.X eXpo	Tom Blakeney	October 3
Members Day	Board Members	October 17
IMAC	Need a CD	

GSW is holding the American Ace Academy competition sponsored by American Airlines Foundation. This is mainly high school students that compete on many different ways. There is seven of these Ace Academics in the DFW area. Might be a good match with Derick who is teaching the Crowley High school drone class.

Upcoming officers nominations are open for positions on the board. Feel free to nominate yourself or anyone else. Sam will be retiring from the position of Safety officer this year.

Nomination for Club Officers

President: Ron Anderson and Scott Hays
Vice President: Mark Johnson and Kraig Rodgers
Treasurer: Chris Berardi
Safety Officer: Fred Neal and Derick Gregory
Secretary: Mike Schroeder and Robert Solis

A question was asked to where the safety committee was regarding the adding of language for the removal of props in the Pitts area. Sam was going to look into it why and the committee and would have something at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Tom Blakeney to end the meeting, second by Glen Cashion. Show of hands the meeting is adjourned at 7:55

Members in attendance

Mark Johnson
Glenn Cashion
Tom Blakeney
Fred Neal
Norm Robinson
Sam King
Jason Mitchell
Sam Corlett

Woody Lake
Ian Waring
Robin Blakeney
Johnny Hunt
Rex Anderson
Kraig Rodgers
Larry Moyer
Mike Schroeder

Bill Lake
Derick Kneeland
Dylan Napier
Scott Hays
Ron Anderson
Derek Gregory
Chris Berardi

Mel Wells
Rick Kraft
Robert Solis
Allen Trefger
Gary King
Rob Lowe
Melvin Bowser

From the Treasury *by Chris Berardi*

November Club Meeting

We will be holding the November club meeting at CERA on *Monday, November 24th*. This will most likely be the last meeting of 2025 as I don't suppose many people would show up for our regular 4th Monday of the month get together which would occur the week of Christmas on December 22nd. The decision hasn't been made yet but I'm sure we will hear about it shortly.

Cook Children's

Just a reminder that the Thunderbirds are collecting toys for Cook Children's. You can bring your donation to the November club meet, or contact our secretary, Mike Schroeder if you can't make the meeting. The details are posted on the web site, but in a nutshell, the toys must be new, unwrapped, toddler through 17 years of age. It is recommended that the toys not include footballs, bats and so forth; I get the impression that outdoor type gifts are not as beneficial to hospitalized kids.

Up Next

When we get to Thanksgiving it seems to me that the remainder of the year passes in a blur. Perhaps it is the entire make ready holiday activities, or the shorter days, or the cooler and wetter weekends that corral us indoors in front of the television. Fortunately, there are some excellent shows to watch; I'm partial to the documentaries of our past presidents, independence and civil war periods. I am eagerly awaiting the new Ken Burns special on the American Revolution. Deliberately timed, no doubt, as a precursor to our nation's 250th birthday next July.

Have you checked out "Aeroverse?" This is an all aviation video channel. You can download the Aeroverse app for Apple TV, Google devices and just about any mobile device. The channel was founded by Charles Cook, owner of Flying Oaks airfield in north Fort Worth. I recently attended a presentation he gave at EAA Chapter 280 where he shared many fascinating aeronautical adventures and details of his historic aircraft (full-size) collection.

And if you aren't stuck in front of the telly or computer monitor, then you might be making an effort on some kit or ARF - I make the distinction between a kit and an ARF as in my opinion, you assemble an ARF. There is still much pleasure to be had no matter the route you take to the skies.

Black Eyed Pea

So, if we don't meet in December, what is next on the Agenda? That would be our January 1st Black Eyed Pea welcome of the New Year. Tradition has it that rain or shine, we show up and put in at least one flight as if to beckon the wind spirits and their fortune. As many of you know, we have wild swings of the weather and as often or not, we've either been huddled around gas heaters or wearing sunglasses.

The one thing that doesn't change are the Black Eyed Peas, Cornbread, Chili and other tasty sides. Present your entry into the pot-luck and partake of everyone else's. In the past we have had tremendous displays of culinary ability that momentarily gave notion to a Thunderbirds Tex-Mex Special Interest Group.

2026 Membership and More

What else happens on January 1st? For those new members who have not been through the process before, this is the day that the locks are changed. Actually, that isn't strictly true. While we have done this past it makes more sense to me to change the locks after the first club meeting of the year (remember, 4th Monday of the month). The reason being that the majority of members have renewed by then. As a reminder, your 2026 dues are payable by the end of January, though many renew shortly after Thanksgiving or at our Black Eyed Pea New Year's Day event.

If you send in your dues between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I will have your keys out to you by January 1st. However, I will bulk mail the keys so you might not see them till mid-December.

Renewal Incentive

For the past couple of years we have incentivized renewals by January 1st and we shall do so again for 2026. Here's how it works:

If you renew your membership between the end of Thanksgiving and January 1st, you will be entered into a raffle. Every 2026 member will have a single entry - no entries can be purchased other than by paying your dues. Dues will be accepted at the field, the day of our Black Eyed Pea. You can renew and obtain your raffle entry at that time. Around noon, we will begin the raffle of around 3 kits or other items. These will be high value awards, not tchotchkes.

This is the only time the incentive will be offered!

AMA Dues

Did you catch the update from the Academy of Model Aeronautics on 10/25/25 regarding dues? The Executive Council approved a modest dues adjustment and a small service charge, which will be effective January 1, 2026:

- \$4.00 increase for Adult, Senior, Park Pilot, Three Month Trial, and Affiliate memberships
- \$5.00 increase for Youth memberships
- \$3.00 service charge for credit card or PayPal transactions
- \$5.00 increase for club charters

My understanding is that if you want to avoid the price increase, you should renew prior to January 1st.

Voting

As you read this, our voting will have concluded and the 2026 board members either elected or re-elected. After the election closed on Friday evening, you can view the results, or you can wait for the December issue of the Pilot's Log newsletter though I'm sure word of mouth will have preceded the formal announcements.

This was the first time in several years where we actually had some competition for the board member roles. This is fantastic and a welcome change from having to persuade members to share in the burden of managing the club. The board members are always busy responding to inquires from within and without and ensuring a mutually beneficial relationship with the Corps of Engineers. It does take a chunk of personal time and members with interpersonal skills are best suited to the tasks as are those with various office skills.

If you are interested in being a board member, now is the time to start. Because each position requires club knowledge and practical skills, transition into the role takes effort and time. Introduce yourself to the person occupying that role so that we can facilitate transition of knowledge, skills and tools. Plus, the serving board member would appreciate the help and the club benefits from seamless transitions each year; an important best practice because we deal with government and corporate entities who must see us as being competent in our representation.

I would like to bring this up again once we dig into our 2026 calendar and complete the hand-off to our new board.

Membership Update

Here is the final 2025 Membership count as of 11/20/2025.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	157
Family	11
Associate	9
Life	16
Service & Gift	0
TOTAL	193

That's about it for this month. See you at the club meeting - bring toys! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Field Manager: Rex Anderson

No Report at this time.

Safety: by Sam Corlett

No Report at this time.

T.E.X eXpo Electric Fly-in



Contest Director/Event Manager Information

Attending, creating, and participating in model flying events are the most enjoyable activities within model aviation.

AMA sanctions nearly 2,500 events each year. Approximately 2/3 of these events are fly-ins or noncompetition events. Through discussions with several AMA officials, it became clear that there was a need to create a position that is similar to a contest director (CD), but one that focuses on the noncompetition events that are prevalent today.

The CD credentialing process focuses on Competition Regulations and how to make sure that contests are run fairly and by the rules. In noncompetition events, the need is more about overall safety of the sites and events. Creating an event manager (EM) position to focus on these types of events makes sense.

We believe that there are many AMA members out there who are already running non-competition events for their local clubs. Now they will be able to obtain an AMA-recognized official position so that they can sanction these events.

The table below provides a brief overview of both positions.

	Contest Director	Event Manager
Event Classes	Authorized to administer all event classes.	Authorized to only administer class C, C-Restricted, and D events (nonrule book).
Responsibilities/Authority	Acts as a representative of AMA and has full authority over the event.	Acts as a representative of AMA and has full authority over the event.
Liability Coverage	Primary, vicarious liability coverage while performing CD duties during the event.	Primary, vicarious liability coverage while performing EM duties during the event.
Requirements/Prerequisite	Successful completion of online test specific to CD duties/responsibilities. Three consecutive years of AMA membership.	Successful completion of online test specific to EM duties/responsibilities. One year of AMA membership.
Dues Credit	50% discount on annual dues with qualifying event.	50% discount on annual dues with qualifying event.

Are you wondering why you should consider becoming a CD or EM? As Jim T. Graham of RC Groups fame and Model Aviation "Born to Fly" columnist says, "I guarantee being a contest director will make the hobby better for you, but, even more important, it'll make the hobby in general better."

The process to obtain either CD or EM accreditation is completely online. There is a \$25 administration fee to go through the process. Go to www.modelaircraft.org/contest-director, and the process is explained on the page. We hope that the video and documentation will simplify the process and encourage you to become a CD or EM for your club!

Tiger Moth: by Woody

Lost the Tiger Moth yesterday in the infamous 'Thunderbirds' Triangle' (south end over road). Not sure what happened, unexpected roll and unable to recover. Same flight movements as my P-47 and B-25. Expiration date 11-17-25

However, on a related item I would like to express gratitude and a BIG THANK YOU to the Thunderbird member who recovered the Moth for me. He not only headed to the crash before I could the leave the pilot box but had the remains in tow by the time I managed to get to the road. Unfortunately I failed to get his name, my bad. In any case it's another Jewel in his crown. A prime example of the character of Thunderbirds helping other Thunderbirds.



At the Field



From the Editor's Desk: by Woody



Greetings to all. Just a reminder that our newsletter is a member's document. If you have any aviation related article you would like to share please get it to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

wdylake@yahoo.com

2025 CALENDAR

DATE

November

EVENT

Cooks Children's Hospital

POINT OF CONTACT

Mike Schroeder

Thunderbird Members

Christmas 2025 Toy Drive for Cook Children's Hospital



Time to start collecting toys for Cook Children's Toy Drive.

There will be several times in the coming months to drop off new toys:

- October club meeting
- November club meeting

New toys only. This is the only way to insure sanitation of the toys. Toy sizes should range from infants up to eighteen years old.

Etch a sketch, dolls, board games, things that cannot be swallowed is what the Cook volunteers need. The Cook Children's volunteers pass out several toys for every kid who is in the hospital over the Christmas holidays. So start stocking up with toys so a child can have a little fun during their time at the hospital.

More information to come as we get closer.

If you have any questions please contact a board member.



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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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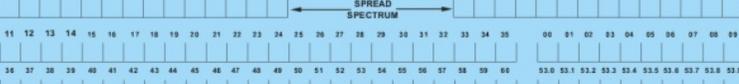


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Flying Field Rules



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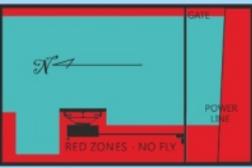
CURRENT AMA CARDS ONLY. NO OTHER CARD IS ACCEPTABLE.

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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

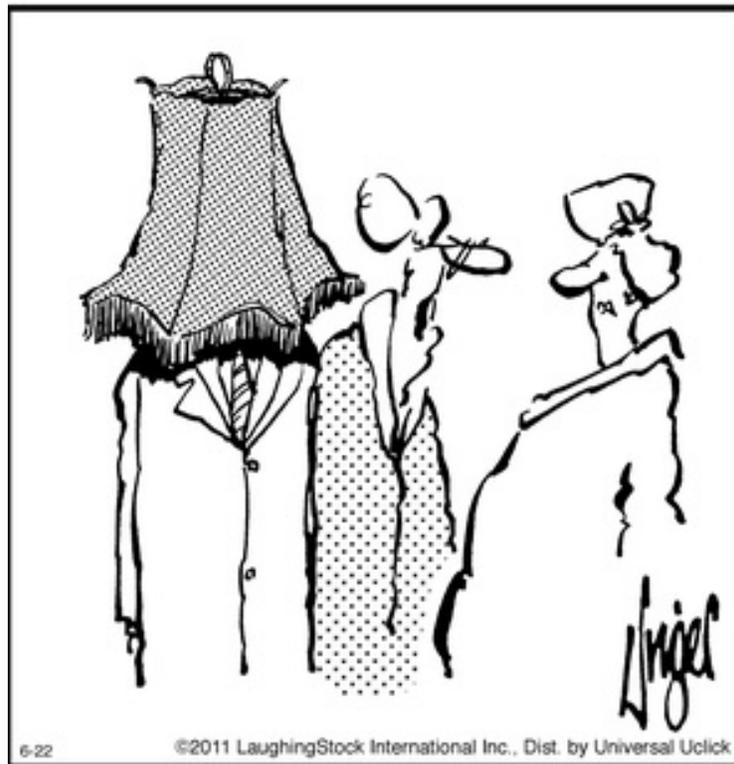
A model aircraft is a non-human-carrying device capable of sustained flight within visual line of sight of the pilot or spotter(s). It may not exceed limitations of this code and is intended exclusively for sport, recreation, education and/or competition. All model flights must be conducted in accordance 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

HUMOR



**“The dermatologist told him
to stay in the shade.”**

DON'T FORGET THE SUN BLOCK FOLKS

Blast from The Past

Old Farts Four Stroke Fly-in 2011

