



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



Issue, 6011 November 2022

Next club meeting: November 28th, 7 PM, Location CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

Season's Greetings to all,

Hard to believe that it's time to begin wrapping up 2022. So as you begin to pull out the wrapping paper, and holiday cheer, take a moment to remember the good times and reflect on the difficult moments, friendships new and old, and give thanks for all those moments in 2022.

Party time, Thunderbird style is right around the corner or more specifically 3 Dec 2022. Our annual holiday dinner is set and tickets are on sale now. You should have received an email with all the details, so I won't go into details. You do need to purchase a ticket prior to the event and I hope to see you there.

Special thanks to Chris Berardi, Rob Lowe, Mike Schroeder and Sam Corlett for their work on bringing this event together.

As we close the book on 2022, I want to say thanks to all of you, who are part of the Thunderbirds. Each of you are important to the club and this hobby.

Have a blessed holiday

James

Vice Presidents Corner: by *Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds! Happy Thanksgiving- or should I say, by the time you read this, I hope you are recovering from your Turkey hangover and ready to go fly! We've had some great fall weather and I'm hoping you are taking advantage of it!

I also hope you have been noticing the communications coming from AMA related to the FAA. The AMA was just announced as the first organization to be recognized as a "Community Based Organization (CBO)". This is a huge step in the right direction and one that sets the stage for our field to be potentially recognized as a FRIA. Your officers will be working with and thru AMA to file all the paperwork to get our field into FRIA status. You will recall, once it is an official FRIA, we can fly aircraft without required remote ID.

Please remember that FRIA status does not preclude or eliminate the 400ft rule imposed by Congress Thru the 2018 FAA Re-Authorization. Your officers continue to work with AMA and the FAA on potential Letters of Agreement with overlying ATC facilities on this altitude issue. You'll recall that since we underlie uncontrolled Class G airspace at Thunderbird

Field, the CBO and FRIA steps were essential to getting us to the altitude conversation. We will keep you posted, but it may take awhile. Please know it remains on our front burner and we are actively working it in the background.

That's all for this month! See ya at the Christmas party on Dec 3!

Rob

Secretaries Corner: *by Mike Schroeder*

October 24, 2022 Thunderbird Meeting Minutes October 24, 2022

Meet moved to CERA from field due to rain storms

Meeting started at 7:00pm. Note: there were only 17 members in attendance. Not enough for a quorum so no votes or formal business will be done at the meeting.

James welcomed all and asked if there are any new or visiting members.

Events recap

60th Anniversary Airshow: James thanks all who helped at the Thunderbird 60th Anniversary airshow. Thanks for all the great comments from members who attended. Perfect weather. A car count of the parking lot from Phil's aerial picture showed that there were at least ninety five cars. A big crowd and a very fun day. Thanks to all the volunteers that help make this show a success.

Jet event: There were twenty one pilots that attended the event. We had a great time and there was plenty of great flying demonstrated. Tom says he had so much fun that he will not retire and will host this event again next year.

Electric Fly In: All electric event Tom is hosting November 5. Tom believes that this will be the 14th time to have this event. Pilot meeting at 9:00am, lunch provided for pilots. Nice raffle prize. There will be a parking lot tailgate SWAP meet, so you can increase or decrease your stock of fun items. Tom and Robin will also be collecting for the toy drive. Cook Children's Christmas toy drive. Please bring a new unwrapped toy ages 0 to 18.

New items

Officers Elections: If you want to nominate someone or yourself please get with James.

Christmas Party: December 3, details to come.

Collecting Toys for Cook Children's Hospital: We will collect at the Electric Fly in, and at the Christmas party. Toys are to be new and unwrapped for ages 0 to 18 years old.

Black Eye Pea Fly-in January 1: Discussion about moving the start time to mid morning or lunch time on January 1. More details to come.

CORP Youth Deer hunt: December 2-4 at Mustang Park area. Thunderbird Field will be closed. There will be no flying on these dates. Normal operations can resume after 4pm on 4 Dec 2022.

Field Update: Discussed striping the runway and taxi way. We have a bid and need to get it voted on at the next meeting.

No Officers Reports

Show and Tell

Gary James talked about how everyone when they were a kid had a control line Cox PT 19 Trainer with a .049 engine as their first plane. How everyone did on their first flight the figure nine maneuver and crashed. Gary found the plans for his first plane that he had when he was ten years old. The Comanche free flight that had a .049 engine. Wingspan of 36 inches. Maiden flight to come soon. Stick build kit and tissue paper covered with clear Dope sealer.



Reed Smith talked about when putting together your airplane to really focus on putting together your plane. Reeds advice was to not let others get you distracted. Pay close attention to your airplane details and then take the time to re-check everything again. Reed also brought up again that the club purchase beavers to start eating at the base of trees at the end of runway. The board is looking into it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45

Members in attendance

Woody Lake
Sam Corlett
Ed Kettler
Rex Anderson
Tom Blakeney

Chris Berardi
Keith Maddox
Gary James
Ken Knotts

Mike Schroeder
Bill Lake
James Meadow
Reed Smith

David Williams
Mark Johnson
Chris Carranza
Pete Devlin

From the Treasury: by Chris Berardi

2022 Christmas Party Tickets

The tickets are going fast - within 3 days of them going on sale we have sold 2/3rds of all available. If you are still planning on coming to our catered party, then don't delay and get your tickets now.

In order to purchase your tickets, check the email that was sent to you last week. There is a link and a button that when clicked will take you to our ticketing vendor. When you purchase your ticket there is an option for a vegetarian meal. If you require a vegetarian meal please purchase your ticket as soon as possible so that we can inform the caterer.

There is one small wrinkle with our Botanic Garden location. The Fort Worth Lightscape event is running during the time we are meeting in the Red Bud Hall. More information on this event is here:

<https://fwbg.org/calendar-events/signature-events/lightscap/>

This will limit the parking for all Garden patrons, not just us. There will be a shuttle bus service from remote parking just a block from the facility and these shuttles will be running continuously between the parking lot and the Botanic Garden.

I will be sending an email with full details of where and what to expect right after the Thanksgiving holiday.

As I write this, there are just 14 tickets left....

2023 Membership Renewal

It's that time of the year again - it comes but once a year and we aren't talking about Christmas or your birthday. No, it's time for our 2023 membership dues.

Despite the inflation going on all around us, your club dues have not risen in well over a decade. Actually, I think the last time dues changed was when we were at our old field location prior to 2012. Considering that a gallon of fuel is now around \$30 or a decent 6S, 5000 mAh battery is close to \$100, our dues are and will remain fantastic value at just \$100 for a full adult membership.

Take a look at how the board and members at large have hosted some of our biggest events ever held by the club. Together, our dues become a force multiplier providing the capital to bring such fun to everyone that wants to participate. But it does require that we have a sustaining membership, much in the way the public radio does.

I can now accept your renewals and the preferred way to pay is via PayPal. The PayPal links are on the Membership page of our website. Of course, if you want to take the time to send me a check, my contact information and instructions are also shown on the same page. The keys will be sent out in batches beginning the first week of December. Our dues are payable on January 1st each year, though I have already received a number of checks in the mail - thank you!

IMPORTANT: Field Crew Needed

This could be the most important request we've had of our membership in several years: That is not an exaggeration. All of us have enjoyed the labor of a small and dedicated team of members who have maintained our flying site since 2012. Several of whom are now in their mid to late 70s and are now retiring from their self-imposed duty of care.

To be blunt, we need replacements who can take over these responsibilities beginning in the New Year. At minimum, we need two members but if we can get 3 or 4, this would enable some trading of availability so that it doesn't become real labor as it has recently.

You probably know that the "mowing crew" completed their work on Friday mornings; however, this was only by choice but it did preclude members who have work on Friday. We do realize that going forward we will have to alter our approach to days and times that are compatible with everyone's schedule.

In addition to a schedule change, the club is willing to promote enthusiasm for this work by offering a bonus. I have already suggested a couple of items to the board though we have not discussed this in detail. An example would be a "free" year's membership (aka: Service & Gift). Nothing is free of course, and in exchange we ask for someone who can make a commitment to field maintenance.

Another thought: We should not expect members who volunteer for this important work to continue for years, if not decades, at a time. This simply is not fair. As further encouragement, we should announce at our club meetings who the maintenance crew is for a given period of time so that we can substitute members to prevent exhaustion and simple burnout.

There are over 200 members in the club - I am hopeful that between 2 and 4 of you are willing to pick up where others have left off.

Please give any board member or field crew a call - or simply send an email to the board. Our email addresses are on the web site.

Membership Update

This is the final tally for 2022. I will begin again in January when the 2023 membership renewals begin their flood.

Here is our latest membership count as of 11/20/2022.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	175
Family	8
Associate	9
Life	14
Service & Gift	1
TOTAL	207

That's about it for this month. Check your mail for news on the Christmas Party parking, Black Eyed Pea on January 1st, and more!

Safety Officer submission: by Sam Corlett

Howdy folks. It's been a bit frosty out flying lately, but I hope you take advantage of nice days when it's not too windy!

A couple of items on my mind related to safety reminders. Years ago I learned an old adage that at first seemed counter intuitive: "Rules create freedom." That concept came up in a music composition class of all things! Here we were thinking creatively and doing something completely new was our future! But what we didn't have were the "tools" to make that happen. Although that was a completely different arena of activity, this concept applies universally. I was a competitive rifle shooter for years, and rules at a gun range keep us alive while still allowing us to take part.

We are very privileged to have an amazing RC flying site, and amazing folks to enjoy it with. So that comes with rules of its own that protect our privilege, property and safety. It's the job of every member to remind themselves and others of both big and little things that the AMA, Corps of Engineers, and Fort Worth Thunderbirds require. Things like posting your AMA membership card, observing flying/ no flying areas, engine run areas, flying from the appropriate pilot stations (always only *either* North or South, determined by wind and pilots consent). There are also common sense things to remind folks of: safe electric arming and combustion engine startup procedures; receiver and transmitter battery charge levels to name a couple.

As we all share this responsibility, let's look forward to a great next year of flying and expect to help bring some new folks into a hobby that's both safe and rewarding.

T.E.X. Texas Electric Expo Fly-In



Members Projects:

PT-17 Stearman: *by Woody*

Dancing Wings PT-17 Stearman available from Bitco Hobbies. This is considered an ARF, all wood construction. A little more difficult to assemble than a 'foamie' ARF but with the help of a three part instructional video I managed to muddle through. To date I have four flights on the PT-17 the first being quite harrowing (trim issues). The remaining three have been uneventful once I manage the take-off. Still in the learning curve.



Kit bashed 'Rascal' by John George. Twin EDF motors power this unique design, but then again, what British design wasn't unique? It flies great.





Turbine pilots, please use the blast deflectors. A grass fire would make for a really bad day.

2022 CALENDAR

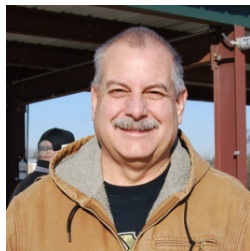
<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
December TBD	Club Christmas Party	Club Officers

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

Home for the Holidays - Wishing All A Special Happy Thanksgiving



*From Our Club Officers:
James, Rob, Chris, Mike, & Sam*

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTIZERS



JT's Hobby Shop 817 244-6171
8808 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth TX 76116
jtshobby@yahoo.com

Flying Field Rules

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.

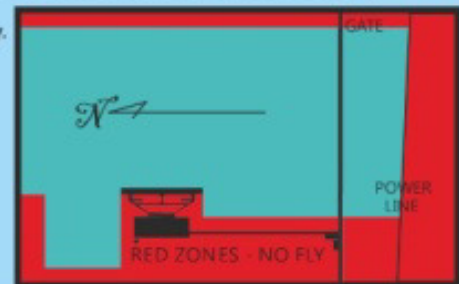
For a complete copy of AMA's Safety Handbook please visit:
www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf



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



Club Projects

Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	Helicopter Pit Area	Pit area for Heli Area	self	20,000	Mike/SAM	Getting actual cost plans	Approved by CORP
2	Update Freq Board	Update signage a use or Freq. board	self	\$100.00	BOARD	AWAITING ACTION	Waiting on word from AMA on Digital Wallet cards etc
3	Visitor Parking Signage Stations	Post club events and other data	self	\$100.00	Mike	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
4	Starting Stakes for big birds	Post for retaining Large A/C at starting area	self		Grant Schroeder		Awaiting information
5	Additional Storage AREA	Utilize Cargo container	self/contract	\$20,000.00	Chris	Hold	Would it require Lease mod?
6	Toilet	Real Toilet	Contract	?		Further Study	require Corp approval
7	Pit Area Lighting	Lights in Additional Pit Areas	Self	\$200.00	Mike and Ken	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
8	Weather Station	complete with camera and Data port	Self	\$	Chris/Mike	Discussion	Allow member or guest to see and look at actual Field conditions
9	Toilet	Real Toilet	combo	?	Meadows	Discussion	asked the Corp about co-op agreement
10	Members Walkway	Personal engraved brick pathway from Pit area to Flagpole	Everyone		meadows	Discussion	Membership due details

More TEX Electric Event Photos





Christmas Party- 2021



... and last but not least



HUMOR



I love it!