



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



Issue, 4488 October 2021

Next club meeting: October 25th, 2021, 6:30 pm, Thunderbird Field

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

Thanks to all for what you bring to the Thunderbirds, Members old and new,

October is here and that means the end and start of several things. Our training program on Thursday evenings is a wrap, Fall is here which means cooler weather, and unfortunately shorter days, It's also that time of the year that nominations for Board members are accepted. Voting will take place in November. Our Safety Board member Bill Lake has indicated that he will be retiring from the safety position. I want to express my thanks to Bill for his outstanding service and efforts to promote a safe, fun, safety culture to the club. I would like to again encourage all members to consider serving on the board, as it's a great way to serve the club! Nomination for Thunderbird of the Year and Life member will be accepted. At the last membership meeting I mentioned of forming a committee to find our next meeting site. I need four members to step up and become a part of this process. If you're interested let one of the board members know.

Don't forget about the all electric fly event at Thunderbird Field on the 30 October 2021. Tom Blakeney is the CD for this event which has continued to grow under his leadership. Let's keep the trend going, and have a max effort from the club. So charge em up and I will see you there!

James

Vice Presidents Corner: by *Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds! I hope this finds you well and getting out to fly a lot in this beautiful fall weather.

We had an interaction with one of the neighbors near Lake Benbrook recently and it reminds me that we are always being watched as ambassadors for our hobby. Whether you know it or not, people are paying attention to how we treat them and what we are doing. In essence, we are always on stage for the public.

Here's the scenario, a local lake area resident was on the lake fishing recently and noticed something floating in the water and pulled his boat over to investigate. He discovered it was a "foamy" RC jet and he recovered it. Now this gentleman has only lived in our area for a few months after retiring and moving to the Benbrook Lake area. In the few times he has been on the lake, he observed RC flying at our field and was interested since he had a cheap, store bought RC plane a few years ago. When he recovered the jet, he then drove into the park to find our field to try to return it. No one was at the field but he learned of our club name and was able to Google us and found our website. He then used the contact links and reached out to your officers. I had the pleasure of meeting him as a result, and the plane was returned to its owner (a club member)! I also learned this neighbor came back to the field and found a couple folks flying, but they had locked the gate behind them which led him to believe he was not welcome.

So in the end, we met a new neighbor, a lost jet got returned to its owner and we almost missed an opportunity to tell an interested person more about our hobby and our club. RC flying for recreational flyers is made up largely of "seasoned pilots" (ok, some of us have been around awhile!). We have all benefited from someone at some time taking the time to expose us to RC, talk to us and even teach us to fly. The future of our hobby depends on us - every single one of us owes a debt to this hobby we all love. Please remember you are an ambassador and our future depends on you being willing to greet and expose those new folks. Someone did it for you - it's a small price to pay and one you have the ability to re-pay!

See ya at the field soon! Here's my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds - um, I mean "Ambassadors!"

Rob

September 2021 Meeting Minutes: by Mike Schroeder

Club meeting minutes September 27, 2021

Meeting started at 6:30pm James welcomes all to the meeting and ask if they are any guest and new members. We have Anne and Bill Wagner. Also Jay May is a new member.

Event Recap

At Jet Fest, Tom Blakeney, reported that there were forty pilots and one only one crash. Weather was very good and the club after cost did very well.

Electric Fly in coming in October 30 is the next club event.

Alliance Air Show is the weekend of October 24

Reports

VP Report by Rob Lowe: Airspace report is in a holding pattern at our field as we are waiting on AMA as the focus is on controlled air space. Our field is in uncontrolled as the AMA works it out with the FAA. So for right now we are still at 400 feet altitude. We are at the front of the line when this gets resolved with the AMA and the FAA.

Chris is filling in for Mike to record the minutes. A motion was made to not read the minutes. Show of hands and it passed not to read the minutes

Treasurer's Report by Chris Berardi: As of last week we have the highest membership on record 214. As for expenses were the normal items, gas port-a can and electric. The big expenses were the fire boxes and dollies for the water extinguishers. The checking and savings are in good standing. New membership renewal will be starting sometime at the end of October 2021.

Show and Tell

Mel Wells has order the new signs for the fire box and everyone should become familiar with them and test their key. Mel key worked on one fire box and not the other fire box but Woody's key worked on both box.

Reed Smith showed his T6 Texan with E-Flite power low KV motor. Seagull, 6S 5000 battery, Plane weighs in at 10 1/2 pounds. E-Flite 100amp ESC. Mechanical linkage for retracts

Woody Lake gave an update on his AT-6 LiPo fire last Thursday. New fire box came in handy already. Plane ran off the runway and caught fire. Fire extinguishers are a one-time use item. Please if you use a fire extinguisher let a board member know so it can be replaced. A simple email will suffice.

Sam Corlett talked about the construction of modern helicopter blades using a broken blade as an example. Lay up ensures that the blade cannot separate from the model by use of the safety wire.

WBFE update: Eagle Scout project on September 4th to install WBFE storage and fire flappers.

Old Business

Lease is expired and new lease is forthcoming but no word from the Corps of Engineers (CoE) Real Estate Dept.

Mowing plan: not all property will be mowed but we will be able to mow more than we have been able too.

New Business

WAMS: Issues with old site and club has moved. They have combined with Granbury and have a forty acre area. WAMS club is interested in a combat and foamy

pylon racing and have asked Thunderbirds to help host these events.

CoE Youth Deer Hunt is possible in November.

Mustang Park will be prepared for the winter season shortly.

Elections: Opening for Safety officer position is available. Nominations are due in October 2021.

Place to meet: A new committee to find a place to meet. Ongoing efforts to find a place in the community to host up to 35 people.

Treasurer Report: by Chris Berardi

No report this month.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	180
Family	9
Associate	9
Life	14
Service & Gift	2
TOTAL	214

Safety article for newsletter: by Bill Lake

This month I am going to spare you having to read my words about safety. Part of the reason is that after deciding what subject I wanted to address, I found an excellent article online at FlyRC entitled PROPELLER SAFETY: SAFETY TIPS FOR EVERYONE. Regardless of your experience level or the type aircraft you fly, I hope you click on the link and read the article. I guarantee it will not hurt.

Propeller Safety: Safety Tips For Everyone by: [Fly RC Staff](#) June 23, 2011 [Flight Basics](#)

As the newest member of the editorial staff of Fly RC magazine, I think I should introduce myself. Many of you will recognize my name from my regular reviews and how-to articles. They will continue, and I have also taken the helm of what I consider to be a very important section of this magazine the monthly Primary Training Column. My

Last of New business: Cracks in runway and this issue will be addressed near term.

Tom Blakeney: Fun fly next weekend electric only.

North Dallas RC club is hosting a Float Fly-In at Lake Dallas on the October 23rd.

An Upcoming RC Expo at Round Top on November 12-13.

Meeting adjourned 7:27pm

aviation background is one of deep involvement in all aspects of RC and full-size flying. As a lifelong RC modeler, airline captain and full-size aerobatics competitor, I find that training with a focus on continual improvement is one of the most important tools we can use to make this great hobby what it's supposed to be fun!



With that, I have to ask one question: which kind of pilot and modeler do you want to be? You'd be surprised at the responses that this seemingly simple question elicits. The

most common answers include superlatives like good and great. Others answer that question with a very specific goal: they want to be able to hover a model or fly low passes with their warbird. My own answer is that I want to be a safe and competent modeler. To some of you, that might seem so obvious that it goes without saying. Unfortunately, safety can easily be forgotten in the excitement of the moment.

LETS BE SAFE FIRST

The traditional safety structure of AMA clubs has done a lot to reinforce good safety habits over the years. Unfortunately, with the advances made in electric flight and its often less organized and more isolated nature, we have many up-and-coming pilots who have little, if any, way to learn good safety practices. From time to time I will offer suggestions that will help keep you, your model and, most important, any spectators stay as safe as you can be. This is a great hobby for sharing with younger family members, and it is incumbent upon us to teach younger modelers how to be safe.

Your model airplanes most dangerous part is its propeller. Even the smaller park flyer propellers can cause significant damage, as shown here. In the full-size aviation world, we assume that the propeller can turn at any moment. This is a great approach to dealing with your model airplane as well.

SIMPLE TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE

- 1- Treat every propeller as if it may turn at any moment.
- 2- Treat every propeller as if it will fail structurally at any moment. Keep all body parts clear of the propeller arc at all times.
- 3- Remove the propeller from the motor whenever you are doing ESC/motor setup, testing and programming.
- 4- Properly secure your electric aircraft before you attach any power source; remember, it may start at any moment.

5- Be sure to properly secure your model with a tie-down or have a helper hold it before you start its engine or motor.

6- Between hand-props, give glow and gas airplanes a firm tug to ensure that the tie-down is holding them securely. One of my friends lost a few fingers when his model jumped forwards after starting with a loose tie-down rope.

7- When tuning your engine, you must stay clear of the propeller arc. Preferably, tune the needles with the engine shut down.

8- If it's available on your transmitter, use a throttle lock or a throttle kill function to avoid an unplanned application of throttle until you're ready to fly. I use this function religiously but I never trust that it is activated! Check!

9- Always tell spectators not to touch or move your models propeller.

10- Never, ever reuse a damaged propeller. The cost of an injury far outweighs the cost of a new propeller, even if it takes a quick drive to the hobby shop.

11- Keep a first aid kit in your work shop and in your car.



CONCLUSION

I'm sure you're wondering about the story behind the photo shown here. Yes, that is my hand; and yes, I failed to heed my own recommended safety practices; in fact, I broke several rules. I'll set the stage for my accident: with a new 3D park flyer resting on the tailgate of my truck, I was preparing for its first flight. My first mistake was to plug the model in when it wasn't secured. After a quick

control check, I realized that the rudder channel was backwards, so I entered my radios programming mode with the model still powered up and still unsecured mistakes 2 and 3. While intending to reverse the rudder channel, I inadvertently reversed the throttle channel, and the model leapt forward and attacked my hand. My initial reaction was one of shock. How could that little propeller have done that much damage?

Racing home with my hand wrapped tightly in a towel (no, I didn't have a first aid kit in the truck); I couldn't help but think of the avoidable consequences of my actions. What if my sons or my daughter had been with me standing next to the model? What if I had been flying a higher-powered model? The model in question was a 150W park flyer turning a 9-inch slow flyer propeller.

Imagine the damage a 1500W 16-inch propeller would have done. The best case might have been that I lost a finger or two; in the worst case, I'd have lost the use of my hand.

Fortunately, my accident allowed me the opportunity and the clarity required to refocus my personal routine and make my flying as safe as it can be. Following the simple rules given here and focusing on safely when you operate your model will do wonders to keep you and your family and friends safe while you have fun flying or teaching them to fly.

Don't hesitate to contact me with your questions or comments at scotts@flyrc.com. Let's keep it safe out there, and till next time, remember that learning is fun!

Jet Thunder Over Benbrook September 2021





Greater Southwest Scale Fly-in: by Woody Lake

Ian and I attended the GSW Scale Fly-in on October 16th. Great assortment of airplanes ranging from: WWI Biplanes, aerobatic, Warbirds (Pre and Post WWII including Korea), General Aviation, Airliners, and a Rocket ME 263. Weather was beautiful, sunny skies and winds 10 to15, sort of. It was great seeing all the guys and gals, kind of like a class reunion.





The following photo is of the “Best of Class” winners.



From Left to Right:
Woody Lake, T28 Best Post WWII: Darrell Abby, Best Civilian Gilmore Charger: Barry Ponder Event Contest Director:
BEST WWI: Tim Lovett, Tiger Moth: Best Small Scale Military: J.D. Crow, F4U Corsair
Best WWII and Pilot’s Choice: Lawrence Harville, P82



Texas Electric Expo TEX October 2020

The following are a few photos from last years' event,



AT-6 Demise: by Woody

Photos are of my Dynam AT-6. I've had this plane about 9 years and it has served me well; and now for the rest of the story as Paul Harvey would say:

Take off to the north, tail up and then a sudden ground loop to the right into the grass about 5 feet. Thirty seconds later I observed smoke while going to recover the T-6. Grabbing the tail it started to blaze and I dragged the plane out of the grass and on to the runway, shortly thereafter it was completely engulfed in flames. Tab was Johnny on the spot with an extinguisher and the situation was under control in a matter of minutes. The following photos tell the rest of the story.

Cause of the fire is unknown as not much was left to investigate. Obviously RC airplane fires are not exclusive to Turbines and we dodged a big bullet this time. The T-6 never got airborne and was in close proximity the runway and people in the pit area. Let's be careful out there folks.



2021 CALENDAR

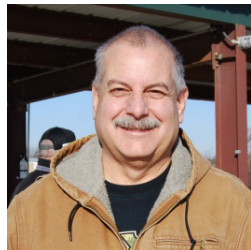
<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
October 30	Texas Electric eXpo	Tom Blakeney
October 23-24	Alliance Air Show	Club Officers
October 23-24	SPA West Championship	Todd Blose (Waco)

[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

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

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

**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

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	Update signage a use or Freq board		?			consider 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 Provide shelter area in the run area to match fixed wing Pits. Will utilize the parking area that is in the current lease
9	Helicopter Pit Area	Pit area for Hell Area	?	?			

Events



The Fort Worth Thunderbirds present



T.E.X., The Texas Electric eXpo and Tailgate Swap Meet Oct 30, 2021



Come join us at Thunderbird Field for the best electric event in the area! Lots of relaxed flying, fun and fellowship. Event hours are 9AM until 4PM. Pilot briefing at 9AM. AMA required. Bring your unwanted RC stuff for a tailgate swap meet!

All types of electric aircraft are welcome. Landing fee is \$20.00 and includes lunch from the Thunderbird Grill! There will be a RAFFLE!

Event Director: Tom Blakeney. Contact at 817-734-1917 or toblakeney28682@yahoo.com

Directions and field information: <https://www.fwthunderbirds.org>