



Fort Worth Thunderbirds

Radio Control Association Inc.

The Pilot's Log



Issue 6010 October 2022 - 60th Anniversary Edition

Anniversary Airshow

A group of men with a common thread interest in aviation formed a radio control (RC) airplane modeling club known as the Fort Worth Saracens. This club morphed in 1962 to become the Fort Worth Thunderbirds.

Sixty years later the Fort Worth Thunderbirds has become one of the premier radio control modeling clubs in the country.

Many thanks to the club officers, and support staff for a great day of celebration, entertainment, and fun had by all. The following is a photo collage of the days' activities. Enjoy!







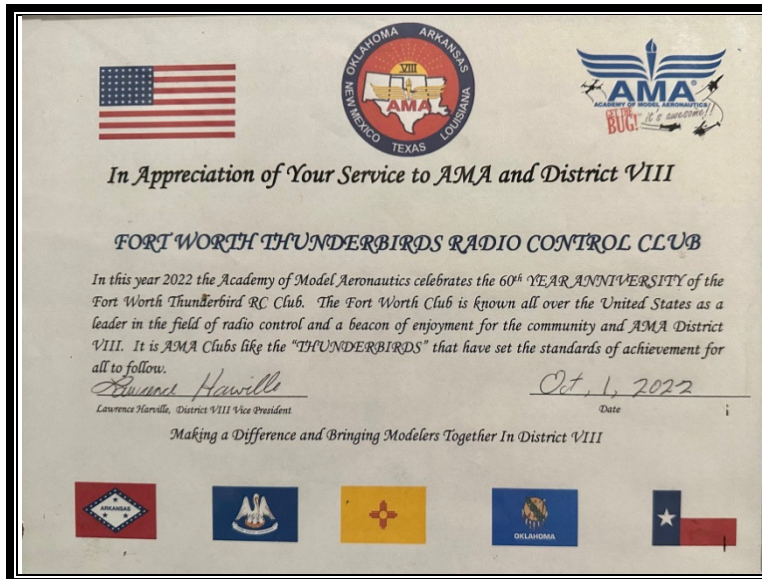
SECTION II

Next club meeting: October 24th, 7 PM, Location Thunderbird Field

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

On behalf of your Leadership Team, I want to thank, the many volunteers, pilots and numerous others who worked both in the public's eye and behind the scenes to make our 60th Anniversary and Airshow a world class event.

All members of the Thunderbirds should be extremely proud of our clubs accomplishments over the last six decades. Thank You for being a Thunderbird!



Vice Presidents Corner: by *Rob Lowe*

Nothing to report this month for the VP column! Thanks to all who helped make the 60th anniversary celebration a huge success. See ya at the field!

Secretaries Corner: by *Mike Schroeder*

September 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Meeting starts at 7:00.

James welcomed all members and asked if there are any new members or visitors. New member Robert is at his first meeting.

Events

60th Thunderbirds Anniversary celebration is October 1 starting with an airshow from 2:00 to 4:00 and to be followed up with In & Out burgers cooked at the

field. We need extra volunteers to help out in parking and other duties. Please if you can bring out a static display plane and show and tell what you have to offer the guest at the field. Field will be closed during the event and open back up after four. There will be free snow cones and funnel cakes for the guss supplied by Wayne and Tab.

Jet event

Tom Blakeney is the CD on October 8. Any EDF or turbine is allowed to fly. Last year Tom had such great success the Jet Fest is back again. Tom already

has a great raffle prize. Lunch is included and pilot fee is twenty dollars.

Show and Tell

Grant Schroeder: Displayed his new F-7 Tigercat that is a Giant Scale Twin builds from Hosper, Iowa. Lots to build and it will take some time to get complete. The plane will have twin DA-100, wingspan 116", length 102" weight at 46 pounds.



Zeke Bowden: Zeke completed Dave Dingmans 1/4 scale Cessna 150 with DLE 30. The plane has had a maiden flight and flies really great. Awesome color scheme and finish on the plane.



Reed Smith: Showed his new SPA Kaos plane that he monokote covered. A hand built plane as he learns about building and doing flying SPA pattern. Reed has also done a presentation at his school about the Thunderbirds 60th anniversary event. Plus Reed has started a flying club at school that has eight students interested in RC.



Officers Reports

Vice Presidents Report by Rob Lowe: Nothing to report at this time

Treasurers Report by Chris Berardi: This month's big expense was the new hats that are now on sale for \$15 each. We have ordered several new table tops and bench seats to fix the broken ones. It takes about six months to get here. Mailing badges is interesting to be mailed and keep the cost down as they are not flat for an envelope. Ticket sells are going good for the In & Out burger event. A tee shirt is included with burger ticket.

Safety Report by Sam Corlett: Volunteers are needed for the 60th anniversary celebration. Please get with Sam.

Safety briefing talk: Please talk to each other when you arrive at the field and help people out. It is now official as the flag pole has been hit in the opposite direction and straightened back up. There have been two flag pole strikes and we can say the flag pole stood and two planes have been taken out. Looks like the pole is winning if we are keeping score. The second pole strike could have been prevented if only the pilots or members had asked few questions and offered to help out.

Secretary Minutes by Mike Schroeder: Motion by Peter Lucas to not read the minutes and second by Ed Kettler. Show of hands the motion passes.

Please watch for deer on your way out tonight.

Motion by Ken Knotts to end the meeting and second by Ed Kettler. Show of hands and the motion passed. Meeting ends at 7:43

Thunderbird members in attendance

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bill Lake | James Meadows | Mark Johnson | Wayne Lemkelde |
| Sam Corlett | Ken Knotts | Tab Bowland | Ed Kettler |
| Grant Schroeder | Ian Waring | Brian Lowe | Mel Wells |
| Like Bowden | Dave Williams | Jacob Reass | Tommy Baker |
| Johnny Hunt | Rex Owens | Reed Smith | Jason Smith |
| Mike Schroeder | Pete Delvin | Chris Berardi | Peter Lucas |
| Robert Huklebridge | Tom Blakeney | Rob Lowe | Woody Lake |

From the Treasury: by Chris Berardi

60th Anniversary Airshow Recap

If you are reading this then I hope you thoroughly enjoyed our anniversary party on October, 1st. At one point there were over 95 vehicles parked in the parking lot and along Joe Joplin lane; in fact, in a drone video of the field you could see that cars continually arrived throughout the afternoon.

The airshow was both colorful and entertaining and I received a half dozen comments from people who were unaffiliated with the club. Our club members put on a dazzling display comprising of warbirds, gliders, helicopters, turbines and more, plus we had free snow cones, funnel cakes, free drinks and an engrossing airshow announcement program.

We have put on several airshows in the past and 3 of them were for the 40th, 50th and now this 60th anniversary. If we include other large and public events that we have hosted at the field, it is my opinion that this ranks as the best one we have ever done. To look around at the spectators and to see people of every background; from the young children playing with their snow cones to the senior citizens sitting on the benches enjoying the perfect weather and airshow.

Everyone involved worked professionally and diligently to make this a proud moment for the club, but there was payback for all Thunderbirds who participated in one way or another. We had some fantastic shirts made up that were handed out celebrating the event. There are extras and I'm having an additional small number made up in the sizes we ran out of. If you would like one of these shirts they are available for \$10 each - see me or another board member. If you can't make it to a club meeting or aren't a regular at the field, then send me an email and I will mail you a shirt at cost. I would expect the shipping to be \$5 or so. You can send an email requesting further information to: treasurer@fwthunderbirds.org

To cap off the evening, at 5:30pm In'N'Out Burger catered 150 meals. There was plenty of food for everyone and many members went back for seconds, and possibly even thirds as I was informed. This was a real treat and not something we had ever done before. It was well received and truly a fitting end to the long day hosting our visitors.

More than one member approached me to say, "We should do this every year!" Indeed, it is a thought but it is a huge undertaking and an expensive one at that; however, it takes a lot of time to organize and the devil is in the details. If we were to host an airshow each year then it must go to a member committee. This committee would be formed of member volunteers who develop the event as their project. A committee provides regular status updates to our VP and the board gives final approval usually at a routine club meeting. By managing a complex event via a committee, the burden doesn't fall to the same people each year and more of the membership has an opportunity to participate; adding their personal touch to improve the event.

If you are interested in running a show next year, then let us know at the upcoming club meeting. We also want to hear your thoughts and constructive criticism.

2022 Christmas Party

Tickets for the Christmas Party will be going on sale just as soon as we finalize the catering. We have a few irons in the fire as to what sort of food and service we will have. One thing is very clear at the outset of researching this and obtaining quotes: Prices have gone up as I'm sure you've noticed when at the supermarket. In general, I would say no less than 25% from what I've seen thus far. As of today, I think we can hold our ticket price to \$25, the same as last year's party. We sold 58 tickets in total out of 75 available. Lower than previous years and most likely due to COVID: Perhaps this year the demand will be higher. Right now I am seeking quotes for 65 meals from a variety of caterers, including 360 Catering who put on a great meal last year.

Expect tickets to go on sale in early November once catering details have been finalized. The party will be Saturday, December 3rd at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Red Bud room, same as always.

Glow Plug Prices

Have you noticed? Perhaps not if you've been dealing with all the other rising costs. If you have, then no doubt you will find it shocking that glow plug prices have risen from \$6-\$7 each upward of \$13-\$20 each. Why is that?

Well, like anything it is the state of supply and cost of materials. About two years ago I spoke with one manufacturer, Merlin Glow Plugs, about what it took to make a plug. The owner of this cottage industry was Aldon Charles Kelly. I say "was" because Mr. Kelly passed away not long ago and this small manufacturer of high performance plugs is now part of aero-history.

Mr. Kelly told me that assembling a glow plug was like, "...performing micro-surgery." He also mentioned that the spool of wire he used to make the plugs cost him \$60,000. This wire was comprised mostly of platinum but also contained rhodium and iridium depending on the application. One interesting thing he told me was that this wire does corrode and over time the efficacy of the plug is affected.

Take a look at the cost of platinum. This data is readily available for download. It is a relatively expensive metal to begin with though if you look at the price over the past 5 years, while there have been price changes it is hard to correlate the current price with the recent huge increase in glow plug pricing. The only thing that I can take away from that is it's either supplier issue and market competitiveness, or, modelers are being taken advantage of. Interestingly, you can buy glow plugs from Japan (rcjapan.net is one supplier) at prices similar to what we used to pay - thanks to a strong Dollar.

\$934.10 USD \$19.70 USD 2.15% 5Y

Ask: \$933.60 USD Bid: \$918.60 USD Change: + \$32.50 USD +3.72%



Club Elections - 2023 Board

- ★ All nominations for the 2023 Club Officer positions are due by the October club meeting. That is, we need the *nominations by Monday, October 24th*.
- ★ You may nominate yourself or another club member (obviously, you must be a current club member). The nominations will be "seconded" at this club meeting.
- ★ Any board position without a nominated candidate can be retained by the incumbent by a simple majority vote at this October meeting.

- ★ For positions with multiple nominations, an electronic vote will take place on or by December 1st.

We will discuss this in more detail at our coming club meeting. As I currently understand it, the existing board is willing to put in another year. That only means we have volunteered! It does not mean that if you would like to try your hand that you can't be a board member too. In fact, if anyone in the club would like a position on the board, we are all willing, excited even, that someone would like to give it a go.

If we do have nominations for any of the board positions, then that position and nominees will go to a vote. As we have done in prior years, the voting will be handled completely electronically via a vendor. Any position that is unchallenged and the incumbent is to remain will simply be voted on by the membership as noted above. Positions that will be voted on electronically will be announced at the December club meeting; i.e., the Christmas Party.

Membership Update

Here is our latest membership count as of 10/20/2022.

| Membership Type | Count |
|-----------------|------------|
| Individual | 172 |
| Family | 7 |
| Associate | 9 |
| Life | 14 |
| Service & Gift | 1 |
| TOTAL | 203 |
| | |

That's about it for this month. Check your mail for news on the Christmas Party, voting and more!



Safety Officer submission: by *Sam Corlett*
 No Report this month.

Thunder Over Benbrook - Jet Fly-In



2022 CALENDAR

DATE

EVENT

POINT OF CONTACT

November 5th

Texas Electric (Expo) Fly-In

Tom Blakeney

SPA West (Waco)

Todd Blose

November

TOYS for TOTS

Club Officers

December TBD

Club Christmas Party

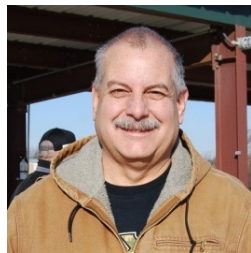
Club Officers

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

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

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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 |

Humor



EVENTS

North Dallas R/C Fall Float Fly Saturday October 22, 2022



Willow Grove Park, 800 E Hundley, Lake Dallas, Tx

Park opens at 8 am, flying starts at 900am, ends at 3pm.

Plenty of nice shade trees and close by parking, also electric provided for charging, recovery boat

Sandwiches, sodas, chips and cookies provided with Landing Fee (\$20)

Park requires \$5 entrance fee per car

CD- Josh Kleen (joshkleen@gmail.com)

AMA Sanctioned Event

Directions:

From North Dallas Tollway take Eldorado west. Cross over Toll Bridge and turn left (south) onto N Shady Shores Dr. Turn Left on E Hundley.

From Hwy 35E, take Swisher east and turn right (south) on N Shady Shores Dr. Turn left on E Hundley.



The Fort Worth Thunderbirds present



T.E.X., The Texas Electric eXpo and Tailgate Swap Meet Nov 5, 2022



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 great RAFFLE!

Event Director: Tom Blakeney. Contact at 817-734-1917 or tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com

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