



# Fort Worth Thunderbirds

Radio Control Association Inc.

## The Pilot's Log



Issue, 6009 September 2022

Next club meeting: September 26th, 7 PM, Location Thunderbird Field

# 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Saturday October 1st

- Radio Control at Benbrook Lake since 1962 and now in our 60th year.
- Enjoy the celebration with us at our nationally recognized site.
- Flight demonstrations of aircraft including: aerobatic airplanes, giant scale & war bird, racing, drone, helicopters, turbine & electric power jets.
- Meet the members and try a free introductory flight!
- Large screen flight simulation at the field.

\*Open to the Public\*  
2:00pm - 4:00pm  
Demonstration Flights  
FREE Flight Instruction!  
Try our Flight Simulators!

The flying field is located in Mustang Park on the south shore of Benbrook Lake: 4300 Winscott Plover Road.  
[www.fwthunderbirds.org](http://www.fwthunderbirds.org)

Fort Worth Thunderbirds  
Since 1962

## Presidents Corner: *by James Meadows*

We are approaching the fall season. This means that several activities and events are on the horizon. 1 October 2020 the club will celebrate its 60th year with a community Airshow followed by a members only meal at the field. Airshow will be from 2-4 pm with a gate opening to the public at 1pm. There will be static displays a simulator area and of course flight Demos by members and a few guests. The board still needs some volunteers to assist in this grand celebration. We need more static displays and assistance in other areas. Please reach out one of the board members to help out. Check out our website and flyer for more details.

On 8 Oct 2022 we will have our Third annual EDF and Turbine event. This event has grown to be an area

## Vice Presidents Corner: *by Rob Lowe*

Coming to you from the National Championship Air Races in Reno! I'm doing the color commentary on the TV/Live stream coverage's. What a blast!

Hello Thunderbirds! Happy fall and Happy Anniversary! Check out all the info across this newsletter about our celebration plans for the club's 60th anniversary. Please be sure to block your calendar and plan now to come out to the big celebration!

I have gotten several questions recently about the status of our club field as it relates to remote ID and airspace altitude restrictions. Let's start with the 400ft altitude...

AMA and the FAA are continuing to focus on club fields that are in controlled (read congested) airspace. Thunderbird field sits in/under "Class G" airspace which is not where the focus is right now. Other clubs like Waco and others have worked thru the process with AMA/FAA and have Letters of Agreement in place now allowing operations above 400ft. Please know your officers continue to stay on top of this and will work to get something in place as soon as we can. Until then, we remain in the same status related to this regulation. On a related note, AMA had proposed to FAA that all sanctioned AMA club fields be processed together and treated the same to save the lengthy safety management system (SMS) process for each individual field. The FAA has reportedly denied this request after several months of

favorite. If you have an EDF or Turbine then this is an event for you! Of course spectators are always welcome as well.

October also means it's the beginning of Board selection/election process. I strongly urge each member to consider serving on the board. The Process of nomination and requirements can be located on the website.

Thanks for being a Thunderbird, see you on the downwind

James

assessment but I haven't seen that come out from AMA yet.

On a related, but different note, here is some info AMA did issue recently about FRIAs and remote ID. You likely got this in an email from AMA, but sharing it here again for your awareness:

AMA is expecting the FAA to release Advisory Circular (AC) 91-57C and open an online portal to apply for FRIA (FAA-recognized identification area) status very soon. AMA is asking all of our clubs to standby while we review the AC and FRIA process and wait for instructions on next steps. Our hope is to apply for FRIA status on behalf of each of our clubs that are interested in having this designation. It is likely that AMA and FAA will have to take care of some administrative processes before AMA clubs can request FRIA status. Rest assured, AMA will assist all interested clubs in applying for FRIA status. Remember, the deadline for operators to comply with Remote ID requirements is not until September 16, 2023.

Again, your officers will keep this on our front burner and will work to ensure we get this process moving as soon as we can. That's it for this month! Here's my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds! See ya at the field...

Rob

**Secretaries Corner: by Mike Schroeder**

Meeting on August 22, 2022 was canceled due to rain storms that day. No minutes to report

**From the Treasury: by Chris Berardi**

**Thunderbirds 60th Anniversary Airshow**

*And members only exclusive event....*

We are planning a fun celebration for our 60 years as an organization here at Benbrook Lake. Look elsewhere in the Pilot's Log for an event flyer. Mark your calendars for October 1st and be prepared to come out and fly all day. What the flyer doesn't tell you about is the member only activity that begins after 5pm! For our members only we will have a fun *In-and-Out* burger truck to serve you hamburgers, chips and a drink. Plus, we'll also have a snow cone truck that will be there for most of the day serving both the public and members.

**Burger Tickets**

By the time you are reading this an email will have been sent to our members on how to prepare for the flying portion and how to get your order in for the burgers. Basically, all current club members will receive an invite to purchase up to two *In and Out* meal tickets for \$5 each. We don't know what the response will be for this event - more tickets are likely available and there will be extra meals catered. We will do the best we can and expect to be able to provide everyone a meal, so please excuse our caution.



**Free Commemorative Gift**

Each member who purchases a ticket will receive one free gift. This gift will memorialize the club's 60th anniversary and name. Because we can only estimate the size of the event, there may be an opportunity to purchase these during and after the event also.

**The Schedule**

For a portion of the event we will have a set demonstration schedule to showcase the many areas of technology and aviation that our members participate in. If you would like to show your glider, slow-flyer, FPV, warbird or what-have-you, then let one of the board members know so that we can get you on the schedule. Of course, there will be open flying too. The demonstration portion is for the enlightenment of our guests: We are hoping to have the mayor, Corps of Engineers and other VIP representatives attending to benefit our organization.

Keep an eye on your inbox for more details of the event and how you can secure your place in line for the food order. Other updates may also be forthcoming as we finalize arrangements.

## Latest Battery Technology

In a couple of recent articles I mentioned emerging new battery technologies (solid state), and indeed, some technologies much older that are truly amazing: The Edison nickel-iron battery that can last 30+ years in service.

One of the more recent technologies was developed 10 years ago in Mukilteo, Washington. Early on the engineers recognized the potential of their unique vanadium redox flow technology and sought the various patents to protect it. These batteries were refrigerator sized and could power a house meeting all expectations of the engineering.

All of the research to develop this technology was paid for by you and me, the US taxpayer. Like many other amazing technologies, what was created here by our own brilliant minds is now being built 5,000 miles away in Dalian, China. Oh, and the Chinese did not steal this technology - not at all: It was transferred to them by the Department of Energy under various sub-licenses and finally the fully licensed technology. What is totally egregious is that US companies were lined up to manufacture batteries using this technology. Some of whom waited over a year to hear back from the DoE only to later learned that the technology was in Chinese hands.

All of this came to light recently in an investigation executed by NPR and the Northwest News Network, exposing yet another incredible loss of technology and jobs to a potential hostile actor. Knowing the interest all of you have in battery tech, I thought I'd pass this along.

## Membership Update

Here is our latest membership count as of 09/20/2022.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	167
Family	7
Associate	9
Life	14
Service & Gift	1
TOTAL	198

That's about it for this month. I hope to see you at the club meeting this coming Monday at the field. Better yet, come and participate at the airshow and buy your tickets ASAP. Try to make it out to the field on Thursdays for club flying, training sessions, friendship and the inside scoop on our plans for the future.

## Safety Officer submission: by Sam Corlett

Howdy it's finally getting to be very nice flying weather and it's great to see more folks at the field. Just a couple of notes that come to mind from past and recent experiences:

- 1) **Propellers.** Remember when working with electric airplanes that the propeller is seriously dangerous. Don't arm an exposed propeller airplane in the pits. Remove the prop if you need to work on an electric airplane while it's powered up. Remember to stay clear of all prop arcs, or areas in front of props when running up a nitro or gas engine. If something comes loose or fails, you want all to be clear. Also when propping engine, beware of loose clothing or neck straps that could become tangled.
- 2) **Batteries.** Systems that use receiver packs need to be monitored. Batteries don't last forever. Some seem to work for years others don't. Make sure you have a way to check the voltage of your receiver pack before you fly. Don't assume its fine just because it always has been. A switch might have been left on inadvertently, or your battery has just become tired! A bonus with most new systems is telemetry that automatically shows the receiver system voltage. If your system does this remember to check it as you check your flight controls. If you can set an alarm if it goes below a desired voltage do that also.

I look forward to seeing more folks flying and also attending the October 1, Anniversary Celebration!

**114<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron Float Fly August**



**The Max Ficken Texas Scale Championships 2022:** This scale event was held September 10-11, 2022 at the Greater Southwest airfield. As always there were many great looking airplane attending and their flying field was immaculate.



## Anniversary Airshow

This year the Fort Worth Thunderbirds RC club will be celebrating 60 years. To commemorate this milestone the club is hosting an Anniversary Airshow open to the public. See the flyer in this newsletter edition for more information. The following are some photos from our 50th anniversary airshow.



## 2022 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
October 1st	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Air Show	Club Officers
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Jet Thunder Over Benbrook Jet Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
October 22 <sup>th</sup>	North Dallas RC Float Fly	Josh Kleen    joshkleen@gmail.com
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Texas Electric (Expo) Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
	Alliance Air Show	
	SPA West (Waco)	Todd Blose
November	TOYS for TOTS	Club Officers
December TBD	Club Christmas Party	Club Officers

[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

### Membership

Membership Type	Count
Individual	155
Family	7
Associate	9
Life	14
Service & Gift	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>186</b>

## 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

**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:**

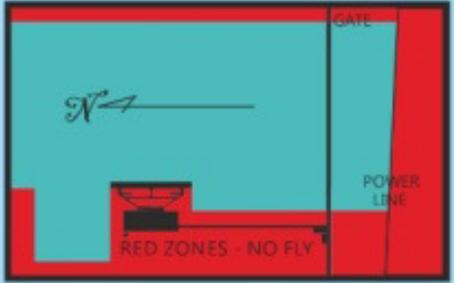
- I will not fly a model aircraft in a careless or reckless manner.
- I will not interfere with and will yield the right of way to all human-carrying aircraft using AMA's *See and Avoid Guidance* and a spotter when appropriate.
- I will not operate any model aircraft while I am under the influence of 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)



**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

# Blast from the past



# EVENTS



The Fort Worth Thunderbirds present

## Jet Thunder over Benbrook! Oct 8, 2022



**Come join us at Thunderbird Field for a day devoted to fun and relaxed Jet flying!  
Event hours are 9AM until 4PM. Pilot briefing at 9AM. AMA required. Our excellent  
runway is 480'x40'**

**All types of jets welcome: Turbine, EDF, Fuel DF. Landing fee is \$20.00 and includes  
lunch from the Thunderbird Grill!**

**There will be a RAFFLE! Grand prize will be an excellent PnP or BnF EDF jet!!!**

**Event Director: Tom Blakeney. Contact at 817-734-1917 or [tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com](mailto:tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com)**

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

# **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](mailto: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](mailto:tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com)**

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