



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



Issue 6109 - September 2023

Next club meeting: September 25th - 7 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

No report this month.

Vice Presidents Corner: by *Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds. We continue to work with AMA on our FRIA. The initial submission was denied by FAA and we expect to re-submit very soon. FAA has also extended the enforcement of the Remote ID rule for 6months for those that cannot comply with the rule.

Please know we are diligently working to get our FRIA in place ASAP. Also please be reminded if you fly anywhere other than in a FRIA as of Sept 16th, you have to comply with the remote ID requirements. Please see the AMA website for info and links about all the associated scenarios etc.

Here's my virtual low pass salute to you Thunderbirds! See ya at the field!

Secretaries Corner: by *Mike Schroeder*

MEETING MINUTES – August 28, 2023 Thunderbird Meeting Minutes by Mike Schroeder

Meeting Starts 7:00

James welcomes all and asked if there are any new or visitors. Jimmy Mackey is visiting and is a past Thunderbird President back in the 1993 for several years. Jimmy is ninety years old and use to fly control line planes. Jimmy's AMA number is in the low one hundreds.

Recap Events

Float Fly with Mel Wells. There were twenty three pilots and it looked like there were close to fifty people there watching. Super hot day but it was still fun to be on the water. No major accidents and the club made money from the event. Thanks to all who donated and put in the time to help. Woody and Mel got to meet and talk to the Lake Marshall and which was there to make sure things go good.

Jet Fly is postponed to next year April.

Tex Electric is set for November 4 and the CD is Tom Blakeney. Tom is working on getting the raffle prize.

Officers Reports

Safety Report by Sam Corlett: Sam talked about just checking your plane. Especially if it is a plane you have not flown in a while. Making sure your safety kill switch works, check all hinged surfaces to make sure nothing is loose. Take five minutes and go over the plane at home so that you don't get distracted out at the field and miss something. Do a preflight inspection at the starting box as a last minute check.

Treasurers Report by Chris Berardi: There are 205 members with twelve associate members. Checking account and savings accounts are in good standing. No major expenses are coming up. In the process of ordering shirts.

Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder: Ken Knotts made the motion to not read the minutes. Second by Pete Lucas. Show of hands the motion passed.

Vice Presidents Report by Rob Lowe: Deadline for FAA approved flying sites for a FRIA is September 16 and the Thunderbird club is still waiting on approval. Everything has been submitted. The ceiling height will still be 400 feet, but once we get approved we will work on getting the ceiling raised to a higher limit.

Show and Tell

Woody Lake displayed his Bitco Hobbies, Dancing Wings Stearman ARF he just finished up. This is not a foam plane but a balsa and plywood ARF. The Stearman is powered by a six cell battery and a sixty size motor. You have to install everything. Weighs in at thirteen pounds and took a long time to put together. On a scale of one to ten on a build difficulty scale - it was an eight. Gear struts are a too tight and stiff. Flies really good and Woody is looking for a little cooler weather to get some more flying in. Page three of the story; on the way down the stairs after the meeting I managed to drop the Stearman. Someone was looking out for me as the only damage was to the top of the rudder.



New Project list

Install a box to the side of the shed to put found planes in.

Storage Container: We would have to lease the land from the CORP if they gave us permission to buy a container.

Weather Station: Issues are need for a cell phone data station point. Cost ??

Brick walkway out to the flag pole: Would like to have engraved bricks that members can purchase to be installed.

Real toilet: Hmmm

Holiday Party: Proposed change instead of having a Christmas Party is to have a member's party at the field sometime at the end of October. We could have a Toy Drive, SWAP meet, fun fly, raffle off a few items and a catered meal for members. Issue is that renting a place has gotten extremely expensive, caterers have also become costly.

SCAM

There has been an email going around that looks like it came from a club officer asking for help buying gift cards for the VA.

The club officers will never ask for this. We have a process of coming to a meeting, discussing and voting on as a club to do anything like this.

Please do fall for this SCAM, you will not get reimbursed by the club.

Member for sell items

It has been asked by members to post items on the website or in the newsletter for members wanting to sell items. The club has not really done this as it becomes a manage issue. Discussed making a template for the selling party to fill out and turn in to be posted at the bottom of the newsletter. More discussion to follow

A suggestion from a few members was people should use Facebook Market as several have used it with good success.

New Business

Ron Anderson has a youth group that he would like to expose to RC flying. More details will come as Ron gets it.

Motion was made to end the meeting by Ken Knotts, second by Rob Lowe. Show of hands - meeting adjourned at 8:20

Thunderbird Members in Attendance

Dave Williams	Reed Smith	Tab Bowland	Sam Corlett
Rob Lowe	Chip Kiehlbauch	Ken Knots	Chris Berardi
Mel Bowser	James Meadow	Johnny Hunt	Randall Shaw
Chester Shaw	Christine Shaw	Woody Lake	Mel Wells
Pete Lucas	Bill Lake (Sir)	Mark Anderson	Tom Blakeney
Ron Anderson	Rex Anderson	Terry Davis	Jimmy Mackey

From the Treasury: *By Chris Berardi*

Club Shirts

The shirts are now on order. I expect to have delivery within a week or you reading this edition of *The Pilot's Log*.

Coming Soon - Remote Identification

After all of that headache last month, the FAA blinked. It wasn't really their fault in that the cause of the delay was more or less out of their hands. Presumably, many of you have also tried to purchase a remote ID device. Mine has been on order for weeks and there is no availability or shipping information available. Access to a remote ID device was cited as one issue and there were several other points of interest noted in the news release.

If you haven't seen it, the AMA has posted a link to a video detailing more of the circumstances around the delay. A quick search should get you the link. Regardless, we won't need to have remote ID in our models (for those of us outside a FRIA) for another 6-months or so.

2023 Christmas Party, or Not

The information I have from the latest board meeting is that our party will occur the last weekend of October. Food will be cooked up by the restaurant managed by our very own, Wayne Lemkelde. We will be finalizing the food and drink in the next two weeks.

I've copied the list of activities and food items from last month as a reminder. If you have any ideas or wants, please let a board member know.

- ◇ Toy Drive to benefit Cook Children's hospital
- ◇ Swap Meet
- ◇ Fun fly event(s) such as a Turkey Shoot
- ◇ Demonstrations - a smaller scale airshow
- ◇ Food and drink - fajitas, funnel cakes, coffee and soft drinks

Membership Update

Not much of an update this month as things are relatively unchanged. I did find a duplicate in my data so that has been removed and we have a new member this month, John Price. We have also had a couple of new visitors to the field and they have indicated they will be joining too. They have recently moved to Texas and are a father and son team. We will introduce them next month when they sign up.

Here is our latest membership count as of 09/19/2023.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	167
Family	10
Associate	12
Life	16
Service & Gift	0
TOTAL	205

That's about it for this month. See you at the field.

Safety Officer submission: by *Sam Corlett*

No input this month, Fly Safe.

FAA Remote ID Enforcement Date

NOTICE

As AMA anticipated, the FAA has announced they are extending the Remote ID enforcement date by six months. Operators now have until March 16, 2024 before they will have to comply with the rule. This extension provides the FAA more time to approve FRIA applications and manufacturers the time for production of broadcast modules.

Comet ME-163



During WWII, Germany was experimenting with different designs for unpowered aircraft such as gliders. By then, they'd already had experience with rocket engines, but they could only sustain flights for short periods before using up their fuel. So why not put a rocket engine in a glider?

Me 163 Komet

After numerous prototypes (and a handful of dead test pilots), the Messerschmitt Me 163 Komet was first deployed in 1944. It was only 18 ft in length and needed to be fitted with a dolly for takeoffs. Once airborne, the dolly would be jettisoned to reveal a single skid that acted as its landing gear.



However, the skid was held in place by an oleo-pneumatic strut that absorbs the shock in landings. If this were to malfunction, the pilot was in for a very rough landing. In fact, three of its main test pilots experienced this malfunction and were hospitalized with serious spinal damage and skull fractures.

Hard Landings

Furthermore, landing this aircraft – and even aiming it – was harder than it should be. The slightest updraft could potentially force the glider to rise up into the air and overshoot the runway. Meanwhile, the speeds it can reach meant that it could simply zip by a target in a matter of seconds, so hitting anything required excellent marksmanship and luck.

Pilots also needed to have special low-fiber diets as gas in the GI tract would rapidly expand during its extremely fast climbs, making it uncomfortable for the pilots. To make matters worse, the Komet was unpressurized, even though it could climb to 32,000 ft in less than 3 minutes.



Engaging the Komet

Questionable skids and flight characteristics aside, the Komet also had problems regarding its fuel. The Allies noticed that the Komet only held enough fuel for seven and a half minutes of powered flight, so they would delay engaging the Komet until its fuel emptied out.

Fuel Problems

But its biggest hazard was the type of fuel it used – the C-Stoff, a mixture of hydrazine hydrate and methanol, and T-Stoff, a made up of concentrated hydrogen peroxide. These would combust when they make contact with each other, so the Komet had separate fueling ports for each and two different tankers for refueling.

The fuel's high volatility resulted in several fires and explosions, injuring and killing pilots and ground crew alike. These incidents often occurred when fuel lines were either ruptured or leaking, which could be amplified by the number of rough landings it would endure.



Corrosive and Deadly

1,040 L of C-Stoff was stored behind the cockpit's rear wall and 120 L of T-Stoff on both sides of the pilot inside the cockpit. These two were also corrosive by themselves.

T-Stoffs were only stored in aluminum, while the C-Stoff was kept in enamel or glass, as they'd eat away at

anything else. Pilots also wore special rubberized asbestos suits to protect them from the corrosive fuel.

September 18, 1947

The United States Air Force marks seventy-six years of service. The United States Air Force (USAF) turns seventy-six years-old today. On September 18, 1947, Chief Justice Fred Vinson swore in Stuart Symington as the first secretary of the air force, officially founding a new branch of the U.S. military.



2023 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
September	Jet Fly-In	Rescheduled for Spring 2024
November 5	TEX Texas Electric Expo Electric Fly-In	Tom Blakeney
December	Christmas Toy Drive	
December	Christmas Party	

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

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Flying Field Rules

← SPREAD SPECTRUM →

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09

36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 03.0 03.1 03.2 03.3 03.4 03.5 03.6 03.7 03.8 03.9

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
2022 PROJECT LIST
3/19/2023 12:42 PM

Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	Update Freq Board	Update signage a use or Freq. board	self	\$100.00	BOARD	AWAITING ACTION	Setting up Membership Action Committee
2	Lost Aircraft Security	Provide a means to secure lost aircraft Found and returned	self	\$100.00	MEADOWS	researching need and solution	OC
3	Starting Stakes for big birds	Post for retaining Large A/C at starting area	self		Grant Schroeder		Awaiting information
4	Additional Storage AREA	Utilize Cargo container	self/contract	\$20,000.00	Chris	Hold	Would it require Lease mod?
5	Weather Station	complete with camera and Data port	Self	\$?	Chris/Mike	Discussion	Allow member or guest to see and look at actual Field conditions
6	Additional Bleachers	Provide addition guest seating for events and competitions	Self	\$?	Not assigned	Discussion	need to assign to POC
7	Members Walkway	Personal engraved brick pathway from Pit area to Flagpole	Everyone		meadows	Discussion	Membership due details
8	Toilet	Real Toilet	combo	?	Meadows	Discussion	
9	RUNWAY	Paint lines of runway/taiways	contract	2000	Mike	completed	Completed
10	Helicopter Pit Area	Pit area for Heli Area	self		Mike/SAM	completed	90% awaiting Electrical completion

EVENTS



The Fort Worth Thunderbirds present

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

Nov 4, 2023



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>

NORTH DALLAS RC PRESENTS

WARBIRDS

OVER TEXAS

OCTOBER 13-14, 2023

Friday – Sat 9am to 5pm
Registration; \$35 Fri & Sat, \$25 Sat Only

PILOT LUNCH



Bar-B-Que

RAFFLE GIVEAWAY



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CD: Josh Kleen joshkleen@gmail.com

Blast from the Past

Photo collage from our Texas Electric Expo 2012

