

## ***President's Corner***

***Chris Berardi***

### ***Christmas Party***

By the time you read this, you may have already had a phone call from me as I will have attempted to contact everyone. The club needs to know how many people (Adult, children) will be attending the party (Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm) so that the proper amount of meats can be ordered.

Not only will we have something nice to eat, but we will have door prizes to award and announcement of the voting results for the 2002 officer positions. In addition, we will have an acappella choir to entertain us and the presentation of Thunderbird of the Year and other recognition awards.

Thank you to Mike Hicks and his wife who are taking care of decorations and gifts for the women and children, and to Dean Smith for providing PA equipment and tunes.

By the way, Neil Lyle and myself are responsible for the meats and modeling gifts.

### ***Your Vote***

Notice that this issue contains the nominations for the club officer positions for 2002. It is your opportunity to vote for the members who will represent you for a year. The club officers are responsible for mundane administrative issues such as paying the light bill, to more serious issues of dealing with the public, insurance, and conflict. Although this is a small club, being an officer requires personal time and a high level of commitment toward protecting and developing the club.

I have been proud to serve as president this past year, and hope that I have been effective in promoting and developing the club. If you agree, then I am prepared to continue upon the path of developing a national presence for the club, sponsoring competitive and fun fly events, and encouraging our club to be a contributor to charities in the local area.

I sincerely thank all of you for your support during the year.

### ***New Business: Thunderbirds on the Internet***

I brought this issue to the floor at the October club meeting. There was an overwhelming positive response to this and I have therefore made some enquires on Internet Service Providers (ISP). By the time you read this, several domain names will have been registered for the club and I hope to present those at the November club meeting.

Our forthcoming project to host the club's web site will be an interesting, entertaining, and challenging project for all of us. It represents a wonderful opportunity to present our club and beautiful flying site to the rest of the nation. Plus, the web site will provide a

platform from which to advertise our competitive events and public awareness issues. Already, several of you have volunteered to provide content for the site and to assist me in managing our first electronic publishing foray.

We also decided at the October club meeting to continue publishing the Pilot Log on a monthly basis and that the web site would complement the newsletter and develop other areas, particularly as an archive of photographs, news, club business and so forth.

There will be more on this development in the New Year when we hope to go online.

### ***New Business: Upcoming Competitive Events***

Along with several of our established competitive events I have wanted to increase the club's participation at the state and national level. Our club has a cadre of excellent pilots who are competitive in particular areas and who are in a great position to foster healthy competition at our field. As a result of this interest, we are anticipating that the 2002 Team Trials Selection for Class F3C (FAI Helicopter) will be held at Lake Benbrook. Roland Estrada took the lead on this and due to his effort, I have submitted a formal proposal to the AMA governing body for competition.

It also appears that our club will be the host of an IMAC event next year. This is the perfect compliment to our Big Bird fun fly that we hosted just a month or so ago. Details on this will be forthcoming and I would like to thank Curt Bellows for his initiative in bringing an IMAC event to Fort Worth.

The club should also see the return of pylon racing next year, probably changed somewhat by the recent rule changes due to safety. Will Campbell is about due to give us an update on the changes we can expect and when our first race can be hosted. I am looking forward to this as my quickie has been completed for nearly two years and my Dubb Jett .40 has not even been run yet.

If you have an event that you'd like to run, then the most important issue is to schedule a date in the club calendar. Once that is done, the club will then identify organizers, assistants, and determine the level of participation. We are fortunate that we have such an active body of club members that are willing to help out and run these events; thanks for volunteering!

### ***Toys for Tots***

By the time you read this, Toys for Tots will have come and gone. Again, the Thunderbirds stand out in helping the less fortunate enjoy this time of year. Thanks to Mike Hicks for organizing one of the most important get togethers of the year. If you would like to contribute something and were not able to make it to the event, you may bring an unwrapped gift of about \$10 in value, or cash, to either Mike or a club officer. We will see that it finds a home.

***Club Meeting: New November Date***

The club meeting will be held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> November. This is the third Monday of the month and therefore a week early. The meeting was moved in order to free up Thanksgiving week; hope this change did not inconvenience you.

I'm not sure what the raffle items will be this month; but, you can be sure that it will fly well and not take long to put together. Last month, I believe one of our new members won one of the combat models. Not bad for being a new member and attending his first club meeting.

If you haven't made it to a club meeting this year, please make an effort to come. It's fun and you'll learn about the club's past, present, and future.

Until next month, I'll see you at the field and at the party.