



Fort Worth Thunderbirds

Radio Control Association Inc.

The Pilot's Log



Issue 6110 - October 2023

Next club meeting: October 23rd - 7 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

Greetings Thunderbirds,

Finally Fall has arrived and with it cooler weather and some much needed rain. Of course the rain has ensured that our grounds crew is busy on Friday mornings manicuring the field. Please give them a big thanks when you see them. The Fall also means several other activities are ramping up for the club. October is the month that nominations for board members are made for the elections in November. I encourage anyone who is a member in good standing who wants to serve in a leadership roles to do so! Requirements can be found on our website. It's also the time we begin accepting nominations with justification statements for 'Thunderbird of the Year' and our life members begin to discuss possible candidates to earn that honor.

The board is also busy getting our Holiday celebration event finalized. It will be at the field this year with a catered meal for members and other activities to include a toy drive and some flying events. More to come!

Other events on the calendar include the electric fly-in. Please check the events section of the website and make plans to attend

Weather is perfect so get out and fly after reading this newsletter.

Respectfully
James

Vice Presidents Corner: by *Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds! Wow can you believe it is October? This year has flown by and perfect flying weather has returned to Thunderbird Field.

Now that we are back to our normal entrance, I wanted to remind everyone about driving inside Mustang Park. One of the rangers came by a few weeks ago and commented that some of us (not identified specifically) come thru the gate very fast and drive inside the park well over the speed limits. They also mentioned that when the gate is staffed, some folks coming to our field are rude to the attendant for asking about paying to enter.

PLEASE remember that we are tenants on USACE property. More importantly every one of us is an

ambassador for our club and RC flying in general. I know the vast majority of us are great neighbors and interact in a respectful manner. Thanks for that! If by chance you're having a bad day, or see one of us not being the best Thunderbird example, let's take care of each other and hold each other accountable. Our ability to keep this location long term depends on us.

We also model what it means to be a Thunderbird as we attract future generations to the aerospace industry and RC modeling. Just passing a message from our friends in the park. Thanks for your help!

Here's my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds! See ya at the field!

Rob

Secretaries Corner: by Mike Schroeder

MEETING MINUTES – September 25, 2023 Thunderbird Meeting Minutes by Mike Schroeder

Meeting Starts 7:00

Chris Berardi is filling in for James Meadow. James, Rob and Sam are not able to attend tonight's meeting. Chris asked if there are any new members or guest. Two new members are here for their first meeting. Carl Bogart and John Price. Welcome and enjoy.

Recap

Christmas Party turn is turning into an October event

October party to take the place of the Christmas party. There will be a swap meeting, fun fly, toy drive and a catered meal. Bring one toy for one meal ticket per person. Toy drive to benefit Cook Children's Hospital. Their aim is supply every child a gift on Christmas Day. Please remember that foot balls and kick balls are nice but you can't play with them in a hospital. Goal is to have the event the last weekend of October.

Events

Warbird Event planning for the middle part of May and the CD will be Dave Williams

Jet Fly planning for late March early April and the CD will be Tom Blakeney

Electric Fly is schedule November 4 with a tailgate swap meet. CD will be Tom Blakeney

Question was brought app about having a Helicopter event. John Rodriguez is going to look into it.

*******The club is in need of members to step up and take on a few new events. *******

Old Business

Shirts have been order and should be in soon. Chris will let you know what the cost will be. Red and Gray hats are still available; just ask a board member if you want to buy one.

New Business

Need two new volunteers to join the yard mowing crew on Friday mornings. Two really great guys have retired and moved away. Please get with Rex Anderson if you can join the Friday morning crew. Meet some great friends and help out for a couple of hours.

Tom Blakeney explained the situation of our FRIA and what is going on.

There was discussion about what do we do if the government shuts down and we will still have access.

Officer's report

Secretary Report, Tom Blakeney makes a motion not to read the minutes, second by Dave Williams. Show of hands and the motion passes.

Treasurers Report by Chris Berardi, checking and savings account are in good standing. Some talk about getting a better interest rate for the savings account. Chris will look into it. No big bills due.

Training with Rex Anderson, There will be just a few more weeks of Thursday training. Rex is open to a few one on one training if anyone is in need.

Show and Tell

Kenneth Killgo showed a Fly Wing helicopter that he has. He is still working on getting it up and flying.

Ken Knotts had a show and give for the first taker on a jet and the needs a little work. Ron took on the challenge.

Rex had a Hobby Star trainer that needs work that he was looking for help with.

Wayne Lemkelde talked a little about the menu he suggests for the October party.

Reed Smith is going to teach a class at this school on RC flying and the class wants to take his class on a field trip to the Thunderbird field. Reed will need several volunteers to have buddy box to allow the students try their hand at flying. More information and dates to come.

Motion was made to end the meeting by Pete Lucas and second by Dave Williams. Show of hands to adjourn the meeting. The motion passes.

Meeting adjourns at 8:15

Thunderbird Members in attendance

Chris Berardi
Bill Lake
Fred Neal
Kenneth Killgo
Mark Johnson
John Rodriguez
Ken Knotts
Wayne Lemkelde

Dave Williams
Ron Anderson
Rex Anderson
Tab Bowland
Pete Devlin
Pete Lucas
Woody Lake
Mel Wells

Ian Waring
Carl Bogart
Rick Kraft
Chad Lee
Mike Schroeder
John Price
Rick Smith
Tom Blakeney
Terry Davis

From the Treasury: *By Chris Berardi*

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

Safety Officer submission: *by Sam Corlett*

Howdy Folks! Well, the heat is gone, the wind is up! I hope you continue to enjoy our flying field. The biggest issue I have with the wind is that things get blown off the tables, or parked planes on the grass get moved about. A simple tie down solution I've often used if the wind isn't too strong is just to push a couple of screw drivers angled into the ground between the tire and the landing gear.

I've been away lately at full scale and RC flying events, and it comes to mind again that at both, two things are the key to

safety and indeed the added enjoyment of our hobby: communications and procedures.

Communicate to others your intentions, needs and issues. Our hobby is a great way to make friends, and it's more fun when you get to offer help and receive help from others. So, make a point to not only say your intentions while flying, but also visit with and get to know the other pilots.

Procedures ensure that we do things that don't surprise others or ourselves! It gives us the freedom to operate safely. So know what's expected of you when you fly and make your own checklists to follow when you prepare to fly. Then fly appropriately to the situation and communicate.

See you at the field!

Bomber Field 2023 B-17 Gathering

BOMBER FIELD MONAVILLE, TX
SEPTEMBER 14TH – 16TH 2023
35TH ANNUAL B-17 GATHERING & BIG BIRD FLY IN
Sanctioned by the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Sanction No. 12657

All Big-Bird aircraft are welcome to participate including turbine aircraft as long as they are replicas of full scale aircraft.

Pilots fee \$30, field open all week for flying | General admission: \$5 per person
Children 12 and under free | AMA membership required for all pilots
Wheelchair accessible viewing area & porta-potty | Concessions available on site
Awards ceremony and raffle drawing will be held Saturday at 4:30pm
Legend Hobby 8ft Pizza – Free Pilots Lunch Friday!
RV Hookups \$30 Per Night

For more information contact:
Club President Barry Raborn
bomberfieldscale@yahoo.com

Grand Raffle Prize
Legend Hobby 125" B-17
w Robert Scale Retracts/Wheel

Sponsored by:

www.bomberfieldusa.com and 

Per AMA requirements: All turbine pilots should present current AMA card with "Turbine" endorsement at registration. All pilots with aircraft over 55 lbs. please bring appropriate AMA permit for that plane to registration.

The 35th Annual B-17 Gathering & Big Bird Fly-In was held September 14-16th, 2023 at Bomber Field USA in Monaville, Texas. We were blessed with fair weather and a large group of pilots and visitors during the entire event. I've been attending this event since the 90's and try to make it out every year to fly or capture photos & video clips for the club.



BB Weber with his Standard J-1 after the successful maiden.

Bomber Field USA was built with the vision and funds of BB Weber. BB grew up loving airplanes – big ones and rubber-band powered balsa kits. As a successful businessman, he was able to bring his vision to life on our 50 acre privately owned facility. BB’s passion was for scale, multi-engine LARGE RC planes. The fuselage of his Tupolev Tu-95 21’ wingspan Russian Bear still hangs in our Quonset hut. BB passed away in 2013 but his love for this hobby continues as we continue to host flying events each year in his honor.



Pilots come from near and far to enjoy the flying, fellowship and the food. Some arrive on Sunday before the event! In total, there were 112 registered pilots from eight states and our good buddies from across the border in Mexico. Around 300 guests showed up on Saturday to enjoy the busiest flying day. “Bomber Burgers” with bacon and veggies are served daily. In keeping with the LARGE SCALE and food theme; Legend Hobby donated lunch to the pilots on Friday with an 8’ diameter pizza (yes, 8 feet) from Dirt Road Cookers.



Texas Warbird Thunder Team Co-Founder, Greg Yancy’s Top Flite P-51.



Ryon Lockhart won the coveted B-17 Trophy for a 2nd year in a row. Gorgeous model and it flies beautifully.



Senior Pattern SPA: By Frank Cox, Vice-President SPA

Dear friends,

We've experienced a very bad summer here in the West this year. Attendance has dropped at our SPA events due to the extraordinary high temperatures.

Next year, I hope to see a better year. Tower Hobbies received a shipment of their version of the Kaos, and were sold-out within a couple of days. I take that as a sign that SPA is not dead.

Here in the West, we've made changes that allowed retracts. Even though we've allowed tuned pipes, their use has not been as expected. These changes were made with the expectation of increasing SPA membership. There were a lot of retracts being used, but not so many pipes .

Maybe the name, Senior Pattern, implies that our membership is for old men like myself. Maybe a new name such as Vintage Pattern may help. I don't know. I, as well as the Board am open to suggestions.

I had to cancel my event last year because I only had three early registrants, and I knew one of them wasn't going to make it. Forcing my club to give up the field for a Saturday for only a few people wasn't in the cards. Early registration is very important. It gives the CD's an idea of what to plan for. Such as how much food to prepare and how many drinks that will be needed.

Let's look forward to a new season with events planned as they were several years ago. If all the CD's plan their events as before. And if the pilots register early to let the CD's know what to expect, we can have a better season ahead of us.

I look forward to seeing all of you this next season.

Sincerely,

Frank Cox
Vice-President SPA



2023 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
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



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTIZERS



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

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 53.0 53.1 53.2 53.3 53.4 53.5 53.6 53.7 53.8 53.9

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

RED ZONES - NO FLY

POWER LINE

GATE

**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

Humor



New Spectrum DX99C System

Reportably Howard Hughes testing the Spruce Goose Model.

True or False ????

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>