



# Fort Worth Thunderbirds

## Radio Control Association Inc.

# The Pilot's Log



Issue 4409, January 2015

**Next club meeting: January 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, 7:00 pm, West Creek Café, Camp Bowie Blvd**

### Presidents Corner: by *Tom Blakeney*

Well, here we are at the start of a brand new year for the Fort Worth Thunderbirds. It will be hard to top all we accomplished in 2014!

I would like to thank our great and hardworking outgoing officers for 2014: Garry Rife did an outstanding job leading us as President, Gary Alphin did an outstanding job as our Treasurer and Steve Ehlers did an outstanding job serving as our Safety Officer. The 2015 officers and the club members cannot thank you enough for all you have done for us.

2014 was a truly amazing year for the club. We listed everything accomplished at the Christmas Party and it took a while to get through. The field is in the best shape it has ever been thanks to the hard working club members that keep it that way.

We are right on the verge of completing the long running lease approval process. Joe Jopling has done his usual exemplary job keeping this effort moving forward, working carefully through a number of last minute delays and minor problems with the lease.

Although I have been in the club a lot of years (most years since about 1975 with about a 10 year break from 1996

until 2006), this will be my first time to serve as President. I have served as Vice President three times, last year plus a couple of times in the mid to late 1980s. The club has given me so much over the years that I want to give back a little extra to the club. So, I decided to take my turn in the barrel as President. I have been assured I will most likely survive this ordeal none the worse for wear.

From time to time, my job will no doubt interfere a bit with my duties to the club. I will do all possible to delegate matters at hand when this happens and I ask for your support and help in this area.

At the January meeting, we will work as usual to set up as much of our event schedule as possible.

I look forward to working with the club members to make 2015 another great year for the Fort Worth Thunderbirds.

Please feel free to contact me by email or by phone with any concerns or ideas you have regarding the club this year. The best time to call is between 7PM and 10PM weekdays and just about any time on the weekends.

See you at the meeting and at the field!

*Tom Blakeney*  
*President, Fort Worth Thunderbirds*

### Vice Presidents Corner: by *Verne 'Sarge' Bell*

Howdy Members. Thank you for electing me your vice president. Per the bylaws, one of my duties is to arrange programs for our monthly meetings. I will try to provide as many as possible. If you have any suggestions as to what or who you would like to see please contact me. This month Joe Jopling will make a presentation on Center of Gravity.

*Verne B. Bell GySgt USMC Retired*  
*Vice President, Fort Worth Thunderbirds*

## Meeting Minutes; by Tab Bowland

No Minutes this month.

*Tab Bowland*

*Secretary, Fort Worth Thunderbirds*

## Treasurers Report: by Chris Berardi

Hello Thunderbirds! It has been many years since I've written something for the newsletter and now there is more motivation than I had previously. As your new 2015 treasurer, I take over from Gary Alphin who has developed this position to new heights of organization and analysis. The office of "treasurer" always seems to be in the background and not at the forefront of club activities. As club members, we participate in our events and revel in our wonderful new facilities, but never give much thought to how we got there. In large part, the treasurer advises the club on what's affordable and what financial plans need to be in place. These behind the scenes activities are instrumental in generating the more observable structures and activities that you and public see. In addition, the treasurer devises a plan for the future expansion of the club in whatever endeavor the membership directs. Whether these are new facilities like a clubhouse, r/c car track, a control line circle or an environmentally friendly permanent latrine, the financial planning comes a close first to the ideation.

The treasurer acts a neutral party and serves to ensure the continuity of the club on a financial basis. To that end, Gary has tracked expenses and can provide interesting statistics on the cost of food at an event, the annual cost of our utilities and the projected cost of maintaining the flying site. Over recent years, the treasurer has picked up the task of tracking and maintaining the membership roster. This was previously done by the secretary but involved needless duplication and it was easier for the treasurer to update the roster as dues were received.

For those of you that were around when I was a club officer many years ago, you will remember that I like innovation and change - not for the sake of it, but to better organize and rationalize our approaches. For example, we began to actively engage with the Corps of Engineers, participate in local municipal events, created a web site and updated the newsletter format. As I see it, there are even more opportunities and challenges than ever before that demand we take intelligent and proactive steps to manage. Your newly elected officers are on the vanguard of this, and you, as club members have a vested interest in expressing what you need and how you think we should grow as an organization. If you can't make it to the monthly club meetings, then email or approach us at the flying field to share your concerns.

In the coming year, I would like to build on what Gary and Bob Hoover accomplished in tracking our income and expenditures. I will take the information collected and look at it in detail to analyze on a comprehensive level what it takes to keep the club running. For example, we have just paid the Corps of Engineers for a new lease: In 2003, our lease fee was \$275 per annum; it has now risen to the new rate of \$1,750 per annum and not inclusive of several hundred dollars of administrative costs that we have to pay. On the face of it, we can absorb that cost hike, but remember all the other costs have risen too. Our field is larger and requires better equipment to manage and maintain, we have portable toilets, more events, parking, fencing and insurance to take care of. Only if we "club" together can we continue what has been started and so every one of us is vital to our collective success.

Due to technology and shifting ideas of what officers should accomplish, the roles and responsibilities of each officer position have changed. I will endeavor to document what each role and responsibility is so that year-over-year transitions are easier to accomplish. Often, there is a wealth of ongoing business to continue and contacts to maintain. Incoming officers regardless of experience should be able to pick-up where the outgoing officer left off. The club must not be dependent on tribal knowledge or legacy operations and as our environment becomes more complex, we must document how our business is managed so that any club member has an ability to serve.

Another area the new officers hope to improve is the monthly meeting. You'll see a revised form where interesting activities come first and business closes the meeting. This simple re-order will allow us to have guest speakers present first rather than having to sit through club business beforehand. I do hope to invite a couple of interesting guests, some related to the aviation field, others in parks and wildlife, and perhaps a guest speaker on Medicare (many club members are in their sixth decade!). If you would find guest speakers of interest to you, then let me know or provide suggestion of your own - our new officers will strive to bring you more of what you want.

There are more hobby related changes coming in 2015 that could significantly alter the landscape of model aviation and the definition of radio control. Not only will these changes directly impact us as an organization of hobbyists, but it will see the growth of a brand new industry, “micro unmanned aerial vehicles,” or drones. The FAA (Federal Aviation Authority) is working on a regulatory framework and it seems possible that it will affect both line-of-sight model aircraft as well as Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPV). As you can see, there is a whole new world of acronyms alone to master in this predicted \$10 billion industry. One company is a leader in this area: DJI. This company went from fewer than 30 employees to over 3,000 in a single year and is predicted to have 6,000 employees by the end of 2015 (listen to NPR for an article on this company’s growth). A hobby store will have little choice but to tap into this new expansion of our hobby in order to take a share of what will be a huge international business. I’m almost certain; models at our club field will be literally changing shape in the coming year.

These changes have to be actively managed by all of us - not just officers, but club members with expertise in these areas. We can’t rest blind if we are to have an organization and beautiful facilities. Consider this an invite to bring your interests and expertise to the organization. Why not write an article and post it in our newsletter? Or bring something to demonstrate at our club meetings. I most certainly look forward to what our future brings and hope to see you there.

*Safe flying!*

*Chris Berardi*

*Treasurer, Fort Worth Thunderbirds*

### Black Eye Pea Fly-In

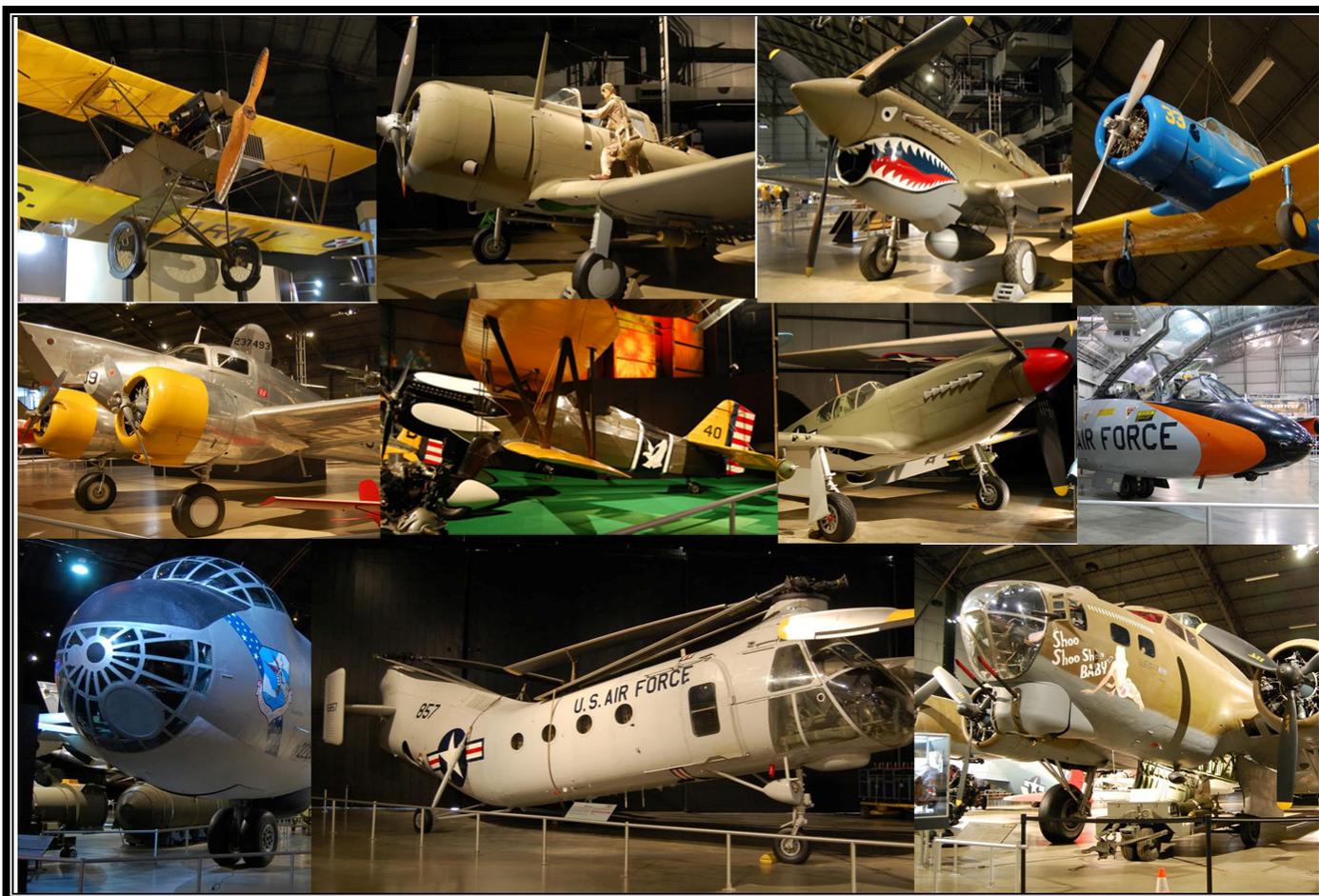
Our annual Black-Eye Pea Fly-in was cancelled due to inclement weather and the prediction of Icy Road Conditions. Hopefully everyone still had the opportunity to partake in the tradition of eating black eyed peas for a great year.

### Air Force Museum

If you have never visited the Air Force Museum in Dayton Ohio, put it on your bucket list. I’ve had the opportunity to visit twice and have yet to see all offered. The following are some photos taken at the museum and a link to the virtual website. Enjoy

<http://www.cdsg.org/forums/viewtopic.php?t=381>





**Travel in Style! 1920s Handley Page Airliner: by Model Airplane News Executive Editor Debra Cleghorn**

The next time you're traveling by air, imagine what it must have been like to take a trip in the 1920s in a 15-passenger plane like this! This 15-foot-span Handley Page W.10 model is powered by two 60cc Laser twin-cylinder engines and weighs in at 86 pounds. Builder Neil Tidy spent 2,000 hours on the model of the 1926 Imperial Airways aircraft.



## Two Airworthy B-29s

For many years, only one flying example of the B-29 Superfortress has been worthy of soaring above the clouds. The B-29 is the same plane type that effectively ended World War II on the Pacific front by dropping atomic bombs on Japan. That single flyable plane, known as "Fifi" is about to be joined by her sibling, "Doc."



Plans to restore the plane were hatched back in 1987 when the B-29 was found to have survived its afterlife as a practice target, largely intact. Doc has been under restoration in Wichita, Kansas since 2000, and thanks to the work of volunteers, machinists, mechanics, and veterans, Doc is being prepped to fly once again this spring. Doc is ready to fly right now, according to [AvWeb](#) but the air temperatures aren't warm enough to warm the engine oil.



*B-29 Superfortress "Fifi" by Paul Thompson*

## Carl Goldberg Award: by Steve Ehlers

Several of you know of my efforts submitting historic achievements of the Fort Worth Thunderbirds Club to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Heritage program. While working with the AMA and learning about various programs and awards they offer I discovered the \*Carl Goldberg Vital People Award.

\* Carl Goldberg (1912-1985) was an exceptional model aircraft designer, a model-club founder, an educator, and a business owner, among other things. He is a prominent figure in the history of the AMA and aero modeling. Many of you may recognize the Goldberg name on model kits that were from Carl Goldberg Products.

3,970 B-29s were built, and Doc was built in 1946 — too late to be put into service during WWII. However, it did serve in Korea, and also with the Strategic Air Command until the B-52 came along. The two B-29s that dropped atomic bombs are housed in museums, and could probably be restored to flyable condition, but why? "Enola Gay," which dropped the Little Boy bomb on Hiroshima, August 6, 1945 is at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy branch of the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Dulles, Virginia. "Bockscar," which dropped the Fat Man bomb on Nagasaki, August 9, 1945 is at the National Museum of the United States Air Force near Dayton, Ohio.

As it stands today, Doc is scheduled to appear at AirVenture 2015 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, along with Fifi. Doc's restoration project manager, T.J. Norman told the Wichita Eagle, "It's the first time in 60 years that two B-29s have been able to fly in formation together." Doc is the last known B-29 airframe thought to be in a condition good enough to be restored to flight-worthy status. In March, a ceremonial roll-out is planned, which will be followed by engine run-up and taxi tests. Doc is expected to finally fly again in April or May.

Link to the B-29 video:

<http://flightclub.jalopnik.com/there-are-about-to-be-two-airworthy-b-29s-1677827090>

*Article provided by: Paul Thompson. Paul is an aviation journalist with over 13 years of experience working in the airline industry.*

In 1983 Carl and Beth Goldberg asked the AMA to help create an award to recognize AMA members who go above and beyond to support model aviation, their respective clubs, and the AMA. The *Carl & Beth Goldberg Vital People Award* is presented annually to vital people in the background of the modeling movement whose efforts enhance the enjoyment of the hobby and whose many accomplishments are seldom formally acknowledged. This award is much like our Thunderbird of the Year; however this recognition is made at the national level. In 2014 representatives from all 11 AMA Districts selected my Nomination of Joe Jopling as recipient of this award.

In 2006 a problem arose regarding our flying field lease renewal by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The present site was earmarked for recreational development thereby prohibiting a flying field. Tackling this task head on Joe worked tirelessly spanning six years developing and executing a comprehensive plan to fund, design concepts, develop architectural drawings, and ultimately build our relocated flying field. Utilizing Congressional funding, donations from a major Defense contractor and club membership, we secured a World Class flying field envied by any R/C modeler. Joe Jopling is the main individual responsible for making this a reality enjoyed by Fort Worth Thunderbirds Club members as well as fellow RC modeler visitors.

Carl and Beth Goldberg would surely agree that when a 52 year old R/C club with a rich history is faced with losing its flying field but through one man's vision and hard work secures a new flying field definitely warrants strong consideration for this award.



Joe has mentored and provided council for many club officers and members. His tutelage has been inspiring to me over the years and why I felt compelled to nominate him to this award.

In Summary, Joe Jopling deserved to be considered for the Carl Goldberg Vital People Award more than any other person I know.

Side note: During his acceptance, Joe gave a short story about how memorable this award is since his first and last airplanes flown was a Carl Goldberg model (The Zipper and a Tiger Tail 60).



Photo is of the Fort Worth Gas Modelers Association ( FWGMA). Joe is 3rd from left in back row standing, holding his CG Zipper, Circa 1939)

### SAFETY CORNER

Greetings fellow Thunderbird members. Welcome to 2015. I wish we did not have to postpone the Black-Eyed-Pea Fly-in, but I believe the phrase “better to be safe than someone having a really bad day” was appropriate. The cold weather is going to stay with us a bit longer and the Flu season is still going strong, so, whether you’re flying at the field or tinkering around the home front as I have been doing, please take precautions to dress appropriately for outdoor activities and drink plenty of liquids. Non-alcoholic is preferred, although an occasional cocktail may be in order. The body needs to stay hydrated in cold weather as well as hot weather to function properly. I know you hear these things in the various media all the time, but it is a fact. Follow these simple steps, and your winter activities with family and friends will be much more comfortable.

*Mel Wells*

safetycoordinator@fwthunderbirds.org

### Field Lease Update: by Joe Jopling

A final version was received from the Corps and approved by the officers. It was signed by the president and hand delivered, along with a 5 year payment to the Corps. Now the Corps is required to include an Obama Executive Order regarding minimum wage. Although this only means the attachment of a few pages, the document must still circle through the Corps approval process. Also changed is the ownership concept. All structure, except for our shed, belongs to the Corps. That requires a new inspection, which has been completed. Fly and stand by.



**JT's Hobby**

R/C Planes,  
Cars, Boats,  
Rockets, Etc.

Hours:  
Mon/Fri - 10 - 7  
Sat - 10 - 6  
Sun - 12 - 4

8808 Camp Bowie #150  
Fort Worth, Tx 76116  
jtshobby@aol.com

Phone 817-244-6171  
Fax 817-244-6172

**Screen Printing  
Embroidery  
Promotional Products**

Your Logo Here

**BUSINESS • GROUPS • SCHOOLS  
CALL US FOR OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS  
SPECIALIZE IN SMALL QUANTITIES  
682.472.5282 • SASSYFIBER@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.SASSYTHREADWORKS.COM**

**\$3.00 OFF**

Full Service Oil  
Change for  
Fort Worth  
Thunderbirds

**Len and Debbie** invite you to receive:

\$3.00 Off a Full Service Oil Change including Oil, Lube and Filter.  
Complete Fluid Top Off, Check Tire Pressure and Vacuum Interior + 16 point inspection.

2850 Fort Worth Highway  
Hudson Oaks, TX 76087  
(817) 594-2602

**in store savings coupon**  
@ Kwik Kar Hudson Oaks

**\$3 OFF**

**Full Service Oil Change**

Receive \$3.00 Off a Full Service Oil Change including Oil, Lube and Filter.  
Up to 5 qts. of oil, Complete Fluid Top Off, Check Tire Pressure and Vacuum Interior

**Kwik Kar**

2850 Fort Worth Highway  
Hudson Oaks, TX 76087  
(817) 594-2602

Must Present Coupon. One Coupon Per Visit.

**Coupons must be presented at time of service. Offers cannot be combined with any other offer. One coupon per visit.**

