



Fort Worth Thunderbirds Radio Control Association Inc.

The Pilot's Log



Issue 4445, February 2018

Next club meeting: February 26th, 2018, 7:00 pm, Buffalo West Restaurant, 7101 Camp Bowie Blvd

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

Flu riddled funky weather February is drawing to a close. Hopefully the majority of you have avoided the flu and perhaps squeaked out a day or more to fly. March will hopefully bring the end to the flu spike and more predictable weather. March is also the annual swap meet hosted by Weatherford Aero Modeling Society out of Weatherford. The location has changed this year, be sure to check out their web site.

We have received preliminary permission from the Corp of Engineers to proceed with our ramp expansion, so in the next few weeks, board members will be putting together a plan of action, submitting a 5-year plan, and meeting with the Corp to get this project moving. The 5 year plan will detail our recent past improvements and detail what we might want to do in the next five years. This document will also be a part of our upcoming lease negotiations with the Corp. So if you an idea that has not already been discussed or developed send it to a board member. We will review one such submission by a member at the next club meeting. Hope to see you soon!

Vice Presidents Corner: by *Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds! I hope this finds you warm and working on some great projects to fly soon. We are continuing to focus on making our monthly meetings productive and informative for you. We know you are investing personal time to come out and we appreciate you! We want you to feel your investment of time is valuable and provides networking with fellow aviators, learning something new and most of all having fun!

We are continuing our tradition of having a presentation or speaker at each meeting. Topics these folks cover come from you - our members. Your chance to contribute and provide input to what we cover is here! Just catch me at the field, at a meeting or drop me a note with your ideas. Thanks to all I've already heard from. We are getting your suggestions lined up for future meetings.

Our local superstar - Grant Schroeder was our speaker last month. He demonstrated and told us all about his 3-D printed P-38. If you missed it, you missed a real treat. It was very cool seeing a glimpse of the future of modeling - or at least one part

of it. We did have some technical difficulties with the A/V equipment at the restaurant, so Grant's PowerPoint and video were put on hold - we will show these soon at a future meeting. The model itself and Grant's briefing were fascinating.

And now for the cliffhanger...

Don't miss this month's meeting where we will get a glimpse behind the curtain of Tom Blakeney's mad science lab! There have been many rumors of the "Skunkworks-type" mods that go on behind the smoke and mirrors over there. Well, now is your chance to see if the legends and myths are true! Tom plans to tell us about and his top secret (ok not so secret!) extensive modifications to a Flightline RC, PNP B-24. Don't miss this one!

See ya at the meeting - Monday Feb 26 at Buffalo West - 7pm.

Here's my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds. Proud to be on your team! *Rob Lowe*

January Meeting Minutes: by Mike Schroeder

James started the meeting at 7:00pm or as Bill would say 19:00 hours. James asked if there was any new visitors and we Welcomed Eric Caldwell.

James then congratulated Bill Lake for being Thunderbird of The Year and he stood up and took his bow. Thanks, Bill for all the hard work over the past year that you have done behind the scenes, we are thankful to have you as a club member.

James then congratulated Ken Knotts for being our newest Life Member. Thanks for all the hard work and being a great teacher.

Recap

The holiday dinner that was on the December 9, 2017 was attended by eighty five club members and guests. That was up by fifteen people from the year before. Gifts were for all and those gifts ranged from planes to lanyards. Entertainment for the night was the Raffle Guy. He was hilarious and we are trying to get him back next year as he was great.

Black Eye Pea event was moved from the first of January to the sixth, due to the weather. Lots of food and warm drinks. The weather was cool in the morning until about two and then it got really windy. Around twenty guests were present for the event and only one aircraft crash with the wing departing in flight.

Reports

Safety Report: Ed Kettler introduced himself as our new Safety Officer. Ed reminded us that everyone of us is a safety officer and we need to be thinking safety, talking to others about safe practice and risk management. Try to have fun but not to scare others. Volunteer to help out and talk about safety at the right moment, not when they are hovering a big plane. Also now that it is winter please raise awareness while wearing jackets with cords and bulky clothes that may tangle in props. A reminded to look at where the field address is locate on the back of the trainer box and the back of safety board at the field. Take time to get familiar with the location address next time you are at the field.

Treasurers Report: Chris Berardi informed Ken Knotts that he had not forgotten about his Life Member plaque and there was issues and that it has been taken care of now.

110 Regular members. 3 Associate members and 11 Life members

The club bought a new laptop to us for the events and meetings. Replaces the old lap top.

Chris told us about the current balance of the checking and savings accounts.

The club has bought an AED and will be having CPR training at a cost of twenty dollars per person and need

twenty people to attend. An email will go out to all about training when we when we have the time and date frame firmed up, but will be in March.

Secretary Report: Grant's Dad let everyone know his real name is Mike Schroeder but will answer to Grant's Dad if need be. Going through AMA renewal and Thunderbird renewal and will try to send out reminders to those who membership AMA is coming up for renewal. No minutes from December as it was the Christmas party.

Vice President Report: Rob Lowe wants to have a monthly presentation on how to do skills that can benefit members. Classes like, tracking wattage to how to cover an airframe. Please contact Rob if you can give a presentation.

Old Business

President James Meadows discussed field improvement status. Ramp start up stand area was approved by the Corps of Engineering back on December 12, 2017. The club needs to do a five year plan. The heli pad was not approved as we would have to renew the lease and it would call for a new survey at \$5000 dollars. The lease is up for renewal in 2019 and the Corps pays for the survey at that time.

Also check out cost of a generator for our float flies.

New Business

1) AED and CPR training will be coming and we will need club member to take the training.

2) Tabled the slides from a member from Weatherford who has suggestions on how to improve the engine starting pad, the computer is having issues and we will look at it next time.

Ken made motion and TAB second the motion to vote on booking the Botanic Gardens again. Show of hands and the motion passed unanimous to book the party.

Discussion to use the Forum on the Thunderbirds website to look up events and for sale items that are not club sponsored events. Anyone can post for sale or events there. The club is going to limit the amount of emails sent out to club business. Closed the Calendar

Show and Tell

Gary James: Showed us the finished Miss Dara quarter 40 pylon racer that was clocked at 195 mph on its maiden flight. Jett engine turning 28,000 rpm. The plane has a stabilizing receiver that Gary is hoping will help out if he is ever right behind another plane in a race. Gary also showed his quad

racer. The quad has heads up display and talked a little about the esc being a 4 in 1 controller.



John Bruce: Showed us his Worlds Model Piper Ag plane a stick built World Model kit runs on 4s battery. An excellent finish job on the kit in white solar tex and red rattle can with a checker pattern on the bottom. Cleaned up the pilot to make a little more real looking. It weighs between seven and seven and a half pounds.



Mel Wells: Showed us his 312 Trainer that he won in a raffle. The free plane has now cost him a little over \$700 dollars to build out. Runs on a 6s battery and weights a little over seven and half pounds.



Tom Blakeney: Showed us his Flight Line model B-24 he dedicated to Robins dad who was a crewman and flew on B-24s during WW2. The model comes in three different color schemes. You can also download a file to 3D print extra nose guns. The nose is has a magnetic nose piece that you can easily change out.



Presentation by Grant

The New Kids Building:

Grant show his 3D printed P-38. The P-38 is a downloaded file from 3D Lab which took 175 hours to print after many errors of learning to set up and learn the printer. There are forty eight parts that have to be printed out of PLA 1.75 thick filament. The Poly Printer 229 used at school is also the same printer at the Benbrook library. The plane runs on two 3s 2200 combined to make a 6s with counter rotation props and retract gear. The plane has a do not exceed speed limit of 125mph. The P-38 was printed from PLA filament material at a cost of \$35 per roll taking two and half rolls to complete.



Calendar of Events (See Thunderbird Calendar page 10)

Raffle winners

Gary Alpine	Fuel	Ed Furche	CA kicker	Rob Lowe	
Tom Blakeney	Battery	Ed Kettler	CA glue	John Bruce	CA glue
Doug Lewis	CA glue	Jimmy Alton	Lead weights	TAB	Filter
Steve Elhers	Fuel line	Grant Schroeder	Mono Coat	Tommy Baker	Fuel line
TAB	Fuel line	Grant Schroeder	Rubber Bands	Sam Corlett	Safety cord

Meeting adjourned 8:30

Treasurer Report: by Chris Beradi

Bank Changes

Our club has been banking for many years at Southwest Bank, but that is about to change. Simmons Bank, headquartered in Arkansas has acquired Southwest Bank effective 18th February this year. Initially, this was going to be seamless with no changes to our accounts; however, all of that has changed in the last three weeks. We will now have new account numbers, new checks and deposit slips, new bank cards and all new online portal. I have just received a sample of new checks and will have to order a proper supply of checks and deposit slips. If you haven't looked recently, business checks are quite expensive and I had just purchased new deposit slips before Christmas at a cost of \$65. Of course, I called and complained about that as I don't think their merger should cost the club anything. They advised that it would be taken care of after the formal merger completes. Other than that, I've had to download statements and check images as these will be unavailable later.

Treasury Update

February is half-done and most members have renewed their membership for 2018. If you have not yet renewed, please do so now! You must be a club member to obtain a discount at JT's Hobby Shop and the official AMA roster will reflect only the 2018 club membership. Our membership dues keep the club moving and improving, so renew today - it couldn't be easier: Mail a check to me or renew on our club web site using the PayPal link. Or, you can hand a check or cash to any officer at the field or club event.

The new badges have been produced (57 of them)! I will be mailing them out next week if not picked up at our February club meeting.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	122
Family	10
Associate	4
Life	11
Service	0
TOTAL	147

It is worth repeating that this year, each renewing member will receive a couple of decent "2018 Member" decals to stick somewhere. These are high quality vinyl with UV and

solvent resistant inks. If you renewed early and didn't receive them, let me know and I'll mail you a set. If you are a Contest Director, Leader Member, have a Turbine Waiver and are sure that I don't have that information, please send me an email with the details. At some point, I will be publishing a list in the newsletter looking for updates and feedback.

Movie Line

If you haven't seen the movie, "Dunkirk" and enjoy a good historical romp, I recommend you watch it. Not only does it cover an amazing part of history, but there is a great sub-story that includes a Spitfire. Dunkirk was probably one of my favorite movies of 2017, certainly the most memorable - probably because it had airplanes in it! There haven't been many aeronautically themed movies in many years. Most movies have moved into the fantastical, the futuristic or the farce. There are only so many remakes of Spiderman, Batman, Wonder-Woman that I can watch before opting to read a book.

Swap Meet

Who would be interested in a Swap Meet. Last year we held a small one at the 4th July picnic. We could do something similar, or, we could start an all new event and go big! How about something that would challenge the Weatherford Swap Meet? Ours would be a different format because at first the event would be held at our club field. Perhaps we could mix in a little food and drink too. I don't have an idea for a date, just that it be warmer than today and not in the blazing heat of July. Please let the officers know if this would be of interest to you and we'll make it happen.

CPR Training Class

The CPR class will be held on 4th March, 2018. I have 4 people signed up for it at this time though we can have up to 15 attend. The course lasts between 3 and 4 hours depending on the number of students. The cost is \$20 per student and that is being covered by the club. The training will be held at the Grace Lutheran Church on McCart Avenue at 1:30pm. The address is: 7900 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76123.

If you would like to receive the training at no cost, please send me your: Name, Phone, Email address. You can provide this to me at the club meeting or via email at: mikadopilot@gmail.com. The class will be limited to a

maximum of 15 but I'll keep several people in reserve. If necessary, we will arrange a second training session.

Club Meeting

If you haven't attended a club meeting, take a chance and come on down. We usually have good fun and someone is

always bringing a new or interesting model to the show and tell. We have several interesting presentations lined up in the coming months too. The location, "Buffalo West" has good food, free wifi and decent sound.

Safety: by Ed Kettler

Typically, the Safety Officer addresses matters that relate to personal safety, usually about flight operations and sometimes about weather related topics. This month, I want to focus some attention on the safety and viability of the club itself, and how member or guest actions can rapidly lead to the shutdown of a flying site. **The following story is about another club, and not the Fort Worth Thunderbirds.**

This club's field was built in the 1980s when most everybody flew .40 sized planes, and a "big one" had a .60 sized engine. As we all know, we fly bigger and faster planes now, so the field sometimes felt "a little small". The field is on Corps of Engineer land, like the Thunderbirds, and a long running positive relationship existed between the club, the county team that managed the property for the Corps, and the Corps' manager. As time goes on, trees grow, and one particular tree became the "kite eating tree" of Charlie Brown fame as it grew to over 40', right on the extended centerline of the runway, but far enough out that most folks could maneuver around it. Talks with the Corps about trimming the tree had been going on for a few years, but budgets and projected costs prevented any real action, but with the lease renewal coming up, the club officers felt they could ask for some help from the Corps.

Recently, one member had a plane caught high up in the tree, and despite multiple attempts to get it down, the plane remained trapped. This was not the first time he had collided with the tree, but he decided it would be the last. He, along with a few other members, got a chain saw and used the club tractor to get about 10' in the air, and cut the tree down. They thought it was "too much work" to cut the tree up and haul it away, so they left a 10' tall stump and the dead tree in the woods, thinking nobody would notice.

Well, unbeknownst to the merry band, the club president had scheduled a visit from the Corps to go over the property, and one of the park rangers noticed that there was a gap in the tree line and the tree, which the club had asked about for years, was missing. It didn't take long to find the evidence. The club received a "Cease and Desist" letter from the Corps, and now their lease renewal is in jeopardy. Here are some excerpts from the letter:

Preliminary investigation reveals the following violations have occurred:

- a. Unauthorized destruction of public property
- b. Violations of rules and regulations

Violators of these regulations shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or both per day of each occurrence.

The bold lettering was in the Cease and Desist letter, so the Corps wanted to make a strong point. One of the culprits was asked why they did it, and the answer was "it seemed like a good idea at the time". Well, it isn't a good idea to destroy other's property, especially the government's. The action of a few members may have a significant impact on the viability of the flying site and the club. Clubs are small businesses, so the officers can be held liable for offenses by members and guests.

The Fort Worth Thunderbirds do not want to ever be in the same situation that this club faces, period. If there is something that needs to be done about the property that is out of the ordinary, please get with a club officer before you start so that we can help getting the task completed within the Corps' guidelines. We are guests of the Corps, they have been terrific partners with us for many years. Let's keep it that way!

Fly safe, fly smart! *Ed Kettler, Safety Officer*

Memphis Belle Restoration: Text and Photos by Jim Ryan

The world's most iconic B-17 Flying Fortress is nearly ready for her long-awaited unveiling, just in time for the 75th anniversary of her final mission. Memphis Belle, an early-model B-17F, was flown by the first 8th Air Force crew to complete 25 missions, earning pilot Robert Morgan and his crew the honor of returning stateside for a morale-building war bond tour. The aircraft and her crew gained added fame from a 1944 wartime documentary directed by William Wyler, and decades later a 1990 motion picture reintroduced the stirring story to a new generation.

On January 4, 2018 the United States Air Force Museum hosted a media event at the restoration hangar to showcase the latest progress in a 13-year project to restore and preserve Memphis Belle for display in the museum. The project began in 2005, and no effort has been spared to return the famous aircraft to her wartime condition, using original components and materials wherever

possible. During the restoration, repairs of battle damage and other modifications were uncovered, including an entire vertical stabilizer that was grafted on to replace the heavily-damaged original.

With the airframe work completed, the restoration crew then spent two months repainting the Belle using historically accurate paint formulas. They were aided in this effort by the existing archival color footage from William Wyler's documentary. His crew shot more than 11 hours of color film, and all of it was available to the restoration crew, along with a wealth of color still photos. The restoration is incredibly detailed, and many missing parts were fabricated from scratch, including a glycol heater completely hidden in the left wing. This shows the thoroughness of the restoration, even for components that will never see the light of day.

Museum curator Jeff Duford explained that in many ways the Belle was an ideal restoration project. Flown by the first crew to complete 25 missions, she represents the heavy sacrifice paid by early-War 8th Air Force aircrew, during a time when the odds were 3 in 4 of a crew not completing their tour. Also, the wealth of archival information on this particular aircraft made it much more practical to make the restoration absolutely accurate.

Memphis Belle will be the centerpiece of a three-day special event this spring, culminating in a May 17, 2018 unveiling marking the 75th anniversary of her final combat mission. The Belle will be home at last.



If you look closely in this photo, you can see the mismatched paint where a new vertical stabilizer was installed to replace the flak-shredded original. The slightly different color of the fabric-covered rudder is also historically accurate.



While the nose bubble, Hamilton Standard propellers and Browning .50 caliber machineguns are all still to be installed, you can see the graceful lines of the early-War B-17F, before the large chin turret and other wartime upgrades were added. Shortly after this photo was taken, the restoration crew added the Belle's iconic nose art.



The nose bubble will soon be installed, but not before the bombardier's controls and the famous Norden bombsight are mounted in place. As far advanced as the work is, there's an endless list of details still to be completed.



Restoration technician and licensed A&P (airframe and power plant) mechanic Casey Simmons fielded questions from the media after his crew installed the left aileron and elevator. Casey has worked on the Belle's restoration since 2007 and said one of his favorite projects was a glycol heater that's completely hidden inside the left wing.



actuator while maneuvering it over the long hinge brackets. The mechanics wear nitrile gloves to protect the fresh paintwork on this priceless artifact.

During a January 4, 2018 media event at the restoration hangar, curators at the United States Air Force Museum showcased progress in restoring the Memphis Belle, flown by the aircrew to complete a 25-mission combat tour over Europe.

The restoration crew next installed the left elevator. This was a complex operation, including coupling the elevator to its

Flying Fortress, Memphis Belle, USAF Museum



Modeling Tips: by *Model Airplane News Magazine*

Sanding Sticks:

A great source for sanding sticks is the beauty aisle of your local grocery store. Emery boards, which are used for trimming and sanding fingernails, are ideal for many fine sanding jobs on a model airplane. They come in various grits, are inexpensive, and last forever. They are also great for cleaning out hinge slots on painted model airplanes.



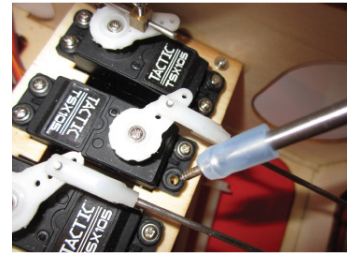
Credit Card Trick:

We all want our battery packs to stay put during flight, but sometimes the Velcro used to hold them in place can be difficult to separate when you want to replace the pack. A good way to convince the hooks and loops to give way is to use a plastic credit card and slip it between the two halves. The card prevents the fasteners from reattaching while removing the battery pack.



Long Reach Screwdriver:

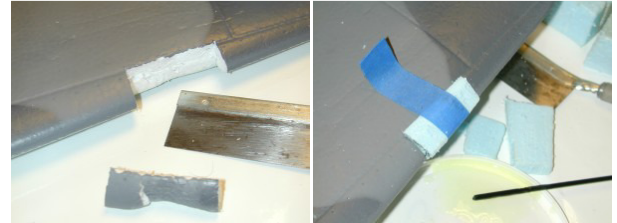
A great way to get screws into place in a deep or cluttered radio compartment is to slip a piece of fuel tubing over the end of the screwdriver and slide it over the screw. The tubing holds onto the screw and you can maneuver it into place and tighten it without the screw falling deep inside the model.



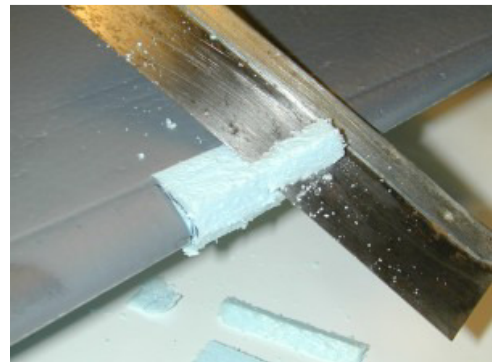
Fast Foam Wing Fixes: *by Gerry Yarrish Model Airplane News Editor*

Let's face it! Accidents happen and when it comes to flying RC airplanes, the chances are sooner or later, you're going to damage your airplane. There's no reason to trash your crash. With today's beautifully molded and great flying foam flyers, you can get back into the air with very little effort. You also can save some bucks by repairing your bent bird instead of buying a new one.

If you fly, sooner or later you'll be faced with a repair. Easy fixes are better than buying a new wing.



Use a razor saw and cut the damage out. Cut some new foam to length and insert it into place. Mark the ends of the foam block to match then use your saw and a sanding block to remove most of the unwanted material.

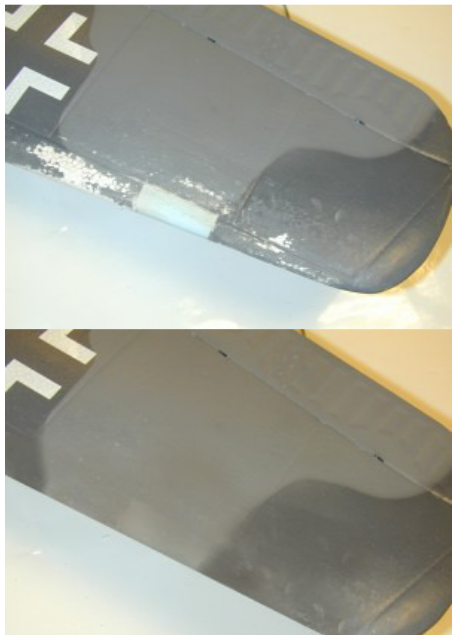


Dent Removal

The leading edge of the wing can really take a beating but dents are really only cosmetic issues and you can quickly cut away a section of the damaged leading edge and glue in some new foam. (Note: we tried the "hot water trick" to bring the foam back to its original shape, but no dice.)



Glue the new foam into place and after the glue cures, Cut and sand the replacement foam flush with the surface of the wing. Apply a little hobby filler around the edges to fill in any gaps and when it dries, use fine sandpaper to smooth the repair.



Use a foam safe paint and apply some matching paint to complete the leading edge wing repair. The hardest part of this repair really is finding matching paint. Usually, the instructions that come with your airplane will call out the colors used. If not, go to the hobby shop and check out the Master Modeler and Tamiya brands of acrylic foam safe paints. You'll be able to match the color chips and then lighten or darken the colors slightly to match. In real life, warbird repairs seldom matched the rest of the airframe! That's scale weathering!

Back at the flightline, no one will even know you bashed your favorite warbird. This repair technique is almost invisible and it saves you some coin in the process.



THUNDERBIRD 2018 CALENDAR

DATE

EVENT

POINT OF CONTACT

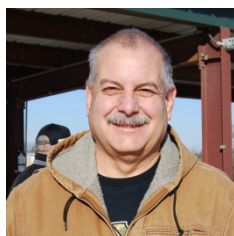
Grant suggested a Drone racing event. Grant is to get with Chris and Gary to talk about hosting an event in the future. Regroup and will get back with the club. Need to sign up with Multi GP and they will give you free gates.

March 4th	CPR Training	Location: Grace Lutheran Church on McCart Avenue at 1:30pm.
	Address is: 7900 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76123.	
April	SPA Contest	
May 19th	Warbirds Over Benbrook	Ed Kettler
June	Old Farts Fly-in	
August 5th	Summer Float Fly	Woody Lake
September 22 – 23	SPA West Competition	
October 12-14	Alliance AirShow	
October 20	TEX Electric Fly	Tom Blakeney
November 4th	Winter Float Fly	Mel Wells
November 24th	Toys for TOTS	Steve Ehlers
December 8th	Christmas Party	

WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG

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Treasurer: Chris Berardi E-Mail: mikadopilot@gmail.com	Safety Officer: Ed Kettler E-Mail: ed.kettler@gmail.com	Pilot's Log: Woody Lake E-Mail: at6pilot@att.net

Club Officers 2018



Pres: James Meadows VP: Rob Lowe

Sec: Mike Schroeder



Safety: Ed Kettler



Treas: Chris Berardi

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jtshobby@yahoo.com

Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	Ramp Expansion	Turbine/Giant Aircraft Ramp Start up	Contract	\$15,000.00	Officers	APROVED 2017	Approved to exp. 10K, seeking Bids and costs
2	Starting Post	Install starting posts for giant scale airplanes	Self /Contract	\$500.00	Officers	APROVED 2017	Determining types
3	HELIPAD	with ground, Could be Self help or contracted	Self /Contract	\$1,000.00	Officers	APROVED 2016-17	Lease /or wait for expiration of 2018 Lease to negotiate
4	Line control Area	Develop area for line control modelers	Self /Contract	\$1,000.00	Officers	APROVED 2017	Lease /or wait for expiration of 2018 Lease to negotiate
5	Shed Update	Install air conditioning in shed	Contract				Suggest to member ship for Purchase Purchase
6	Larger shed/addon	Larger shed to store more stuff	self/contract				Lease /or wait for expiration of 2018 Lease to negotiate
7	Enclose some of the covered shelter area	utilizing rollup doors that can be pulled down when needed	Self /Contract	\$Unknown			
8	Extend current runway	More stopping distance for models	contract	\$ Unknown			Lease Renewal/cost
9	Tree Removal	approach end of runways. Requires root	Contract	\$15-\$20,0000			Approval will request Corp permission and
10	Generator	for float try and other remote power needs	Club	\$500.00			

Humor

