



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



Issue 4401, May 2014

Next club meeting: May 26th 2014, 7:00 pm, West Creek Café, Camp Bowie Blvd

Presidents Corner: *by Garry Rife*

Howdy Thunderbirds! Wow, it seems like a month since the last time I submitted a column. Wait a minute, it has been a month. Between old age and a serious allergy flare up my mind is not just slipping, it's skidding around like a J-3 Cub in a turn without rudder inputs.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the Warbird event and I'm really upset that my health held me back. It's nothing serious, just temporarily debilitating. I'm getting better and for me that's good news.

I've heard from several members who attended the Warbird event stating it was a smashing success, as

always. Congratulations to Terry and Woody for another great and well attended event.

I also heard Representative Kay Grainger's visit went exceptionally well. Considering that the Ft. Worth Thunderbirds are the friendliest folks in RC modeling how could it not go well?

To answer the burning question many members haveYes, we will be holding our May meeting on Memorial Day, May 26th, same time, same place. See you there.

Garry Rife
President, Fort Worth Thunderbirds

Vice Presidents Corner: *by Tom Blakeney*

Greetings, Thunderbirds.

I actually got a chance to get out and fly for a day at Warbirds over Lake Benbrook this past Saturday! Terry Thorpe and Woody Lake did their usual stellar job of putting on this event, which is one of the Thunderbirds' largest each year. I will let Woody give you the stats and details, but we had a big group of flyers from all over and a huge number of aircraft.

All the Thunderbirds present, including me, took great pleasure in meeting our flying site's benefactor, Congresswoman Kay Granger. She had the opportunity to attend the event and see our beautiful flying site hosting a large number of modelers doing what we all love to do. Over the last week or two, Joe Jopling and I worked up a small token of our appreciation, a unique laser etched walnut "Pen Parker" that displays the Thunderbirds Logo and a simple "Thank You, Kay Granger". We presented it to her at the event. Congresswoman Granger spoke briefly to the attendees and stayed around for more than an hour enjoying our R/C modeling tribute to historic warbirds of all kinds.

Some friends of the Thunderbirds, Jim Ireland and Richard Ng, were able to perform a 9AM aerial photo mission over the event in a vintage Luscombe, so we could have some aerial photos of a nice large event going on at our site. Look for these new pictures on the web site in the near future.

I got to publicly debut a couple of new warbird models at the event. I have a new Ready2Fly brand foam ARF (which is manufactured by Freewing and sold in the US by Motion RC) De Havilland Venom 90mm scale EDF. Flies on 6 cells and is a nice performer, with lots of nice scale touches like working oleo struts; scale retracts with door sequencing, lights and flaps. I also got to fly my new DuraFly De Havilland Sea Vixen, which is a 70 mm EDF foam ARF from HobbyKing. I seem to be going

through a twin boom jet fighter phase, as I also started flying the Durafly De Havilland Vampire 70mm EDF at the first of the year.

Current events that I am planning on attending include the SMALL Steps event in Little Rock, AR on June 5-8 and the Warbirds over Texas event up near Frisco on June 13-15, work permitting. It will not be long after that that the Thunderbird Summer Float Fly will be taking place!

That is all for this month. Fly safely until next time!

Tom Blakeney
Vice president, Fort Worth Thunderbirds

April Meeting Minutes: by Tab Bowland

No minutes at this time. Minutes will be forwarded to members in the near future.

Tab Bowland
Secretary, Fort Worth Thunderbirds

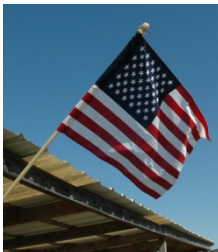
Treasurers' Report: by Gary Alphin

No report at this time.

Gary Alphin
Treasurer, Fort Worth Thunderbirds

SPA: SPA – Texas Wings May 10, 2014

The weather on Friday, the day before the Texas Wings SPA contest, was perfect with mild temperatures and very light winds. Then comes contest day. Winds of 20 MPH with gust to 27 - just a regular contest day.



A lot of good flying by the 12 pilots who exhibited their flying skills. Competition was very close, of the 12 pilots entered 10 won at least one round. There were no crashes during the competition, but Rex Misak landed wide of the runway on a practice flight and ripped the wing off of his Kaos. A little CA and some kicker, he was ready for the first round.

Jerry Joiner's Intruder had a fuel tank just big enough to

complete the Sportsman pattern on a calm day. He had a dead-stick landing, then on his last flight the clevis came off the throttle and the rest of his pattern was at full throttle!

Tim Reed and Tony Stelly had a really close battle in Sportsman with Tim winning by less than 14 points. Most pilots were ready to call it a day after 4 rounds (most but not all). Sportsman voted to go one more round.



Tim Reed and the Texas Wings volunteers did a good job of organizing the event and keeping planes in the air. Lunch was ready around noon with sandwiches, chips and drinks. With only one flight line, each pilot had the sky to himself. The awards are beautifully done with quality photo paper.

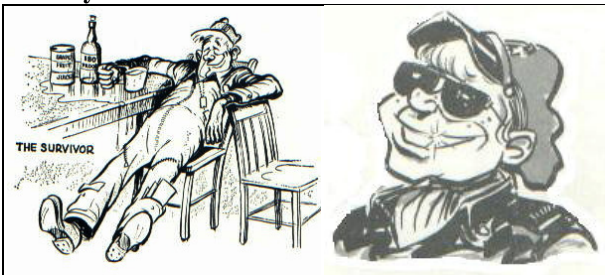
After the contest, many pilots and spouses gathered to take in some Tex-Mex to finish the day happy and full.



Ken Knotts

Warbird Debriefing:

Warbird 2014 has come to pass. 58 registered pilots with over 100 airplanes in attendance. Dispite initial forecasts of 20 to 25 mph wind conditions the winds were moderate at 10 to 15 gusting to 18. Fortunately they were straight down the runway.



We were honored by a special guest, Congresswoman Kay Granger. She was a strong supporter of our move and development of our new field. This was her first visit to our site and I must say the troops were impressed with her sincere interest and enthusiasm about model aviation. Joe Jopling and Tom Blakeney introduced her to the attendees and presented Kay with a FW Thunderbirds monogrammed desk pen holder (The Pen Parker) and a well deserved donut. Congresswomen Granger was accompanied by her District Director Mattie Parker and Granddaughter Kirby.



We also had District VIII Associate VP Anthony “Tony” Breyen. This was Tony’s second visit to our field and always a pleasure to visit with him.

Safety briefing 0900 and immediately followed by a P-47 flight. Apparently the pilots were ready to go. The mid-day all-in-one max warbird flight consisted of 10 aircraft. This appears to be a crowd (and pilot) favorite. No mid-air or crashes. Lunch time agenda included lunch, pilot promotions, raffle drawings, and the P-51 kit specifically

designated for registered pilots only. Tab Bowlin was the happy winner of the AGM 30cc gas engine donated by AGM Engines in conjunction with Skyward Hobbies. Pilot Give-A-Way tickets were drawn throughout the day and every registered pilot received a gift.

Lawrence Harville flew his great looking F6F Hellcat and with Kay Granger on the transmitter managed to drop the centerline Drop Tank and hit the mowed access road. Long time friends Ed Couch, Lane Crabtree, Lawrence Harville, and Bob Mueller attended this years' flyin. Ed brought his P-39 and Bamboo Bomber. Both of the aircraft are electric. Lane brought his F6F in bright Navy markings and Lawrence his F6F shown on landing approach. Bob flew his ever faithful ME-263.



Registered pilots represented many local clubs in addition of some Oklahoma pilots. These guys from OK have supported our event for many years. I'd like to think they come back because of Terry and me but they says it's the food.

Speaking of food, Gary, Jeanie, Tab, and the kitchen staff did a wonderful job preparing and distributing the chow. Obviously the new grill was a great purchase.

This event would not have the success it's been blessed with if it were not for the folks that support us every year. From registration, to raffle sales, to PA system set-up, to food services, to field maintenance, a sincere and grateful Thank You to all from Terry and Woody.

As much as I enjoy seeing the many planes it's the people we only get to see once or twice a year I look forward to. My apology for not being able to visit more with each and every one of you as your friendship and camaraderie mean a lot to me and Terry. May your skies be forever blue with gentle breezes.

Woody and Terry





Above three photos show the remains of the F-4E after an in-flight ESC fire. YUCK!

SCALE MASTERS QUALIFER June 7 – 8 2014



This year the Texas Scale Championships will honor one of our own Stan Brock for all his dedication to the Texas Scale Championships. Stan was always there to help and could be counted on to assist anyone who could use a hand. His last event was to work at the 2013 TSC and we will miss always miss him. His smiling face and can do attitude will not ever be replaced. Come on out and enjoy the day, enjoy the contest, enjoy the planes, flying and pilots but the best is YOU can enter and fly.

There are Categories for every level of scale. This year the classes are, Expert, Team, Advanced, Pro-Am Pro, Pro-Am Sportsman.



If you have never entered an AMA Scale Contest before you should enter this one. If you're a total rookie, we even let you have some help on the flight line with a pilot assistant to help you out. Help will be there to help you fill out your list of maneuvers and give you help in the pits and on the flight line. We make it SOOOO easy you can't miss. So let this be the summer you bring home your first AMA Scale Trophy

Lawrence Harville
817-781-9615

THUNDERBIRD 2014 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
June 1	114 th Float Fly	Dewey Walker (817) 235-9051
June 7-8	Texas Scale Masters Qualifier	Lawrence Harville (817) 781-9615
June 8	Weatherford Float Fly	Mark Cavitt brotherodie@hotmail.com
June 13-15	Warbirds Over Texas	North Dallas RC Club

June 18	Old Farts Four Stroke Fly-In	Chuck McLeroy Thunderbirds
July 4	Club Picnic	Club Officers
August 2	Summer Float Fly	Tab Bowland Thunderbirds
September 27-28	Senior Pattern	Ken Knotts/Gary Alphin
October 18	Q500 Race (Golden Triangle Club)	Sarge Bell
October 25-26	IMAC	
November 1	Tex Electric eXpo	Tom Blakeney
November 8	Winter Float Fly	Terry Thorpe/Woody Lake
November 22	Toys for Tots	Steve Ehlers
December	Christmas Party	Club Officers

WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG

President: Garry Rife E-Mail: rowdyjoes@att.net	Vice President: Tom Blakeney E-Mail: tomblakeney28682@yahoo.com	Secretary: Tab Bowland E-Mail: tbirds197@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Gary Alphin E-Mail: gary.alphin@gbrx.com	Safety Officer: Steve Ehlers E-Mail: stevenehlers@charter.net	Pilot's Log: Woody Lake E-Mail: at6pilot@att.net

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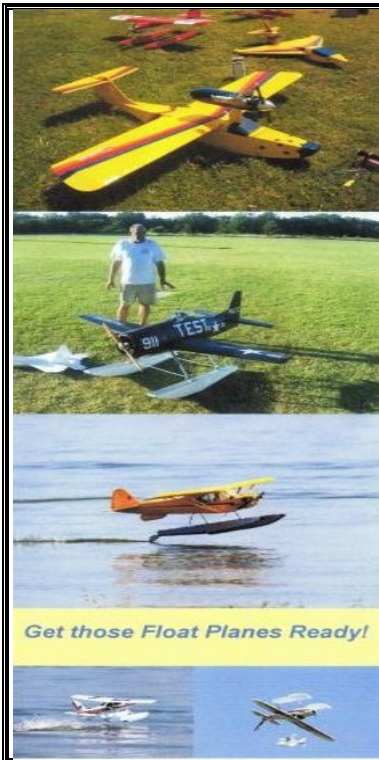
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UPCOMING EVENTS



Get those Float Planes Ready!

**114th RC Aero Squadron's
Annual Float Fly**

Sunday, June 1st, 2014

***This is One of the Premier
Float Fly Events of North
Texas***

***This event will be held at
Meadowmere Park on Lake
Grapevine***

***Pilots Briefing is at 8:30AM
Flying is from 9AM to 4PM***

***Landing fee is \$20 – Includes
Bar-B-Que Lunch***

***This is a sanctioned AMA
event***

***AMA membership is required
to fly***

***The CD for this event is
Dewey Walker
817-235-9051***

***Please register on line for this event
at www.RCFlightdeck.com***

***GPS Coordinates:
(Lat/Long) 32.98250, -97.11617***