



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



Issue 4444, January 2018

Next club meeting: January 22nd, 2018, 7:00 pm, Buffalo West Restaurant, 7101 Camp Bowie Blvd

Special Message from Thunderbird of the Year – Ken Knotts

Thunderbird Members,

Thank you very much for the honor bestowed to me as a Life Member. I feel that is a great honor and I am humbled by it. Flying model airplanes is a great hobby and provides great fellowship. The Thunderbirds club has such a diversity of airplane types and propulsion. There are turbines, multi-engine glow and electric, gasoline engines that are two strokes and four stroke and some really neat radial engines. The need for discussion and wonder never ceases.

Along with the flying and in-depth discussion of models, radios and power plants, there is some field upkeep, maintenance and improvements needed. You have some really good members who help with everything from cleanup after floods to weekly field mowing, edging and cleanup. All this adds up to a field that I think all Thunderbirds are very proud of.

Thank you again for voting me a Life Member of the Fort Worth Thunderbirds Model Airplane Association. Clear skies and light winds!

Ken Knotts

Newsletter Editor: Woody

My apologies for the abbreviated newsletter this month. I've been under the weather and after two doctors visits and a trip to the ER I seem to be on the road to recovery. Appreciate all the well wishes.

Presidents Corner: by James Meadows

Welcome to 2018, hope you have been able to stay warm, perhaps get a start on that winter build, or make that ARF you got for Christmas your own. Thanks to all who braved the elements, to enjoy a few hours of good fellowship, food and flying at the Black-eyed Pea event. By all accounts it we sent 2017 out in style with the Holiday dinner in Dec. Big thanks to the outgoing board members, Mel, Gary, Bill, and current Treasurer Chris for putting together an event to remember.

January is the month that we start to build the clubs event calendar, so if you want to host an event, or suggest an activity now is the time to get your information collected and your date reserved. Please bring your event ideas, to the next club meeting, or if you cannot attend, send them to the Secretary or the President, so we can get them on the agenda for discussion. 2018 is going to be a great year for the Thunderbirds!

Vice Presidents Corner: *by Rob Lowe*

Happy New Year Thunderbirds! 2018 is already well underway and beginning to fly by like 2017 did. We had a great time at the Black Eyed Pea event after a short reschedule due to inclement weather. We had a great turnout, some good food, fellowship and a great day to fly! If you missed it, keep your eye on the schedule and be sure you make the next amazing event.

I'm excited to step into the role as your Vice President. Gary Cummings certainly set the bar high in this job. I am grateful for your support, proud to be part of the amazing legacy that is our club and that so many of you have built, and will do my best for you! Please join me in thanking Gary for his service next time you see or talk to him. The Thunderbirds are better off today because of his efforts. Thanks Gary!

One of the goals for your board this coming Year is to keep the meetings informative and fun. One segment of each meeting is to have a guest speaker or short "how to" presentation. I will be coordinating those for you, so now's your chance to get those suggestions and ideas in! For example, since this is the traditional "building" season, what things do you wish you knew more about or how to do? What have you seen a fellow member do really well that could be shared? Anything is on the table! Let me know and we will work on it!

Just drop me a note via email or call or see me at the field. We need your ideas! This is your club and together we make it better.

I hope your New Year is amazing and filled with an equal number of smooth landings and take offs!

Here's my virtual "low pass salute" to you Thunderbirds. Proud to be on your team!

December Meeting Minutes: *by Mike Schroeder*

Thanks Bill Lake for doing an outstanding job as secretary for the last two years. You left some big shoes to fill and I will give it my best. Just not sure why you were so excited to see me fill those shoes.

No minutes to report from the Christmas Party.

Just a reminder the club dues are due for 2018 season and you can pay on line at the Thunderbirds website under members or pay at the monthly meeting. The club does not send out invoices for dues. The new gate lock has been installed for 2018.

Next meeting January 22 at Buffalo West. 7:00pm

Hope to see you there

Treasurer Report: *by Chris Beradi*

Black Eye Pea Fly-in

Texas tradition has it that if you eat black eye peas on January 1st you will have good luck for the remainder of the year. Obviously for that reason our Black Eye Pea Fly-in is normally held on Jan 1st. However this year due to the uncertain weather and road conditions it was postponed to the following Saturday (6th). A wise choice indeed. The weather was beautiful; winds 10 – 15 from the south, sunny skies, temperatures topping out in the 60s.

But enough with the weather forecast. Fifteen to twenty pilots enjoyed some great flying, comradery, and of course an abundance of food including black eye peas. Enjoy the photos taken that day.



Safety: by Ed Kettler

Safety Officer

I'd like everybody to thank Mel Wells for the great job he has done as the Safety Officer for the Fort Worth Thunderbirds. I hope to carry on his work and build upon it.

A little about myself: I have been afflicted by the airplane bug since I was a little guy, as my dad was in aerospace and electronics engineering. The first real book I can remember reading was Robert Johnson's "Thunderbolt", which was lovingly read/re-read so many times it fell apart and now exists in a baggie on my bookshelf. I flew model rockets and 1/2A control line up through high school, then joined CAP and earned a solo scholarship. In college, I went on to earn my private pilot license and then, life happened, and flying got put on hold. I started flying RC in 1999 when some buddies got me

interested in RC scale combat, and I went on to be the SIG president and helped get SSC and 2948 accepted as AMA Rule Book events. I am a contest director, AMA Leader Member, and past president of the Richardson RC Club. I moved to Fort Worth five years ago, and joined the Thunderbirds. I have been a volunteer at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum at Addison for almost 20 years, and serve as loadmaster on the B-25H "Barbie III". About 18 months ago I got the urge to start piloting 100% scale planes again, and in December passed my instrument check ride. I have been married for 35 years to Mercy, and we have two grown children.

My philosophy on safety is that safety is every club members' responsibility, not just mine or the other officers. We will review the club and AMA safety rules, but I want to point out that the intent of those rules is for all of us to have fun. If I get hurt, that's not fun. If I scare you, you aren't having fun. If I have to talk to you about something unsafe, neither of us are going to have fun. If you see something that is questionable, you should, at an appropriate time, politely point out the matter ... "I don't know if you noticed, but your transmitter strap almost got caught in your prop" or "Maybe you didn't hear me, but I called 'Landing' and you pulled out onto the runway". It is all in how you approach the topic and the person.

The safety tip of the month relates to winter flying. The heavier clothes we wear have cinches, long sleeves and other items that can get caught on the transmitter or in the prop. Please take extra care to secure all loose clothing items before operating your aircraft.

See you at the field!

Ed

THUNDERBIRD 2018 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
August 4 th	Summer Float Fly	Woody

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President: James Meadows E-Mail: jamslam1099@gmail.com	Vice President: Rob Lowe E-Mail: fourglow@aol.com	Secretary: Mike Schroeder E-Mail: bellairemikeschroeder@gmail.com
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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