



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



Issue, 6211 November 2024

Next club meeting: November 25th - 7:00 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

Tis the season, nearing of the end of the year 2024 and a bright hopeful outlook for the coming new year 2025 with some gifts exchanges of course. Want to help bring a smile to a child? Please participate in the club's Cooks Children's Hospital Toy Drive. You can drop off a new unwrapped toy at the field by placing it in the steel box near the frequency board or bring it to a club meeting. Cooks has also requested books this year. This effort will wrap up mid December 2024. Please mark your 2025 calendar for two events. The first, affectionately known as the Black-eyed Pea Fly-In, will take place 1 Jan 2025. Get your first flight of the year in and enjoy some good luck food in the process. The next event is May 1-4 when we host the SAE event. This will take all of us working together along with our Lockheed, SAE officials and other partner clubs.

This is also the time of the year that we begin to prepare for the next year. There are going to be some needs and changes coming in 2025. After many years of hard service, the club needs to consider replacing our mowers. The board along with the Grounds' team leader has come up with a plan that needs to be supported by membership, as it is a considerable expense! This will be a discussion item at the next meeting!

Twenty-Twenty Five also begins with leadership changes for the President and Vice President positions. I'm happy and excited to announce that Ron Anderson will take the reins of this organization along with Mark Johnson as Vice President. These individuals have the skills, experience to make the Thunderbirds even better. I know that you will support them as you have Vice President Lowe and me over the past eight years.

It's been a distinct and deeply appreciated honor to have served you. While I may have held the reign's of this organization, the true work horses have been those who I served with from past board members, to the current board. I could not have served with finer, more dedicated individuals. They are some exceptional individuals and leaders. To you the general membership, a great big thanks for giving me a chance to serve as you're President. We shared discussion, debate and occasionally some turmoil, but it always resulted in a better club!

I hope each of you has a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at the field and come January will be seated on the back row at the General membership meeting!

Respectfully
James

Vice Presidents Corner: by Rob Lowe

Hello Thunderbirds! Happy Thanksgiving and holiday season! Wow, it's hard to believe we are already into the holiday season for 2024. I hope you are getting time to get out and fly on the nice days. Our field is looking great thanks to the hard work from our grounds crew! Please see James' article above relative to our grounds crew needs and mowers etc. Don't miss the upcoming meeting where we will be discussing this!

Just a quick update on some other remotely piloted/un-crewed activity here in North Texas. You'll recall we received approval for our FRIA at our field last year after a ton of work and coordination by your officers. Our FRIA and all the others were one of the foundational steps to an increase in drone/un-crewed activity below 400 feet AGL. North Texas is the site of some unique activity that is advancing the commercial side of this type of flying in our nation's National Airspace System (NAS). Industry is operating a number of sites across the DFW Metroplex where companies are now providing deliveries to actual customers. This is part of what the FAA is monitoring as their "Key Site testing" for commercial and beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations. Last week, a global first occurred right here in our backyard in N TX, when two different company deliveries and a law enforcement drone all flew in the same airspace at the same time! The Key Site(s) are proving a traffic management solution developed by NASA that will eventually be used across the US. Our FRIA and others like it are avoided by these types of operations and is why FRIAs are a foundational part of the advancement of un-crewed operations in the NAS. We shouldn't see any of these or even really be aware they are happening around our field/FRIA. It's pretty cool to know the airspace around us leading not only the US, but the planet in advancing this technology! Last week approx. 200 operators and regulators from around the world were in town and witnessed this first of its kind event and worked during a multi-day conference on world-wide similar operations and challenges.

Lastly, congrats to Ron Anderson and Mark Johnson on your new roles leading our amazing club! I am excited to see where our club grows and advance with the addition of these fine men to our officer board. More next month on my thoughts on the phenomenal opportunity I've had to be your VP.

That's it for this month! Here's my virtual "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds! See ya the field!

Rob

Secretaries Corner: by Mike Schroeder

Thunderbird Meeting Minutes by Mike Schroeder

October 28, 2024 Meeting at CERA

Meeting starts at 7:03. James welcomed everyone and asked is there are any new members or guest. Darrell Drake second meeting. Roy Thottam is a new member and this is his first meeting.

Long time member Gary Alphin and wife Jeanie is back visiting. Gary is a twenty year member and retired and moved a little farther north to Oklahoma to be closer to family.



Events

Richardson Swap Meet this weekend, November 1

Black Eye Pea on January 1, 2025: Officers are still working out the details and looking for great weather. The saying is if you fly on the first day of the year you will be crash free for the year. Just a wise old saying.

Recap Electric Fly T.E.X eXpo: Tom Blakeney
Twenty one pilots, lots of great planes raffle away. Really good profit with the money given to Chris.

M.A.D. Members Appreciation Day. Fun Fly: There were forty pilots and five planes to win. Taco catered lunch. Perfect weather to fly and just a beautiful day to be out. Several competition events and for those who flew got an extra raffle ticket.

Reports

Treasurers Report by Chris Berardi: 181 paid members at this time. Chris is gearing up for next year's renewals and getting keys order to change out the gate lock. It was discussed to maybe have a renewal plane raffle for those who renew on or before the Black eye Pea event. CERA room rental is \$120 for two hours. Checking and savings are in good standing.

Safety Report by Sam Corlett: Nothing to report at this time.

Vice President Report by Rob Lowe: Nothing to report at this time

Secretary Report by Mike Schroeder: Bill Lake makes a motion to not read the minutes Second by Fred Neal - Show of hands and the motion passed.

Show and Tell

Dave Williams showed a plane he picked up several months ago at a meeting. I really had to redo the entire plane with many repairs of balsa struts. New engine and receiver. All new monokote. Just a complete rebuild which turned out to be a nice job.

Scott Hays is becoming a dealer for Witches Brew RC fuel. Still gather prices and will have a club price soon.

Old Business

None at this time

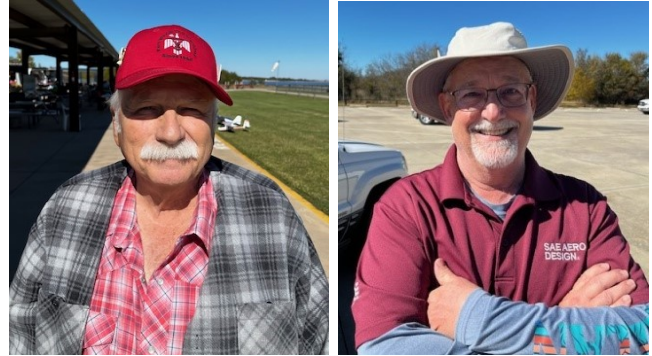
New Business

Thunderbird of the Year: Still taking nominations for Thunderbird of the Year until the end of the November meeting.

Elections of Officers

Nominations for President and Vice President.

Ron Anderson for President and Mark Johnson for Vice President. They both have accepted to serve and there are no other nominations. Nominations closed on October 28 at the end of the meeting. There are no other candidates so Ron and Mark will become the new officers on January 1. Welcome aboard and Congrats.



SAE first weekend in May. Starting the planning phase at the first of the year with more details to come.

CORP Youth Deer Hunt December 6—7 and 8. Field to be closed for all three dates. Remember, youths with guns hunting.

Toys for Cook Children Hospital. There will be a box at the field for a drop off. You can also bring a toy to the next meeting. The volunteers at Cook Children need toys and books. Age range from baby to eighteen years.

Pot Hole progress. None at this time and James will contact the CORP again to see what is going on.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Bill Lake and second by Fred Neal. Show of hands and motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 8:04

Members in Attendance

Tom Blakeney
Allen Trefger
James Meadows
Dave Williams
Mark Johnson
Rex Anderson

Robin Blakeney
Chris Berardi
Bill Lake
Darrel Drake
Gary Alphin
Roy Thottam

Ian Warring
Chip Kiehlbauch
Scott Hays
Fred Neal
Ron Anderson
Kenneth Killgo

Woody Lake
Johnny Hunt
Gary Schindler
Mel Bowser
Terry Davis
Rick Kraft

From the Treasury: By Chris Berardi

No Report this month.

Membership Update

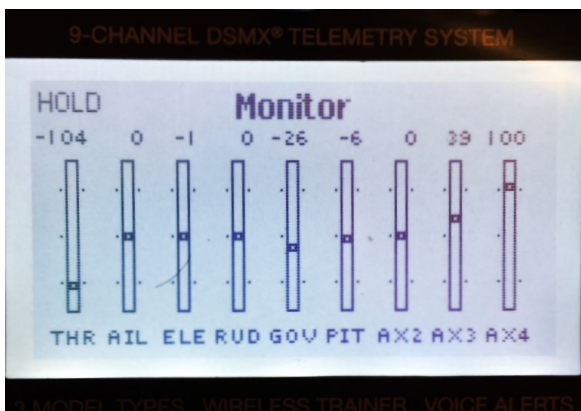
Here is our latest membership count as of 04/15/2024.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	104
Family	5
Associate	2
Life	15
Service & Gift	1
TOTAL	127

Safety Officer submission: by Sam Corlett

I've recently seen a few RC crashes and a couple of near crashes due to radio issues. Luckily, now days we don't have the problems we faced 30 years ago with interference, frequency congestion, monitoring, or bad reception. The RF link to our models is normally very good. However, we have some new issues to deal with. I still see problems with batteries, servos, and connections of course. Today, our systems have much greater capabilities and options. But with that complexity, we now have more issues caused by improper setups, both of transmitters and receivers.

One of the tools that I rely on first thing when someone asks me to look at a setup is the channel monitor. I think almost every computer radio now has this function. I especially like when you can see all channels at once like in this Spektrum radio:



This allows me to check to see that all controls are set to function as expected, not only with the primary sticks, but with all switches. How things change with switch positions, what switches are tied to what channels and by holding the sticks in the corners, what dual rates are on what controls. If the setup is complex with more than one channel for a single function (multiple elevator or aileron servos, for example), is the mixing working properly? If the sub-trim needs adjusting, what channel is the 3rd aileron on the left side? Does the trim function work properly on all channels? Does flipping a switch inadvertently turn on or off some mix that changes a servo position unexpectedly? Does a flight mode switch actually change a particular channel in a way that is expected to notify the receiver or gyro? Just looking through this screen can verify a lot of issues. Does throttle hold or kill function as expected?

Obviously, these issues especially arise when setting up a new model or "re-setting" an older one. Often, I like to copy a similar model to a new setting when making a model's initial setup. Here we need to be very careful to make sure everything is doing what we want it to, and *only* what we want it to.

If we're thorough, using the output monitor can allow us to do a good job on the initial setup, even before we turn on the receiver!

I wish you a Merry Christmas and safe flying! *Sam*

Starting Stands

Thunderbird Starter Stands

It is kindly requested that all Thunderbirds and guests refrain from sitting on the starter stands.

It takes a lot of volunteer time, effort and expense to repair the stands as they are exposed not only to the weather but also structural challenges of supporting the weight of individuals, large or small. The wheels are not built to withstand excess weight and numerous wood screws retreat while braces become warped and weakened.

It recently took two of our members more than half a day to take apart and replace structural damage to just two starter stands. They not only donated their time, but used their own chop saw, drills, power drivers, and provided or purchased and transported additional wood and hardware not already available

Additional stands are aging and still in need of work. The attached photos show the extent of the tear down necessary to reconstruct the structural security of two stands.

Please be good stewards of our field equipment and not sit on the starter stands or misuse the work tables in the pavilions.



Expiration Date 11/14/2024

Bad day for the Lake clan. Bill lost his J-3 Club and Woody his B-25. Winter projects? NAH!



Cooks Children's Hospital Toy Drive

With the holiday season right around the corner the Thunderbird club is collecting toys for kids who are in Cook Children Hospital. Last year the Thunderbirds donated over one hundred and fifty toys to Cook Children's. The volunteers at the hospital would like to see every child receive a toy or book during the Christmas holidays.

Cook Children's only accepts new toys due to infection control reasons.

Just a reminder so you can do a little holiday shopping this weekend. We will collect toys at the next club meeting.

Thanks guys and gals.

2024-2025 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINT OF CONTACT</u>
December 6-7-8	CORP Youth Deer Hunt	FIELD CLOSED FOR FLYING
January 1	Black Eye Pea Fly-In	Cub Officers

www.fwthunderbirds.org

POSITION	BOARD MEMBE	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

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Project List

FW THUNDERBIRDS
 2022 PROJECT LIST
 2/27/2024 7:21 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	Update Boundries and rules
2	Lost Aircraft Security	Provide a means to secure lost aircraft Found and returned	self	\$100.00	MEADOWS	Purchase approved	
3							
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							
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	asked the Corp about co-op agreement
9							
10							

Flying Field Rules

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



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



Season's Greetings



Humor



Back up Field Maintenance Crew

Events

Black Eye Pea Fly-In

