



## Issue 4465, October 2019

**Next club meeting: October 28th, 2019, 6:00pm, Thunderbird Field**

### Presidents Corner: by *James Meadows*

Hard to believe that we are nearing the end of October. The weather has been great, even though the days are getting shorter and cooler. Several events have taken place this month. Earlier in the month we had an SPA event that completed 5 rounds in one day allowing the 10 pilots ample flight opportunities to show their skills. The club participated at the Alliance Airshow, providing static displays, operating several RC Flight Simulation stations, and engaging in conversation on modeling with Dallas/Fort Worth residents and aviation enthusiasts that attended this three day event. Oct will end with a SPA event at the field on 26-27<sup>th</sup>. If you have never participated in this event, or even observed this event I would highly encourage you to do so. Fun is guaranteed as either a flyer or observer. Thanks to all the members who made these events possible.

November is shaping up to be just as busy with events at and away from the Thunderbird Field. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Nov the club will host its Fall Float Fly at Camp Joy Park located on the shores of Lake Worth, Check out the website and flyer on the events page for more details. Thunderbird Field will be CLOSED from Dawn to 12:01PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. As discussed last Month a youth group will be using our facility for a rocket launch activity. On the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov is the Electric Expo at the Field, this all electric event has grown over the last few years, and this year will include a swap/sale event in the parking lot. In addition to these planned events, every now and then an event or opportunity comes along to highlight our club and the value of model

aviation. I was recently contacted by a representative of Longhorn Council of Fort Worth, Boy Scouts of America. They invited the Fort Worth Thunderbirds to participate as a Vendor at their upcoming Camporee at the Texas Motor Speedway. This event has an estimated attendance of six-thousand youth and parents will be on Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. I will be attending this event and providing Static display, flight simulation stations and information about the FW Thunderbirds to those in attendance. If you are not flying or planning to attend the Electric Expo, and want to assist, then please contact me.

As a Reminder we will hold the membership meeting at the Field on 28<sup>th</sup>. The actual start time of the meeting will be at 6pm. Menu for the meal will be Tacos, of various flavors, and drinks. Come early and get some flights in before and after the formal period of the meeting. Suggest you bring a lawn chair. Great time to bring that Show and tell item. For the business portion, nomination for Board member positions will be taken.

The board, along with Ken Knott's had a meeting with the new Benbrook Lake manager and his staff. Several topics were discussed, to include lease renewal, expansion possibilities, and the benefits that the Thunderbirds bring to the Lake and the local area as a whole. I look forward to working with Justin and his staff, as we continue to build on the long established relationship that we have always had with the Corp.

Thanks for choosing to be a Thunderbird,

## Vice Presidents Corner: *by Rob Lowe*

Hello Thunderbirds! Can you believe it is October? Wow, it was a long hot summer, but it sure went fast. Don't forget our monthly meeting is at the field this month on Monday Oct 28th. Come out and fly, enjoy some quality fellowship with other club members and the always popular - food provided by the club!

On a completely different note, please keep a keen eye on the AMA website and especially the government relations page. Now is the time for you to decide it's not up to anyone else to let your elected officials know your opinion and position related to our hobby. Please reach out and let your thoughts be known to the congressional folks who passed the law(s). AMA is doing yeoman's work on our collective behalf, but they need your help. Please be informed and exercise your rights to connect with your elected representatives at all levels.

See ya at the field for the October meeting - Remember, FREE FOOD!

Here is my "Low Pass Salute" to you Thunderbirds

## September 2019 Meeting Minutes: *by Mike Schroeder*

Meeting starts at 7:00pm

Welcoming remarks by James Meadow:

New members or guest: Ron DiIuLio is a former member from ten years ago that is rejoining the Thunderbird club. Welcome Ron.

## Past Events

SPA in Wichita Falls: Chris Berardi gave us an update on how good the meet was and winners.

SPA in Waco: Gary Alphin and Ken Knotts gave us an update on the event.

Bomber Field B-17 Warbird in Monaville: Mike Schroeder gave an update on how big the Warbird event was.

## Upcoming Events

Alliance Airshow: October 18-20. Set up date October 18- Static display, flight simulation stations. Need six volunteers and an event manager. Brian and Tab have already volunteered to work. Volunteers can do one day or all days. Navy Blue Angles will perform mid-day instead of at the end of the day.

SPA Thunderbird field: October 5. CD is Gary Alphin and asked that everyone should come out to compete

SPA West Thunderbird field: October 26-27. CD is Ken Knotts, final SPA event for the year.

Christmas Party: December 7. The Thunderbird Christmas party will be at the same location as last year at the Botanical Gardens. James has contacted the caterers we used last year. We will use electronic tickets again and that will be sent out soon.

## Show and Tell

James Meadow with his assistant Bill Lake showed the Thunderbird members a plane built using cardboard. The Cub was completely formed up and made with cardboard and then sealed. James also donated a Sig Little Rascal plane that was rebuilt by him for the raffle.

## Officers Reports

Treasurers Report: Chris Berardi - Light month in expenses and deposits. Checking and saving are in good standing.

Looking into other Porta Can as we got a price increase. Also looking into if we should invest some of our club savings for a better return.

**Secretary Report:** Mike Schroeder - Motion made by Bill Lake to suspend the reading of the minutes and second by Tab. Show of hand and the motion passed.

**Vice President Report:** Rob Lowe - Rob is out of town, no report.

**Safety Report:** Ed Kettler - Talked about being in the area of the prop and self aware of being in the arc. Ed was standing off the side of a full size plane when the prop of a private plane came off at throttle up. Sheared off the shaft of the motor and the prop flew forward, no one was hurt but pay attention where you are. *See Safety Report*

**New Business**

October meeting at the field? October so we might have to start an hour earlier? Possible some night flying. Ken Knotts made a motion to have the next meeting at the field and was second by Bill Lake. Show of hands and the motion passed, none opposed.

Ed Kettler proposed that the Thunderbird club get a three year subscription for the AMA magazine for the Benbrook Library. Bill made the motion and Sarge second the motion to get the Benbrook Library the AMA magazine for three years. Show of hands, the motion passed, none opposed.

Sarge informed the Thunderbirds that WAMS has lost their lease and was having to vacate the land they have been using. Talk was about the WAMS Swap meet in March. More details to come as this unfolds.

Raffle

Meeting adjourned at 7:55

**Thunderbird Members in attendance**

Ken Knotts  
Gary Alphin  
Tab Bowland  
Sarge Bell  
Ed Kettler  
James Meadow  
Tom Benke  
Pete Devlin  
Tom Blakeney

Sam Corlett  
Mel Wells  
Woody Lake  
Ian Warnings  
Roger Spence  
Johnny Hunt  
Garry Rife  
Greg Hutchins  
Kenneth Killgo

John Bruce  
Paul Mayhan  
Ron DiLuLio  
Chris Berardi  
Bill Lake  
Pete  
Brian Way  
Mark Elhers  
Mike Schroeder

**Treasurer Report:** *by Chris Beardi*

See Attachment A

Membership Type	Count
Individual	169
Family	20
Associate	6
Life	12
Service	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>

## Safety: by Ed Kittler

At last month's meeting I talked about an incident that happened to me with a friend's Nanchang CJ-6 full scale airplane. When he accelerated to taxi speed/RPM, the engine suddenly seized and the rotational energy of the propeller sheared the propeller shaft, and the seven foot long metal scythe went bouncing down the apron. It was all over before an "Oh ^&%#!!" thought could even form in my mind, let alone escape my lips. The long drilled RC habit of not remaining in the prop arc any longer than necessary carried over to this situation, as I was safely off the wing tip.

We do not have the root cause of the stoppage sorted out, but we were unable to spin the engine using the starter system. There is likely a bent/broken rod in there, possibly a shattered piston, but no external indication other than the very stubby prop shaft. Some thoughts from this event:

1. If something does not look right, keep digging: all radials leak oil, and when we pulled the propeller through, we did have some drainage. We should have waited, and pulled many more blades. The normal amount of blades was pulled.
2. Don't force things: the engine failure could have happened from an oil blob that day, or from some event a long time ago, and it just decided that was a good time to let go. We all have had gummy engines, servos not working quite right, control surfaces that were binding, and forcing things to operate may weaken them for a later failure.
3. Crunch time: we were trying to get the two Nanchangs in the air for a rendezvous, and possibly in the rush to get things done, symptoms may have been missed. Planes "talk" to us, and maybe we weren't listening

## Aliance Air Show

The following photos are from this past weekend in our display area at the Alliance Airshow. Weather was beautiful; crowds were great, and the smiles on kids well worth the effort. This is what it's all about, to encourage and perpetuate our hobby of the next generation of aviators. This is a rewarding civic event our club is involved in and highly recommended to all be involved next year.

If the prop would have come off in the air, especially at takeoff, it would have been potentially fatal. On a happy note, the only injury in the incident was financial.

Blue skies  
Ed









## Training



## Giant Concrete Arrows across the American Landscape: by Rain Noël - July 18, 2013



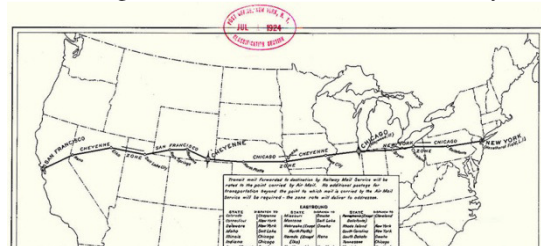
Backpacking through Europe in my 20s, my sense of direction served me well—until I hit the cities with the truly medieval street plans. So in Florence, after renting a motorcycle, I devised a clever way to find the garage again: Next to the garage was an impressive, obviously important brick building, with a large arrow and some Italian words pointing to it. I observed these same signs along the street pointing back towards this building, so I knew that if I got close enough, the signs would lead me back to the building and the garage.

Attempting to return at the end of the day, I located the signs, began following them—and was soon hopelessly lost. It was only after going in a complete circle that I realized what was written on the sign—*Senso Unico*—was Italian for "One Way."

To follow arrows is human-behavior-meets-graphic-design 101. So it may not surprise you to learn that these gigantic concrete arrows dotting America, from east to west, are for way finding.

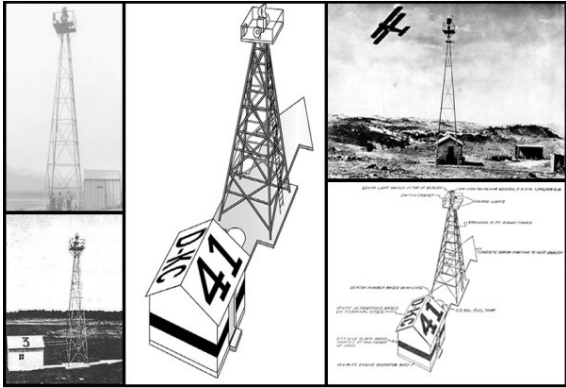


In the 1920s, America began coast-to-coast Airmail service, but the pioneer pilots had trouble navigating the route, since navigation charts of the day were fugazi and you couldn't exactly pull over to ask a farmer for directions. And traveling at night, when it would have been most efficient, or in bad weather was impossible. To solve this Congress then funded these gi-normous arrow-shaped Airmail Beacons, some up to 70 feet long, to trace a route across the country.





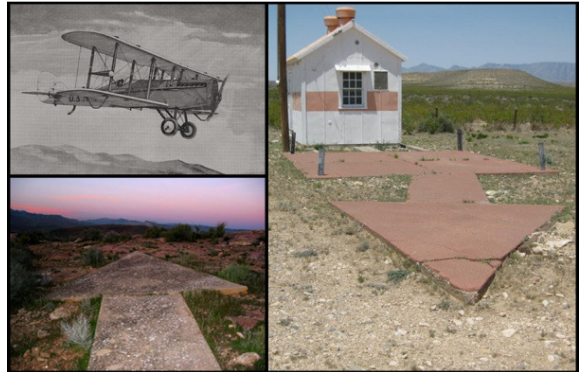
The arrows were painted bright yellow and each was accompanied by a tower up to 50 feet in height. At the top of each tower was a powerful gas-powered light, and at the bottom of the tower, a shed to hold the gas.



The easily-discernible design made the arrows visible from a distance of ten miles, and each arrow pointed the way towards the next, some three miles distant. That's *according to the Postal Museum*; however, this blog claims the towers were 10 miles apart with a 40-mile visibility. It's possible the former is

describing the earlier towers and the latter is describing updated versions.

What's not in dispute is that the beacon towers are all gone, the steel having been broken up and recycled for America's World War II effort. But the no-longer-used arrows remain, their paint long since worn off by the elements, the arrows themselves too difficult to make breaking them up worthwhile, and unless Omer Haciomeroglu sends his Concrete Recycling Robots into the American hinterlands, they'll likely be there forever.



## Veterans

In an attempt to recognize and honor all those Thunderbirds folks that served in the military I have attached the following photos and list. Veterans day is the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, please say a special 'Thank You' to those that have served our country.



**Stephen Bainer: USMC**



**J. Anthony Blair: US Army  
Wife Lynette: US Army**



**Timothy Boesche: USN**

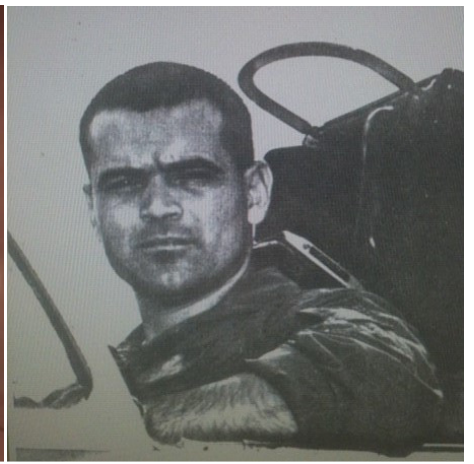




**Dan Davis: US Army**



**Mark Ehlers: USAF**



**Buck Garza: USMC**



**Kenneth Kilgo: USN**



**John Johnson: USN**



**Steve Lambarth: USN**



**William 'Bill' Lake: USAF**



**Woody Lake: USAF**



**James Meadows USAF**





**Len Minco: USAF**



**David Rosado: Air National Guard**



**Roger Spencer: USAF**



**Ben Vandever: US Army**



**Mel Wells: USAF**



**Jerry Wright: US Army**

**Stephen Bainer: USMC**

**Verne 'Sarge' Bell: USMC**

**J. Anthony Blair, MSG, RET February 1977- Jan 2013 United States Army Engineers/Reserve  
Wife Lynette is Active Duty Army stationed in Bryan with the 420th Engineers (AGR).  
And the beautiful young lady is Anastasia our now 10 year old daughter!**

**Timothy Boesche: USN 1980 – 2004**

**Dan Davis: MAJ, US Army 1999 - 2007**

**Mark Ehlers: USAF- 1979 – 1983 Senior Airman Assist Crew Chief B-52 D**

**Buck Garza: USMC 1985 – 2009**

**John George: USAF 1972 - 1993**

**Johnny Hunt: Texas Army National Guard November 1969 to November 1976. Rank E6 Staff Sergeant. Ammo Chief.  
3rd battalion 144 Mechanized Infantry.**

**Kenneth Kilgo: USN 1977 Served on aircraft carrier USS independence**

**Steve Lambarth: USN**

**John Johnson: Lt. USN 1975 – 1977 and 1984 – 1993 Medical Services Corp**

**Tracy L. Kobs, MD: Captain USAF 1958 - 1965**

**William ‘Bill’ Lake: USAF**

**Woody Lake: USAF Dec 1960 – Aug 1988**

**James Meadows: USAF August 1984 – Present**

**Len Minco: USAF January 1972 - December 1975. Telecommunication Specialist. Served in Wiesbaden Germany & Austin Texas**

**James (Jim) Perkins: USAF 1961 - 1968**

**Garry Rife: USAF, Msgt (E7) Mar 1964 - Nov 1984**

**David Rosado: Air National Guard, 156<sup>th</sup> FW Puerto Rico & 136<sup>th</sup> AW TX ANG 1996 – 2002**

**Michael K. Sowden: US NAVY 1988 - 1994 Hospital Corpsman/Combat Medic/EMT**

**Roger Spencer: USAF 1989 – 1993**

**Ben Vandever: US ARMY 1973 - March 1980**

**Mel Wells: USAF Feb 1967 – Aug 1988**

**Jerry Wright: US Army 1969 - 1975**

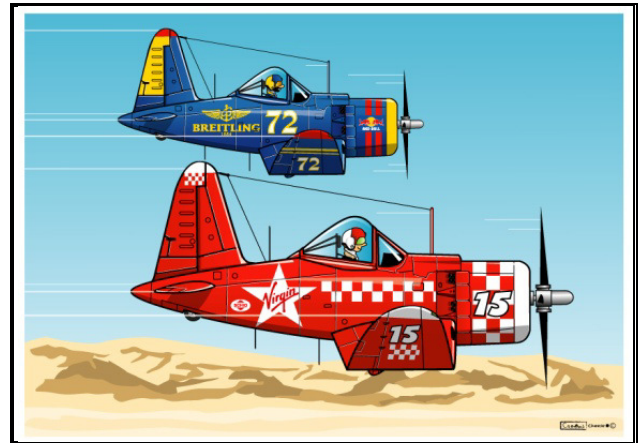
## **THUNDERBIRD 2019 CALENDAR**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>POINT OF CONTACT</u></b>
<b>October 26-27</b>	<b>Senior Pattern</b>	<b>Ken Knotts</b>
<b>November 3</b>	<b>Float Fly</b>	<b>Mel Wells</b>
<b>November 9</b>	<b>Texas Electric Expo</b>	<b>Tom Blakeney</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Toys for Tots</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>Club Christmas Party</b>	<b>Officers</b>



### Texas 2019 RACING SCHEDULE (as of 3/28/19)

DATE	LOCATION	HOST CLUB	EVENTS
April 6	Georgetown	GAMA	C40/EF-1
April 20	Waco	HOTMAC	C40/EF-1
April 27-28	Kansas City	KCRC	424 / 426
May 19	Austin	HCAM	EF-1
June 1	Fred French Field	Fred	C40/EF-1
Sept 21-22	Wichita	HSF	Q-40
Oct 6	Austin	HCAM	EF-1
Oct 19	Waco	HOTMAC	C40/EF-1
Nov 2	Georgetown	GAMA	C40/EF-1



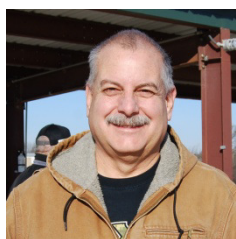
### [WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG](http://WWW.FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG)

POSITION	BOARD MEMBER	CONTACT 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	Ed Kettler	safetycoordinator@fwthunderbirds.org

### Club Officers 2019



**Pres:** James Meadows



**VP:** Rob Lowe



**Sec:** Mike Schroeder



**Safety:** Ed Kettler



**Treas:** Chris Berardi



## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTIZERS



**Roy's Hobby Shop    817 268-0210**  
**1309 Norwood Dr. Hurst TX 76053**  
[www.royshobby.com](http://www.royshobby.com)



**JT's Hobby Shop    817 244-6171**  
**8808 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth TX 76116**  
[jtshobby@yahoo.com](mailto:jtshobby@yahoo.com)

### Flying Field Rules

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

**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](http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/100.pdf)



## Proposed Projects

Project #	Proposed Project	Summary of Project	TYPE	EXPENSE	POC	Status	Notes
1	HELIPAD	10x10 Concrete PADS with ground, Could be Self help or contracted	Self /Contract	\$1,000.00	Officers	APROVED	Will require new Lease /or wait for expiration of 2018 Lease to negotiate Less \$\$
2	Line control Area	Develop area for line control modelers	Self /Contract	\$1,000.00	Officers	APROVED 2017	wait for expiration of Lease
3	Shed Update	Cross Ventilation fan	Contract				Suggest to member ship for Purchase Purchase
4	Larger shed/addon	Larger shed to store more stuff	self/contract			DISCUSSION	Will require new Lease /or wait for expiration of 2018 Lease to negotiate
5	Enclose some of the covered shelter area	utilizing rollup doors that can be pulled down when needed	Self /Contract	\$Unknown			Span is to large for standard doors
6	Extend current runway	More stopping distance for models	contract	\$ Unknown			Lease Renewel/cost
7	Tree Removal	remove trees at approach end of runways. Requires root removal and new plantings	Contract	\$15-\$20,000		Denied by Corp	requires Corp Approval will request Corp permission and requirements
8	lights in PIT Area.Land spot on outside of shed	Allow for some visibility	Self /Contract		james Meadows	Approved	COMPLETED
10	Taller Flag Pole	the old one needs replaced	Self /Contract		Mike Schroeder	Approved	COMPLETED
11	Quad GATES	Members Request	SELF	\$\$	UNK		used in Heli,quadand CL area
12	TRACTOR	TRACTOR to allow field Maintenance		10K	ONK	Needs Disussion	Withdrawn

## Some Blasts from the Past

### TEX Fly-In 2012



## ATTACHMENT A

### From the Treasury: *By Chris Berardi*

As I write this the cooler weather has intruded into what was some of the best summer flying we've had in recent memory. But I'm ready for it - ready for the mosquitoes to die off, ready for the rain and ready for the holidays that are rapidly approaching. There is still plenty of time to fly before the really cold weather you know will be coming, so make the sojourn out to the field to take advantage of the best flying weather in the country. There is still one upcoming event that doesn't take much preparation for - our 3rd November float fly. Indeed, you may have just enough time to get your floats fitted in advance. Christmas Party Watch your email for notice of when the Christmas Party tickets will be on sale. This year, we will have a fully catered meal as we have done these past 3 years with several selections of main course. The tickets will be \$20 per person and we are limited to 120 attendees. Tickets will go fast so purchase yours as soon as you can: You would be surprised how many calls we get from club members who wish to purchase tickets a week ahead of the event. The party will be held at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden on Saturday, 7th December. Arrive for 6pm, dinner at 7pm and wrap up by 9pm. And yes, there will be door prizes! Decline of Wood ARF Models I know I depressed everyone in my August newsletter when I wrote about the availability of ASP and Magnum engines, well misery loves company and I thought I'd repeat the gist of an article I read online. The article was written by Ali Machinchy on RC Groups as he discussed the new Tiger, 20cc model brought out by Horizon Hobby 30cc ARF - 90" (HAN2370). Ali is a Product Development Manager at the company. Ali said in the article that there was now only one wooden ARF manufacturer that was working with them. Several folded at the demise of Hobbico - this could partly explain why classic models like the Kaos were no longer available and why the vast number of new models Horizon are releasing are molded "foamies." The thread is well worth reading and you can find it here: <https://www.flyinggiants.com/forums/showthread.php?t=261651> 2019 Alliance Air Show the Thunderbirds

hosted another STEM event in conjunction with Lockheed Martin and Bell Helicopter, plus several vendors at the airshow over the 18-20 October weekend. Setup was on Friday while record breaking crowds attended the airshow on Saturday and Sunday. In fact, on Saturday the public was refused entry for over 2½ hours because the parking lots were full. There were over 12,000 cars in the lots at a show where the normal is around 6,500 vehicles. Our club volunteers discussed club activities to parents and children while instructing them on the fundamentals of flight using one of our 3 flight simulator setups: two were running Real Flight and one was running the Phoenix simulator. The club also purchased a 43" TV/Monitor for the event - very inexpensively from Costco. This is to replace a similar monitor that was no longer usable. We also had giveaways to interested kids and the occasional parent. These consisted of the classic rubber powered stick airplanes that we all put together as children. Each was custom imprinted and packaged for us by Guillow who specialize in promotional products. You can read more about them at [www.guillowgliders.com](http://www.guillowgliders.com)



Although our volunteers were kept busy, we were able



to trade off and get some spectator time watching the airshow event. This is the fifth or sixth airshow that the Thunderbirds have attended, more importantly we have been specifically requested to have a display presence - and at no charge to the club. Other vendors have to pay a not significant fee to set up a booth, so it has been a great opportunity that the club has been able to take advantage of. This public exposure is invaluable as leverage when we try to further our objectives with the city of Benbrook and the Corps of Engineers. We can be seen as a technology organization that is allied with public, government and corporate entities.



I would like to thank the following club members for their support in managing and facilitating this event:  
•James Meadows •Jason Meadows •Sam Corlett •Sam Corlett (son) •Ken Knotts •Tab Bowland •Rob Lowe •Brian Lowe •Chris Berardi  
The photos in this article are of the rubber powered Guillow glider along with a flyer that I made as part of our promotion. Also shown is the outside of the vendor tent with our display of aircraft and helicopters and finally of young Sam Corlett doing a bit of flight instruction at the club's simulator bank.



**Membership Update:** The latest batch of shirts and badges are about to go out. I'll have them at the club meeting (at the flying field this month!).

That's it for my report this month - see you at the field.