



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



Issue, 6407 July 2026

Next club meeting: July 27th - 7:00 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

President's Desk by Scott Hays

Well another month has passed....this year is flying by! It seems like we were just wanting warmer weather and now we have it....maybe a little more heat than we asked for or would like! I would remind all of you that are flying during this extreme heat to stay hydrated and limit your exposure to the direct sun. Flying in the morning is a great option however the sun can cause a few challenges. Recently a group of us flew in the evening. We started between 4 and 5 pm. The sun had moved behind us and we were able to fly until 8:30 pm. It was still warm but with the sun not overhead it was pretty enjoyable. Come out and give it a try while we are in the heat of the Dog Days of summer.

I want to thank all of those that attended our 4th of July celebration. We had a great turnout with some fun flying, great food and friendship. It was an honor to celebrate our country's 250th birthday with our members and those that has served our country. We are so blessed to live in this country that affords us freedoms and opportunities.

Wanted to give all of you an update on the IMAC event we had moved to our field. We ended up having 10 pilots, which did not surprise me based on the last minute change of location. We flew 4 of the 5 classes. Those that attended had a great time and were so impressed with our field, and how Mo and our club members ran the event they have requested we host an IMAC event each year. As the weather cools down this year we will be hosting a workshop at our field to help those that are interested in learning more about IMAC. More to come and thank you to all of you that supported the event by flying or helping making it happen.

Lastly a reminder of the next two events we have coming:

Our Float Fly will be held on August 15th at Camp Joy Park in Lake Worth. Please see the event flyer on our website for more information or reach out to our Contest Director Chris Berardi with and questions.....time to get out all those float fly planes and get them tuned up!

On September 11-12th we will have our second 2 day event of the year our first ever all EDF event. This has the potential to be the largest event we have ever hosted at our field. I would encourage all of you to register today! ONLY preregistered pilots receive the pilots' gifts so it is critical you all register. To learn more about the event and to register go to our club website and see the event flyer. If you have any questions please reach out to our Contest Director Kraig Rogers. And don't forget to PREREGISTER TODAY! Oh and by the way we have some awesome raffle prizes so you are not going to want to miss this event!

Again thank to all for your support in making our club great! I look forward to seeing all of you at the field!

Scott

Vice President's Corner: *by Mark Johnson*

No report this month

Secretary's Corner: *by Robert Solis*

Hello Thunderbirds,

We did it- Finally got a little break from all the events! I know the CD's and volunteers welcomed the break!

Our last working event was the IMAC event, it was my first, and not only did we dodge the rain waves, we pulled off our event with no issues with plenty of wind to make it interesting for precision flying. We all had enough practice to make this event fun to watch and easier to work. Many thanks to all the folks that helped make this event happen on a two week notice!

The July 4th Family Fun day was great with many coming out to enjoy the swap meet and enjoy some great food including, Cheeseburgers, Hotdogs, Bratwurst, Apple pie and Ice Cream cooked by your officers and helpers. Thank you all again - we had a great turnout.

We also have a cool Float Fly coming up. This will be my first Float Fly event even though I have sent several planes into the drink - It will be my first time to try and land on the water on purpose. Hope to see you all there!

Meeting Summary – June Club Meeting (June 22, 2026)

Attendance

- Officers present: Scott Hays, Mark Johnson, Chris Berardi, Fred Neal, and Rob Solis.
- Field Manager: Rex Anderson.
- Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and ended
- Membership Attendees 20 with 1 guest Dennis Petty

Meeting Business

- April meeting minutes were approved.
- The club also approved accepting future meeting minutes as published in the monthly newsletter rather than reading them aloud during meetings. Please see the newsletter for the Minutes.

Officer Reports

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser**
 - \$760 raised to date through club events and raffle activities.
 - Funds will benefit a charity selected by the family of club member Bruce Carr's wife.
 -
- **Field Maintenance**
 - Grass maintenance continues to go well.
 - Members were reminded to ensure the refrigerator/freezer is fully closed to prevent icing.
 - Unused handheld radios were found and will be sold at the July 4 event.

Event Review

- The recent Warbird and Jet events were considered successful.
- Discussion focused on:
 - Supporting the Contest Director's decisions during events.
 - Maintaining professionalism with members and visitors.
 - Collecting constructive feedback after events instead of during operations.
 - Improvements for future events, including photographer identification, parking, tent setup, and better volunteer coordination.

Membership & Financial Report

- Seven members renewed.
- Current membership:
 - 167 total members
 - 136 full members
 - 9 family members
 - 5 associate members
 - 17 life members
- Financial status:
 - We have a net positive balance in our account with our year to date income exceeding our expenses. If you are interested in hearing the actual numbers please come to a meeting and see how your club is really doing.
 - Registration system improvements now allow online event registrations to deposit funds directly into the club account.

Membership Discussion

- Membership is lower than last year's total of 193.
- Possible reasons include members joining nearby clubs with improved facilities.
- The board discussed contacting former members to encourage renewals.

Community Outreach

- The club was invited to participate in the FAA "Bring Your Kid to Work Day" on July 30.
- Planned activities include flight demonstrations, simulators, and youth engagement to promote the hobby and strengthen relationships with the FAA.

Old Business

- Purchased a self-contained hot/cold sink for \$200 to improve food-service sanitation.
- Discussion continued regarding obtaining a storage container (Connex) for additional equipment storage.

New Business

- Proposal for new solo pilot wings/pins to recognize pilots completing solo training.
- Suggestions included:
 - Building an email list from event registrations for future promotions.
 - Sending thank-you messages to event participants.
 - Improving kitchen ventilation.
 - Evaluating restroom capacity during large events.
 - Purchasing a club-owned flat-top grill for breakfasts and large events.
 - Continuing efforts to acquire a storage container with Corps of Engineers approval.

Upcoming Events

- **IMAC Competition**
 - Club hosting an IMAC event after another site's cancellation.
 - Goal is to establish it as an annual event and expose members to aerobatic competition.
- **July 4 Family Fun Fly-In**
 - Open flying, swap meet, raffle, lunch at noon, and family activities.
 - Members encouraged to RSVP to assist with food planning.

Key Action Items

- **Finalize and vote on updated bylaws.**
- Continue Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser through October.
- Contact previous members regarding renewals.
- Prepare for FAA outreach event.
- Develop proposal for club flat-top grill.
- Seek Corps approval for a storage container.
- Organize the IMAC competition and July 4 Family Fun Fly-In.

From the Treasury: *by Chris Berardi*

No Report this month

Membership Type	Count
Individual	133
Family	9
Associate	5
Life	17
TOTAL	164

Safety: *by Fred Neal*

No Report This Month

Field Manager: *Rex Anderson*

No Report this month.

IMAC Challenge





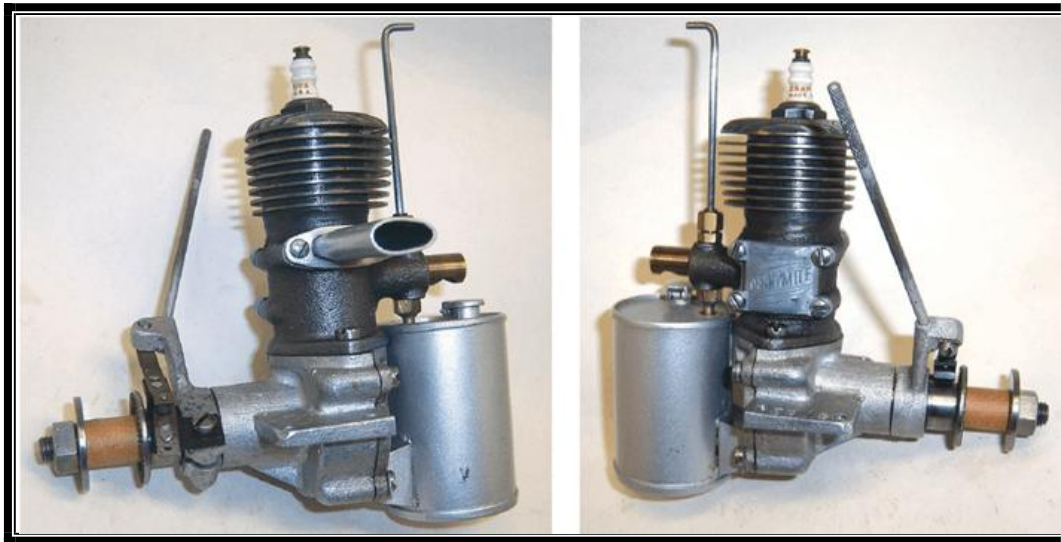
Club Picnic





Vintage Power: The Dennymite Engine

The Dennymite was a very popular free-flight engine back prior to WW II due to its light weight and power output. A lot of fellows also used it in tether car racing. A famous British Hollywood actor named Reginald Denny had been a modeler in his younger years and opened a hobby shop on Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood, California, in the mid-1930s. (The Hollywood Freeway now passes through where the shop once stood.) Denny decided to add an engine to his line of products and started looking for someone to manufacture it. One stipulation was that the engine had to run continuously for 50 hours—something full-size aircraft engine had to do for licensing. Several people submitted designs, but Walter Righter's design was chosen and given the name "Dennymite." It was later named the "Dennymite Airstream," due to the teardrop-shaped cylinder. The engine had a displacement of .57ci and appeared in 1937. Production continued until 1945, when the company was sold to Pacific Aeromotive Corp. in Burbank, California. The displacement was raised to .5588ci, it was given a round cylinder, and the name was changed to the "Meteor 60." Then, in 1948, production rights were sold to Olsson & Rice (O&R) who went back to the original .57-size engine with the teardrop cylinder and "Airstream" name. Whether O&R did not receive the rights to the Meteor engine and name I do not know, but I assume it must have received a large inventory of the original Airstream parts.

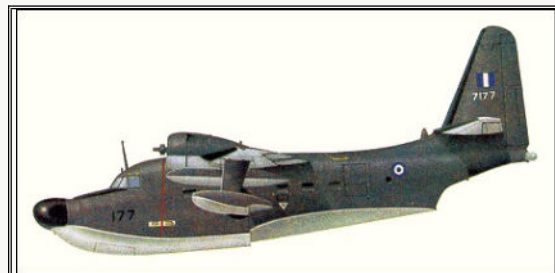


During WW II, Walter Righter manufactured a 45.6ci, 20hp, horizontally opposed twin for RC target drone aircraft. Along with Reginald Denny, he and a man named Whitley Collins (the main financial contributor along with some other investors) formed the Radioplane Co. to build RC drone aircraft. One of their employees was a young lady named Norma Jean Baker, who later became Marilyn Monroe, the movie actress.

A little side note: In the mid-1950s while making my Lee 45s, my wife had a friend named Fran Tucker. When Fran found out I was making model engines, she told my wife that her dad had also made model engines. Guess who that was? Walter Righter. She also went on to say that, as a small child, she used to sit on a stool next to her dad and watch him assemble engines. When she got a little older, she also started assembling engines until WW II, when model engine production was put on hold.—Clarence Lee

August Float Fly

Our August Float Fly has been a recurring Thunderbird event since the last century. At least since the 1990s. Tom Blakeney, Woody Lake, Terry Thorpe, and Mel Well to name a few of the Thunderbird's that have CD'd this event. Always a fun time for pilots and spectators alike. This year Chris Berardi has taken the CD baton for the float fly and it is shaping up to be a memorable day. Great raffle items including an Avios PBV Catalina, good lunch menu, super folks. Over the years it's related to a family reunion with the same dedicated flyers (but no drunk uncles). Don't miss this years' float fly, you won't regret it. The following are but a few photos of past float flies:





From the Editor's Desk: *by Woody*



Greetings to all. Just a reminder that our newsletter is a member's document. If you have any aviation related article you would like to share please get it to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

wdylake@yahoo.com

2026 CALENDAR

DATE

August 15
September 11-12
October 10
October 24

EVENT

Float Fly
EDF Jet
Members Day
T.E.X eXpo

POINT OF CONTACT

Chris Berardi
Kraig Rogers/Derek Gregory
Board Members
Tom Blakeney

POSITION	BOARD MEMBER	EMAIL
President	Scott Hays	hays2441@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Mark Johnson	mijohnson64@att.net
Secretary	Robert Solis	robdogsolis@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Berardi	mikadopilot@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Fred Neal	fredneal@sbcglobal.net



Pres: Scott Hayes



VP: Mark Johnson



Sec: Rob Solis



Safety: Fred Neal



Treas: Chris Berardi



Field Manager: Rex Anderson



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**Academy of Model Aeronautics
National Model Aircraft Safety Code**
Effective January 1, 2018

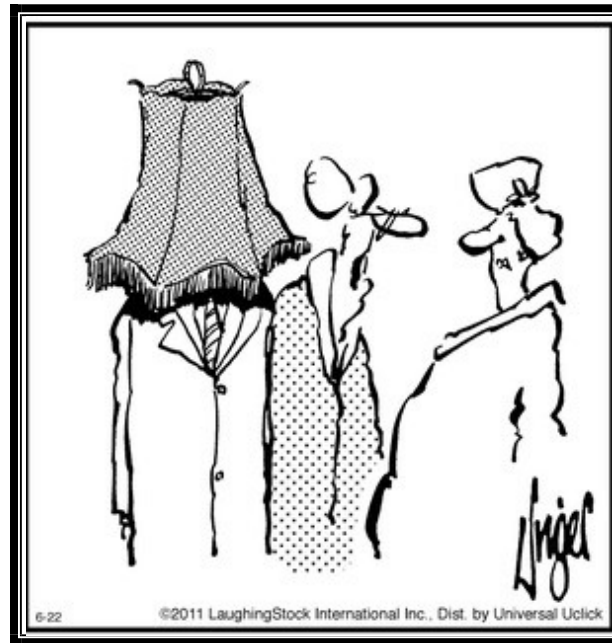
A model aircraft is a non-human-carrying device capable of sustained flight within visual line of sight of the pilot or spotter(s). It may not exceed limitations of this code and is intended exclusively for sport, recreation, education and/or competition. All model flights must be conducted in accordance 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

Humor



The dermatologist told Woody to stay in the shade

Flight Training

LEARN TO FLY RC
FREE TRAINING



FORT WORTH THUNDERBIRDS

- Equipment and aircraft provided by the club
- Partnered with an instructor pilot who will train you to fly using a "buddy box" system

Find Us: www.ftworththunderbirds.org
Facebook: Fort Worth Thunderbirds Radio Control Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TRAINING
CONTACT: TRAINING@FWTHUNDERBIRDS.ORG



Thunderbirds Events



FORT WORTH THUNDERBIRDS

AMA
ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

FLOAT FLY
AT LAKE WORTH

Saturday • August 15 • 0900 – 1500
Camp Joy Park – Lake Worth, Texas

GPS: 32.8145 – 97.4905

LANDING FEE \$25 AMA REQUIRED • OPEN FLYING • All R/C Seaplanes Welcome • Fixed Wing & Rotary	★ PILOT LUNCH INCLUDES! ★ • Tortilla-wrapped brats • Chips • Drink
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Join us at beautiful Camp Joy Park for a day of splash-and-fly fun on Lake Worth.

CD: CHRIS BERARDI | mikadopilot@gmail.com

SCAN FOR
EVENT INFO





INAUGURAL THUNDERBIRDS EDF JET BLAST

SEPT 11-12, 2026

BENBROOK, TX

- ★ 40' x 480' Concrete Runway with Grass Runoffs
- ★ Limited Overnight RV Parking - No Hookups
- ★ Pop Up Tent Locations
- ★ Raffle Prizes
- ★ Aircraft Awards



SCAN FOR INFO
& REGISTRATION

CD: Kraig Rogers • TBEDFJetBlast@gmail.com

Classified

**For Sale: EASY SPORT ARF: \$50: Contact Mel at: malekat@sbcglobal.net
Nice mid-wing trainer upgrade. O.S . 46FX Glow engine runs good. Four Futaba S3004
Servos and two props. Needs a receiver - flight pack and ready to fly**



**For Sale: FMS P-40B: Asking \$150.00 Contact Woody: wylake@yahoo.com
Includes extra parts: Main Landing gear (retracts) – Spinner - Props (3 sets) - No
damage.**

