



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



Issue, 6408 August 2026

Next club meeting: August 24th- 7:00 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

President's Desk by Scott Hays

Another month has come and gone....and to be honest, with the extreme heat my flying days have been few and far between. I have had a chance to get in the shop and make some progress on a couple of new planes. Hopefully we will get a break in the weather and we can all get out and do some flying, and spend some time hanging out at the field.

I would like to thank all of you that participated in the Float Fly. Although it was hot we had a nice breeze and the park provides a nice setting and some shade for the event. I'm proud to report we had no major incidences and I think we only had to use the kayak a couple of times to rescue a couple of planes. A special thanks goes out to Chris Berardi who was the event CD and all of you that helped Chris make the event a great success. Oh and we learned that General Bill can grill up some mean Brats....we been looking for some people to help us when we are doing some cooking...thanks Bill for sharing another one of your many talents!!!! Again thanks to all for an awesome event!

As we wind down the year there are only a few club events left on our calendar. First up is the EDF Jet Blast. This is our second two day event that will be held on September 11th and 12th. This event promises to be the largest EDF event ever held in Texas. We have some incredible raffle prizes and awards....this event is going to be a BLAST....a EDF BLAST. If you haven't already registered.....register today! We look forward to seeing all of you there!

On Oct 10th we will be hosting all of you for a member's day. Going to be some great open flying, maybe a little fun fly competition for those that would like to participate, and as always some great food and fellowship. We will have some awesome raffle prizes.... but you will have to be present to win! Mark your calendars and as we get closer we will have you RSVP for planning purposes. Another club event you won't want to miss!

And wrapping up the year is Tom Blakney's world famous TEX Expo on October 24th. This annual all electric event is for any type of aircraft that is electric powered! Planes, EDF's, Heli's....if its electric....BRING IT. Tom always hosts an incredible event and has some awesome raffle prizes. Come hungry because lunch will be served. Mark your calendar and don't miss this one!

As always, as we begin our planning for next year we would like to hear from you the members as to what type of events you would like to have in 2027. I have already been approached about having a helicopter event, a BIG Bird event and the possibility of having a combined pattern/senior

pattern event. We can't do them all, but if you have something you would like to suggest please reach out to a board member.

Over the last year, the previous board and current board, have been reviewing and revising the club bylaws. After much work by both of the boards and other members we have settled on a final draft that we will be presenting to the membership. This writing complies with the required 30 day notice to the membership, that each of you will have the opportunity review the new proposed bylaws, and has the opportunity to approve or reject. Each of you will be receiving an email before October 1st that will explain the bylaw review and confidential voting process.

Also as we wind down the year we begin the process of nominating and selecting our officers for the coming year. If you are interested in serving in a board position, please reach out to a current board member so we can include you in those that have an interest in serving. Candidates can be nominated from the floor at the October meeting, by mail or email, if received by a member of the board prior to the October meeting

And lastly don't forget about our Monthly Meeting on August 24th at CERA that will begin at 7 pm. I look forward to seeing all of you there! Oh..... and we will be having a silent auction on several items that you won't want to miss.

See all of you soon!

Scott

Vice President's Corner: by Mark Johnson

Vice Presidents Corner: by Mark Johnson

It appears that the dog days of summer have arrived and are going to hang around for a while longer. After a mild summer last year where we only had 7 days that reached triple digits, we have now had 22 days above 100, with more days in the forecast. The good news is that we should not reach the record of 71 days reached in 2011. On average the last day above hundred is August 28th. It's looking like the end of August before the string of 100 plus days are behind us.

Things have been quiet at the field due to the ongoing extreme heat that arrived on July 7th. If you do visit the field, please remember to stay hydrated and use lots of sunscreen. As always, we want everyone to stay safe and healthy.

On July 30th we had the opportunity to interface with the FAA's regional office Bring your Kids to work day. I want to thank Rex, Scott, Mo, and Melvin for helping me with putting on a great flight demonstration and helping to man the real flight simulators. I had an opportunity to learn more about what the FAA does to keep our skies safe and gave us a chance to introduce the local FAA leaders to our hobby.

By the time you read this the Annual Float Fly will be in the rear-view mirror. I want to say thank you to Chris Berardi. He did a fantastic job organizing and putting on this event. The brats were great with the HEB butter tortillas used to wrap them. Bill Lake did a wonderful job cooking. We also need to thank Mel Wells, and Woody Lake for helping pass the torch to Chris. We now look forward to getting things ready for the Inaugural Thunderbirds EDF Jet Blast at Thunderbird Field on September 11th and 12th. This will be our second 2-day event this year. Please come out and support first time Event Director Kraig Rodgers. He and Derek Gregory have been working hard to put this event together.

We continue to have our ongoing pilot training on Thursday from 4 to 6 pm. We train until dark but have started to encourage our student pilots to arrive before 6 pm. Since the days have been hot and dry. Rex and the instructor pilots continue to work at improving our program using the Aero

Scout. Please give Rex and the instructors a thank you. Introducing new pilots to the Hobby is the only way we can keep our club growing. Rex is working to develop community outreach programs to local schools.

Well, that is all I have for this month. Hope everyone is well and being careful with this heat.

Mark

Secretary's Corner: by Robert Solis

Meeting Summary –

Thunderbird Club meeting Summary July 27, 2026

Officers Present: Scott Hays, Mark Johnson, Chris Berardi, Fred Neal, Rob Solis

Field Manager: Rex Anderson

Attendance: 26 members, 1 guest,

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 and adjourned at 8:00pm

Club Meetings and Event Planning

- The club held a meeting inside due to heat, with plans to return to the usual room next month depending on weather.
- Members discussed upcoming events, including IMAC, float fly, and FAA outreach, with details on scheduling and logistics.

Financial Overview and Fundraising

- The club raised nearly \$800 from donations and had significant income from events like the Jet Classic and swap meet.
- Expenses included event costs, reimbursements for equipment, and facility rentals, with current bank balances showing a positive balance on the year. If you would like to know the actual amounts please come to the meeting.

Field Maintenance and Safety

- The club praised volunteers for maintaining the field, receiving positive real estate inspection comments.
- Safety concerns were emphasized, including proper airplane energizing procedures and addressing unsafe behaviors gently but firmly.

IMAC and Competition Activities

- The club successfully hosted an IMAC event after a last-minute move, breaking even financially and encouraging future annual contests.

- Plans include fall boot camps, promoting IMAC to new pilots, and supporting electric planes in competitions.

Community Outreach and Events

- The club is involved in outreach with the FAA, demonstrating helicopters and drones, and promoting safe flying practices.
- Upcoming events include float fly with food, drinks, and a recovery boat, with efforts to boost sign-ups through social media.

Club Bylaws and Communication

- The club discussed finalizing and voting on updated bylaws, with plans to notify members via newsletter, email, and Face book.
- A 30-day review period before voting was agreed upon, ensuring members have ample time to review documents.

Donations and Equipment Contributions

- Longtime member Dick Robignac donated planes and chargers, which will be used to grow the club and support youth activities.
- Rex will evaluate the donated planes for training use, with plans to raffle or repurpose them for club benefit.

Future Events and Activities

- The club is preparing for upcoming events like the float fly, with plans for food, drinks, and safety measures.
- Additional events include the season finale IMAC, with support from regional clubs, and efforts to increase participation and visibility.

Event Planning and Registration

- Emphasis on pre-registration for larger events to better manage food and logistics.
- QR codes are used for registration and promoting registration via Face book and local clubs is encouraged.

Upcoming Events and Activities

- September 12-13 two-day event with overnight camping is planned.
- Members are encouraged to register early to receive additional benefits and support event organization.

Facility and Equipment Improvements

- Discussions on buying a grill and flat top, with ongoing plans.
- Consideration of outdoor ventilation and storage solutions like Connex boxes to address space and safety issues.

Storage and Flood Preparedness

- Storage space is limited, leading to plans for a container due to frequent flooding.
- The club's current building is cluttered, hindering use and safety, especially for older members.

Community Support and Local Business

- Local hobby shops, especially Bill's, are vital for parts and support.
- A partnership with Hobby Town offers discounts and potential revenue sharing, with plans for promotional signage.

Club Recognition and Leadership

- Designing pins for pilots who complete training and solo.
- Future discussions on new officers and member nominations are scheduled.

Bill discusses his extensive collection of model airplane parts and hardware, accumulated from buying out various estates and hobby shops. He mentions his ability to help others with parts—specifically noting half-price Sato and OS parts—and offers his services for engine repairs. The conversation also includes a personal anecdote about a friend accidentally damaging a fuselage in his garage, as well as concluding club business with a motion to end the meeting.¹

From the Treasury: *by Chris Berardi*

2026 Float Fly

Last Saturday, August 15th, a small crowd of aquatic minded aviators, launched their amphibious air vehicles from the shores of Camp Joy. There were 14 registered pilots and as many spectators from our club and a couple of others, including some from as far away as Richardson.

Anyone that has attended the float fly knows the drill: Show up early, fly, and be ready to depart the area before 1pm when the heat builds. Actually, I think the heat was building an hour before that but most stuck around till the very end.

A couple of things changed for this year's event. Firstly, Woody Lake and Mel Wells handed the organization of the event off to me. And in turn, I was fortunate to have the help of Ron Anderson to help with the physical labor and brainstorming the arrangements and purchases. Returning for another year was Robin Blakeney who has been the registrar and sales associate for the float fly as long as I can remember.

In addition, Mark Wheeler supplied the recovery vehicle, a sizable two-man kayak, paddle powered by both Mark and Gary Nelson. Without both of you, the event could not have taken place.

The last change was the tastiest because this year we had a pilot lunch. To make feeding the pilots possible and practical, we offered tortilla wrapped brats, chips and a drink; the brats being barbecued on-site. These weren't ordinary brats either. A selection of organic chicken and wagyu beef, with a variety of seasoning including cracked pepper, jalapeño, parmesan and cheddar cheese. Even our most plain brat was basil and pepper. Nobody would have enjoyed any of this had it not been for the newest addition to the float fly staff, Bill Lake. Clearly a master of the tongs, the tortillas and brats were grilled close to perfection.

To everyone above, thank you for the help and so much more.

What would one of our events be without a raffle? And indeed we had a decent raffle including two main items, both ARF: An E-flite special edition Timber on floats (and a 6S battery to go with it), plus an Avios PBY Catalina that was donated by Woody Lake. Woody also provided a large tray of “freebies” that was consumed by the pilots in 15 minutes or less; I was fortunate to pick up a pair of classic aluminum Tatone motor mounts.

The big winners took home the two ARF kit. The winner of the E-flite Timber was Curtis Simmons from the Richardson club. Curtis attended the event to fly and to promote the Richardson Swap Meet that occurs on Saturday, 22nd August at: First Baptist Church (Gymnasium), 1001 North Central Expressway (US-75), Richardson, TX 75080. The show starts at 8:00am and more details can be found here: www.rccc.org



The biggest winner was one of our youngest attendees - Easton Byrd. Brought to the event by his dad, Stephen. The 1900mm (75”) wingspan Catalina is quite a bit bigger than young Easton but that isn’t going to deter him. In fact, the very next day Stephen sent me a picture of the model ready to fly, and has allowed me to share it with you here.



Once the raffle concluded, Ron and I immediately got started on striking camp. We still had an hour or two of work as we needed to return the club's equipment to the field shed, and by the time we arrived at the field it was after 1pm and the cloying heat had built making every minute in the shed unpleasant. This brought to mind a significant change we would like to make for next year. What if we moved this event to a cooler month? There are possibilities for an alternative time either earlier or later in the year, so we shall investigate how a new date fits into our busy club schedule.

Another thought we had was to move the event to the Thunderbird Fields shoreline. Corps of Engineers management has changed and prior limitations of our field usage have changed. I don't

know if we weren't permitted to fly from the shore previously, but nothing in writing is known to exist. This will need to be explored.

Yet another idea was to co-manage the event with the 114th club. Their event runs next Saturday, (8/22). The thought is that both clubs would benefit by the combined attendance and shared park fees (\$225). Just a thought and we haven't brought that to anyone's attention just yet, but we will.

Our goal is to improve the event for next year so that more of you are likely to convert a model and attend. It is a lot of fun and a way to challenge and add to your skills. Enjoy a few of the snapshots I took at the event.

2027 Officer Nominations

It is that time of the year again when the club asks if you would like to become a board member. I have to say that it doesn't seem like a year since we last went through this process.

The October meeting is the standard platform for making those nominations although you can email, phone or approach any current officer with your or another member's nomination.

All Individual members can vote while associate and family members cannot. As in prior years, all voting is anonymous and secure.

Last year, there were quite a few changes on the board with only Rex Anderson and myself sticking around. Like Rex, I've been on the board more than a few years and I'm certainly open for someone to take over this position. If you would like to become the club's Treasure, then please, throw your hat in the ring and I will help you every way I can.

The same can be said for the Field Manager position that Rex currently occupies. Rex is also our Chief Flight Instructor and both of these roles need to be filled although each role could and should be a different person.

The one comment I would make for both Treasurer and Field Manager positions is that we need club members who can commit to devoting energy to learn and fully absorb the tasks the club needs to move forward. I know we have capable members in the club, so don't hesitate to come nominate yourself; we appreciate everyone who would like to make our club great.

Membership Update

Here is the Membership count as of 8/19/2026.

Membership Type	Count
Individual	147
Family	9
Associate	5
Life	17
TOTAL	178

That's about it for this month. See you at the flying field.

Safety: by Fred Neal

Hello Thunderbirds,

Well, it's another hot summer. Please make sure that everyone is staying hydrated and stay shaded up as much as possible. Always be looking out for your flying buddies! Anyhow, I would like to congratulate Chris Berardi our CD for the Float Fly this last weekend. With the weather being so hot, we had a decent turn out with a number of flyers from other clubs. We had a great raffle and good food. Thanks again Chris "Good Job".

Well that's about all I have, so Stay Cool + Great Flying. See you at the field.

Thanks again, Sincerely

Fred Neal, Safety Coordinator

Field Manager: Rex Anderson

Overall the membership is doing a great job keeping the field well kept. One issue we need to address is battery disposal. Each one of us must be responsible for our own batteries. The sand buckets are for battery fire suppression, not battery disposal. The battery box is for HOT or PUFFED batteries that no one wants to put in their vehicle. Please give us a break and not create more work for the volunteers who keep the field the best looking field in the area.

The area in front of the medical safety and information board should remain clear of tables, chairs or any other obstruction that might slow the retrieval and use of these critical medical aids. It could be any one of us at any time who may need these aids and devices during an emergency event when time is of the essence. The area is clearly bordered with a black and yellow caution tape. Please respect this "clear area" for its requirement to be void of any and all objects.

August Float Fly





EDF Fly-In
Some photos from a past EDF (Benbrook Thunder) events.





Astro Hog, The Model That Changed RC



When Fred Dunn designed the Astro-Hog in 1957, radio-control models were generally stable, high-wing aircraft steered primarily with rudder. Low-wing designs were considered too difficult—and by some, entirely unsuitable—for the still-developing RC equipment of the era. The Astro-Hog proved otherwise. With its low-wing configuration, aileron control and distinctive rounded lines, Dunn's 72-inch-

span design gave pilots the ability to perform smooth rolls, inverted flight and other precision maneuvers that earlier RC models could not manage convincingly. Widely regarded as the first truly successful low-wing RC airplane, it helped establish the basic layout that would define aerobatic models for decades.

The Astro-Hog appeared in the April 1958 issue of "Model Airplane News" and quickly made its mark. Astro-Hogs reportedly captured the first four places in radio control at the 1958 National Championships, providing dramatic proof that Dunn's ideas worked. The design was subsequently offered as a Berkeley kit and later returned in kit form through SIG, introducing new generations of modelers to this landmark airplane.

More than six decades later, the Astro-Hog remains much more than an attractive vintage model. It represents the moment RC aerobatics began to resemble the precise, controlled flying we recognize today.

Members Projects

Many Thanks to Grant Schroeder for getting it in the air. It's trimmed and ready to head to Owatanna Minnesota



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.

wduke@yahoo.com

2026 CALENDAR

DATE

September 11-12
October 10
October 24

EVENT

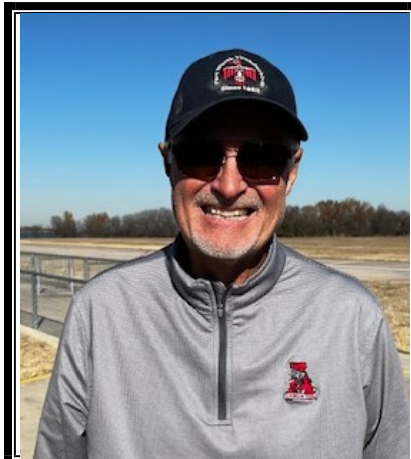
EDF Jet
Members Day
T.E.X eXpo

POINT OF CONTACT

Kraig Rogers/Derek Gregory
Board Members
Tom Blakeney

www.fwthunderbirds.org

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



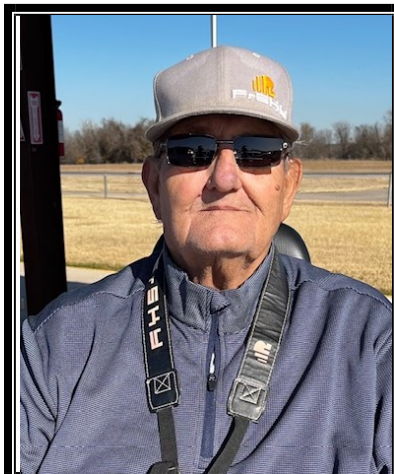
Pres: Scott Hayes



VP: Mark Johnson



Sec: Rob Solis



Safety: Fred Neal

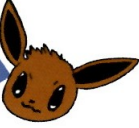


Treas: Chris Berardi



Field Manager: Rex Anderson

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTIZERS

Ventrex
Collectibles 

www.ventrexcollectibles.com
817-615-4080
304 THOMAS PLACE
EVERMAN, TX 76140

Ventrex Collectibles
& R/C Hobbies

VENTREXCOLLECTIBLES

GLOW FUEL
**RITCH'S
BREW™**
THE WINNER'S CHOICE
Planes - Cars - Boats
Distributor: Scott Hays
817-829-6046

Bill's Planes and Parts
Bill Kunz 817-472-0809 bkunz33000@aol.com

Expertly Custom Made Extensions
Engines, Motors, Accessories, Modeling Tools
Hardware, Spinners, Propellers, Wood
Composites, Switches, Servos
New and Used

PAYPAL accepted

A&E RC Products



We Keep 'em Flying!

A&E PRODUCTS@GMAIL.COM
WEB:A&ERCPRODUCTS.COM

Flying Field New Signage



Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Aircraft Safety Code

Effective January 1, 2018

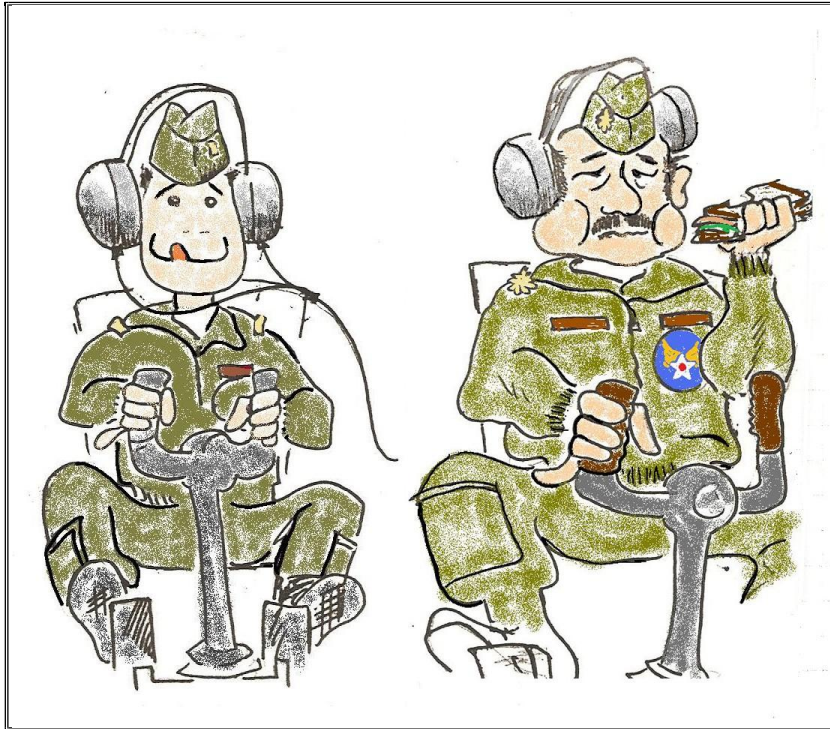
A model aircraft is a non-human-carrying device capable of sustained flight within visual line of sight of the pilot or spotter(s). It may not exceed limitations of this code and is intended exclusively for sport, recreation, education and/or competition. All model flights must be conducted in accordance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

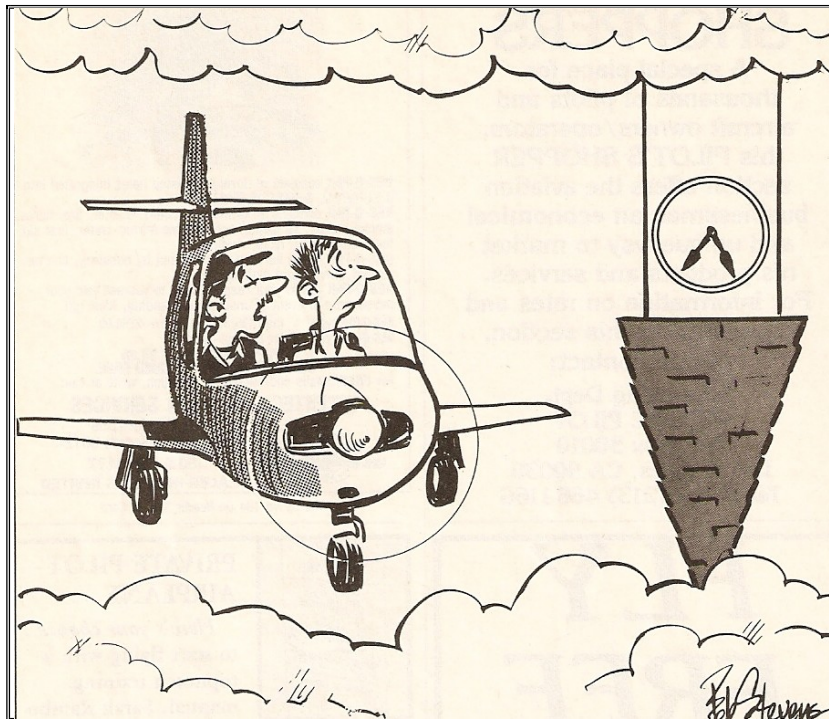
- I will not fly a model aircraft in a careless or reckless manner.
- I will not interfere with and will yield the right of way to all human-carrying aircraft using AMA's *See and Avoid Guidance* and a spotter when appropriate.
- I will not operate any model aircraft while I am under the influence of 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



No Words Needed



I suggest you recheck your instruments

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

2026

EDF JET BLAST

FORT WORTH THUNDERBIRDS RC CLUB

AMA
ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

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



**One final photo from our Float Fly Event -
It's Miler Time!**

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: wduke@yahoo.com
Includes extra parts: Main Landing gear (retracts) – Spinner - Props (3 sets) - No damage.

