Fort Worth Thunderbirds
Radio Control Association Inc.

The Pilot's Log

Issue, 6410 October 2026

Next club meeting: October 26th - 7:00 pm - Location - CERA, 3300 Bryant Irvin Road

Critter Alert

Thunderbird Members: This morning a coyote attacked an EDF when it taxied for takeoff. It is unusual for Wil-E Coyote to get this close to humans, and we will notify the Corps immediately. Please please use caution when flying, remember this is their habitat. Please leave you ACME rockets at home in the interim. Apparently EDF's were not what he was looking for. That's all Folks!





President's Desk ***by Scott Hays***

It's hard to believe another month has come and gone. October went by in a flash! For that matter the year will be over before we know it. Fall has finally arrived with some cooler mornings and warm days to get in some great flying.

All of you should have received an email letting you know that the proposed bylaws were approved by the membership. These bylaws will become effective on January 1st, 2027 and will be posted on the Thunderbirds webpage for your reference.

As a reminder we will be accepting nominations for all board positions until the close of our monthly meeting on October 26th. If 2 or more people are nominated for any one board position, we will conduct a confidential online vote in early November. Details will be emailed to all current members and new board members will be announced at our November Meeting.

Lastly I would like to thank Gary King for taking the lead on sealing the starting stands. Although these have been in use for some time, the pressure treated lumber that was used to construct the stands required time to dry out before you seal them. Big thanks to all the volunteers that jumped in and supported in getting this project complete.

See you all at the field….we've got some perfect flying weather. Don't forget our October meeting on Monday!

Toys for our annual Cooks Children Hospital Christmas toy drive will be collected at our October meeting. Please support this worthwhile event.

You are not going to want to miss, Tom's world famous all electric event…..TEX…. this Saturday, October 24th!

Thank you for all your support,

Scott

Vice President's Desk *by Mark Johnson*

Hello Thunderbirds.
Well, it looks like the dog days of summer are over. I hope that fall has finely arrived. After a hot and dry summer, I hope you can enjoy the cooler weather and are able to do some flying in before it turns cold.

Members adopted the updated bylaws in voting that closed on October 15th. Results are available in the email sent from Election Buddy and on the webpage. The new bylaws are also available online for review and reference. I wish more members had participated: only 62 of the 177 eligible voters—35%—cast a vote and shared their views. Please check with Chris or me to make sure we have your preferred email. We are unable to update it, can provide you with the information needed to update your address.

Voting for the Thunderbirds Board of Directors and Thunderbird of the Year will take place in November. Nominations and seconds for either may be made from the floor or submitted to a board member by mail or email during the October meeting. To appear on the ballot, board candidates must have their nominations seconded and accept them. Thunderbird of the Year nominees follows the same process but do not need to accept their nominations. Only one Thunderbird of the Year award is presented by the club annually.

This holiday season, the Thunderbirds are once again holding a toy drive for Cooks Children's Hospital. Please bring a new toy in its original packaging, without gift wrap, to the October or November meeting. See the newsletter announcement for details.

As you know Rex Anderson is stepping down as Airfield manager and lead instructor pilot. His shoes will be hard to fill. I want to thank Rex for his years of service as Airfield Manager and Pilot Instructor. He has done an outstanding job, and I want to thank him for dedication for keeping our flying site one of the best in the country. He has also been our lead pilot instructor for at least the past 15 years introducing new pilots to the hobby. Please take a moment to tell him thanks for his dedication to our club.

We also owe a round of applause to the volunteers who made our events successful and kept our airfield in excellent condition. Our club depends on volunteers and active participation of its members. Volunteering is a rewarding way to give back; please let any officer know if you're interested in volunteering.

I hope to see you at our next club meeting Monday, October 26th, at 7 PM at CERA on Bryant Irving.
I hope everyone has a safe Halloween, and I hope to see you at the field.
Mark

Secretary's Corner: *by Robert Solis*

I want to thank Mark Johnson for stepping in to assist in my absence. I had one of my allograft procedures on Oct 9th and it seems to have helped. One more side to go and I hope to be flying soon.
I miss the camaraderie of the Dawn Patrol and just having fun getting the enjoyment of actual flying. I have close to 200 hours on Real Flight now and I can't wait to transfer those skills to my planes. I have a lot of planes to maiden!

Meeting Minutes

Club Membership Meeting
Meeting Date: 09_28_2026
Officers present: Scott Hays, Mark Johnson, Chris Berardi, Fred Neal, Rex Anderson,
Absent: Rob Solis

Recording for Meeting: Mark Johnson, Transcribed for newsletter by Rob Solis

Membership present: 19

Call to Order 7:01pm

The meeting was called to order with confirmation that sufficient members were present to proceed. No new members were in attendance.

Officer Reports

Safety Officer Report - Fred

- **Reported continued fundraising efforts for breast cancer awareness.**
- **Approximately $1,000 has been raised to date.**
- **Fundraising will continue through the upcoming event hosted by Tom.**
- **Commended members for their commitment to safety practices and helping others at the field.**

- **Noted that safety signage has prompted productive discussions with prospective members and visitors. [transcript (20).docx | Word]**

Field Manager Report - Rex

- **Field maintenance updates:**
  - **Faucet cover repaired/replaced.**
  - **Lake access sign relocated to improve gate access.**
  - **Members reminded to secure trash can lids with bungee cords.**
  - **Asked members to empty drinks before disposing of containers.**
- **Announced conclusion of the club's official training program for the year.**
- **Recognized training volunteers, including:**
  - **Scott Hayes Mark Johnson Mike Sawyer Chris Verardi**
  - **Grant Chip Kilda Jason Meadows Sam Corlett**
  - **Larry Moyer Mark Wheeler Melvin Bowser Alan Gary Nelson**

- **Recognition given to Fred for handling training paperwork.**
- **Club leadership thanked Rex for leading the transition of the training program from nitro-powered aircraft to electric aircraft and for his years of service.**
- **Rex announced plans to step back from field manager duties and leadership of the training program.**

Treasurer's Report - Chris

Operations Updates

- **Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) expected Thursday and Friday.**
- **Website and email notifications will be sent to members.**
- **New portable restroom scheduled for delivery.**
- **Club lock will be added to restroom to reduce public use and operating costs.**
- **No new members were reported this month.**
- **Membership renewals for 2027 will begin around Thanksgiving.**

Financial Summary

- **Our finances are in good standings,**

Membership Picnic and Upcoming Events

October 10 Field Day / Member Picnic: Speaker: Mark:

- **Members encouraged to RSVP.**
- **Headcount needed for food planning.**

- **Raffle prizes planned.**
- **Guests are welcome.**

Elections: Speaker: Mark

- **October meeting is the final opportunity for nominations.**
- **Nominations must be submitted in writing.**
- **A second is required for nominations.**
- **Field Manager Position will become vacant due to Rex's departure.**
- **All board positions remain open to challengers and nominations.**

Speaker: Chris

- **Election voting will be conducted electronically.**
- **Results will be announced at the November meeting.**

Member Health Updates

Rob: Speaker: Scott Hays

- **Members were informed that Rob continues to experience health challenges.**
- **Members were asked to keep him in their thoughts and prayers.**

Old Business

Storage Shed Review: Speaker: Scott Hays

- **Board plans to review shed contents.**
- **Objective is to reduce clutter and determine future storage needs before discussing additional storage solutions.**

Grill Repair

- **Tad is working on parts needed for repairs.**

Flat-Top Grill Purchase

- **Purchase postponed.**
- **Club may continue using equipment provided by Wayne through year-end.**

- **Large Aircraft Restraints**

- **Discussion held regarding improved padding materials and restraint designs.**
- **Additional evaluation and planning required.**

Pilot Pins

- **Pilot pins have been ordered and paid for.**
- **Pins will be available for purchase by members once received.**

Bylaws Revision: Speaker: Chris

- **Comprehensive bylaws revision has been completed.**
- **Revised bylaws align more closely with state requirements and organizational needs.**
- **Voting will be conducted electronically.**
- **Only individual members may vote.**
- **Approximately 177 eligible voting members will receive voting credentials.**

- **Key Changes Discussed**
  - **Individual board spending authority reduced from $500 per month to $100.**
  - **Board positions changed to staggered two-year terms.**
  - **New bylaws provide greater continuity and governance structure.**

New Business

EDF Jet Blast Event Review: Speaker: Craig Rogers

- **Event generated approximately $412 profit.**
- **Attendance and participation were considered positive despite extreme heat.**
- **Sponsors included:**
  - **Banana Hobby**
  - **SMC**
  - **Verizon Hobby**
- **Approximately 38 pilot registrations were received.**

Discussion

- **Event viewed as successful and likely to grow.**
- **Recommendation made to review future scheduling to avoid conflicts with major turbine events.**
- **Additional volunteers are needed to support future events.**

Turbine Operations: Speaker: Scott

- **Field temporarily closed to turbine aircraft due to burn-ban conditions.**
- **Decision influenced by a recent turbine-related fire incident at another flying site.**
- **Reopening will be considered once conditions improve and burn restrictions are lifted.**

Food Service Planning: Speakers: Scott and Tab

- **Wayne's restaurant commitments limit his future event participation.**
- **Additional volunteers will be needed to assist with event food preparation.**
- **CDs were encouraged to coordinate food planning well in advance.**

Texas Electric Expo: Speaker: Tom

- **Scheduled for October 24.**
- **Raffle prizes secured.**
- **Event advertising underway through Face book, club website, and RC Groups.**
- **Members encouraged to donate raffle items and support the event.**

Member Welfare:

Ken Knotts

- Report provided on declining health and hospice care.
- Members encouraged to visit.
- Club hopes to bring him to future club events if his condition permits.

Walker Brents

- **Report received that he is in hospice care.**
- **Recognized as one of the club's earliest and longest-living members**

Youth Program Update

Speaker: Scott

- **High school aviation program scaled back to two participating schools.**
- **Training sessions planned with club instructors.**
- **Students will learn fixed-wing aircraft operations.**
- **December event under consideration.**

- **Support expected from volunteer engineers and club members.**

Preliminary 2027 Event Planning

Proposed events discussed included:

- **Cubs and Cousins**
- **Warbird Event**
- **Turbine Event**
- **July 4th activities**
- **Float Fly**
- **Texas Electric Expo**
- **Large Aircraft Event**
- **IMAC Regional Event**
- **Possible Helicopter Event**
- **Possible Pattern/Senior Pattern Event**

Board noted concerns about volunteer availability and the number of multi-day events the club can reasonably support.

Action Items

Action	Responsible Party
Continue breast cancer fundraiser	Fred
Send TFR notices to membership	Chris
Install lock on new restroom	Club Officers
Collect RSVPs for October 10 picnic	Membership / Officers
Submit election nominations before October meeting	Interested Members
Publish revised bylaws for member review and voting	Chris
Review and clean out storage shed	Board
Continue grill repair planning	Tad

Evaluate large aircraft restraint improvements	**Alan and Board**
Organize staining of aircraft stands	**Gary Nelson**
Prepare for Texas Electric Expo	**Tom**
Continue high school flight training planning	**Program Leads**

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

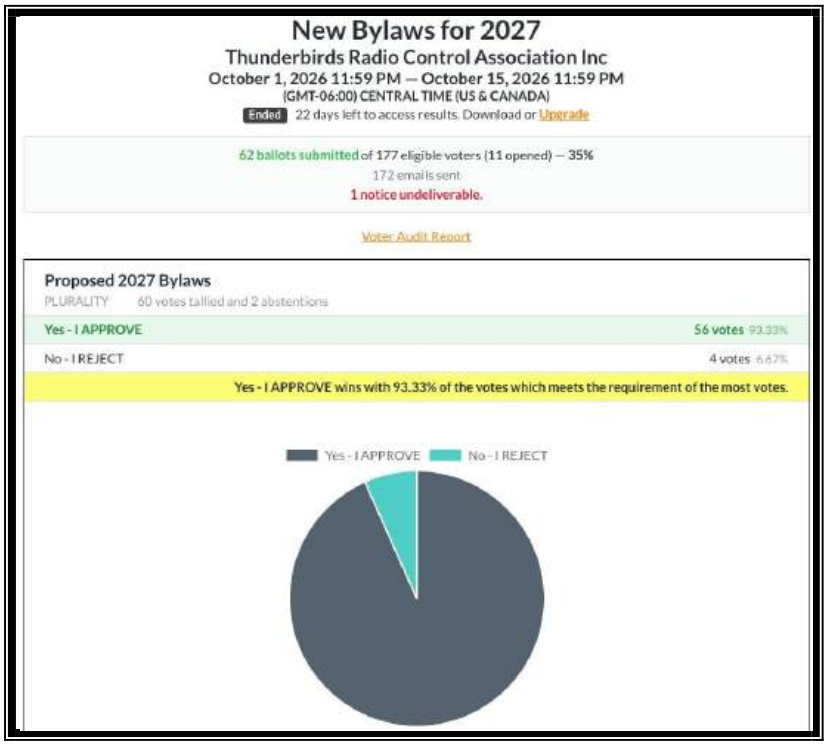
Robert Solis

From the Treasury: *by Chris Berardi*

2027 Bylaws Results

Thanks to all club members who participated in our first election of the year. This was for our newly revised bylaws to be effective 1/1/2027.

I hope you liked the voting process. We tried to make it as simple and informative as possible. A screenshot of the results is posted here as a definitive record in The Pilot's Log newsletter.



2027 Officer Nominations

Because the October meeting is a few days away, I am repeating last month's article on the board nominations. Your nomination or that of a supporter must be provided to a sitting board member, or presented at our October club meeting. This is the last opportunity to do so, to be included in the ballet that will be sent the first week of November.

Throw your name in the hat! All Individual and Life members can take a position on the 2027 board. Family and associate members are not eligible. All you need to do is contact any board member with your candidacy or that of someone you are nominating. The nominations will be accepted and seconded at the club meetings prior to election.

In addition, if you would like to nominate a member for Thunderbird of the Year, follow the same process by contacting any board member. Be sure to mention why this member meets the bar.

Membership Update

Here is the Membership count as of 10/23/2026.

In November, the 2027 renewal process can begin though we won't send keys out until December. This simplifies the Welcome Letter and key mailings into fewer trips to the Post Office and fewer hours behind the computer. Once again, the New Year's Day membership meeting at Thunderbird Field is an opportunity to pay your dues and receive your key.

Membership subscriptions paid January 1st and earlier will be rewarded with an entry into our 2027 Member Renewal raffle. This was a hit last year and we shall do the same again.

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Membership Type	Count
Individual	151
Family	9
Associate	5
Life	17
TOTAL	**182**

That's about it for now, see you at the field.

Chris

Safety: *by Fred Neal*

No Report This Month

Field Manager*: Rex Anderson*

No Report This Month

Members Day















Texas Electric Expo

Brest Cancer Awareness Fund Raiser. Raffle item is a limited edition FrSky Transmitter. All monies raised will be donated to the Scott White Hospital in Shelly's name. Appreciate all that participated in this worthwhile cause.



Shelly Carr drawing the winner ticket



Winner of FrSky Transmitter Robin Blakeney



Shelly and her family

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.

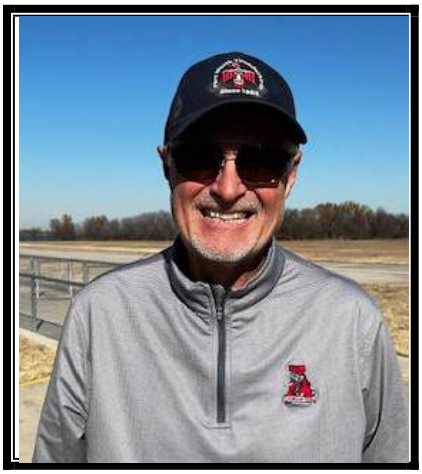
wdylake@yahoo.com

2026/27 CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	POINT OF CONTACT
January 1st	BlackEye Pea Fly-In	

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**

Happy Halloween



BOO!

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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

Flight Training



More Photos from Members' day





Special guest appearance of "Otto" from the movie 'Airplane'

