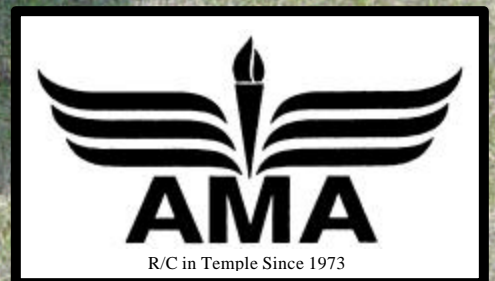


The Temple Aero Modeler

The Official Newsletter of the Temple Aero Modelers Radio Controlled Aircraft Club.
February 2004



This month's meeting will be held Monday, February 23rd at 7:30pm at the Ronald McDonald House Meeting Room in Temple.



*Killeen TAG
5th grade flight
Demonstration
Mar 10th*

CLUB INFO

*Mall Show
Apr 3rd
and 4th
(tentative date)*

2004 Officers

President: Jeff Pitts
780-2245
Vice Pres/Sec. Ken Schulz
773-3866
Treasurer: Buster Hinkle
982-4746
Safety Officer: Frank Sodek, Sr.
642-3526
Field Marshals: John Redwine
773-2742
John Rovetto
939-5659

Instructors

Frank Sodek, Jr. 773-8081
Mark Cullison 773-9686
Steve Meyer 939-6394
Paul Horan 780-1274
B.W. Ponder 778-6182



On The Cover

Newly elected club president, Jeff Pitts, is a proud owner of a new Ultra Stick. It's a bit different than the other picture of Jeff later in this issue.

Photo by Bobby Zikes

Temple Event Schedule

Mar 10	Killeen TAG Demo
Apr 3-4	Mall Show (tentative date)
Apr 7	First Beginners' Night
Apr 25	Spring Picnic/First Combat
May 1-2	Temple Air Show
May 22-23	Pattern Contest
Jun 6	Combat
Jun 13	Sanctioned Fun Fly
Jul 11	Combat
Aug 1	Combat
Aug 29	Combat
Sep 12	Combat
Sep 26	Fall Picnic/Combat
Oct 3	Fall Fun Fly
Oct 17	Poker Fly
Oct 27	Last Beginners' Night
Dec 5	Ronald McDonald/ Toys for Tots Fly-In
Dec 13	Christmas Banquet/ Officer Elections

District VIII Events

(This is not a complete list)

Mar 7	One Day Fun Fly, Houston, TX
Mar 20-21	Lone Star Nationals (combat), Paris TX
Mar 20-21	2 nd Annual Pro Bro Fun-Fly, Houston, TX
Mar 26-27	WAMS Annual Swap Meet & Auction, Weatherford, TX
Mar 27-28	Alvin Big Bird Gathering, Alvin, TX
Mar 27-28	Indoor Electric Fun Fly, Big Spring, TX

Mark Cullison Co-Editor 773-9686
Frank Sodek, Jr. Co-Editor 773-8081

On the web at:
<http://home.hot.rr.com/taeromodelers/aero.html>

The Temple Aero Modeler

President's Report

by *Jeff Pitts*

Temple Aero Modelers,

I recently came across an old picture of myself with an RC plane. The year was 1968 and I was 16 years old. Living in Germany as an army brat, I was outside flying my U-Control plane. A GI who was being shipped back to the States called to me from a third floor window. "Hey, kid," he said, "I've got a plane for you." That's how I acquired my first RC plane. I didn't have a radio or an engine, or any money to buy them, so I never got to fly it.



Years later, while living in Austin, I got an RC plane with engine and radio. Excitedly, I went to a large field and hand-launched it. About 10 seconds later, the plane was in pieces. I glued it back together and tried a second time. This time, it only took 5 seconds until it crashed. Although I had a deep interest in flying, it didn't look like it was going to be a possibility. So, I gave up on it.

Last year, my wife, Shari, saw an ad for the Temple Aero Modelers' Mall Show. We went and ended up at the field the next weekend. I never imagined there'd be a group of people willing to help me learn to fly. And, I didn't know there was such a thing as a buddy box to help keep me from crashing my plane as I learned.

The activities we have going on here with this club – the weekly Beginner's Night training sessions, the events and competitions, the picnics and the meetings – are all so valuable. They have helped me, and my family, get actively involved in a sport I always dreamed about.

I, for one, am grateful for everyone's support and encouragement. I've found that being part of this club is certainly much more fun and productive than trying to go it alone.

See you at the field,
Jeff Pitts
 780-2245
 jeffpittscarpet@earthlink.net

Safety Report

by *Frank Sodek, Sr.*

Not much of a safety report this month, I don't know how to use a computer so I don't have the ability to pull up safety reports. The weather just hasn't been good for flying, so this is a good time to make sure your planes are in good flying condition for when the weather does turn better.

Remember the last time you were at the flying field and you had an accident and you took your plane home and said "I'll fix it later"? Well, it's now later! Check your planes for loose hinges and check the other moving parts also. Charge and cycle your batteries. If you don't have any way to cycle your batteries, take your plane and while watching TV play with the controls and time how long the batteries will last. There is nothing more frustrating than going to the flying field and find that the battery didn't hold an overnight charge. When flying weather returns remember to keep your plane right side up and out of the trees!

Submitted by *Frank Sodek, Sr.*
 Safety Officer

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	<u>\$4,332.04</u>
Total Deposits:	1,280.00
Debits	
Ronald McDonald – rent.....	20.00
Mark Cullison (stamps).....	37.00
Total Debits:	(57.00)
Balance January 2004	<u>\$5,555.04</u>

Submitted by *Buster Hinkle*
 Club Treasurer

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Two metal office desks. Contact Steve Meyer at
 939-6394

The Temple Aero Modeler

4

Meeting Minutes

Jeff Pitts called the meeting to order at 7:32pm on January 26, 2004. The meeting was held at the Ronald McDonald House in Temple.

Ken Schulz summarized the Minutes from the November 2003 meeting. The minutes were accepted by Mark Cullison and seconded by Bob Higginbotham.

Buster Hinkle presented the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report was accepted by B.W. Ponder and seconded by Frank Sodek Sr.

Old Business

East Property Line

Jeff Pitts stated that hunting season is over. Jeff also reminded everyone to respect Mr. Brown's property.

TAG Students from Killeen.

The flight training for TAG is set for March 10, 2004.

Christmas Party.

We had a record turnout for the Christmas party. Fifty-two gifts exchanged in the Chinese gift exchange.

Santa Pal/Ronald McDonald Fly In

B.W. Ponder gave a report from this Fly-In. He stated the back of his suburban was full of toys. Half of the toys were given to the Ronald McDonald house and the other half was donated to Toys-for-Tots at the Temple Mall.

Flight Demo at Lamar Middle School

There was a thank you note from Zach Skrabanek and Lamar Middle School for the flight demo.

New Business

Field Maintenance

John Rovetto had someone come out a spray a liquid fertilizer on the field. Frank Sodek Jr. made a motion that the club reimburses John for the fertilizer. B.W. Ponder seconded the motion. The Motion passed.

Frank Sodek Jr. made a motion to continue spraying the fertilizer with MSMA and apply some compost to the field to control the grass burs with a cost between \$400 and \$500. Frank Sodek Sr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sign

Frank Sodek Sr. and B.W. will make a sign to show direction to the hospital from the field.

Mall Show

Frank Sodek Jr. started a discussion about moving the mall show to the first weekend in April. Steve Sanders made a motion for the club to purchase a trainer plane with a

cost up to \$300 to be raffled off at the Cen-Tex Air show. Buster Hinkle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cen-Tex Air Show

Frank Sodek Jr. gave a report about the upcoming air show. They are in need of about 300 volunteers. Frank Sodek Jr. made a motion that the club donates \$100 to the air show. B.W. Ponder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Video Tapes

There was some discussion about what to do with the club tapes. B.W. will check with management at the Ronald McDonald house to see if the club can store the tapes there.

Club Web Site

Jeff Pitts commented that the club web site needs some updates. Frank Sodek Jr. will get with Bill Schulz to make the necessary changes.

Blunder Awards

1. Frank Sodek Jr. knocked off his engine on his Up Roar.
Frank Jr. wins!!!!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Submitted by *Ken Schulz*

Vice President/Secretary

ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS:

It's Raffle Time!

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find a page of raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser. We are once again giving away a trainer/engine/radio combo built and ready to fly. (Don't forget to mention free flying lessons too!)

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, May 2nd at the end of the Temple Air Show. We will be selling the raffle tickets at the Mall Show and at our booth at the Temple Air Show. Please copy them and/or cut them out and sell as many as you can. Additional tickets will be available at the events or club meetings. Price is one dollar each, or six tickets for five dollars. Please bring any tickets sold and money collected to either of the events listed above, or the March and April club meeting.

The Temple Aero Modeler

5

Letter From Ed Fellows Lamar Middle School Principal

Temple Aero Modelers Club
Attn: Steve Meyer, President
c/o Mark Cullison, Editor
218 Tanglewood
Temple, TX 76502

December 4, 2003

Dear Members of the Temple Aero Modelers Club,

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Temple Aero Modelers Club on behalf of Lamar Middle School. Mr. Meyer should have great pride in knowing that Paul Horan, Lance Starzyk, Don Cullison, David Skrabanek, and Mark Cullison brought their expertise to an extremely captivated audience of 6th graders on November 21, 2003 for an outstanding demonstration on the principles of flight.

Two week's worth of instruction on flight that was conducted by Lamar's sixth grade team of teachers had a tremendous conclusion due to the club's participation. An integrated unit on flight was taught with an emphasis on the Hundredth Anniversary of Sustained Manned Flight. As educators we are always trying to allow students to experience the curriculum with meaningful events in order to bring a stronger understanding of concepts. The demonstration and discussions that Lamar students were able to witness and partake in with the above mentioned club members were incredible.

Lamar Middle School would also like to acknowledge Zachary Skrabanek's participation in the Temple Aero Modelers Club demonstration. All of us at Lamar feel very fortunate that he is a fellow Bearcat. Zachary conducted himself with such poise and confidence. His excitement of flying airplanes was evident and Lamar's sixth grade students understood why after the presentation.

Once again, thank you for allowing our students to experience a truly unique learning opportunity. The efforts that were provided have not gone unnoticed.

We hope that those people involved in the presentation enjoyed their time working with Lamar's students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Ed Fellows
Principal
Lamar Middle School

HELP YOUR FLYING: PROPER USE OF TRANSMITTER NECK STRAPS AND TRAYS

By JOHN BURDIN

For years, I have used a neck strap to support my transmitter. I found this eliminates the urge to move the transmitter around, raise or lower it, and simply makes it more stable. Whether I'm flying a jet, helicopter, Pattern airplane, or Sport, the neck strap makes things more enjoyable and gives me less to worry about.

For maximum convenience and performance, the length of the neck strap should make your transmitter level with your elbows as it hangs in front of you. This enables you to rest your hands on the transmitter without feeling as though you must raise them up over the top of it. After all, the purpose is to put the transmitter in a comfortable and manageable position.

From here, it is easy to rest your hands on the transmitter, allowing your full concentration to be directed to your model instead of on holding your transmitter. As you move to higher performance aircraft, this becomes more useful. It's pretty tough to operate the different controls on a transmitter (i.e. levers, switches, and knobs) while flying and holding the transmitter at the same time.

A transmitter tray also might be useful. It accomplishes many of the same objectives as the neck strap; however, there are some tradeoffs. The tray is an extra piece of equipment that must be carried with your gear. The neck strap simply goes in your transmitter case, field box, or tool box.

From a safety standpoint, the transmitter tray is not optimal. It is very difficult, in most cases, to hand off the transmitter to another pilot in an emergency. It is not good for beginners or even moderately experienced pilots for the same reason.

Both neck straps and trays are popular with many levels of pilots, and some of the best pilots don't use either one. Most of the better pilots do use them, however, and almost all pilots of high-performance models use one or the other.

The neck strap is my choice and recommendation for simplicity and ease of use. If you give it a try, don't make a snap decision on how you like it during your first flight. Like most other things, you must learn to use it, and once you do, you'll likely love it!

from RC Prop Wash - The Ocala Flying Model Club
Dick Smith, editor - Ocala FL

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Your 2004 Club Officers from left to right are: John Rovetto – Co-Field Marshal;
Ken Schulz - Vice-president/Secretary; Buster Hinkle – Treasurer; Frank Sodek,
Sr. - Safety Officer; Jeff Pitts - President. (Not shown: John Redwine - Co-Field
Marshal)

Photo by Bob Higginbotham

DRAWING!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City, Zip: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____

Who: Temple Aero Modelers Club

What: Complete Ready-to-Fly Radio Control Airplane with free flying lessons

Where: Central Texas Air Show Temple Airport

When: Sunday, May 2nd, 2004

How: \$1 DONATION

Need not be present to win

DRAWING!

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ADDRESS: _____

City, Zip: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____

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Mark Cullison - Editor
218 Tanglewood Rd.
Temple, Tx. 76502

**Killeen TAG 5th grade flight
Demonstration - Mar 10th
Mall Show - Apr 3rd
and 4th (tentative date)**

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(254) 773-9686
E-Mail: mcullison@swmail.sw.org

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