

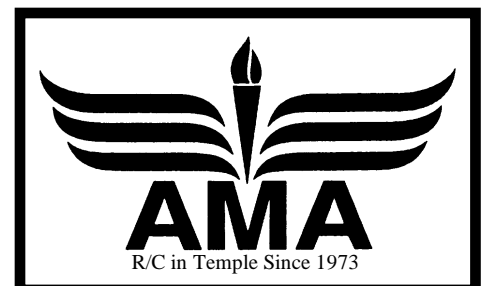
The Temple Aero Modeler

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

May 2025



This month's meeting will be held Monday, May 19 at the Ronald McDonald House in Temple (2415 S. 47th) beginning at 7:30pm.



CLUB INFO

*E-Combat
May 18th*

*Club Meeting
May 19th*

*Night Fly
May 23rd*

*Fun Fly
June 8th*

2025 Officers

President: Chris Boultinghouse
(512)632-6920

Secretary: Frank Sodek (254)295-6204

Treasurer: Buster Hinkle (254)718-0243

Safety Officer: Ryan Benefield (512)983-0506

Field Marshal: T.K. Crisi (254)368-5443

Temple Aero Modelers Upcoming Events Schedule

May 18	E-Combat	1:00pm
May 19	Club Meeting	7:30pm
May 23	Night Fly	6:00pm
Jun 8	Sanctioned Fun Fly	11:00am
Jun 22	E-Combat	1:00pm
Jun 27	Night Fly	6:00pm
Jun 30	Club Meeting	7:30pm
Jul 13	E-Combat	1:00pm
Jul 25	Night Fly	6:00pm
Jul 28	Club Meeting	7:30pm
Aug 10	E-Combat	1:00pm
Aug 22	Night Fly	6:00pm
Aug 25	Club Meeting	7:30pm

Club business meetings are held on the last Monday of each month, with the exception of May (pulled up one week because of Memorial Day) and December (replaced by the Christmas Banquet).

Instructors

Paul Milton (254)493-1339

Frank Sodek (254)295-6204

Larry Macie (254)291-4590

Chris Boultinghouse (512)632-6920



On The Cover

Russ Burt is shown holding his newly-built (from a kit) Inside F5J glider after its successful maiden flight.

Photo by Chris Boultinghouse

Frank Sodek – Editor (254)295-6204
Mark Cullison – Editor's Assistant

On Facebook: @TempleAeroModelers
On the web at: www.templeaeromodelers.org
Web Master: Chris Boultinghouse
caboultinghouse@yahoo.com

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President's Report



Hello fellow aviation nuts!

This month's column continues the theme from last month, moving on to choosing an ESC for your electric power system. First, some terminology. ESC means Electronic Speed Controller. BEC means Battery Eliminator Circuit. ESC is self-explanatory, but BEC sometimes causes confusion. After all, if you're flying

electric, how can you eliminate the battery? What it means is you're eliminating the *receiver* battery by dropping the main pack voltage down to a level the receiver and servos can handle.

Last month we talked about how to choose a motor based on the watts required to fly your plane. Now we'll figure out what size ESC we need. Again, some dreaded math is required! Let's say you decided you needed 1,000 watts in your plane, and you're going to use a 6 cell battery pack based on the KV of the motor and prop size you need. Now we can back into what the ESC should be. Let's assume ~4V per cell under load when the pack is fresh, so that's 24 volts. Generating 1,000 watts at 24V means we'll be pulling 1,000 divided by 24 = 41.6 amps. Let's call it 45 amps. Personally, I like some overhead in the power system so I'd choose a 60 amp ESC. But wait, you may be thinking: Why should you choose the size of the ESC for a full power situation when most planes fly around at half throttle or less, only pulling (say) 20 amps? Here's the tricky thing about how an ESC works. Even if you measure the current at half throttle and it shows 20 amps, that's what the *battery* is experiencing. The ESC reduces power by rapidly switching the power off and on to reduce the rotational speed of the motor. Because of this, the MOSFETs (the electronic bits doing the switching on and off) are experiencing the full power draw of the motor every time they switch on! Running an ESC at reduced throttle doesn't make its job easier.

And now a few comments about the BEC. There are two types: Linear and switch mode. If you have a choice, choose the switch mode. It's much more efficient than linear, which just drops the voltage by dumping it off as excess heat. If you are running a plane with a lot of servos, or a lot of servos plus electric retracts, make sure the BEC is capable of handling the current draw. You may even want to consider a separate BEC, a receiver pack, or a capacitor-based power backup system like I use on my large helicopters.

Hopefully this will give you some ideas on how to choose an ESC for your next project. If you want help, reach out to me and we can run some numbers.

Till next time. See you at the field!

Chris Boultinghouse
Club President caboultinghouse@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Report



Beginning Balance: \$4,144.02

Deposits:

Dues: \$290.00

Total Deposits: \$290.00

Expenses:

Frank Sodek (website hosting fee): \$149.00

Ronald McDonald House: \$25.00

Total Expenses: \$174.00

Balance April 2025: \$4,260.02

Submitted by *Buster Hinkle*
Club Treasurer

Meeting Minutes (April 28, 2025 meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by our Club President, Chris Boultinghouse.

New Members/Visitors – None.

Minutes – Minutes from the March meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by John Redwine and seconded by Frank James.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was read by Buster Hinkle. Motion to accept the report was made by Frank James, seconded by John Redwine.

Safety Officer's Report – Our Club Safety Officer (Ryan Benefield) reported that the last combat event experienced relatively strong crosswind which hampered hand launching.

Field Marshal's Report – Buster Hinkle is still researching obtaining a stiffer pole to help retrieve planes stuck in trees.

There's a hole in the restroom screening (probably made by a squirrel) that needs repairing.

Announcements – Frank James posted a YouTube video of a combat heat from our last event..

Old Business – Frank Sodek reported that the sub-lease renewal with Bell County (and for the County's lease renewal with the Corps) for our field has been completed. The new lease and sub-lease are for a period of ten years beginning 7/25/25.

(Meeting Minutes continued on next page)

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(Meeting Minutes continued from prior page)

A Night Fly that was to be held on April 25th didn't happen due to a strong crosswind. Frank James was the only pilot to show up for the event.

The Spring Picnic was held on April 27 with about a dozen participants and some really good food items. Four pilots also flew four rounds of E-Combat in a fairly strong crosswind.

New Business – The next E-Combat competition will be held on Sunday, May 18th beginning at 1pm.

The next Night Fly of the year will be held on Friday, May 23rd beginning at 6pm.

Marsha Benefield reported that her brother (Derek Hinkle) has offered to take the lead in updating our Club's presence on social media (primarily Facebook and Instagram) which should help get information out to folks that might not be aware of our club.

Trip Reports – There was another Lunch at the Airport that was held at the Temple Airport. Club member John Garrison set up a DJ booth near his Bonanza. Attendance was good.

Blunder Award – No blunders were made this month!

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by *Frank Sodek*
Club Secretary fsodek@aol.com



Flashback to one year ago! Lake Belton was 11 feet above normal, flooding McGregor Park and almost covering the restroom in the park, with more rain to come.

Photo by Frank Sodek



John Cobb is getting his "Icky Thump" ready for E-Combat fun.

Photo by John Cobb

Central TX Airfest

The Central TX Airfest will be held at the Temple Airport on Friday, May 16th and Saturday May 17th. Club members that were present at the March business meeting decided to not have a static display booth at this event, due to the poor payback in building interest in the Club compared with the time involved in setting up, manning and teardown of the display. There would also be no RC demonstration flights allowed this year.

For those of you planning to attend the event, the city has a webpage with details of the schedule and the performers that will be in the show: <https://flytemple.com/draughon-miller-central-texas-regional-airport/temple-airshow/>

Editor's note: If the entrance gate to the Ronald McDonald House parking lot is closed, the entry code is **0412**.



Frank Sodek
6124 Modena Drive
Temple, TX 76502

E-Combat: May 18th
Club Meeting: May 19th
Night Fly: May 23rd
Fun Fly: June 8th

"The Temple Aero Modeler Newsletter"

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