

The Temple Aero Modeler

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

February 2025



This month's meeting will be held Monday, February 24 at the Ronald McDonald House in Temple (2415 S. 47th) beginning at 7:30pm.



*Club Meeting:
February 24th*

CLUB INFO

*Night Fly
February 28th*

*E-Combat
March 9th*

*Start Pilot Training
March 12th*

2025 Officers

President: Chris Boultinghouse
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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

Instructors

Paul Milton (254)493-1339
Frank Sodek (254)295-6204
Larry Macie (254)291-4590



On The Cover

It was cold and windy for our annual Fly-in-the-Taco Soup Fly-in but TK's delicious soup warmed us up.

Photo by Larry Macie

Temple Aero Modelers Upcoming Events Schedule

Feb 24	Club Meeting	7:30pm
Feb 28	Night Fly	6:00pm
Mar 9	E-Combat	1:00pm
Mar 12	Start of New Pilot Training	5:00pm
Mar 28	Night Fly	6:00pm
Mar 31	Club Meeting	7:30pm
Apr 25	Night Fly	6:00pm
Apr 27	Spring Picnic/E-Combat	1:00pm
Apr 28	Club Meeting	7:30pm
May 17	Central TX Airshow	
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

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

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President's Report



Hello fellow aviation nuts!

I've just returned home from the Fly in the Taco Soup event, which was a good time! The weather was chilly and windy, but sunny. I think Larry and myself were the only ones who braved the wind to fly, but all of us enjoyed the delicious soup TK prepared.

This month I want to talk about a recent experience I had, and share my thoughts and how it affected mojo. First, a Reader's Digest version of the event: I purchased a used 700 size heli, and went through it to check for a proper build and do maintenance items (bearings and such). All seemed good, so I took it out for the first flight. Spool up was good, and things went well for 53 seconds.... Then the motor shut down and the radio stopped responding. I could only watch as my beautiful new heli tipped backwards and went in tail first from about 50 ft up. As you might imagine, 12 lbs of heli landing on its butt from that high did quite a bit of damage. The final tally for replacement parts was \$250, not including the blades (which I already had new on hand) and the canopy (which I could repair). OUCH!

What happened? According to the logs, and the manufacturer of the flight control unit, it was damage to the unit caused by static discharge! Yep, static. The belt that drives the tail can build tremendous static in operation, unless you take precautions. I had neglected to put silicone oil on the belt (like I do on all my helis) so it built up static on the cool day and zapped the unit. This tends to rattle confidence in the equipment, even the expensive German stuff like this is. I rebuilt the heli, but wasn't really in a hurry to try it again. I was just nervous, you know? I hadn't been nervous for a first flight in years, but this rattled me.

So how do you get past it? Really, it's just "get back on that horse". I flew my other helis a few times, then worked up the nerve to fly the big one. And of course, everything went fine. It's a great flying (and great looking) heli, and I'm glad to have it. The long and short of it is this great hobby of ours does require skill, but a big part of it is a mind game. If you overthink it, and get your mojo rattled, it can really affect your enjoyment of the hobby. We've probably all been there, but it's been a while for me and it took some time to get my head back in the game. If you've had a bad crash, don't let it get you down. Get back on that horse!

Till next time. See you at the field!

Chris Boultinghouse
Club President caoultinghouse@yahoo.com

Meeting Minutes (January 27, 2025 meeting)

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

New Members/Visitors – Justin Knight will be joining the club after he becomes an AMA member.

Minutes – Minutes from the November and December meetings were approved as printed in the newsletter. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Frank James and seconded by Steve Sanders.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was read by Buster Hinkle. Motion to accept the report was made by TK Crisi, seconded by Steve Sanders.

Safety Officer's Report – A reminder was given to not fly behind the flight line (which is the west edge of the runway).

Field Marshal's Report – Our annual field inspection by the Corps of Engineers was held on December 4th. TK reported that there were no surprises, just a few writeups that we get for not inspecting items that we don't have.

Announcements – Dues for next year are now due! Frank expressed congratulations to Ryan Benefield and Marsha Hinkle on their recent marriage.

Old Business – A report on the Christmas Banquet was given; the food, fellowship and gift exchange were very enjoyable.

Frank continues to work on the sub-lease renewal with Bell County (and for the County's lease renewal with the Corps) for our field. Several documents are required. The lease/sub-lease is for ten years and ends on 7/25/25. There will be a new section added to the leases that will potentially restrict our access to the field when the Park is closed (either due to darkness or lake flooding). We will have to apply for a "Lake Use" permit to allow access when the park is closed.

New Business – There was discussion regarding moving to a new meeting place but no decision was made.

Frank is working on the AMA Club Recharter paperwork.

A tentative Calendar of Events for 2025 was generated.

E-Combat rules were reiterated: 3S battery / no blades / 4 minute flights / 15' string with 40' full-width ribbon.

There was discussion regarding placing a weather station at the field but it was suggested the AWOS at the TPL airport (254)774-8337 can provide meaningful information for field conditions.

Trip Reports – Frank James visited the Planes of Fame Museum in the LA area (Chino/Riverside).

(Meeting minutes continued on next page)

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(Meeting minutes continued from prior page)

Blunder Award – Steve Delgado was assembling a helicopter when he lost a “Jesus bolt”.

Chris was flying his RV-8 knife edge down the runway when it decided to fly into the runway. Chris won the Blunder Award (and is the proud owner for a month of the newly recreated trophy, thanks to Larry Macie).

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

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

Treasurer’s Report



Beginning Balance: \$4,048.62

Deposits:

Dues: \$210.00

Total Deposits: \$210.00

Expenses:

Hilliard Trophies (Combat): \$86.60

TK (Mower maintenance): \$150.00

Ronald McDonald House: \$25.00

Total Expenses: \$261.60

Balance January 2025: \$3,997.02

Submitted by *Buster Hinkle*
Club Treasurer

Safety Officer’s Report



There are no incidents to report that I know of, the Taco Soup Fly-in was uneventful due to wind and cold temperatures. Just a reminder to everyone that communication is the key to safety.

Let other pilots know of your intentions during taxi, takeoff and landing.

Submitted by *Ryan Benefield*
Club Safety Officer

“Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out.” - John Wooden

“I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.” - Thomas Jefferson



Trophies were presented to the top three finishers of last season’s E-Combat competition. (L-R) Derek Hinkle (2nd Place), Ryan Benefield (1st), Buster Hinkle (Contest Director), Larry Macie (tied for 3rd) and Chris Boultinghouse (tied for 3rd).



Larry Macie (L) and Chris Boultinghouse braved the cold wind to make several flights at this year’s Taco Soup Fly-in.
Photos by Frank Sodek

Frank Sodek
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Club Meeting: February 24th
Night Fly: February 28th

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