



ARCS News



Alamo Radio Control Society

www.alamorc.org

San Antonio, Texas

AMA Charter 603

March 2017

CLUB FLYING SITE is located just west of Macdona at 10025 Shepard Road

Fun - Fly



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Club Meetings

Held the 3rd Tuesday of

each month (except Dec)

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at

Chaparrita's Mexican Rest.

7350 Tezel Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78250

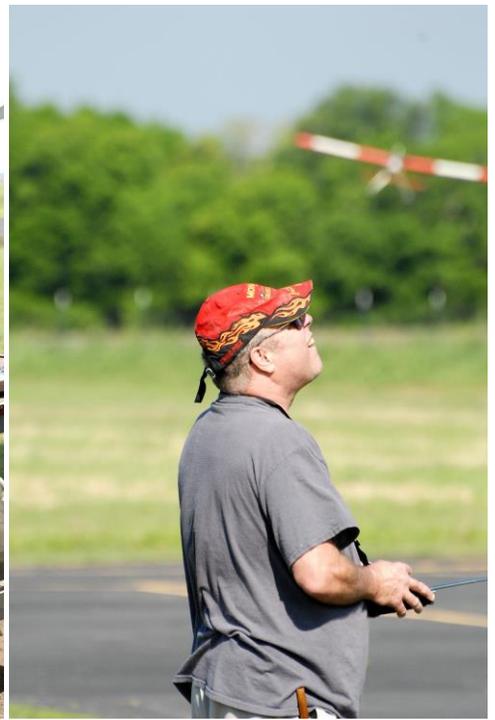
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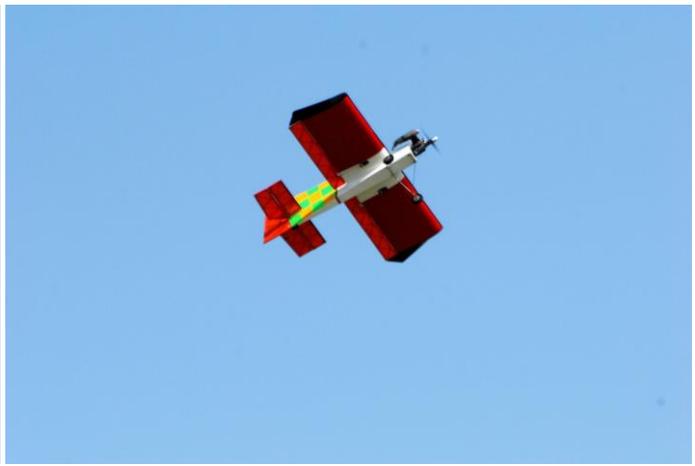
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What Happened? In stark contrast to the best attendance that many can recall at the February Fun Fly, attendance at the March Fun Fly was dismal. The field was virtually empty and the sky strangely quiet. Only 15 people came out for the Sunday event. Of the 15 who attended 12 were pilots. Not all pilots actually took to the air and those who did flew very little. Whatever the reason: blustery winds, Spring Break, or prior commitments, most simply choose to pass on the first Fun fly in what is officially Springtime.

The most interesting feature of the day was Brent Vannes' attempt to photograph a panoramic view of Harold Cannon Field using his DJI Mavic Pro Phantom drone, notebook computer, and associated software. Brent took the drone to 460 feet, took a series of photographs and created a 360-degree view of the field's flying envelope. The objective was to offer Harold Cannon Field as a location for flight simulators by pilots using the Real Flight Simulator program. In addition, the video was to be available on the ARCS website. Alas, the effort was unsuccessful due to issues with the software. Observing the process and the images provided by the drone was fascinating. Brent's efforts gave a marvelous perspective as to how sophisticated the hobby of drone flight and image capture has become. This was corroborated by Sal Sordo at the March ARCS Meeting where he demonstrated what can be achieved with a Horizon Blade Drone, smaller than the palm of his hand, and FPV headset, and by Dr. Rex Frank's video demonstration at the same meeting. The advancements in these technologies have changed everything.

By noon only two pilots remained and the event had ended. Hopefully the April Fun Fly will have a stronger showing.
Jim Witthauer







March Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order March 21st at 7:00 p.m. The February 2017 minutes were read. A motion was made to accept the Minutes. Approved. Treasurer's Report was read. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Approved.

GUESTS: Sarah

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Fun Fly is March 26th from 10 am to 2 pm. Bring snacks (donuts etc.) for the pilots and food for the Food Bank.

OLD BUSINESS:

If you want a club shirt, check with Eric Amundsen, he will take your order. Shirts are \$22. Extended sizes are \$2 higher. There is no minimum order. If you want a shirt, call Eric. Blue hats are \$15. New members, hats are free. A new name tag board will be attached to the pavilion. New members check the board for your name tag.

The Club has donated 192 pound of food this last month. We have donated 295 lbs. this year. Let's try to make 2017 even greater. Thanks to all who donated. Keep up the good work, folks!

All Dues delinquent members were sent emails reminding them of the situation. Anyone who is not current as of April 1, 2017 will be assessed a \$50 late fee. If no dues are received, their names will be removed from the rolls. Next year (2018), Payment cutoff date is February 1, 2018. The By Laws will be changed to reflect the changes approved by the membership in February.

NEW BUSINESS:

During the Combat Event at the February Fun Fly, there was some confusion as to how to launch aircraft, where to launch and just general misunderstandings on as to how to start the event. Some folks could not hear the commands to control the event creating additional frustration. The Club officers are reviewing all the Combat Rules and heat starting

procedures to make sure this is a safe event. The Club will not have any additional Combat Events until we have all the kinks worked out and SAFETY can be assured. We will keep you informed.

As a result of the Combat Event, one of the combat aircraft (flight tested and flown several times) crashed into an aircraft on the ground resulting in substantial damage to both airplanes. The Combat Pilot was informed, that he was responsible for the incident, and should make restitution for the damage. He was totally unaware of any responsibility. He assumed it was an "ACT of GOD" and that it could not be prevented. Damage to cars, airplanes, people, cows, tractors etc. on the ground caused by moving aerial vehicles, either on the ground or in the air are the responsibility of the pilot controlling the moving aerial vehicle (UAV, UAS, Drone, airplane, helicopter, jet, car etc.). Remember, your homeowners and/or renters insurance pays first. Then any additional damages is paid by your AMA insurance as the secondary or tertiary payee.

With the increased number of drones and helicopters flying, the members discussed the pros and cons for flying them at the field with all types of fixed wing aircraft. The members came to a consensus, at least for the time being, rules for drone flying are the same as any other aerial vehicle at the field. Fly the pattern with the rest of the folks. If you intend to become stationary over the runway, announce your intentions! If you don't, you will cause a severe traffic hazard and may get involved in a mid-air collision. During weekend events and when there are a lot of fliers out, please use the West end of the field for most of your flying. If you are testing a new Drone, use the runway and announce that it is a test flight. All the folks flying will most likely land and watch. Remember, courtesy and common sense go a long way to making everyone happy and safe.

Rules tend to be broken or stretched and we don't want the "Rule Police" out to enforce them.

Jim Keck will change the By Laws to reflect the current dues payment methods, times and lease payment schedules. It will also reflect the penalties for late dues payment starting in 2018. It will also cover financial responsibilities of pilots who cause property damage.

CRASH OF THE MONTH:

Dan McGinnis was just sitting in the pits with his airplane, when one of the hand launched Combat Airplanes took a giant leap into his airplane. Both were pretty much toast.

Bill Ponseigo launched his combat airplane and immediately aileron rolled into the ground. It seems he was using his very old JR Radio that had a small LiPo in the transmitter to keep the memory alive. It had never been replaced in at least 10 years. It died and the transmitter reverted to the pre-sets. Yes the ailerons were reversed.

Bob Palmiini did his usual monthly crash. He got very close to the ground and very slow, stalled and hit the ground. Bob this is getting old, didn't you do that last month too!

The winner is Dan McGinnis.

SHOW AND TELL:

Bob Palmiini showed off a beautiful 1/4 scale J-3 Cub that used to belong to Dan McGinnis. It seems that Dan spun the Cub into the ground. He gave it to Bob to rebuild. Bob did a rebuilt from the leading edge forward and converted it to electric. Great job Bob!

Salvador Sardo showed us his FPV miniature drone from Horizon Hobby. He and his son have been having indoor races in his apartment. Sal flew the drone around the room with ease.

Bill Ponseigo recommended the Free Rider, How to Fly Drones on YouTube. It has about 10 lessons on flying drones. Check it out! It is great!

Al Staats showed the Club his mini GPS tracker he purchased from Amazon for under \$70. You can attached it to anything and track the location on your phone or computer. Great!

RAFFLE

The monthly raffles are designed to break even. Any access monies are used for the Christmas Party Raffle. Our wives and guests receive a free raffle ticket for attending the meeting. Special thanks go out to Hobby Town for providing the raffle prizes to the Club at a reduced price.

Ultra Sport 46 ARF – Al Stats

MonoKote Sealing Iron – Tony Centeno

Super Stand – Buck Murray

Gallon of Fuel – Bob Palmini

Fuel Pump – Dan McGinnis



