



San Antonio, Texas

ARCS News

Alamo Radio Control Society

www.alamorc.org

AMA Charter 603



June 2021

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

The next club meeting is scheduled for June 15 at 7 PM in the Acadiana Café, 1289 SW Loop 410

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Club Meeting:

Held the 3rd Tuesday of
each month (except Dec)
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday. Acadiana Café,
1289 SW Loop 410

May Fun Fly

Rain nearly washed out the May Fun Fly. Except for the 12 pilots who chanced the opportunity to fly in between the periods of drizzle and on a heavy rain, most chose to pass on the club's monthly event. And as is typical of south Texas weather there was a time when the clouds broke and the sun shone so brightly and warm that sun screen was in order to lessen the chance of sunburn as water vapor rose from the pits and the runway.

The day began with just four pilots flying EP jets exclusively. Led by Juan Galvez the group included Robert, Phil, and Pete Dupree. It wasn't until Jim Branaum, Richard Sanders, and Bill Ponseigo arrived that the whine of fueled airplanes filled the air. Seeing Richard Sanders and Sal Sordo return to attend a Fun Fly was a welcomed sight. They have been long missed at our Fun Fly(s).

Most impressive airplane of the day was Richard Beasley's Horizon E-flite *Draco*. An extra scale 3D scan build, the electric powered plane is based upon the design of the Wilga 2000 bush plane. The plane was as impressive on the ground as it was in the air. Equipped with the ability to reverse the prop the pilot is able to back up the airplane when desired. In the air its brilliant red color contrasted nicely with complementing black and white markings that gave the plane an eye-catching appeal. Attractive to be seen with nimble maneuverability made Richard's plane the airplane of the day!

The day closed when the clouds began to gather once again and light rain began to fall. But not before the few who did attend enjoyed a great day of flying.

Jim Witthauer



Meeting Minutes May 2021 (at Acadiana Café)

President Bill Ponseigo called the meeting to order at 7 PM with the pledge of allegiance following.

Bad weather was forecast for the evening so attendance was very low.

New member introduced: Alfred

Secretary Report minutes approved

Newsletter: Published with minutes from last meeting.

Treasurer: Approved

Outgo:

Fuel bill

Maintenance

Fertilizer

Port-a-Potty

Painting Tables

AMA club dues are reduced.

IMAC trophies/awards

Nametags

Incoming Dues for new member.

Photo Historian Food Bank, No Report. Per President, last month a lot of food was collected.

Web Site: Buck was able to put more photos on the web site by reducing the size of the individual photo files. Web site has newsletters from January 2017; 90 photos rotate each month plus club information. Members can pay dues through the web site.

Raffle Information: Buck emphasized the goal is to break even, so far working. Reminder that on Sunday Fun Fly days members who fly can fill out a ticket and put it in the bucket for the Christmas party drawing. Rules for counting a flight is one takeoff and one meeting with the ground, aircraft condition not counting.

Hats and nametags, Eric: Hats are available now and additional nametags can be ordered. Shirts in varied colors are available with the club logo for about \$25.

IMAC: Ken: Displayed awards to be given for event winners. Some mods to club logo made for the contest. Help will be required from club members during the event. Tasks will be clarified in the near future. The event runs Saturday October 9 and Sunday October 10. Some help with setup on Friday, October 8, would be appreciated. The most need is for Saturday

New Business. None

Meeting Raffle Results:

Bill Ponseigo: Battery

Buck: Battery

Ethan: Receiver, ESC,

Bob Severance: Fuel

Airplane: After 2 tickets, Ethan

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:30

Float Flying

It is Summer and with the flying weather improving (with the heat) and the “tank” at the flying field enlarged and filled with water a new flying challenge presents itself, float flying. Getting into Float flying has never been easier.

At one time it may have been a big challenge to rig floats to an RC model, but not these days. There are several models and makers that include float flying as an alternative to their bush landing gear. Horizon Hobby features several planes that either come with floats or have floats designed especially to fit several of their BNF airplanes. Their big Cub SS and Cessna 150 share compatibility with the same float set, but require you to buy special struts to adapt the planes to the floats. The little Park Zone cub and the 1300mm Valiant both share a float set. That’s the one I’ve used. The Maule M-7 comes with floats that include a servo-operated water rudder. Horizon’s Timber airplane line, less the Timber X, each include a set of floats with dual water rudders hooked to the aircraft rudder by fishing line. Those floats will also fit the non-float equipped Timber X.



Hobby King sells the Tundra STOL RC plane that comes with its own set of floats. It has a water rudder that replaces the tailwheel. I also have a turbo Beaver model that came with floats. The wire arrangement for the water rudders duplicates the actual water rudder setup on the Beaver.



My experience is with the first RC plane I bought when I decided, after about 20 years, to get back into the hobby. It is a Park Zone Cub S2, no longer made. There is a version of the same airframe now, the Carbon Cub S, a yellow and silver version. The Park Zone float set fits both and also the discontinued clipped wing cub. One thing reviewers noted was the need for a water rudder for taxiing in a crosswind. The air rudder does an OK job on the water but any crosswind may make it difficult to make turns while afloat. Fortunately, Horizon sells a replacement water rudder for its Apprentice S model. Interestingly it uses the same float set.

I made a plywood transom for the left float to which I could screw a pair of landing gear clips. A short piece of metal tube just fits inside and the rudder shaft fits inside that. Perfect fit. It was easy to carve out a cavity to fit an extra, reversed 9-gram servo. I filled the top with Vaseline and potted the electronics with silicone seal to waterproof the servo. A smaller servo could work too. A bit of wire to link the servo to the tiller on the rudder. A Y-harness from the rudder provided the electric hookup. It worked great! I have flown the little bird off a lake in Florida and off the pond (Joe insists it is a tank) at the field.

One more feature is not generally included with float-equipped models, but useful, is a reversible ESC so you can back out of a situation. Float planes can get into situations like grass or stuff on a lake. The ability to back out is handy. The Tundra comes with reversing ESCs. The new SMART ESCs from Horizon feature a programmable reverse ability.

Flying off water does take some care landing and taking off. Strong crosswinds can flip the plane on its side. Fortunately, with a big lake crosswind takeoffs are not necessary. Hold a little up elevator, let the plane get up on the step and it will fly off. In the air the plane hardly noticed the floats. I’ve heard some floats can change the CG so you need to check that. It didn’t matter on the little Cub. Landings are a matter of gently settling, keep the plane level or slightly nose up. Once it hits the water it stops quickly.

There is a bit of float flying activity in San Antonio. I’ve heard some fly off of Woodlawn Lake. Haven’t tried. So if you want a new challenge, put on a pair of floats and try out the enlarged tank at the field.

Jimmie Neff

Fun Fly Photos – Jim Witthauer









