



ARCS News



Alamo Radio Control Society

www.alamorcs.org

San Antonio, Texas

AMA Charter 603

March, 2023

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

ARCS OFFICERS

President

Bill Ponseigo

(210) 394-8976(Mob)

president@

alamoradiocontrol.club

Vice President

Buck Murray

(210) 884-8445(Mob)

webmaster@

alamoradiocontrol.club

Secretary

Richard Sanders

832-233-3956

1173 Pebble Beach Road

Lake Hills, TX 78063

secretary@

alamoradiocontrol.club

Treasurer

Juan Galvez

1907 Green Ash

San Antonio, TX, 78227

760) 470-6096)

treasurer@

alamoradiocontrol.club

Support Staff

Newsletter Editor

Jimmie Neff

(210) 563-2121

arcseditor@

alamoradiocontrol.club

Hats and Nametags

Eric Amundsen

hatsandtags@

alamoradiocontrol.club

Chief Photographer

Jim Witthauer

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

The next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2022, at 7 PM in the Acadiana Café, 1289 SW Loop 410. Discussion: Should the club continue to support IMAC contest?

March 2023 Fun Fly



The blustery winds of March arrived early, just in time to disrupt the February Fun Fly. Blowing almost constantly at 15 – 20 MPH from the south/southeast the wind fought those who flew, successfully creating havoc in the air. The constant fluttering of the wind sock never ceased. Momentarily it paused in a horizontal position



appearing like a telescope pointing to the distant trees and field to the north. As can be imagined flying was sparse and attendance was low.

Even the larger more powerful airplanes and skilled pilots experienced trouble while flying. Those who took to the air were thankful for the mowed grass to use as an alternative place to land when the wind was heavy. Small planes like Chris Freeman's Dynan Waco struggled desperately to land, sometimes losing the fight as the winds would gather under the wings flipping the planes causing them to land upside down, their wheels pointed to the sky. The day was not one for the novice or faint of heart.

The intrepid cadre of pilots was small, with less than twenty who came to test the wind. Observers were but a few. A defeated and disgruntled the Peanut Gallery huddled under the shell of the Ponseigo Pavilion thinking maybe the conditions would crack and calmer winds would ensue. Alas it did not happen.



Among the key features of the day was Rob Lanes Great Planes build, a build in progress. Another was Bill Ponseigo's 802 Air Tractor, its yellow covering contrasted sharply with the overcast sky. Other notables included Jim Agnew's Blue Hawk Biplane, Richard Sanders Ultra Stick, and Chris Freeman's Cirrus SR22T which he won at the monthly raffle. The wind may have blown the fun out of the Fun Fly, but the day was not a complete disappointment. There were no crashes. Everyone

took their airplanes home complete and ready for another day of flying, hopefully with gentler winds.

That alone made for a successful Fun Fly.

Jim Witthauer

ARCS Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order February 21st at 7:00 p.m. The reading of the Jan 2023 minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter. Treasurer's Report was read. Total funds are \$11,513. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Approved.

Guests:

Keith Curtis, Sandy Witthauer, and Pam Lane. New members are Scott Curtis and Bill Cody.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The **Fun Fly** is **Sunday Feb 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 \$20. Extended sizes are slightly higher. There is no minimum order. If you want a shirt, call Eric. Hats are \$15. Name Tags are \$6. New members, hats and name tags are free but you need to tell Eric if you want a nametag. Name tags will be attached to the board in the pavilion. New members check the board for your name tag if you ordered one from Eric.

The Club donated 220 lbs. of food to the San Antonio Food Bank in Jan 2019. Total for the year is 220 lbs. Thanks to all who donated. **Keep up the good work, folks!** Just put the food in the "Fun Fly Barrel".

FIELD CONDITIONS

Repairs on airplane restraint posts on two tables have been completed.

A field work day for runway repairs is planned for Sat Feb 25th at 10AM weather permitting.

We will be trying to get the field camera back running soon by adding the camera to a members cell account. Will let members know when it is back up.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website is up and running with no issues.

Don't fall for repeated scams where someone posing as Bill Ponseigo asks for gift cards.

JD Smith is still having issues with cancer. Keep him in your prayers.

NEW BUSINESS:

During the March meeting, the club will discuss the possibility of holding the IMAC event again in October of 2023. After discussions, members in attendance will vote on whether or not we hold the event. Simple majority of votes will decide.

SHOW AND TELL:

Jimmy Neff showed off his Hangar 9 10cc Valiant with a Saito FG 11 gasoline four stroke engine.



Eric Admunsen displayed his Flite Test foam board plane. Kit is a simple build but requires mastery of hot glue gun skills.

CRASH OF THE MONTH:

Chris Freeman won with the totaling of his second Flexjet. Appears to be highly unstable as it slows for landing.

Bill Ponseigo and Jim Branham had honorable mentions for

Raffle:

The monthly raffles are designed to break even. Any excess monies are used for the Christmas Party Raffle. Our wives and guests receive a free raffle ticket for attending the meeting. Chris Freeman won the grand prize of a beautiful E-Flite Cirrus SR 22T.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.



IMAC Flyers, October 2022

Editor Comment: IMAC (Jim Neff)

Frankly, I like the idea of the IMAC contest. However, I understand the criticisms of the event. The International Miniature Aerobatic Club, IMAC, contest involves some very large, beautiful airplanes and precision aerobatics I normally don't get to see. It is a change of pace from the usual Saturday and maybe Sunday field activities.

Unfortunately, as currently conducted the experience for spectators (according to some) is as exciting as watching grass grow. I have flown in the contest as a novice and find it a real challenge. I'm sure it has improved my flying skills and I think the experience would benefit other club flyers if they tried. I'm interested because I've learned what is

happening. That is one of the problems. It is not a club member event. Very few club members came out for the last contest in October, 2022 and only two competed, one an IMAC member. I tried to do a running commentary about what was happening, but I did not do that great a job. The most excitement seemed to come from the presence of the Model A club and their classic autos.

Aside from the flying discipline to be learned from participating, the event could also give the club some good press, it didn't happen. For the first contest in 2021, I had invited a reporter from Texas Public Radio/TV and he came out and did a short piece on the club and contest. I got his phone number from a ham radio event. Last October, I'd lost the phone number, no advanced press. No follow-up to AMA publications. Was the AMA regional rep contacted? No one asked. I'm not sure the members knew what was to happen.

The event costs the club some money and effort. We purchased the mugs for prizes, banners and food to be sold. The club does get the money for the entrance fees. Those fees barely cover the prizes and other costs. It takes some effort on the part of the members to set things up. The IMAC group does provide some help in the form of the event organizer. As a participant, his contribution cannot be full-time. Those who do the work don't really mind it. They don't mind showing off our field and the IMAC flyers have always commented on the beauty and suitability of the field. Club officers would like to see more post-contest data. Anyone with project management experience want to volunteer to work with the IMAC rep and ramrod the club's participation?

There is a sense among the executive committee that the club should discontinue its support for IMAC contests at the field. The feeling seems to be, "They came, they partied, they left," and club members aren't really interested. Well, maybe one, me.

So, that seems to be the major issue: is the IMAC contest an enjoyable event for club members, is it good for the club or isn't it? Do members want to continue supporting IMAC contest and if so, what can make it more attractive for the general membership?

At the next, March, meeting there will be an up-or-down vote. Please give it your consideration and come with your recommendations.

February Fun Fly Photos
(Jim Witthauer)









