



# Texas City Wings



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## Reach Out to Curious Observers

By Dave Mathewson, AMA President

We've all heard the saying "You only get one chance to make a good first impression." That holds true no matter if you're meeting someone in a causal setting for the first time, in a job interview, or maybe even when you're at the field getting in a couple of flights and a spectator or two stop by to watch.

Most all of us want our clubs to be active, viable, and thriving organizations. We want that new blood—and the enthusiasm that comes with it—found in new members. It's that enthusiasm that supplements and compliments what the more longtime members of the club bring to the table. For a club to reach its potential it takes the guidance of its experienced members coupled with the zeal and passion found in its newer members.

Many spectators who stop by the field already

have an interest in model aviation. After all, they've taken the time to stop by to see what's going on. Sometimes all it takes to turn that spectator from an interested observer into a new modeler and member of your club is to simply take a few minutes to walk over and say hello. Chances are the spectator will have some questions about model aviation. And, since we all like to talk about our hobby, my bet is that you will enjoy the conversation.

Many of us have been in the hobby for so long it's hard to remember what it was like when we first decided we were interested in modeling. But I'll bet for many of us we got involved after visiting a local hobby shop and then taking a trip to the local field. And I'll also bet, for many of us,

when we visited that field, we were befriended by one of the club's members and that's what really sparked our interest in becoming modelers. For many it was that first contact that resulted in a lifetime of enjoyment as modelers, and the friendships and camaraderie that resulted from belonging to a club.

The next time someone stops by your field to watch the action, why not take a moment to greet them? That one simple act may result in gaining a new member of the model aviation community, a new member of your club, and quite possibly a new friend. All of this is possible with just one simple act of outreach. You only get one chance to make a good first impression.

See you next time...Q

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## Texas City Radio Club Meeting Minutes September—

By Kevin Furman

These are the minutes for the Texas City Radio Control Club meeting for September 25th 2010. The meeting at the TCRCC flying field was called to order at 9:00am by President Randy Brown. There were 16 members in attendance.

### Secretary's Report – Kevin Furman:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes as presented in the August Newsletter.

The October club meeting will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8am. Nominations for the 2011 board will taken at this meeting

The November club meeting will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am. At this meeting elections will be held for the 2011 board.

### Treasurer's Report – Ray Saenz:

Ray stated that the beginning balance in August was \$xxxxxxx and ending balance was \$xxxxxxx

### President's Report – Randy Brown

Nothing to report

### Vice President's Report – James Grass-

### muck:

The hog committee is exploring options to deal with the hog problem.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the clubs fun fly. James is working on the final details and will send out a flyer to the club membership.

### Safety Officer's Report – Butch McEachern:

Nothing to report

### Pilot Instruction – Harvey Cappel:

Nothing to report

### Field Marshalls Report – Mike Grassmuck:

Field is water logged. Field maintenance will resume once the field dry's out.

for 80 people. A motion was made and approved at the August meeting to have the Christmas party on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Space Center Houston. A motion was made and approved to move the Christmas party to December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### NEW Business –

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.

**Next scheduled members meeting – October 23rd at 8am at the field! The Club fun fly will start after the meeting.**

### Events Section

The Ballunar festival will be held this year at Nasa on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

### OLD Business –

Randy stated that Space Center Houston was available December 8<sup>th</sup> for the 2010 Christmas party at an estimated cost of \$1,128.80

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## **CLUB CORNER**

By Jim Wallen, *Insider Club*  
Column Editor

How involved are you in your local club? Perhaps you just want to pay your dues and go fly your planes when you want. Maybe you volunteer to cut the weeds on a tidy-up day at the field but you don't want to do much more. Maybe you seldom go to a club meeting or perhaps you make it a point to attend all of them.

Have you ever submitted an article for your club newsletter? Do you go to some of the club social functions? Have you ever cornered your club field marshal to share with him or her some ideas you would like to see implemented? Do you show up for your training night at the field to help out? Keep in mind that all skill levels can find a role to help out with the new guys and kids!

Have you ever had the urge to put together a fundraiser for the club? Can you find a way to show up early for club meetings and help with setting up refreshments? Have you ever thought about setting up a Valentine Day Fun-Fly to get some of the ladies involved? Did you ever think about becoming a club officer?

You get the point. The list goes on and on. You will find that the clubs that have

more people involved tend to prosper and those that don't tend to stagnate and even fail. We all know that 10% of the members do 90% of the work. It doesn't have to be that way!

If you are in any sort of leadership role in your club, think about ways to motivate some folks and change that ratio. Things do not just happen by themselves. It takes you to initiate change. Take that first step and watch how your club benefits. Q

## **Servo Arms**

By Richard Lindberg

"Those pesky servos—why can't I ever find one that's properly centered? Every time I attach an arm, it seems as though the servo center shifts! What's going on here?"

Sound familiar? What causes this and what can you do about it?

All (standard-sized) servos today have splined shafts on which those servo arms are bolted. The problem arises because of the number of splines (teeth) on those shafts—Airtronics and JR use 23 splines, Hitec uses 24, and Futaba uses 25. (Your radio may be different—grab a servo and count the splines on the shaft to find out. Use a magnifying glass!) This is a really neat feature, and you should take advantage of it when you set

up your airplane!

Put a servo arm on a servo. Now, every time you lift and rotate the arm by one spline, you change its position by a fixed number of degrees: for Airtronics or JR, this is 15.65°, for Futaba its 14.4°, and for Hitec it's an even 15°. The formula is simple: 360° divided by the number of splines. Now consider that your servo arms have an even number of fingers—two, four, even six. You can see by experimenting that rotating the servo arm and putting each finger as near as possible to where its predecessor was (about 90°, or 180°, or 60°) will result in a shift in position of 3.91°, 3.6° or 3.75° for Airtronics/JR, Futaba, and Hitech respectively. The formula is equally simple: 360° divided by (the product of the number of splines times the number of fingers). So, for Futaba, finger one is assumed at 0°, finger two (rotating clockwise) is placed at 3.6° offset, finger three at 7.2°, and finger four at 10.8°. (For Airtronics/JR, use multiples of 3.91°, and for Hitec use 3.75°.)

"Whoa, that's too complicated for me!" I hear you exclaiming. Well, don't worry about it—just keep rotating and pressing on the servo arm until you get a finger as close as possible to that magic 90° position.

One of those fingers will be right. (Actually, Futaba makes it simple—the fingers are numbered! Choose number one and you're there. JR has a raised dot in the lower right of its number one finger. It doesn't matter as much with Hitec, as there are even numbers of splines, and two

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### Servo Arms (continued from page 3)

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of the fingers (out of four) will be right at any time.

Incidentally, the number of splines being different is the reason why servo arms are not interchangeable between servos of different brands—don't try to use Futaba arms on JR servos, etc.

This also clears up the apparent servo-centering shift. Most of the servos today have electronics that are so good that mechanical centering is a thing of the past and isn't necessary. If you in fact have a servo that won't center properly, or consistently, it's probably bad! Send it back for repairs! Q

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