

# TAIL SPINNER NEWSLETTER



Volume-14 — February 2025

Newsletter Editor ~ **Sonny Coleman**

AMA Chartered Club #1140

## February 11th, 2025 GSWAM Business Meeting Minutes *(by Paul Lange)*

Attending: 20 members

President Tim Lovett gaveled the meeting with welcoming comments at or near 7:32pm

Paul Lange sitting in for Secretary Sonny Coleman requested January meeting notes to be considered for acceptance: Dana Pierce motioned to accept with Lupe second the motion followed by unanimous vote from the gally to accept.

Mike Madar Treasurer reported all bills paid with stats of both contingency and general operating accounts January in the black – incoming cash from recent membership, concessions and donations pending deposit. Reported trash removal company is flat fee contract only with no custom service available, no reduced service or fees available.

Paul Lange reminded the membership our custom apparel provider “Daisies Ducks and Doodles” has full capability of creating custom designs from provided artwork for hats, jackets, shirts, tee shirts along with our current standard offering of products shown on the online store. The website is in the newsletter and on our Facebook page in the banner pinned section.

Darell Abby provided field report as all areas are open for winter flying. Requested after rains be extra careful not to leave foot prints due to soft conditions. We have no hog damages, the electric fence timer was failed and replaced with a new timer, we are almost out of electric fence stakes though. The maintenance crews have not had very much active work so far this winter. Part of the February 22<sup>nd</sup> work day will include servicing the mowers. Duane Klopfenstein has had the number 2 John Deer in his shop for the past couple of weeks and installing a new fuel tank. Currently this mower can only be started by shorting the solenoid, Duane is working on repairing this if possible. The club is now serviced by three deck mowers that are each 20-years old and requiring lots of going TLC every two weeks. The main runway has been serviced by deck mowers this season as the reel mower has been phased out of service due to high maintenance cost.



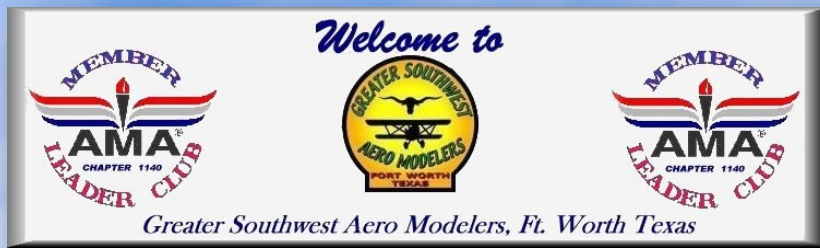
Tim Lovett—Club President

### About GSWAM

The Greater Southwest Aero Modelers radio control flying club is a nonprofit organization. Membership is nondiscriminatory and open to anyone who agrees to abide by club rules. A condition of membership for insurance purposes is current affiliation with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). The club flying field is located on the north side of Randol Mill Road, 0.4 miles east of Highway 820 at 6903 Randol Mill Rd. Visitors are welcome whenever the gate is unlocked. Regular club meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the McDonald's restaurant at Precinct Line #25720 769 Airport Fwy at 7:30



Continued P-2



## February 11th, 2025 GSWAM Business Meeting Minutes

(Continued from P-1)

Tim Lovett reported an unsolicited anonymous email from “WE Love GSW” transmitted to the entire club membership Friday January 24, 2025 10:48am regarding Sky Elements promptly resulted in Sky Elements contacting him electing to sever relationship with Greater Southwest Aero Modelers club citing their crews no longer felt comfortable visiting the field or moving forward with the club. Tim also provided background details of the ongoing investigation by the FAA NTSB regarding the recent accident of a Sky Elements show where an individual was struck by one of the drones during a show. The FAA/NTSB incident report recognizes Sky Elements was not afforded proper time to complete GPS mapping and programming set up resulting in the failure of that event. Sky Elements stated to Tim the recent event and contentious actions by individuals of GSWAM last year left them uncomfortable coming to the field combined with the anonymous email contributed to their decision to walk away and cease relations with GSW. Sky Elements have since secured use of a privately owned piece of land for their operations.

Tim reviewed the GSW membership had agreed and voted to partner with Sky Elements whereas Sky Elements donated a \$7,000.00 professional grade Zero-Turn landscape mower to the club and GSW would allow Sky Elements a dedicated area to clear, upgrade and create a road entry for use of the area West of the great hill. Additionally, Sky Elements had agreed to participate in funding a project to update the club field main entry gates with a new inset further away from Randol Mill Road after Keith Sparks suggested the club pursue the project for safety entry. As Sky Elements elected to sever ties with GSW our maintenance crew team and board of directors agreed it was a good faith practice to return the Zero-Turn landscape mower to Sky Elements since they had recently completed significant investment to the West Hill area with tree removal, stump removal and brush hog clearing which they will not get any use of now that the 5-year agreement is no longer moving forward.

Tim Lovett noted to the club in losing the Zero-Turn mower the club needs to purchase another mower within year 2025. Tim reported members have started and donated \$600.00 cash so far with an additional \$500.00 commitment into a fund to purchase a replacement mower noting we are no longer using the Reel Mower unit. If you wish to donate money for a new mower - the funds will not be used to purchase a Zero-Turn mower but at least acquire a “Non-20year old” standard tractor mower.

Frank Rowell presented his study to the club regarding an adequate mower unit to consider. (It was noted the Zero-Turn Mower returned to Sky Elements was a \$7000.00 unit). Frank stated the club would best be served by purchasing a “Lawn Tractor” to maintain the main runway. A 200 series John Deer tractor 21.5hp twin cylinder engine 41inch cut able to cut down to 1/2inch nap with heavy duty hydro transmission able to tow 500lbs will be at or near \$3,800.00 purchase price. A 130 series John Deer to replace our existing 130 would cost at or near \$2900.00. A brand new 110 series John Deer mower to replace our current 110 John Deer (which was just repaired with a new gas tank) would cost at or near \$2500.00. Frank recommends the club purchasing the John Deer 240 series tractor mower. It was noted purchase price may be higher in spring/summer months. Dana Peirce offered his military discount to use if and when use when purchase is ready.

Continued P-3





## February 11th, 2025 GSWAM Business Meeting Minutes

(Continued from P-2)

Tim noted the club will move forward with a material cost study and work detail for updating the main entry gate inset project. Contractor estimates and cost of the project will now be 100% funded by the club members as Sky Elements is no longer associated with GSWAM. Jerry Burton suggested the club apply for an AMA field upgrade grant, which if any funds are awarded, would be received the following year. Mark Fuess suggested reaching out to City of Fort Worth. Tim Lovette stated he has not approached the City of Fort Worth yet to inquire about participating with the club for this project noting he has had brief conversation with the City possibly considering a long term multi decade year lease agreement of the club field. Tim might mention the gate inset project with the city after lease conversations/negotiations are completed. Tim also stated Fort Worth City management might visit the club field soon which would be a great opportunity for exhibition flights, buddy box and FPV experience demos with City personnel and help promote relations with the City of Fort Worth.

For continued public relations - Paul Lange will be reaching out to the Civil Air Patrol as we have not had contact with them for quite some time. Tim stated the more GSW can do community wise the better we are valued to the City of Fort Worth.

Tim Lovett noted in his continued involvement with AMA NASA regional championship contest, the recent turmoil GSW has endured from one individual involved in the Sky Elements field confrontation and one of our newest club members, who circumvented the membership and board of directors last month by going directly to the executive council of the AMA for a perceived club flight safety issue, has mapped GSW for discussions from many other regional clubs. Tim stated he personally addressed, researched and confirmed with clubs from multiple states, Chicago, Oregon, California and Texas clubs from Houston to Sherman, employ the same safety practices for downed aircraft as GSW does.

Tim Lovett noted GSWAM was lucky to have been awarded AMA FRIA designation with no pushback or problems in the process. However violation and inference of disregard to FAA registration rules regarding vehicle registrations numbers and those numbers applied on an aircraft could jeopardize GSW FAA AMA FRIA designation. A discussion was held regarding the FAA TRUST Exam, FAA UAS recreational number registration, application of the FAA number on our aircraft. Tim also discussed wearing and displaying current GSW club membership card, FAA Trust certificate, FAA UAS registration and AMA card at all times via clear plastic clip-on card holder with lanyard while flying at the club field. Should GSW be visited by an FAA inspector they will be looking to see your FAA trust certificate and FAA UAS registration documentation in addition to having your single provided recreational FAA UAS number on each of your aircraft. A "Callie Graphic" decal with your information is one example of the FAA number application to your aircraft. The club is encouraged to help "Self-police" the practice of having the full complement of credentials and marking or placement of the FAA UAS number on all aircraft at the club field. FAA 107 commercial license numbers were also discussed. A short discussion was held regarding recovery of lost cards and printing off replacement FAA credentials. The club was also reminded while GSW does not require FAA credentials for GSW club membership the FAA can severely fine the "individual pilot" for non-compliance. Furthermore, should the FAA visit GSW club field and discover non-compliance it could result in increased FAA presence and in fact negatively impact GSW AMA FRIA designation.

Continued P-4



## February 11th, 2025 GSWAM Business Meeting Minutes

(Continued from P-3)

Chuck Rovell suggested GSW look into deploying several placards at the field for help in FAA UAS registration compliance awareness, enforcement and risk management. Randy Mayhew volunteered to provide cost analysis and help design and create metal signage at proposed locations. Paul Lange suggested the meeting and notes regarding FAA UAS registration compliance and personal credential display discussion could be presented as record of training for the club if ever asked to report.

Paul Lange provided a brief discourse as the meeting transitioned to club decorum stating: As a club, we are a group of gentlemen, members which function as a body of volunteers with a board of volunteer elected directors. If and when the membership no longer trusts the organization or the board of directors and choose to circumvent or go around the membership and the board concerning club matters and issues it creates club cancer thereby ceasing the body from functioning as a club. Recently the club has suffered several episodes of club cancer. One as an unsolicited anonymous derogative email transmitted to the entire membership regarding Sky Elements which resulted in Sky Elements ceasing membership and partnership with GSWAM and another member choosing to bypass the membership and the board of directors by directly contacting AMA Executive offices for a perceived field safety issue. A plea was made to address these instances of disrespect to the membership and disregard to club decorum.

Tim Lovett reported he has spent an inordinate amount of time with the City of Fort Worth reviewing GSW charter specifically regarding the clubs' function and ability to enforce and adjudicate club rules and policies in result and response to the anonymous email sent to the club membership regarding Sky Elements. The City of Fort Worth confirmed with Tim GSW club field is not a "City Park" and GSW indeed has a responsibility to govern itself accordingly per section 13.01 of the City lease. Moving forward in the investigation of the anonymous email directed at Sky Elements, Tim discovered author of the anonymous email was traced back to Dave Horton, a former member who is currently serving out a one year membership suspension for a physical altercation with Sky Elements crew in 2024. Dave had requested and was granted access to the club field as a by-stander only status during his membership suspension. While options were considered on how to deal with Dave author of the email and resulting separation of Sky Elements - GSW board declined to pursue legal action and instead recommended presenting the matter to the club for adjudication. Tim proffered Dave, the former member and author of the anonymous email should be banned from the club and rescind or (Ban) access to the club field. Dave who was the subject of the matter was revealed and present during the discussion. Paul Lange stated, the unsolicited anonymous email to the club, which included Sky Elements AMA card holding GSW members, quoted to have 23 plus un-named supporters of his protest with Sky Elements participation with the club. The unfortunate result of Sky Elements severing ties with GSW within hours receipt of the email circumvented the membership and the board from having any discussion regarding Sky Elements thus bypassing the function of club due process and decorum. A brief discussion was held regarding the content and intent of the email. Tim addressed the forensics of tracing the email to a recovering email address which revealed the anonymous authors identity, Dave Horton. It was noted during the discussion the unsolicited anonymous email itself counted as the individuals second infraction to the club. Tim confirmed if the club resolved its concern by banning the individual from the club and field, the City of Fort Worth would participate in physically enforcing the clubs ruling if necessary. Darrell Abby voiced frustration and disappointment with the loss of Sky Elements pointing out GSW field has ample acreage and airspace to handle every phase of the model R/C aircraft hobby and should not have posed an issue to the club. Darrell also voiced continued frustration regarding field maintenance moving forward without the Zero-Turn mower in result of the email. Talking points were cited stating the club has suffered additional monetary loss, membership loss and regional inquiry and fodder due to the ongoing strife.

Continued P-5





## February 11th, 2025 GSWAM Business Meeting Minutes

(Continued from P-4)

A resolution was proposed to make a motion banning Dave Horton from access to the club field and was agreed. Paul Lange made a motion to ban Dave from the club field with Richard McLarty seconding the motion to proceed for a vote. Lupe motioned to vote by raised hand instead of secret ballot which was seconded by Danna Pierce. The motion to Vote by open raised hand passed unanimously. The vote to ban Dave Horton physically from the field by count of hands passed with two members in opposition. The motion carried to ban Dave Horton.

Gary Henneke cued up a brief discussion regarding provisions of the membership to govern, enforce, suspend and revoke membership which was addressed and cleared. Tim clarified the proper procedure to mitigate and de-escalate physical confrontations at the field is by contacting City of Fort Worth, or Police or 911 when and if necessary. Also contact GSW president or officer core immediately.

Tim initiated discussion of the clubs current by-law rule allowing non-members to visit and fly at the field as guest for three times is being abused most notably at the Helicopter Port. A discussion and plea for the membership to help enforce the "Three visit Guest Pass" was made highlighting the challenge of distinguishing current members from guest is difficult unless membership credentials are visible. Paul Lange pointing out the physical distance between the circle line, heli-port and main runway tends to isolate each section from socializing with each other. Therefore, it is important for each flight area to prevent abuse of the "Three visit Guest Pass", help pilots comply to club field rules, help pilots comply with FAA registration policies which help protect GSW AMA FRIA designation. An idea to employ a sign in sheet was floated for discussion and consideration moving forward. A discussion was also previewed for deploying placards noting the "Three Visit Guest Pass" policy.

A suggestion was made by Chuck Rovell to designate or appoint a lead person for each R/C Flight discipline to represent and help manage, socialize efforts and specific concerns to the club.

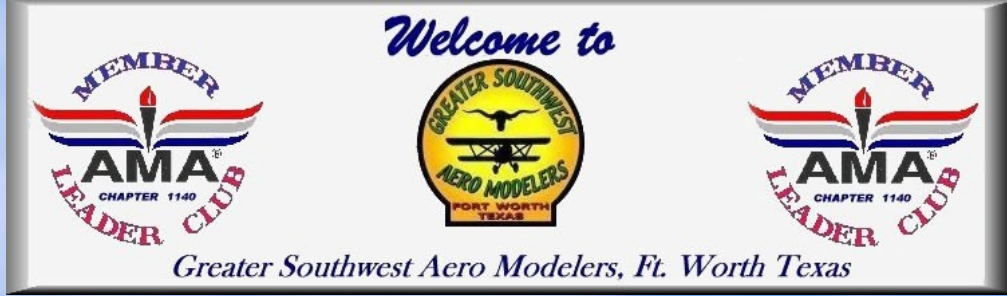
President Tim reminded the attending gally GSW field is unique to other clubs whereas our field has separate dedicated areas for each discipline of the R/C Aircraft hobby including Fixed wing, Helicopter, Drone and Line Control. Very few clubs have covered pits for each discipline in addition to electricity drops for power. The club is solely funded by membership fees and donations and maintained by volunteers so the request to adhere to the "Three Visit Guest Pass" is a fair policy to enforce.

Tim Lovett presented consideration to follow other AMA clubs to amend our current By-Laws by adding a provision whereas "New Memberships" will be a provisional probational non-voting membership of one year which after completing may obtain full voting rights. This enables new members ample time to get acclimated with GSW policies and procedures, field safety protocols and decorum. The members voted to move forward with the "Probationary Membership" By-Laws update. Tim Lovett and the board will craft a "Probational Membership" amendment for the club to pass at another meeting.

Randy Mayhew announced he will have parts at this week ends 02-22-25 field work day to repair the mowers.....if the weather is clear we will also work on the pits tables and gravel board barriers and also address other field work as needed.

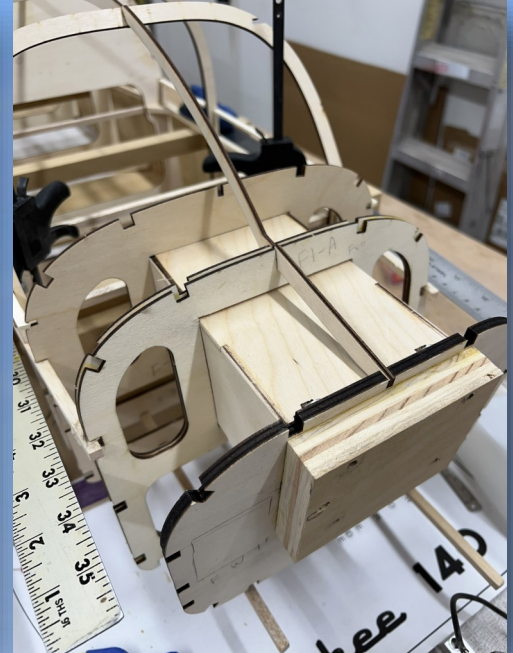
Paul Lange won the raffle drawing and the 1hr:24min:14second meeting was adjourned.

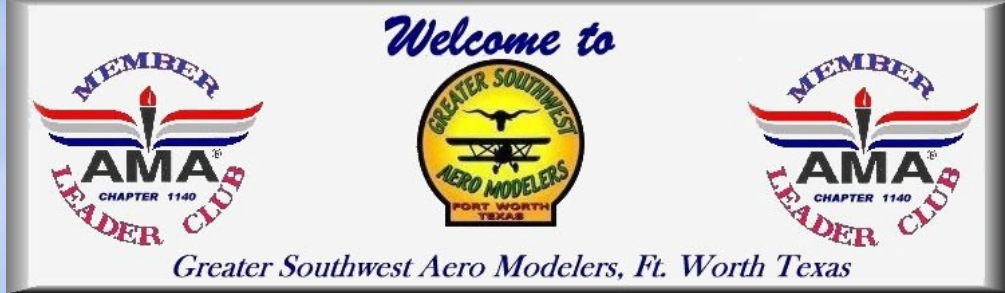




## Darrell Abby's Latest Build Photos

### Cherokee 140 Project





The dates for this event are 04/18/25 – 04/20/25

This is a unique event that is held at two separate locations:

Bayou City Flyers

<https://www.bayoucityflyersrc.com/>

Fort Bend R/C Club

<https://www.fortbendrc.com/>

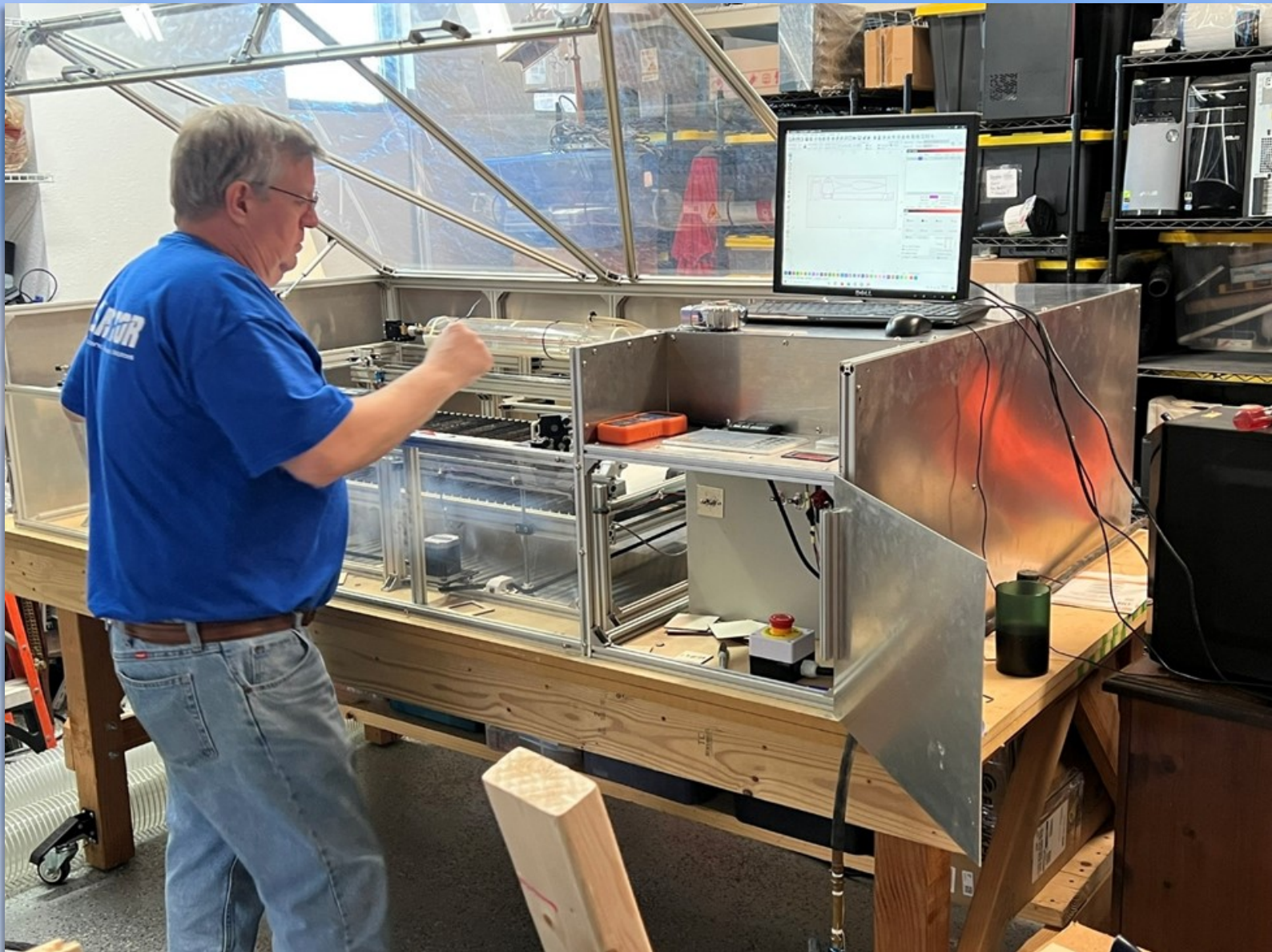
For more information [click this link](#) to visit the event's website and more information.

[Download the flyer](#)



# Local Kit Cutter

Mr. Al Cannon, previous owner of Roy's Hobby, has his large, powerful laser cutter up and running. Several club builders have used him for laser cutting parts and kits; he does great work. For Al's contact info see Ed Newman or Darrell Abby.



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

**FAA-RECOGNIZED IDENTIFICATION AREA**

A FRIA IS A DEFINED GEOGRAPHIC AREA WHERE DRONES CAN BE FLOWN WITHOUT REMOTE ID EQUIPMENT.



# FIELD REPORT

(2/18/2025)

*By Darrell Abby*

At this time all areas of the field are in good shape for winter flying. The infield water pump continues to handle the rains. If trespassing on the runway please be aware of footprints if the turf is soft. The maintenance crew (basically on winter leave) has replaced most of the hog fence wire, repaired breaks as needed, and installed a new clock timer. We have a new box of hog fence stakes (that's not a license to run into the fence).

Dwain Klopfenstein is overhauling John Deere #2 in his shop including a new gas tank. Plans are being made to roll the runway soon. A special fund has been established to possibly purchase a new/used John Deere mower; the club treasurer welcomes your donations to that fund.

We look forward to servicing the mowers on workday, Feb 22, in preparation for the upcoming mowing season (alternate date is Mar 1—stay tuned). Please come and join the fun on workday.

*Darrell Abby*

---

## NEW YOUTH FLIGHT TRAINEES





## GSW 2025 Event Schedule

**Feb 22: GSW Field Work Day**   
**(March 1: GSW Field Work Day Wx day)**

Feb 23: Rockwall RC Sailplane Fun Fly/Contest Chico Romero

**Mar 11: GSW Club Meeting**

**\*\*Mar 22: Spitfire  & Target Fun-Fly Bob Mueler**

Mar 28-29: Jet Rally Bomber Field

Apr 4-5: Gun Smoke Scale Contest, Mesa AZ Tim Dickey

**Apr 8: GSW Club Meeting**

Apr 18-20: S.E. Texas RC Scale Championships Ed Clayman

**Apr 26: GSW Club Fun-Fly Challenge Tim Lovett**

May 9-16: Joe Nall Week Woodruff SC

**May 17: GSW Dawn Patrol (WWI?) Tim Lovett**

May 17-18: Texoma RC Scale Contest David Taylor

June 6-7: June Warbirds Bomber Field

**Jun 7: Biplane Fun-Fly (S) Darrell Abby**

**Jun 21: GSW Dogfest Fun-Fly**  John Guariglia

**July 4<sup>th</sup>: GSW 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Fun-Fly**  Randy Mayhew





## 2025 GSWAM Club Events

Continued from P-10



### Nationals

Indoor Free flight: May 24-26  
 Rc Pylon Racing: July 5-11  
 Control Line Speed: July 6-11  
 Control Line Aerobatics: Jul 6-11  
 Helicopter: July 6-9  
 Control Line Racing: July 6-11  
 Control Line Carrier: July 6-11  
 Control Line Combat: July 6-11  
 Control Line Scale July 10-15  
 R/C Scale: July 10-15  
 R/C Soaring: July 19-27  
 Outdoor Free Flight: July 21-25  
 R/C Scale Aerobatics: July 29 - Aug 1  
 R/C Aerobatics: Aug 19-23

Jul 21-27: EAA Air Venture

Oshkosh, WI

Sept 11-14: Roswell Air Races

Roswell NM

Sept 18-20: B-17 Gathering

Bomber Field

Sept 20-21: Texoma RC IMAC

**\*\*Sept 27-28: Texas Scale Qualifier (S)**

**Randy Mayhew**

**Oct 3-5: Hogs Helis over GSW**

**Chase Walkins**

**OCT 11: GSW Big Bird Fun-Fly**

**Tim Lovett**

(Oct 17-19 Hogs over GSW rain date)

**Nov 1: GSW Halloween Nite Flight & Need Food Drive**

**Randy Mayhew**

**Nov 14: GSW Club Dinner**

**Tim Lovett**

**Dec 6: Toys for Tots**



**Randy Mayhew**

(S) AMA Sanctioned Event

Updated: 2/12

New Event

\*\*Date Change

Anyone can be an Event Coordinator...have an idea for an event? Just notify a GSW Officer

AMA  
Chartered  
Club  
#1140



AMA  
Chartered  
Club  
#1140

## 2025 GSWAM Membership Registration

New/Renewing club members can sign-up at the Hurst HobbyTown USA store located at 746 Grapevine Hwy, Hurst, TX 76054. Members can also sign-up at the flying field if a club officer is present. New and renewing members can also sign-up at any regularly scheduled monthly club meeting.

## GSW Club Flying Field Current Weather Status

Weather station reports current temperature, winds/gusts, barometric pressure, precipitation rate, and dew point. Live weather info from the flying field.

Link: <https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KTXFORTW1527>

## Club Apparel - Hats & Shirts



Link: <https://daisies-ducks-doodles.myshopify.com/collections/gswam-1>





# GSWAM Information/Documents Website

Find needed club information, like club event schedules, official club documents, map to field, club roster, newsletter archive, and membership applications can quickly and easily be accessed without having to search Facebook.

Information for visitors and newcomers about where to find the club flying field, what is required to fly at the club flying facility, and how and where to sign-up and become a new/renewing club member. There are links to the AMA for AMA signup and AMA/FAA information. Links to register with the FAA and a "TRUST" test link.

Club Website: <https://gswam.org> Check it out!

\*\*\*New\*\*\* Club Member Action Videos: <https://gswam.org/index.php/action-videos/>

**Massey McDonald's**  
Is proud to support  
**Greater Southwest Aero Modelers**

**Eules #2182**  
105 Airport Fwy

**Beach 3186**  
3901 Airport Freeway

**Altamere 32934**  
525 Alta Mere Dr.

**Central #10230**  
2100 Central Park Blvd.  
Bedford, TX 76022

**Wichita 24126**  
3200 SE Loop 820

**Precinct Line #25720**  
769 Airport Fwy.

**MEETING** →

← **PLACE**

**i'm lovin' it**

**i'm lovin' it**