



San Antonio, Texas
August 2026

ARCS News

Alamo Radio Control Society www.alamoradiocontrol.club
AMA Charter 603



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Club Meeting:

Held the 3rd Tuesday of
each month (except Dec)
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday - Biggs Burger

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

The next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 18, 2026, at 7 PM at Biggs Burger Joint, 10106 State Highway 151, San Antonio, TX 78251, (210) 543-2029.. Monthly Fun Fly the following Sunday.

July 2026 Fun Fly

Another ARCS Funfly is in the books! It was great to welcome new member Mark and new member Nate as well as his family to the field. It was also great to meet and welcome visitors Jose and Vince from River City RC! Thank you to everyone that helped prepare for today and especially thank you very much to my awesome wife Jeanette for all the work you did



today! Thank you very much to Joel, Vince, and Sal for helping me search for my downed GeeBee and of course Nick for spotting it with his FPV drone! I didn't get too many pics today but was glad to get this one of

the Trojan Trio doing their best to fly like one of our best pilots Dusty and his T-28! I look forward to seeing everyone out again next month! 😊 — feeling thankful.



Cliff Chetwood

What Happened to Cox 049?

On the main street in Melbourne, Florida in 1953, there was a drug store, I think it was, that contained a hobby shop. They sold plastic airplane kits and control line airplanes that were popular. I was 8 years old. My dad bought me a little control line airplane kit powered by a Cox Space Bug 049 engine. The plane was what they called a "hollow log" style. It



Cox Space Bug About 1953



had a shaped, hollow chunk of balsa as the fuselage. It was V-shaped in cross-section, tapered from nose to tail, and the bottom was covered by a flat piece of balsa. The wings were solid balsa with 1/8 inch balsa trailing edge. The control line bell crank was bolted through the wing. The Engine screwed onto the plywood firewall. Dad painted it red and yellow, with a red nose and yellow fuselage, red wing and tail surfaces. I never got it flying though I tried. I think I wrecked it trying. I finally learned to fly control line in college with the plastic Cox PT-19.



The Space Bug engine was quite a remarkable advance in engine design. It had a compact cast aluminum crankcase fastened to a rather large cast aluminum gas tank. The tank held a reed valve fuel induction system and was radial-mounted to the firewall by four screws. The piston connecting rod was ball and socket rather than having a wrist pin. The most amazing feature was the steel cylinder-piston combo that was machined to fantastically close tolerances. Instead of a glow plug, it had an aluminum glow head with a built-in glow coil of his design. Roy Cox refined the design into the Baby Bee 049 which sold for about \$3.50 back then.



The company made over a million engines a year. The engines were everywhere. Cox engines powered an array of plastic airplanes and cars. Those were featured at Disneyland. I remember visiting Disneyland and seeing the Cox team flying all their plastic control line planes in a circle at Tomorrowland. I eventually had the PT-19 and Stuka. The latter didn't fly as well as I recall.

Roy Cox was born in San Bernadino, California. As a boy he worked in his father's bicycle shop and developed a keen interest in mechanical things. During WWII he made wooden popguns which were popular with kids. After the war, when metal was again available, he made tethered cars and eventually developed a gas engine for them. That led to the Space Bug 049 and later an assortment of small, nitro-powered engines. LM Cox manufacturing made more model engines than all other manufacturers combined. Later versions had machined aluminum crankcases.



Roy Cox died in 1981 and the company was sold. The new company, Leisure Dynamics eventually went bankrupt, and the business was eventually sold to Estes Industries of Colorado. The subsequent owners could not maintain the critical tolerances and fit of the original engines and later models did not run as well, often being hard to start.

The death of the Cox 049 came from three different directions. First, the turn of the century saw the development of reliable brushless electric motors and lithium batteries with high output. These were cleaner and less expensive to operate and didn't hit your finger flipping the prop to start the motor. Second cause had to do with the growing computer game industry. Third had to do with government regulations, consumer product safety concerns and insurance costs.

The engines were marketed to children 8 and up. The fuel contained methanol which is very poisonous to humans if consumed. The Cox .049 model airplane engine was engineered with extremely tight piston-cylinder tolerances — typically 25 millionths of an inch (0.0000025 in) between the piston and cylinder bore when paired ([SASS Wire Forum](#)). This was achieved by lapping the piston and cylinder together to that exact gap, rather than relying on separate machining tolerances. The steel for cylinder and piston was alloyed with lead in it. Yes, lead.

The Consumer Products Safety Improvement Act of 2008 essentially targeted toys with lead paint. It specifically outlawed any product with more than 400-1 lead. The lead content of the 049 engine's steel piston and cylinder was more than that. The act specified that any toy with lead that could be disassembled giving access to the lead was illegal. The government decided Cox cylinder and piston met with that test although it is doubtful you could get lead poisoning by licking a steel cylinder.

Today you can still buy a Cox engine. There is a company that markets them only to adults, thus bypassing the 2008 restriction. While mass production of Cox .049 engines has ended, **MECOA (Model Engine Corp of America)** acquired

Cox Hobbies in 2019 and maintains the rights, tooling, and technical drawings for Cox engines coxmodels.com. They produce engines and parts in limited quantities, often using original designs or modified components to recreate classic engines like the Tee Dee and Medallion series. Some parts, such as pistons, cylinders, and crankcases, are still manufactured based on original specifications, while other components are sourced from new old stock (NOS) or small-scale machining runs.

This has been a long article; I've shortened it as I could. I hope you enjoyed a blast from the past as much as I have.

Jim Neff

Cliff's Notes

Hello ARCS members! This month I would like to recognize some of the members that have been contributing greatly to our club recently. Chris Freeman has replaced some of our old safety signs with newer and up to date ones with more to come. They look great Chris and more importantly, the safety information is well displayed. Great job Chris! Jim Agnew has been doing a great job organizing our Electric Warbird event coming up September 12th and even got some donations from Hobby Town! Daren Manson also worked with Horizon Hobby in getting some raffle items as well! Great job gentlemen and with your efforts, this is sure looking to be a great event! Thank you!



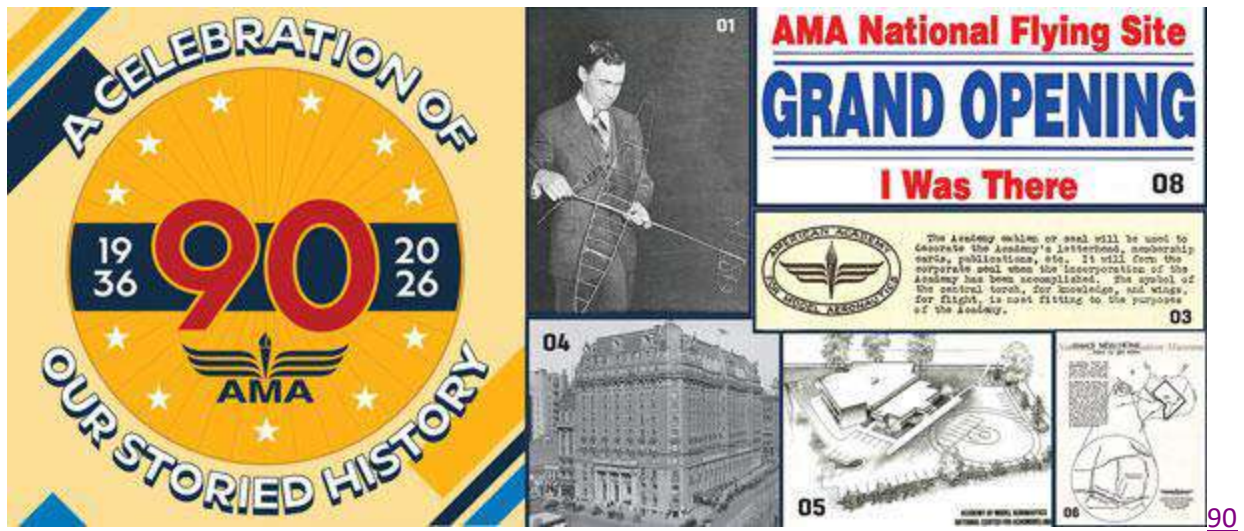
I look forward to seeing everyone out at this month's Funfly or at the field soon and as always I wish you all blue skies and butter landings!

Cliff Chetwood

ARCS President

****Member Spotlight****

This Month's ARCS Member Spotlight goes to Jim Witthauer! Jim does an amazing job as our club's photographer and also helps many people in need with his role as food drive coordinator. The club and community are very fortunate to have someone like him! Thank you Jim for the selfless service you provide!



[90 Years of AMA | Model Aviation](#)

Mark your calendar, dust off that electric warbird, charge the Batteries, come out and fly! Spread the news!



ARCS Meeting Minutes July 21 2026

The meeting was called to order July 21st at 7:00 p.m. The June 2026 minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter. Treasurer's Report was read.

Checking \$ 2,333
Savings \$ 9,882
Total \$ 12,215

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Eric Amundsen handles hats for club members. For new members, hats are free. Replacement hats are \$15.

Jimmie Neff: Please send in contributions for the newsletter to Jimmy.

Buck Murray: Working on the issues associated with the changing ownership of the Website. Sometimes multiple items on payment dropdown don't work right. Probably best to checkout individual items for now. Buck will add the picture of Bill Ponseigo's brick at AMA headquarters.

Jim Witthauer Pictures and Foodbank

The Club donated 385 lbs. of food to the San Antonio Food Bank in June 2026. Total for the year is 1758 lbs. Thanks to all who donated. **Keep up the good work, folks!** Just put the food in the "Fun Fly Barrel".

Chris Freeman/Jim Agnew: Safety Officer's Report: New safety rule signs obtained and will be installed soon. Need to verify FRIA registered with the AMA (looks way too small). Need to determine drone flying location and pilot area.

Rob Lane: Pavillion and Table Maintenance

Sheila Morse / Caden Morse: Youth Group Committee-

NEW BUSINESS:

- Xmas Party will be Dec 15th at Bigz
- Decision to limit drone companies wanting to use field to Darkhive and TPI.
- Rambo is the new dog at the field

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

CRASH OF THE MONTH:

- None (aren't we good pilots!)

SHOW AND TELL:

- George Wilson showed off his new E-Flite Sportix pattern plane (\$279)
- Charles Campa brought a Phoenix Models Corsair balsa ARF with FMS electric motor drive, 6S 5000.

**Raffel:**

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.

- Roger Gormley won the E-Flite Night Timber.

**Closing Notes:**

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The Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

**At The Meeting
Jim Witthauer**



July 2026 Fun Fly Photos
Jim Witthauer

















