



San Antonio, Texas

April 2026

# ARCS News

Alamo Radio Control Society [www.alamoradiocontrol.club](http://www.alamoradiocontrol.club)  
AMA Charter 603



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

**The next club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 21, 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.**

## Alamo Radio Control Society Officers



*President Cliff Chetwood is flanked by Secretary Rich Sanders, Vice-president Buck Murray, Treasurer Juan Galvez*

On March 17, the Alamo Radio Control Society convened a special meeting to elect a new president. As one of Texas's oldest radio-controlled model aviation clubs, choosing a leader is always a significant moment, especially now, as the club faces challenges including adapting to new technology, attracting younger members, and maintaining our flying field amid regulatory changes. The next president would need to think strategically, anticipate change, and inspire the membership to action. Both Chris Freeman and Cliff Chetwood stepped forward as candidates, expressing their readiness to lead the club into its next chapter. After thoughtful discussion and careful consideration, the membership voted to select Cliff Chetwood as president of ARCS.

In a display of unity and support, the current slate of officers graciously volunteered to remain in office for another term, Rich as Secretary, Buck as Vice President, and Juan as Treasurer. Congratulations to Cliff on his choice, and sincere thanks to Chris for his willingness to serve. Appreciation is also extended to Secretary Rich Sanders for his dedication to maintaining club charter, Vice-president Buck Murray for his expertise in safety, and Treasurer Juan Galvez for his commitment to club financials. Their contributions have been invaluable in keeping the club strong and connected.

**Jim Witthauer**

### ARCS OFFICERS

#### President

Cliff Chetwood

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##### Chief Photographer

Jim Witthauer

##### Club Meeting:

Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of  
each month (except Dec)

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Tuesday - Biggs Burger

### ARCS Meeting Minutes Mar 17, 2026

The meeting was called to order March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The February 2026 minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter. Treasurer's Report was read.

Total \$13,050

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The **Fun Fly** is **March 27<sup>th</sup>** 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: Newsletter- More pictures on Bill Ponseigo's Funeral are on the website

Buck Murray: Website- Updated with pictures and newsletter. The donation tab has been updated for donation for Bill Ponseigo's memorial brick at the AMA.

Jim Witthauer Pictures and Foodbank

The Club donated 266 lbs. of food to the San Antonio Food Bank in February 2026. Total for the year is 514 lbs. Thanks to all who donated. **Keep up the good work, folks!** Just put the food in the "Fun Fly Barrel".

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Election was held to replace Bill Ponseigo as Club President. Nominees were Chris Freeman and Cliff Chetwood. **Cliff Chetwood** won the vote. Congratulations Cliff!

Someone had given a non-member guest the gate code and the guest came out to fly without the member at the site. Any guest must be accompanied by the club member at all times. The gate code is not to be given out to anyone- no exceptions. All guests must have an AMA membership for the insurance to fly at the field. Richard will send out a letter to the club reminding them of the rules.

#### SHOW AND TELL:

Lloyd Roecker brought a 2 meter Kivigiferg (SP?) electric motor wing

Cliff Chetwood showed off his 3D printed jet composed of 70 different printed parts. Will maiden at the fun fly



#### CRASH OF THE MONTH:

Clifford Chetwood was landing an F-22 Raptor in strong winds, it rolled and broke a wing

George Wilson was taking off with his E-flite Ultimate Biplane, lost all power (dropped a magnet) and crashed hard on the runway.

Cliff Chetwood stalled his 28cc Extra on landing and crashed. He was also flying his F-16, lost control and crashed.

All 3 got tickets.

#### **Raffle:**

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.

Jimmie Neff originally won an E-flite 40 mm Tomcat. He decided to let someone else win it and Jenete Chetwood won it on her ladies' ticket.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



#### **Reminder: Guest Flyers Buck Murray**

At the March meeting, it was discussed that a member had given the club gate code to a guest and that guest was at the field flying without the member present.

You may bring a guest to the field at any time. We welcome them. However, they are your guests. You must accompany them and you are responsible for them at all times while they are flying at the field. You cannot leave the field unless they leave with you.

#### **Guests may fly if:**

1. They must have a valid AMA membership. AMA membership is required under our landowner's lease for anyone who flies while at the field.
2. They may fly as guests on two occasions only. Guests must become members if they want to fly more than the two times

#### **Gate code security:**

I spend a lot of time each year making sure that members are paid up on dues before I send them the new gate code. Giving out the gate code to new and renewed members is my job.

**DO NOT GIVE THE GATE CODE TO ANYONE. NO EXCEPTIONS. DON'T DO IT! NOT EVEN ONCE!**

Nuff said.

(Editor's note: Gate code security is serious business. Violating that security could result in our loss of the flying field.)

**News Flash... Bill Ponseigo memorial brick has been installed at AMA.**



**Photos from March Meeting  
Jim Witthauer**







## Fighting Drones

### Jim Neff

We fly drones for fun. The FAA considers our RC aircraft to be drones for regulation purposes. Both are referred to as UAVs or unmanned arial vehicles. The term, drone, is commonly used to refer to any unmanned aerial vehicle.

That simple definition covers a very wide variety of vehicles from hobby drones to the military's huge Reaper drones capable of carrying missiles and bombs. The war between the Ukraine and Russia has seen the rapid development of drones of all types used in fighting.

The recent conflict with Iran has seen the mass use of Shahed drones. These delta-winged drones are about 11 feet long with a wingspan of 8.2 feet. Powered by a horizontally-opposed gasoline engine, they fly at about 115 miles per hour and have a range up to 1,600 miles. They cost an average of 20,000 dollars. Russia imported thousands from Iran and Iran has thousands of them. They can be launched from a simple angled frame that can be truck-mounted. A rocket-assist engine propels them off the launch rails and drops off almost immediately and the gas engine takes over. While it is capable of loitering over a target area and may be used for reconnaissance, it is most often used with an explosive payload. Iran has had success using the Shahed to attack allied military installations and systems. The US has been trying to shoot them down using million-dollar air defense missiles. Hardly a maintainable cost. Enter the Ukrainians.

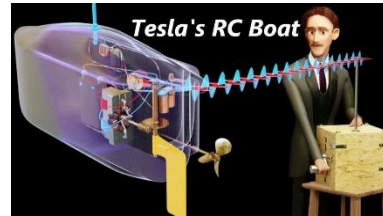


The Ukraine has developed a low-cost anti-Shahed drone killer called the Bullet. There is also another variety called Stinger. These drones, some made with 3-D printing, are turned out by Ukrainians by the thousand per month. Ranging from 11 to less than 5 feet in length, they cost about \$1,000-\$2,000. With a range of about 25 miles, and a ceiling equaling the

Shahed, they have great success in shooting down the attacking drone. Ukrainians report about an 83% success rate. An operator must be present to guide the drone. The Bullet, and there are variations, augments the props with a jet engine. It is said the Ukraine has sent several Bullet Shahed-killers to the Middle East to help Gulf states.

The US has already co-opted the Shahed design and developed its own version to use against its enemies. I imagine soon they will be making our own copies of the cheap done killers.

Back in the 1890s Nikola Tesla developed radio-controlled drone boats. His intent was to use mechanical drones, warships, to fight wars, thus saving people's lives. Well, today Tesla's concept of automated war is reality, but not with the result he hoped for.



## IMAC Invitation



Hello,

We'd like to invite your club members to join us for an **Intro to Scale Aerobatics** meeting.

This session will provide an overview of Scale Aerobatics, also known as IMAC (International Miniature Aerobatic Club). We'll cover what IMAC is, how to get started, and how to read and fly the entry-level sequence. We'll also share practical tips, recommended aircraft, and an overview of how our organization operates.

Please feel free to share the meeting link below with your members.

### Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Time: 8:00 PM Eastern Time

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

We hope to see you there!

Meeting Link. Click Link Below. You can join the meeting as a Guest. If you want to forward to me who can make it and their emails, we can send each person a direct invite to make it easier.

[Scale Aerobatics Introduction Meeting | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

*Kevin Garland*

*President*

[www.flyimac.org](http://www.flyimac.org)

## Cliff Chetwood Celebrated at Inaugural Fun Fly

President Cliff Chetwood's inaugural Fun Fly was a stellar event celebrated in high fashion, boasting one of the best turnouts in recent club history. Over 40 members and guests attended, making it a particularly memorable day for the Alamo Radio Control Society. Spectacular models ranging from vintage biplanes to modern jets took to the skies, captivating attendees with their impressive maneuvers and craftsmanship. Cliff himself grilled hamburgers and hot dogs to perfection, accompanied by a delicious array of side dishes and treats brought by club members. The event began with gentle winds and partly cloudy skies, creating near ideal flying conditions for those who arrived early. Prime parking spaces filled quickly and remained occupied throughout the day, underscoring the enthusiasm and participation. A highlight of the occasion was the return of several members who had long been absent, each eager to congratulate Cliff and share in the camaraderie. Their presence, along with the collective spirit of the club, helped mark a new chapter in ARCS history. The Fun Fly not only celebrated President Chetwood's leadership but also showcased the unity and shared enjoyment of the club community. Congratulations, Cliff!

### March Fun Fly Photos

Jim Witthauer





