



San Antonio, Texas
January 2026

ARCS News

Alamo Radio Control Society 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 January 20, 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.

ARCS 2025 Year in Review

Club Membership and Financial Health

The ARCS concluded 2025 on a strong note, with membership rising to 137 individuals. The club remains financially secure, and both the flying field and facilities are in excellent condition. This success stands as a testament to the dedication and hard work of numerous members, whose contributions have secured the club's future and promise continued enjoyment of model aviation for years to come.

Facility Improvements

A major highlight of the year was the replacement of most worktables with new, powder-coated metal frame tables featuring composite tops designed to withstand the harsh Texas sun. Accompanying these upgrades, new pilot benches were installed. These improvements were made possible through the efforts of Rob Lane, Ben Weber, Simon Rodriguez, and Gari Valdez. The restoration was completed thanks to members who purchased tables, ensuring all old and damaged tables were

L to R: Cliff Chetwood Jr, Sean Graue, Austin Cribb, Reydon Lopez, Caden Morse, In Front: Cam Weber

replaced.

Enhancing the pavilion, Gari Valdez constructed and donated a striking powder-coated metal sign now displayed on the east wall. This sign greets all visitors and was officially dedicated in August, commemorated with a group photo. The sign received widespread praise, reflecting members' appreciation of Gari's generous contribution.

Volunteerism and Events

ARCS members participated in two workdays, one in spring and another in November. On each occasion, volunteers repaired the pavilion and performed maintenance on the field and runway. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a hearty meal and an afternoon of flying, underscoring the club's spirit of camaraderie.

In support of ground maintenance, Roger Gromely donated a sprayer wagon to help combat the ongoing threat of agricultural termites.

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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

Special Contributions and Activities

The Memorial Day Fun Fly event was a highlight, featuring a festive cookout with Cliff Chetwood Sr. at the grill serving delicious hamburgers, complemented by an assortment of treats and side dishes. Joe Roehmer contributed to the club's welfare by providing a new port-a-potty, resulting in significant cost savings.

Further expanding the club's reach, DARKHIVE—a drone company—rented the field for demonstrations, and four DARKHIVE members joined ARCS.

Cliff Chetwood also developed a REAL FIGHT Simulator using Harold Cannon Field as the setting, allowing members to enjoy virtual flights from home. Additionally, he purchased a new orange windsock, now visible along the fence line beyond the pond.

To foster club spirit, Roger Gromley arranged to produce new high-quality silk-screened club T-shirts featuring the club logo from the new metal sign.

Remembrances

The club mourned the loss of two members in 2025: Jim Branaum and Rex O'Connor. Their passing was felt deeply, and the club wished them Godspeed on their final flight.

Ongoing Traditions and Community Support

Throughout the year, generosity remained a hallmark of each Fun Fly event, with members regularly bringing hot dogs, chili, sandwiches, and other treats to share. Special thanks are extended to Cliff Chetwood and Bill Grozdanich for their continued contributions.

Continuing its longstanding tradition, ARCS made a significant donation to the San Antonio Food Bank in 2025, contributing 2,652 pounds of food. The club was honored in the Food Bank's digital newsletter, recognizing fifteen years of unwavering support for the San Antonio community.

Year-End Celebration

The year concluded with the annual Christmas Party, an event filled with fun, prizes, and food for all. The memorable celebration was made possible thanks to the yearlong efforts of Buck Murray and the club leadership team.

Looking Ahead

All signs indicate that ARCS will maintain its vibrancy and strength in 2026, continuing the legacy established in 2025.

ARCS Meeting Minutes November 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order November 18th at 7:00 p.m. The October 2025 minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter. Treasurer's Report was read. Saving : \$9839.33, Checking \$4594.71, Total: \$14,434. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Approved.

Bill Ponseigo is currently in the ER with chest pains and breathing issues. Richard conducted the meeting in Bill's absence.

Buck Murray is stuck out of the country awaiting a flight. There will be no raffle tonight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The **Fun Fly** is **Nov 23rd** 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.

The Club donated 327 lbs. of food to the San Antonio Food Bank in September and October 2025. Total for the year is 2331 lbs. Thanks to all who donated. **Keep up the good work, folks!** Just put the food in the "Fun Fly Barrel".

FIELD CONDITIONS:

- Completed the 10 new tables. Still need to oil two wood table decks and put on a couple of pool noodles on the posts. Note that there are sharp screws protruding below the table decks and you could poke a finger while gripping the table from the end. We have cut the screws off the ends of two of the tables so just be careful when reaching around the table ends until we complete the rest.
- Finished painting the bench and building repairs today.
- The termites have spread to surround the pavilion. Bill and Richard sprayed 40 gal of poison last week with the sprayer donated by Roger Gormley and Bill spread some additional granular poison today.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Christmas Party is Dec 16th at 6 pm here at Bigz. Cost is \$25 for all you can eat of Bigz fare. There will be an extra big raffle and a white elephant gift exchange.
- Please pay 2026 dues for those who have not already.

SHOW AND TELL:

- Richard Sanders brought his new FMS Pitts 1400 mm biplane. Just maiden today and it flew great but feels a little heavy. Sadly, Richard got no ticket.

CRASH OF THE MONTH:

- Ed Kotzur got low and inverted with his Wako biplane and gave it the wrong elevator input and drove it into the ground.
- AJ Gormley was flying his Skywalker at another field and inadvertently went upside down and drove it into a tree with the wrong stick input. Had to do some fancy climbing to retrieve it.
- Ed won the vote but again, sadly no ticket.

Raffle:

No raffle this month since Buck was caught out of the country.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM. No raffle and apparently Bill has 10 words to each of Richard's.

New facility

Our landlord Joe Rohmer has generously decided to provide ARCS a new port-a-potty with weekly servicing at his cost for one year. The new facility is located under the pecan tree behind our pavilion. Many thanks to you Joe for this.

The old ARCS outhouse will stay in its current location but please don't use it since we won't be servicing it. The door has been zip-tied shut.

Use the new one and enjoy (well, as much as you can enjoy using a port-a-potty in August).

Christmas Party Photos





















November 2025 Fun Fly



The November Fun Fly Day was uncomfortable to start. Rain and cold temperatures dominated early in the morning. Five pilots started the day and soon the rain began to diminish. But, despite the challenging weather conditions, twenty resolute pilots participated in the day's event, flying their aircraft after the rain dissipated until the afternoon winds made flying difficult or less enjoyable.

- Caden Morse brought out a World War II German Warbird. The aircraft crashed during its maiden flight.
- Jacob Basinger flew a unique mohawk-crested Corsair, as well as another park flier.
- Walter Padua impressed attendees with a sharp-looking *Draco*.
- Juan Galvez was the first pilot to take to the sky, flying even as light rain fell. He started with a red *MXS*. Bill Grozdanich quickly followed. Each pilot had to wipe their radios dry after flying.
- Chris Freeman flew his Pitts Biplane when he was not busy assisting other pilots or retrieving crashed planes.
- Sal Sordo launched his flying wing into the sky with a strong side arm throw with his right arm.
- Gene Roper took to the air with his FPV-equipped *Eratix*.
- Cliff Chetwood Jr. flew a miniature A-10, and Cliff Sr. flew an F-16 and Corsair while Reydon Lopez recorded the Corsair on video.
- Dick Reich flew a yellow Piper Cub park flier which contrasted sharply against the overcast sky.

- Everyone who was present warmly greeted Bill Ponseigo, glad he was able to come out to watch after his recent release from the hospital.

By day's end the enthusiasm of the resilient pilots who participated soared above the unwelcoming weather and made it a memorable day of flying and camaraderie.

Jim Witthauer

November Fun Fly Photos Jim Witthauer











