

RC Model Aircraft Flying in Longview

The East Texas Aeromodelers club invites model aviation enthusiasts to come share the experience. Our flying field is located at the end of Cherokee Street in Longview. Turn off of loop 281 onto Harrison Road and immediately turn South onto Cherokee St. and follow it approximately one mile to its end. The field is located on Gregg County property some will remember as the old Greggton dump grounds. The field is secured when not in use by a club member but there is generally flying activity on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. It is available to club members during any daylight hours.

A wide variety of aircraft can be seen flying, including traditional fixed wing, helicopter, gliders, and quad copters. The aircraft are made from a variety of materials including balsa & spruce woods, foam, fiberglass, carbon fiber and aluminum and weigh from a few ounces to thirty five pounds and will have wing spans from sixteen inches to eleven feet. The aircraft are powered also by a variety of methods including the traditional glow fuel engines, gas engines and increasingly popular an electric motor. Among aircraft are several categories including sport, scale, military, giant scale, park flyer and aerobatic.

Within recent years, new radio control technology opened the door so that unlimited numbers of models can fly without disturbing and crashing each other, and when combined with electric propulsion technology, a new generation of aircraft called Park Flyers was born. Park flyers are small under two pound aircraft powered by electric motors that can be flown in a small area. While they don't require the space provided by the club field, it is enjoyable to share the experience with others that fly them, and they are welcomed at the field with a caveat. The East Texas Aeromodelers have an understanding with Gregg County that flyers at the field will be members of the Academy of Aeronautics, a nationwide organization of model aircraft enthusiasts, and thus fall under their general liability insurance coverage.

Those interested in model aviation or aviation in general are welcome to visit, watch or converse about aviation with others at the field. The East Texas Aeromodelers club provides trainer aircraft and flight instructors who will provide free lessons to students eight or older. Instruction incorporates a buddy box control for safe training and AMA membership is not required while training with an instructor with a buddy box. If someone wishes to train with their own plane, it must be equipped with a buddy box control or the student must have an AMA

membership. Appointments for flight lessons can be made by calling Arlyn Stewart at (903) 297-2289 or email aa5by@suddenlink.net.

The local club includes pilots from age nine to eight-five. Our youngest is Zaid Still from Kilgore who soloed at age five and since has earned factory sponsorship from KDS Helicopters. He is an amazing young pilot. Among club members is a subgroup who call themselves Fossil Flyers, those who have retired. They generally fly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons when the weather is suitable. They welcome other retirees who wish to fly, learn to fly, just watch or share in the conversation. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy.

A visit to the East Texas Aeromodelers web site at <http://www.easttexasaeromodelers.com/> will provide information about the club including a map to the field, our latest newsletter and activities, as well as information about RC pilot training and even a link to flight video of young Zaid Still flying his heli. The young man is amazing.

Again, we members of East Texas Aeromodelers extend a hearty invitation to come share the experience.