



## Cen-Tex Modelers

### Chapter – D *Big Bird Events - 1987-1994*

- **Big Bird Participants** Pg 2-3
- **Big Bird -- 1987 --** Pg 4-14
- **Big Bird -- 1988 --** Pg 14-15
- **Big Bird -- 1990 --** Pg 16-19
- **Big Bird -- 1991 --** Pg 20-24
- **Big Bird -- 1992 --** Pg 25
- **Big Bird -- 1994 --** Pg 26



**CEN-TEX MODELERS INC.**

**P.O. BOX 874**

**KILLEEN, TEXAS 76540**

**BIG BIRD HISTORY**

CEN-TEX Modelers Inc. has held an annual BIG BIRD event every year since 1987. This event has drawn contestants from many surrounding states, Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana and from the four corners of the state of Texas. The events has been held during different months of the year, but has been primarily held during the April May time frame or the September October time frame. Swap meets have been held in conjunction with the event in an attempt to draw additional attendance.

Following this introduction to the history of the BIG BIRD, you will find photos that have been taken and selected to reflect each event and that reflect members and contestants alike that attended these events. The selection of these photos was based on the availability from within the current membership and news articles that have been published in the local newspaper, the Killeen Daily Herald. With out the advertisements within the newspaper, the success of past events wouldn't have been what they were.

Early photos are blank and white, while later events reflect the ability of color through newer technology, such as digital cameras. Still others are extracts that were reported in the local newspaper.

The following list is of those individuals that registered with CEN-TEX Inc. Big Bird events over the years. This list is not inclusive due to lack of documentation pertaining to some of the events.

**A**

George Avery  
James Anderson

**B**

Coy Ball  
Jim Bagwell  
Tony Beals  
William Bechtold  
Wayne Belcher  
Max Blose  
Bob Buckbee  
J.V. Buster  
Randy Blackstaf  
Charles Bradley

**C**

Rob & Pam Carson  
Bob Courtney  
Mike Crotts  
Merric Cummings Sr.  
Merric Cummings Jr.

Chuck Cunningham

**D**

Bill Davis  
Ralph deClairmont  
Albert Delaney  
Hubert Dirr  
Pat Duffy  
John Dvoracek  
Jim Dietrick  
George Davidson

**E**

Sam Ellison

**F**

Charles Farlow  
Bill Feldschau  
Craig Fendley  
Steve Fenton  
Ronald Ferguson

**G**

E.J. Gardner  
Bernie Gill  
David Griffith  
Virgil Griffith  
Martin Gauant

**H**

David Haley  
John Hall (Colonel  
Robert Hall's son)  
Vance Hansen  
Emie Harwood  
Jack Haynes  
Jim Hillin  
Terry Hix  
J.V. Holdridge  
D. Huffhines  
Jack Hurst  
John Hall  
Troy Hill  
Steve Hill

**J**

Helmer Johnson  
J.W. Jones  
Leroy Jones

**K**

Ken Klein  
Jim Kramer

**L**

James Land  
Charles Lapinski  
Randy Larsen  
Stephen Lee  
Dan Ligon  
Loyd Ligon

**M**

Curtis McAdoo  
Dennis McAllister  
Charles McAtee  
Steve Meyer  
Charles Miller  
Bill Murry  
Roy Murray  
Bob Mitchell  
Ken Maddux

**N**

Ron Norman

**P**

Clarence Page  
Duane Palmer  
James Penny  
CJ Pinkstan  
Everett Pitt  
B.W. Ponder  
Michael Puntry  
Ralph Posey  
John Pratt  
Norm Pollard

**R**

Fred Reese  
Arnold A Robinson  
Charles Roccaforte  
James Rolleston  
Denny Roden

**S**

Bill Saylor  
Rick Schafer  
David Schuetzeberg  
Bill Schultz  
Brad Shepherd  
Dan Smith

**S (Cont)**

Aubry Smith  
Ken Spears  
Lloyd Sullivan  
Barry Stein  
Charles Stevens  
Jack Strictland  
Lloyd Sullivan  
Gerry Schader

**T**

Ken Thanim  
Dennis Torline

**W**

Porter Wallis  
Jimmy Wade  
Bob Walden  
Roger Walther  
Ron Wamer  
Harvey Washburn  
Charlie Watson  
Franklin Weathens  
Ken White  
Louis Wolte  
Stephen Woods  
Earl Wolverton  
Bill Wallis  
Mel Whitley  
Michael Walther



CEN-TEX MODELERS INC.

P.O. BOX 874

KILLEEN, TEXAS 76540

## BIG BIRD EVENT 1987

There was good weather both days. Twenty- five pilots registered, and thirty-six aircraft were inspected and flown. One aircraft was lost to a crash. The cause was unknown. There were sixty door prizes awarded during the two day event. Trophy winners by category were: Best Military, Ken Spears from Arlington – Corsair. Best civilian Bob Price, of Austin – Diablo. Best Non-scale Keith Moody from San Antonio – Moody Bipe. Pilots choice Bob Price – Diablo. The “hard luck trophy” went to Ken Spears for the loss of his beautiful 1/5 scale Waco biplane. The award was a Sullivan heavy duty starter. Participants and spectator alike were very impress with our “golf course green” runway.



PILOTS MEETING



CONTESTENTS, FRED REESE & JOHNNIE BRIEN



LINE UP



LINE UP



RICK SHAFER



JUSTON SCHUMWAY



ROGER RUSSO & CHO (HO YOUNG CHO)



KEN SPEARS & UNKNOWN



STACY RISOVI AND ROGER RUSSO





KEN SHAFER



LINE UP





STACY RISIVI, BUTCH SPRAUDLING & CHO



DAN SMITH AND AUSTIN AREA VISITORS



DAN SMITH AND KEN SPEARS







TAKE OFF



JOHN DVOACEK'S PATTERN









TOM CLIFTON





CEN-TEX MODELERS INC.

P.O. BOX 874

KILLEEN, TEXAS 76540

## BIG BIRD 1988



Herald Photo by Thad Byars

**READY TO FLY** — Brightly colored radio-controlled model planes await their turn in the sky as their owners discuss the finer aspects of flying model airplanes Saturday during the 2nd Annual Central Texas Big Bird Fly-In at Union Grove Park on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir. More than 40 giant-scale

airplanes from around the state took part in the event, which is sponsored by the Cen-Tex Modelers Club and the American State Bank. The competition continues from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.

9-24/25-1988



**Bill Murray**



CEN-TEX MODELERS INC.

P.O. BOX 874

KILLEEN, TEXAS 76540

## BIG BIRD 1990

# Fourth annual Central Texas model aircraft fly-in June 16-17<sup>1990</sup>

Cen-Tex Modelers and American State Bank will sponsor the fourth annual Central Texas "Big Bird" Model Aircraft Fly-In at Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir West of Salado the weekend of June 16-17.

Classic World War I Sopwith Camels filling the sky with the sound of their powerful engines, World War II F4U Corsairs making strafing runs just above the runway at nearly 100 miles per hour will fill the skies over as The Fly-In. It is one of the largest such events held in Texas each year. Over fifty expertly constructed model aircraft from across the southwestern United States will fill the skies over Union Grove Park Saturday and Sunday, June 16th and 17th. To qualify for the event, each radio controlled aircraft must be classified as a "big bird", meeting minimum wingspan requirements of 80"

or being an exact one-quarter scale replica of its full-scale counterpart. For the most part, they are powered by high-tech engines running on either alcohol or gasoline which develop a great deal of horsepower for their size. According to Dan Smith, Georgetown the event's director, these scale models, which typically have a wingspan of from seven to ten feet or more, can take months or even years for an experienced modeler to construct, and sometimes feature detail that will include fully authentic cockpit instrumentation and controls.

Each aircraft present for the Fly-In will be built to exacting standards and will demonstrate its flying characteristics by completing a series of flight maneuvers in the air, guided by the pilot using a radio transmitter for control. "The event is one we look forward to each year,"

Smith commented, "and our participants will be here ready to show off their aircraft to the other modelers and the many spectators that are always present to view the show. It's a great spectator event." Each day at 1:00 the flyers will be shut down for 30 minutes to allow spectators to closely examine the aircraft and talk to the pilot/builders.

Flying both Saturday and Sunday will begin about 8:00 a.m., and the public is encouraged to attend. The site of the Fly-In is Hall Field, the model aircraft flying site administered by Cen-Tex Modelers, in Union Grove Park on the South side of Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir. Admission is free, and refreshments and food will be available.

For additional information you may call Smith at 863-4456.



# Chapter 304 - Cen-Tex Big Birds Fly-In June, 1990

**T**he Cen-Tex Big Bird Fly-In was a huge success! The biggest and best in the 4 year history of our event and it marked the first year with an IMAA sanction.

We had 35 pilots and 55 aircraft. Pilots came from Dallas, FT. Worth and Houston to name a few cities in Texas. We also had 3 pilots from near Denver and aircraft were in the air continuously during the 2 days.

During the closing ceremony on Sunday, each pilot was awarded a Tie Tack in the form of the Cen-Tex logo as a memento of the event. A big thank you to the members of the Cen-Tex modifiers, without whose help the event could not have been held. *By Dan Smith #4579*



Tom Clinton #6144, Moses Super Decathlon powered by O.S. 1.20 four stroke. Tom is from Georgetown, TX.



Dan Smith (I like that last name... ED) Event Director with his Road Runner and Big Morrisey Bravo.



Ken Spears #2588, Pica Waco, G-31, great flat spins.



Bill Schultz, Grumman Gullhawk, scratch built.



Bill Feidechan #5169, Road Runner, ST 2050, Futaba radio.



Bill Adams #4581, Sig J 3 Cub, O.S. 1.20, Futaba radio.



J.W. Jones #316, from Dallas, TX with his scratch built Aerona Champ, powered by G-28.



Pete Duree #6851, Bert Baker P-47, 3.2 Sachs.



One side of the aircraft line up ready for viewing.



Phil Witt #1820, Arlington, TX with his Byron P-51 Mustang.



Jim Pierce #5218, with his Prime Cut, Sachs 3.2, smoke system and Futaba radio gear.



Flight Line



Flight Line



From L-R Unknown, Butch Spradling, Charles Culver,  
• Vince and Stacy Risovi



Flight Line



CEN-TEX MODELERS INC.

P.O. BOX 874

KILLEEN, TEXAS 76540

## BIG BIRD 28-29 September 1991



Special Photo by Duane A. Leavitt

**BIG BIRD** — Glenn Wilson of Lewisville, Texas, right, gets some help from his friend, Jock Strickland of Dallas, in preparing his plane for flight at the fifth annual Central Texas Big Bird Fly-in Saturday at Hall Model Aircraft

Field in Union Grove Park. Dozens of model aircraft pilots from around the state demonstrated their flying skills at the event, which continues at 8 a.m. today. Spectators will be able to view the airplanes up close at 1 p.m.



Dan Smith's Fly Baby



Jan Hodges Eagle II





Dan Smith's Mooney



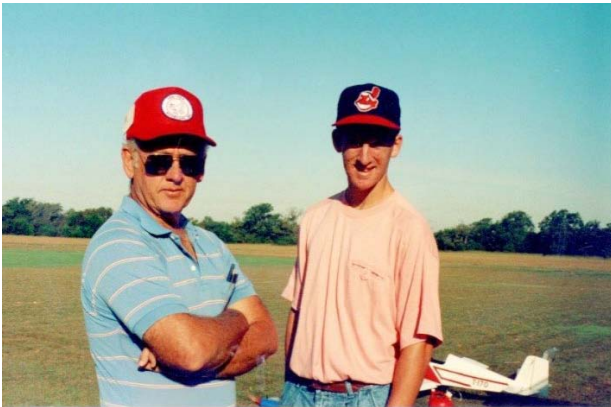
P 40



Beautiful DC3 Bill Murray



AT 6



Prestom and Greg Tucker



Fred Reese & Jim Hillin



Visiting Contestants



Cecil and Jan Hodge



PT-19



Stearman PT-17



Cap



Youngest Contestant



The most Important Person - Cook



The Line-Up



And this makes three- Fred Reese



Yes Virginia - It flies Ed Cournoyer



It was a long drive, but he made it



Virgil Griffith



Bill Becthold - Just looking



Line-Up



Line-Up



Nice Christian Eagle





CEN-TEX MODELERS INC.

P.O. BOX 874

KILLEEN, TEXAS 76540

## Big Bird 1992



BIG BIRD FLIGHT LINE



The noon line up. Earl Wolverton, pilot number 3 with back to camera on left. Unknown pilot on right, and Temple club member, Bill Murray, on left fore ground.

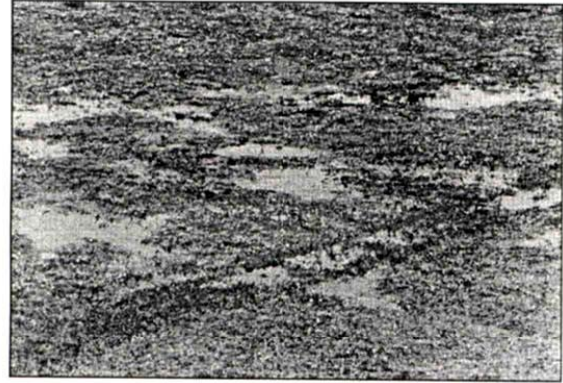


Dan Smith the contest director for 1992 takes a break from his strenuous activities of telling people what not to do.

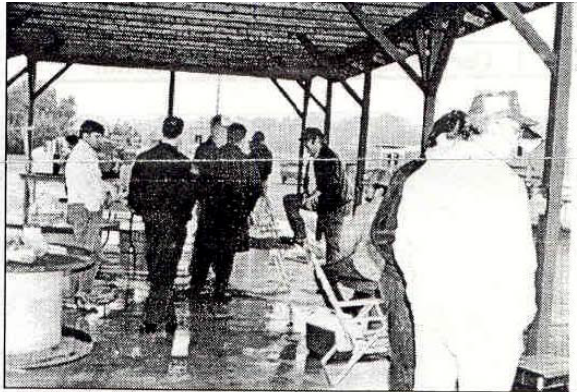
BIG BIRD 1994



Registration Cold and Damp



Rain Rain go away, come back another day



Trying to stay dry



Earl Wolverton and Dan Smith



Cant fly - Lets Eat Cooks Marj Mc Nutt & Jim Rolleston



Unknown Contestant