The weather killed off the April battle, both on the original and rescheduled weekends. Even so, a few captains managed to get some exhibition combat in, impressing some visitors from the MWC.

The May meeting has been moved forward to May 1. This will be held outdoors, at the site of the Dallas R/C Thunderboats boat race, McInnish Park in Carrollton. Coincidentally, this park is one that we’ve been in contact with the owners about using, so we can all get a good look at a potential battle site.

Originally planned for May, the Parrothead Phestival (Buffetfest) in downtown Plano has been moved back to September, according to the organizers due to extreme growth in size. We set up a display last year at the inaugural event and have been invited back again.

May means cookout at the May 15th battle! Preliminary plans have the club buying the meat (your dues at work!).

“Big Gun Radio-Controlled Warship Combat is one of the most important advances in guy thinking since the potato gun.”

- Dave Barry
Scuttlebutt from the CO
- Jerry Ethridge, CO

This month I would like to extend a personal thanks to Wreno and Wes Wynne, their family, and the staff of the Star Brand Ranch. The loss of the Huffhines Park Lake could have crippled us for quite awhile before we found accommodations for our club’s activities. The Star Brand Ranch normally hosts events for profit, and yet has allowed our club to use its conference center and other amenities at no cost. Not only the lake, but we have also enjoyed the Star Brand Ranch normally hosts events for profit, and yet has allowed our club to use its conference center and other amenities at no cost. In addition, they have provided us with a ship hoist, a test tank, the use of their two boats, and the use of the boathouse to store some of our equipment. The staff has just bent over backwards to accommodate us. My hope is that we can soon build our equipment trailer so that we can relieve some of the storage requirements placed on the boathouse. I also hope that we are not taking too much of an advantage, but it seems that anything we need, the Wynne family delivers.

April Battle Report
- Mike Duffy, XO

Once again the weather did not want to cooperate. High winds and choppy seas had our fleets in port for most of the day. The long delay was spent having a good meal, recovering a pontoon boat and discussing the differences of formats with little gun club members. The Dallas recreation of the Philadelphia Experiment was humorous. First the Dallas tried to tow the launching crane then caught the Espana with her magnetic crane and pulled her to safety. I am still wondering why with all of Jeff’s knowledge of electronics he didn’t choose an electromagnet. At least he wouldn’t be afraid of being pulled under by a sinking Espana.

Since the water was calm enough for sea rescue demonstration, it was determined to go hot and have a battle. Nelson hit the water only to see the Dallas getting pulled to be armed and gassed. Richelieu came out to challenge Nelson. Nelson was disappointed to see that the Vichy ship had full speed available and was unwilling to fight her devastating three triple turrets up close. Scharnhorst came out and the Axis performed a coordinated attack on the Nelson. Nelson took some hits then returned to port to refill her gas. Dallas came out and harassed the Axis ships. Scharnhorst realized that she was only firing gas since she had not loaded her magazines. After Scharnhorst left the pond, Nelson returned and Richelieu continued to put the hurt on her. After several waterline hits, Richelieu began to make Nelson pursue her, all watched as the Nelson’s bow went lower and lower. Nelson succumbed to the lack of displacement. Dallas began to take advantage of the Richelieu’s propulsion and pump problems. Dallas thought she might tow the listing Richelieu, only to find the French didn’t want to be captured. She fought until she was out of gas. Dallas finally T’d off on

May, 2004 Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 01-May | Promotion Event  
Dallas Thunderboats R/C boat races  
McInnish Park, Carollton  
10:00 AM  
NO RADIOS!!! |
| 01-May | Monthly Meeting  
After the boat race promotion |
| 15-May | Battle!  
Star Brand Ranch, Kaufman  
10:00 AM Setup  
Cookout!! Bring the family! |

We have all given money, time, energy, and the use of our houses to the club. For this month however, I would like to recognize the Wynnes. I encourage everyone to think about how much has thus far been graciously given by the Wynne family and to personally thank them. I know I do!
Richelieu and pushed her to shore. The pump on Richelieu finally primed and she pumped herself out. The battle was called for lack of combatants and darkness.

This much abbreviated battle was very entertaining. Our two guests from MWC found lots of excitement in our format. Both really liked seeing that a battle can be fought a range more than 6 inches. DW Fluegel said “I really like the sounds of their battles.” I feel we put on a great demo for them. That’s right, I said demo. I am not going to score this battle since it was so short and very impromptu. This will make our May battle that much bigger.

---

**XO’s Requests**  
- Mike Duffy, XO

For the April battle our site setup was record breaking. Several changes were made that assisted in this effort. First a diagram was posted to show how the site should be set up, a revised diagram will be posted in the boathouse from now on. Also, in May permanent post sleeves will be placed in the ground. This will cut the setup time in half. I am making these changes permanent for the remainder of my tenure as XO. Please follow these simple requests. They are to make our battles more enjoyable for all.

- **No unloading of ships or personal equipment until the site is completely setup.**
- **Two volunteers per month to assist the XO in setup** - Each person will only have to be on the setup crew about twice a year. Look ahead now and decide when you want to volunteer.

- **At Star Brand Ranch, all captains are to have their ship staging area under the trees in the center.** This is to aid in hole count and communication amongst captains.
- **Minimize the ship prep at the battle site.**
- **You should only need to install batteries, bearings and gas pond side prior to the first sortie.**
- **Have your ships ready by the time of the first sortie.** – We have had many delays recently, when we are waiting out the weather, have your ships ready to go on the water fully armed in 5 minutes notice. Don’t wait for good weather to start arming your ship.
- **Pay attention to the posted schedule** – I will have a printed schedule posted on the picnic tables and boathouse.

---

**May Battle & Cookout**  
- Mike Duffy, XO

For our May battle we will be having the first of our two family cookouts. We have several guests that maybe showing up in addition. I have spoken with the MWC boys; they have a large battle in Arkansas the following week so they will not be battling. However, I have extended an invitation to them to come watch our battle and enjoy our cooking. Also, some Boy Scouts and/or other people from our First Saturday events may come out.

As far as the battle itself, following the two regular sorties we will have a “Last Man Standing”. This will be for bragging rights until the next “Last Man Standing”. The format for the first two sorties will be determined at the meeting May 1st. I will take under advisement any recommendations, so please email your ideas to me at mt-duffy@comcast.net.

I believe all of us have seen Star Brand Ranch. As you know it will be a great venue for a cookout, so please encourage your family and friends to join us. We will need a head count by May 9th.
Treasurer’s Report
- Wreno Wynne, Treasurer

As of April 26, 2004:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$960.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March receipts:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 Membership Dues @ $20 each</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 Prepaid full year battle assessments @ $50 each</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 Monthly Battle Assessments @ $5 each</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Reimbursements</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Collected in March</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Saturday Presentation</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Balance</td>
<td>$890.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Summary:

- 8 Membership Dues @ $20 each               $160.00
- 1 Family Membership Dues @ $30 each        $30.00
- Battle assessments                        $370.00
- Equipment Reimbursements                   $400.00
- Total Collected                           $960.00
- Expenditures                              $70.00
- Ending Balance                            $890.00

No Battle Assessments ($5 each) were collected at the April mini Battle.

Meeting Minutes
14-March-2004, 13:00
Location – Star Brand Ranch

In attendance: Jerry Ethridge, CO; Mike Duffy, XO; Jeff Burns, SO; Mike Weber, TO; John Beckerich; John Mianowski; Mark Crowder; Wreno Wynne; Wes Wynne;

Club Financials: Although present, the Treasurer did not present financial information because the meeting was held on the battle site, and his paperwork was not present.

New Business:

- Since the MWC club could not change venues on such short notice, they decided not to battle with us today. They also had an issue with the depth of the pond since they do not have deployable floats on their ships. They would have to retrofit their ships with floats in order to hold their battles at Star Brand Ranch.
- The safety officer Jeff made sure that everyone was aware of the NAMBA rule that only NAMBA members are allowed in the pit area.
- The safety officer Jeff will also update the battle area drawing to show the pit area and the spectator areas. This drawing will be posted on the website.
- It was decided that the treasury report will also include club assets such as ships owned by the club.
- No new information from the rules committee.
- The club will set up a booth at the RC Thunderboats races on May 1st. Volunteers include Jerry Ethridge, Mike Duffy, John Mianowski, and Wreno Wynne. All others are welcome to join.
- John Mianowski has been designated liaison to the Buffet Fest coordinators. Since we were invited, we would hate to miss this event because we may not get invited back if we do not come. John will give a report on this event at the next meeting.
- Lancaster has also invited us back this year for their 4th of July celebration. We will also discuss this further at the next meeting.
- Jeff Burns has submitted his automatic pump circuit to be displayed on the NTXBG website.
- Wreno will send to Duffy a copy of the poster used during the first Saturday sale. Duffy will see what he can do as far as enlarging it for display at area hobby shops.
- The next meeting will be held on May 1st at the RC ThunderBoats event. We will hold the meeting after we tear down our display so that we do not ignore people visiting our site.
- Shipbuilding 201 has been suspended for now. We will play it by ear as to when to start up again.
- Mike Duffy made a motion to appropriate $15.00 to pay for fence pipe for the pit area fence. John Mianowski seconded and the motion passed.
- John Mianowski made a motion to appropriate $50.00 for a Commanding Officers discretionary fund. Mike Weber seconded and the motion passed.
- John Mianowski made a motion to appropriate $20.00 to make up for the shortfall we had at the first Saturday sale. Mike Weber seconded and the motion passed. The Commanding Officers discretionary fund should alleviate this type of shortfall in the future.
- The meeting adjourned around 15:0
Proposed Rule Change

Change to: Rules of Construction, Revision A, Adopted 07-December-2003

Change requested by: Jeff Burns, SO

Section to Change:
IX ARMAMENT AND WEAPONS SPECIFICATIONS
F. WEAPONS TESTING PROCEDURE AND OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS
3. Weapons System Safety
   a. Gasses, Tanks, and Compressors
      1. Only CO2 or compressed air may be used as a propellant.
      2. All systems must be of a commercial design suitable for the pressures used in combat vessels.
      3. All armed vessels and Coastal Batteries must have an on board shut off switch in an easily accessible location so guns can be enabled after the ship is placed in the water and disabled before the ship is removed from the water without removing decks, superstructure, or other ships’ components.
      4. The shut off switch must bleed the pressure from the lines supplying the actuator, solenoid valves, or firing valves in such a manner as to completely disable the guns.
      5. The maximum pressure delivered to the weapon systems shall not exceed 140 psig.
      6. All tanks fittings operating at non-regulated pressure must be of a commercially approved design and must meet state and local laws.

Background and Purpose of Change:
This change is proposed to improve safety. Schrader (pin) valves have been known to fail catastrophically with the potential for property damage or personal injury. CO2 cartridges, without any valve built in, can become a missile if an attempt is made to remove one from its connector while it still contains gas under pressure.

Specific Changes Proposed:
Insert the following paragraph above paragraph 2, renumbering all subsequent paragraphs:

2. CO2 and Compressed Air Bottles should have an On/Off valve attached. The exception is CO2 cartridges such as those used for inflating bicycle tires using additional safety precautions being spelled out below. Pin (Schrader) valves shall not be used.

Add the following to the end of (newly renumbered) paragraph 5:
Ships equipped with a CO2 cartridge must include the capability to bleed off all pressure in the cartridge to ensure the cartridge’s safe removal, either via a 5-way valve or other means with a positive indicator of pressure or lack thereof.

Proposed Rule Change

Change to: Rules of Construction, Revision A, Adopted 07-December-2003

Change requested by: John Mianowski

Section to Change:
K SPECIALTY SHIP TYPES
1. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS
   a. Aircraft Carrier is any craft whose primary mission is to serve as a mobile base for combat aircraft operations.
   b. Aircraft Simulation: Primary Guns
      1. For every 10 combat aircraft on a given carrier one (1), ¼ inch barrel is allowed.
      2. The guns must be installed under the flight deck with approximately ½ of the guns pointed directly forward and the remainder pointed directly rearward and the guns may not rotate. The spacing between barrels shall be the same as for cannon.
   c. Secondary Guns
      1. The secondary guns must be installed in the same approximate position as on the prototype ship.
   d. Aircraft
      1. Aircraft carriers may launch aircraft.
      2. Aircraft must be launched from the flight deck forward over the bow and are scored as defined in Rules of Combat, Scoring.
      3. One aircraft may be launched every eight seconds.
      4. Aircraft must be 1:144 scale and of a type actually carried by the prototype vessel.
      5. Aircraft and may be made of any material but must not weigh more than ½ ounce each.
      6. Aircraft must be constructed such that they are recoverable and may not be allowed to sink to the bottom of the pond and be lost after firing.
   e. Side Defensive Systems
      1. One side defensive system may be installed on each side of the ship. Side defensive systems shall be comprised of triple torpedo tubes and shall follow all rules pertaining to torpedo tubes.
   f. Aircraft Carrier Construction
      1. Aircraft carriers must meet the construction requirements of other ships except the hanger deck area, which may be made of any material, provided that at least 1 inch of penetrable free board remains above the waterline.
      2. Aircraft carriers are inherently top heavy, so to achieve a stable balance the waterline may be raised ½ inch, effectively reducing the free board and increasing the displacement, provided that at least 1 inch of penetrable free board remains above the waterline.

Background and Purpose of Change:
This rule section was “inherited” when the club was formed and initial rules adopted, so it has no basis in experience within the club. While not a pressing matter, it would
probably be a good idea to make any changes to this area
before somebody starts construction on a carrier so as to
avoid inconveniencing anybody.

The current rules regarding aircraft carrier construction are
designed to enhance the ability of this ship type to be
competitive in the Big Gun game. However, the particular
rules do not come remotely close to simulating an aircraft
carrier’s capability to project force over a large area or its
strategic value both to its own and its enemy’s navies.

This proposal attempts to remove certain oddities of aircraft
carrier construction. Simulating the actual role of aircraft
carriers in combat is left up to scenarios and the Rules of
Combat.

**Specific Changes Proposed:**

Add the following to K.1.f.1.: For purposes of scoring, the
hangar deck will be considered the main deck and all
construction above it will be considered to be superstructure.

Remove the word “secondary” from K.1.c.

Revise K.1.c.1. to read as follows: “All guns must be
installed in the same approximate position as on the
prototype ship.”

Revise K.1.d.2. to read as follows: “Aircraft must be
launched from locations and angles consistent with the
launching of aircraft on the prototype ship.”

Revise K.1.d.3. to read as follows: “Aircraft must be
powered and controlled via radio. Aircraft may carry
weapons that may be used against ships and shore targets.”

Delete K.1.e. and K.1.e.1. renumbering all paragraphs below
this point.

Delete K.1.b., K.1.b.1., and I.1.b.2, renumbering all
paragraphs below this point.

Delete K.1.d.5. and K.1.d.6.

---

**Mystery Ship**

![Image of a ship]

First one to correctly identify this ship by individual or by class and navy, wins a prize!

Displacement: 2250t normal
Dimensions: 228ft 7in oa x 43ft x 11ft 10in
Speed: 20kts.
Armament: 6-120mm/50 (2x1, 2x2), 4-40mm/60 (2x2), 4-13.2mm MG (2x2), 600 mines

Ordered in 1934, this ship was designed for a variety of tasks – none of which she was able to fulfill very
effectively (rather like her namesake!). Primary role was minelaying, but also used as a training ship for
cadets and even as a state yacht. Laid down 14-Nov-1934, completed 27-Feb-1938. After receiving slight
damage, she was sunk and used as a battery. Destroyed by bombs, but both ‘X’ and ‘Y’ 120mm guns, as
well as twin 40mm, were removed to augment shore defenses. Raised and sunk again as a block ship.
Used as a target after WWII, partially raised and scrapped by the 1960s.