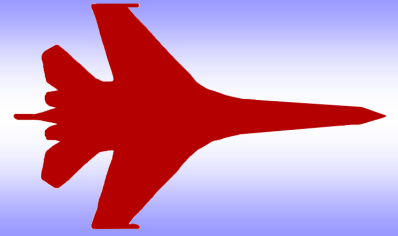


TRAC News



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February 2025 Issue

I would like to thank everyone that attended the January meeting. It's mandatory in our lease agreement that we report attendance.

Upcoming Warbird fly -in event:

We finally approved our anticipated Warbird event. It's scheduled for May 24th .

We hope to have barbecue ribs and beans from Johnson's BBQ plant city.

We have a halftime show lined up and a raffle planned .

Vince Cesario will CD event and is diligently Working to submit an application with AMA. Any questions or concerns please let me know. We need volunteers. Please contact me if you would like to help.

Thank you Mike Gutzmer for sharing your Gee Bee For show and tell last meeting.

Be Safe, have fun flying.

Steve Watson

Upcoming Events

TRAC - Club Meeting at Field, Saturday, February 8, at 11:00AM
TRAC - Club Meeting at Field, Saturday, March 8, at 11:00AM
TRAC - Swap Meet at Field, Saturday, March 15, at 8:00AM
TRAC - Club Meeting at Field, Saturday, April 12, at 11:00AM
TRAC - Club Meeting at Field, Saturday, May 10, at 11:00AM
TRAC - Club Meeting at Field, Saturday, June 14, at 11:00AM

TRAC MINUTES

January 18, 2025

Meeting Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Pres. Steve Watson at 11:00 a.m. with 35 signed-in members present.

Motion to accept minutes of last meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Treasury Report

Tim Haas presented a detailed treasury report and break down of expenses.

Beginning Balance	\$ XXXX
Income	\$ 1302.15
Expenses	\$ 176.33
Closing Balance	\$ XXXX
Runway Fund	\$ 1140

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded, and passed.

New Members/New Pilots

Jimmy Kline welcome to the club!

Safety block

Keep your hands away from the props especially when arming electrics, when adjusting the carbs. On gas or nitros never stand in front of the props when running and make sure the plane is always secured

on a flight table or tail stand when running up.

Old Business

Warbird event is a go for March 24th flyer will be posted shortly with times and more details
There was discussion about having the club member gather for a lunch or dinner to get to know each other. Someone recommended the City Buffet as a possible meeting spot. More details to follow.

New Business

- 1) Spring Swap Meet has been set for March 15th watch for flyer for more details
- 2) This is a reminder to dispose of your old batteries at home or a place that recycles them like Best Buy please do not leave them at the field and do not discharge them at the field, you can get an old ammo can from Army Surplus and even Harbor freight sells them so you can safely transport them home.
- 3) A reminder and for new members we are not allowed to have any open flames like a grill and absolutely no smoking

Show-and-Tell:

Mike showed off his new Seagull Models Gee Bee with a DLE 20 gas engine, he said he paid \$419.00 just for the ARF.

Adjournment 11:38 am

Douglas TBD Devastator

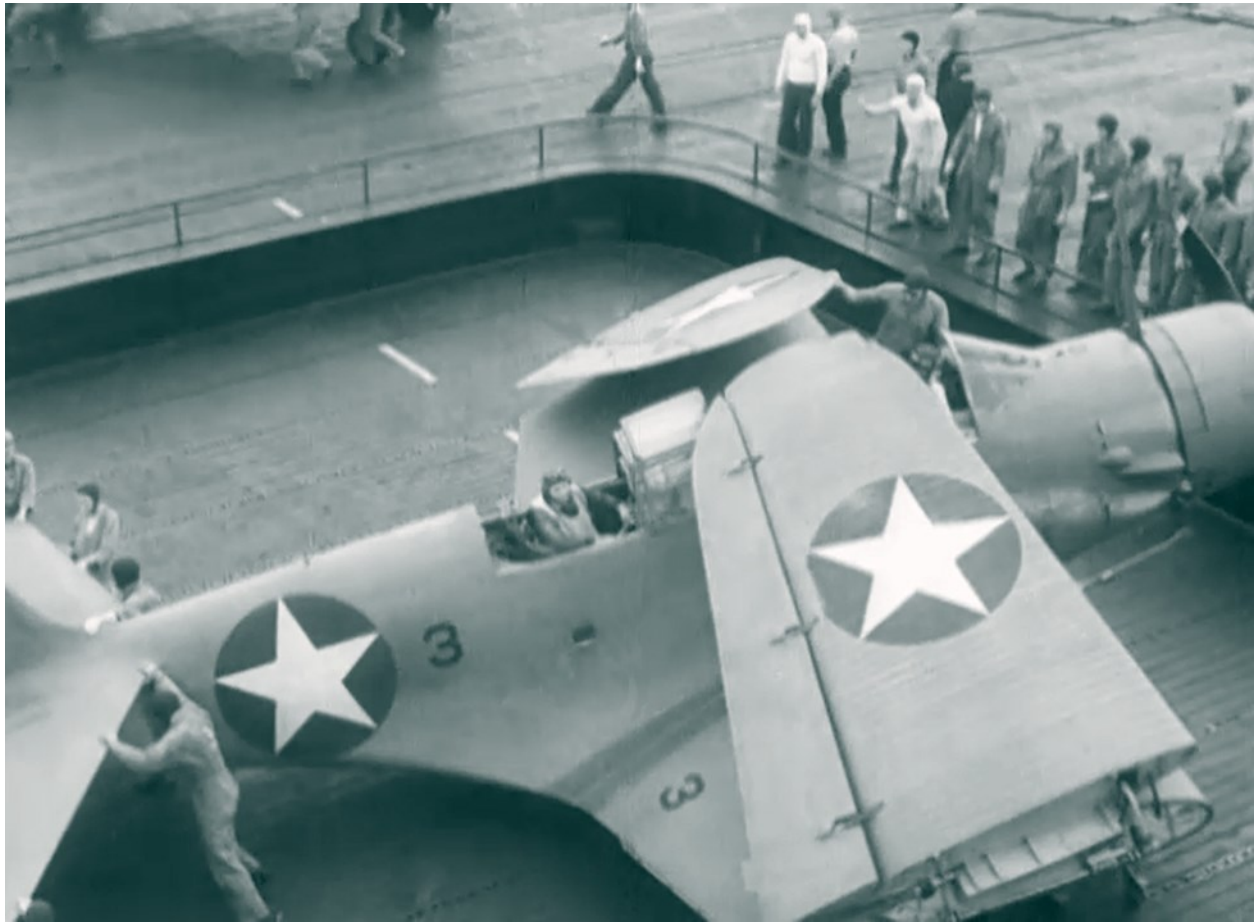


The **Douglas TBD Devastator** was an American [torpedo bomber](#) of the [United States Navy](#). Ordered in 1934, it first flew in 1935 and entered service in 1937. At that point, it was the most advanced aircraft flying for the Navy, being the first [metal monoplane](#) in the [United States Navy](#)^[1]; however, by the time of the [US entry into World War 2](#), the TBD was already outdated.

The Devastator performed well early in the war, most notably in the [Battle of the Coral Sea](#), but earned infamy for a catastrophic performance during the [Battle of Midway](#) in which 41 Devastators recorded zero torpedo hits with only six surviving to return to their carriers. Although much of the Devastator's dismal performance was later attributed to the many well-documented defects in the [US Mark 13 torpedo](#), the aircraft was withdrawn from frontline service after Midway, being replaced by the [Grumman TBF Avenger](#).

The XTBD Devastator flew for the first time on 15 April 1935 while marking a number of "firsts" for the US Navy.^[4] It was the first American carrier-based [monoplane](#) to be widely used, the first all-metal naval aircraft, the first with a completely enclosed cockpit, the first with power-actuated (hydraulically) [folding wings](#).^[5] A semi-retractable landing gear was fitted with the wheels protruding 10 in (250 mm) below the wings to potentially limit damage to the aircraft in a "[wheels-up](#)" landing. A crew of three was normally carried beneath a large "greenhouse" canopy almost half the length of the aircraft. The pilot sat in front; a rear gunner/radio operator took the rearmost position, while the bombardier occupied the middle seat. During a bombing run, the bombardier lay prone, sliding into position under the pilot to sight through a window in the bottom of the fuselage, using the [Norden bombsight](#).^[6]

The normal TBD offensive armament consisted of either a 1,935 lb (878 kg) [Bliss-Leavitt Mark 13 aerial torpedo](#) or a 1,000 lb (450 kg) bomb carried [semi-recessed](#) in the fuselage. Alternatively, three 500 lb (230 kg) general-purpose bombs (one under each wing root and one inside the fuselage), or twelve 100 lb (45 kg) fragmentation bombs (six under each wing root), could be carried. This weapons load would often be used when attacking Japanese targets on wing American air superiority, improved attack coordination, and more experienced pilots, before the Avengers were able to successfully accomplish their roles in subsequent battles against Japanese surface forces.^[31]



The BeeGee





SPRING SWAP MEET

R/C Airplanes, Boats, Cars
& Helicopters

All types of models, modelers, and gear are welcome!

SATURDAY – MARCH 15th, 2025

Location: **TRAC** flying field - 7208 Taylor Road, Seffner, Fl

Date: Saturday, March 15th open to the public at **8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.**

For Vendors, the gates open at 7:30 AM. Swap spaces are \$5.00 each. Each vendor will receive general admission, and a 15' X 20' swap space. Limited table space available - first come, first tabled!

TRAC members pay \$5.00 per swap space after the first \$5.00 in sales, with a current **TRAC** membership card.

For info, call: **Steve Watson** (813) 965-8746

Details about **TRAC**, and a map:

<http://www.tractampa.com/>

DIRECTIONS TO THE FIELD

The field is located at **7208 Taylor Rd**, just north of I-4, off Exit 10

- Take Exit 10 off I-4, head North on County Rd 579 for 1 mile
- Turn East (right) onto Pruet Road • Turn South (right) onto Taylor Road
- Look for the **TRAC** sign.

(Field is next to Bing Park, South of park)

GPS coordinates N 28 01 061 W 082 17 622