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## Flea market personnel save *The Dragonfly*



This photo taken as one frame from the video, shows a view just before *The Dragonfly* went into some tree branches when it was caught by a gust of wind.

### Story, Photos and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 21, 2017 at 9:17 a.m.

**CHIEFLAND** -- Sonny Griffeth and Jesse Russ lent a hand to hobbyist Unmanned Aerial System (drone) pilot Jeff M. Hardison on Friday (Jan. 20) after an unanticipated breeze carried *The Dragonfly* drone into a very large live oak tree.

This drone toy is actually a Cobra, but it has been named *The Dragonfly* by the hobbyist drone pilot.

"I saw Lydia Griffeth talking to a woman," Hardison said, "and I wanted to experiment in my hobbyist way with trying to capture video of the sheds or small houses she is selling there.

"I asked Mrs. Griffeth if it would be OK to fly the drone," Hardison continued. "She did not mind. *The Dragonfly* is very affected by wind, because it is so light. I had it about 20 feet up when a gust carried it into some waiting branches of one of those amazingly beautiful live oaks on the property."

The Chiefland Farmers Flea Market is located at 1206 N. Young Blvd. (on the west side of the U.S. Highway 19, just north of where it intersects with U.S. Highway 129 in Chiefland).

The hobbyist pilot knew there were only minutes of time left on the battery. He had

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hoped to try filming some of the tables where people sell things on Friday, Saturday and Sunday outside on the north end of the Chiefland Farmers Flea Market.

"Last Friday (Jan. 13)," Hardison said, "I tried filming the tables, but the battery seemed to have died for all time. I experimented with a different charging method and I got it to work. I really wanted Sonny and Jesse to see how this drone works."



**This still shot, taken from a video, shows Sonny Griffeth (left) watching *The Dragonfly* as it flies backward videotaping the tables where people come to sell all sorts of things every weekend - all year long - at the Chiefland Farmers Flea Market.**

Hardison quickly and carefully drove the *HardisonInk.com* news vehicle to the north end of the Chiefland Farmers Flea Market complex and found Sonny Griffeth and Russ. Russ and Griffeth loaded a very large ladder on top of a golf cart, grabbed a nine-foot long metal pole and went with the golf cart, ladder and pole over to the tree, which was near the southern entrance to the Chiefland Farmers Flea Market. Russ climbed the ladder and brought *The Dragonfly* down from the live oak by reaching into the tree and tapping the drone with the long pole.

"It's thanks to those guys that I did not lose another drone," Hardison said. "I think the Chiefland Farmers Flea Market is the bees' knees. It is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This past Friday, there were not a lot of sellers on the north end, so I was able to attempt to videotape the tables."

After a few flights and five minutes in the air over the tables, that was enough for *The Dragonfly* on this adventure. Upon returning to the Code Orange Office at The Ink Pad, Hardison found video that was able to be used to show a little bit of the sheds and outdoor selling area of the Chiefland Farmers Flea Market.

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**Some of the tables are marked with tarps as being reserved for use. This still shot from about 10 feet off the ground is derived from a video made by a toy drone named The Dragonfly, and flown by hobbyist pilot Jeff M. Hardison.**