



# Tri City Flyers

## NEWSLETTER



[www.tricityflyers.com](http://www.tricityflyers.com)

**OCTOBER 2023**

**AMA #850**

### Your 2023 Tri City Club Contacts:

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### OCTOBER 2023 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello again to all of you. It looks like the summer heat has finally broken and someone has turned off the furnace. Looking forward to enjoying the cooler fall temperatures.

Our September Fly-In was our final flying event for 2023. The sanctioned event was open to any AMA member who wished to attend. It was a bit of a low turnout, but the club did make a small profit. Our property host, Roger Freeman has asked us to have more events and it is my hope and desire to have a few more events next year. This year we had two events that we hosted for two days; our Warbird event in May and the National Model Aviation Day event in August. The warbird event was well attended but the August event had good attendance on Saturday, but not many pilots returned on Sunday. I believe that it was due to the excessive heat. In 2024 we will give more thought to which events we make two-day events.

At the October meeting the members in attendance discussed our Christmas party and I believe that the general consensus was that we have a Christmas party this year. Frank George is working to find a suitable facility and caterer for the event. More information will be available at the November meeting. Please plan on attending the party if you are able.

As some of you may know, there have been discussions at the club meetings this year regarding changing or modifying our club logo. Matt Dirienzo and Frank George have spent a lot of time designing some new logo "candidates" for us to consider. I am happy to say that at the October meeting five candidates were offered for consideration and a new logo was chosen. Some members asked for some minor changes to the logo which was agreed to. We should have a new club logo ready for review at the November meeting.

Finally, half of our club officer positions are up for election this year to serve the 2024-2025 terms. I was disappointed to hear from our Nominating Committee chairman that only one person volunteered. If we are to continue as a club, we need more people to volunteer to serve as an officer. Please consider volunteering to serve our club.

Wishing you all a wonderful fall and hope to see you at the field.

Sincerely,  
Ed

**Club Meeting Reminder:** 7:00 PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the American Legion Post 593, located at 326 Legion Drive West, Converse, TX 78109. Unless otherwise informed, you can purchase dinner at the Post prior to the meeting.



Tri City Flyers, Inc. Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2023

President Ed Valls called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 24 members were present.

**Minutes to Last Meeting:** No changes were requested. The minutes were approved as printed in the September newsletter.

**Guests/New Members:** There were no new members or guests present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michael Zachau reported on the monthly deposits, expenses, and ending balances for our club's financial accounts. The report was received as presented.

**Safety Officers' Reports:**

**Seguin** - There was nothing new to report.

**Kingsbury** - There was nothing new to report.

**Field Manager's Report:** Gil Martinez reported that the field was in good condition. Due to the dry weather conditions no recent mowing has been required.

**AMA Business:** An update on our club's FAA Recognized Identification Areas (FRIA) was provided. Frank George stated that the AMA has provided some FRIA updates in their email newsletters. Rusty Koehler stated that as previously announced the FRIA application for our Kingsbury field has been approved by the FAA. Rusty stated that the AMA submitted our club's Seguin field FRIA application to the FAA for approval on September 18, 2023. A FRIA update for the Seguin field application will be provided when the AMA receives the FAA's response. On another AMA related topic Frank George stated that our club received a letter of appreciation for promoting our hobby and a \$75 check from the AMA, for the static display that our club provided at the Stinson Airport during an airshow fund raiser earlier this year.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Officer Election Nominating Committee** - Frank George announced that the following individuals have agreed to have their names nominated for two year terms in office as follows: President - Ed Valls; Treasurer - Mike Zachau; Seguin Safety Officer - Augie Santiago Sr. Frank then provided a summary of how club members can nominate a club member with their consent, or themselves, as a write in candidate at the November meeting. Officer elections will be held as the last item of business at our November meeting. Our club needs additional members to consider serving as

club officers since all three of this year's officer nominees are incumbents and have served for several consecutive years. Following Frank George's announcement, Mike Zachau stated that he would like to have a club member serve as an understudy to the club's Treasurer since he is the only club member who currently knows how to use our club's computer to perform the Treasurer's duties. Please contact Mike if you would be willing to do serve as his understudy.

**Fall Fun Fly** - Dean Lukover provided a summary of our club's Fall Fun Fly held at Kingsbury on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was a successful event and all had had a good time. Dean was thanked for leading another event for our club. It was announced that a profit of \$127.39 was made from this event.

**Christmas Party Planning** - Frank George announced that our plans to hold our club's Christmas Party at the San Antonio Art Institute had changed. The Art Institute has unexpectedly been closed. Various alternatives for holding our Christmas party were discussed. Frank will continue to explore alternatives and updates will be provided when circumstances permit. The date for the Christmas party has tentatively been set for Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Boerne Club Fall Fly In** - As was previously announced the Boerne club has scheduled their Fall Fly In for October 21<sup>st</sup> and we cancelled an event that we had planned in order to support their club. All club members are encouraged to attend their scheduled event. Go to their web site for more information. <https://www.boernerclub.org/>

**New Business:**

**Kingsbury Safety Officer Change:** - Ed Valls announced that Bill Anderson has elected to resign as the Kingsbury Field Safety Officer. In accordance with our club's By Laws the Board of Officers has appointed Mike Fisher to assume the duties of this office for the remaining term, which ends in December 2024. Mike was thanked by the members present for agreeing to assume the important duties as the Kingsbury Safety Officer.

**Club Logo Change:** - Ed Valls provided several copies of the various proposed club logos being considered to replace our club's existing logo. After providing some additional information Ed temporarily adjourned the meeting to provide the club members in attendance the opportunity to review the various proposed logos developed by Matt Dirienzo and Frank George. The members present voted and after a tally of the votes one



logo was selected with the most votes along with suggestions for some modifications. The new proposed logo will be revised and presented at the November meeting for approval by the members present.

**Broken Prop Award:** - Brad Leininger began the discussion by nominating himself for crashing an Extra 300 at Kingsbury when attempting to land it. Brad was going to land short of the runway at Kingsbury and “goosed” the throttle which resulted in a torque roll and crash. Following that rather entertaining discussion Ed Valls nominated himself. Ed described what all he went through to purchase a rather expensive PC 21 while in Germany. Here is a link to that airplane; <https://www.sebartusa.com/online-store/Pilatus-PC21-XL-w-Retracts-p148728504> . After a number of changes to the 12S electric power system he decided to adjust the variable pitch prop, and he reduced the pitch so much that the plane did not have enough power to fly, which resulted in a stall shortly after takeoff.

**Show & Tell:**

Augie Santiago Jr. showed an Orion pattern airplane that was one of Jim Rice’s father’s airplanes that Augie has worked on restoring.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Upcoming Events:**

The November regular business meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, November 9, 2023. At American Legion Post 593, located at 326 Legion Drive West, Converse, TX 78109. Election of officers.

Pioneer Flight Museum Fall Wings & Wheels Fly-in November 11, 2023. 9:00 AM - approximately 3:30 PM (NOTE: Kingsbury closed to RC operations)

TCF Christmas Party. Open to TCF current members and immediate families. 6:30 Thursday December 14, 2023 at American Legion Post 593, located at 326 Legion Drive West, Converse, TX 78109.





So here we are, in the final quarter of 2023, rushing towards a bunch of year-ending holidays. I hope everyone is prepared for them. There are several items reported in the Meeting Minutes on pages 2 and 3 that deserve your attention.

The annual election to fill three expiring officer terms will be held at the November meeting. I encourage you to attend if at all possible, and vote. Although we have a slate of candidates, any active member is eligible for office. So if you are interested in taking part in our club operation, or if you know of a fellow member who is interested, nominations can be made at the meeting. If you nominate another member for office, that person must have agreed to serve. While on the topic of officers, thanks to Mike Fisher for stepping up the fill out the term of Kingsbury Safety Officer.

As reported in the Minutes, we had a major hiccup in our Christmas Dinner plans. The International Arts Institute abruptly closed all eight of its campuses at the end of August, including the San Antonio Art Institute where we held our dinner last year. We had already made preliminary plans for Gary Rice to prepare our dinner there again this year. The closure was a complete surprise to Gary, who was director of the Culinary Arts School, as well as the other faculty and students. We wish Gary the best as he pursues other opportunities to continue his culinary career.

As Ed noted in his column on page one, we are looking at other options for our Christmas party. We have confirmed a December 14 reservation to hold a dinner in our room at the American Legion post. This is the same date as we would hold a regular meeting, and is a good balance between Thanksgiving and Christmas. During informal discussion at the meeting last week a suggestion was made to have a covered dish dinner. Several members concurred with this suggestion. After the meeting, further discussion with the Board resulted in agreement to pursue that option, with the Club providing appetizers and meat. Members will then sign up to bring salads, hot side dishes and desserts. As in the past,

the party will be for active members and their immediate families. Please discuss the idea within your families and seriously consider being part of our club dinner. And don't forget our traditional after dinner white elephant gift exchange - yes - with gift stealing! Please contact me with any questions about our plans. Messages using my club email below will be forwarded directly to me.

Show and Tell: we only had one item this month. Thanks to Augie Jr for bringing in his Orion precision aerobatics model.



The Orion, designed by famous aerobatics competitor and designer Ed Kazmirski, made its appearance in 1960. The design was a significant departure from traditional "pattern" models of the day. He participated in the International FAI Championship competition, which he won with the first American team to participate in that competition. That win plus other attention his design garnered, cemented his design concept of an aerodynamically clean airplane with a relatively short nose and long tail moments as the design to beat, for many years. He continued refining his aerobatic plane design resulting in the even more famous Taurus. Later he designed a high wing trainer named Tauri. All three designs were kitted by Top Flite and in production for many years. Just as an interesting note Kazmirski won most of his



competitions flying precision aerodynamics with Reed type RC control. Read the complete biography at <https://www.modelaircraft.org/sites/default/files/files/KazmirskiEdwardJEd.pdf>.

The final club activity I want to call your attention to is the PFM event on November 11. We have provided a static display of RC models in support of their event for a number of years. I know it is an effort to bring models out and take them home without getting them in the air. However, it is a part of our responsibility as an AMA chartered club to promote the hobby. As noted in the Minutes, we recently received a cash award from the AMA for supporting a Commemorative Air Force Fund Raiser at Stinson Airport.

It is also an opportunity to offer our support to our neighbors at Kingsbury. It will be a little easier this year since we can bring things to Kingsbury early Saturday instead of Friday. Please consider cleaning up a couple of your nicer models and bring them out to show them off with others. The current plan is to have all models in our display area by 8:30 AM, then park, and setup models and the display. The event officially starts at 9:00 AM, but past experience says not many visitors show up that early.

There was only one show and tell this month. Don't be shy about bringing something to share with the club members. It doesn't have to be a model. Some have shown us engines, useful tools they have found, different kinds of model stands and other types of support equipment.

I will end by sharing a work in progress in my shop. I have been working on this big J-3 Cub off and on, it seems like forever. The picture also shows my shop is a work in progress as well. This is an old

Great Planes 60 size kit, and with a 90 inch wing span the Cub is 1/4.7 scale. It is old enough to have die cut parts rather than laser cut. Many online comments complain about the finished weight. That is very understandable because my kit has many parts made from dense, heavy balsa rather than top grade. They are also, in my opinion, over designed for a model intended for scale flight. For example, the tail surfaces were designed to be 5/16 inch thick, and the die cut outline parts were much beefier than needed. By block sanding all parts to 1/4 inch and trimming the outline with my Dremel sander, I reduced the total tail surface weight by 18%. In addition, all 3/16 sheet parts have received lightening holes, consistent with expected load distribution. Oh yes, the original one-piece wing design was modified to two panels. She is finally about ready for final sanding and covering.

Let me know if there is a topic you would like to share, or have written about in the newsletter.

That's about it for this month. Enjoy the fall weather and get out to fly.

Frank George, TCF News Editor  
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