



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

MARCH 2024

AMA #850

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MARCH 2024 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone. The flying weather has been a bit of bust in January and February but it is getting better. I hope you get the chance to get some flying in.

The club officers met recently to generate a list of events at the Kingsbury field for 2024. The scheduled events we are planning on holding are elsewhere in the newsletter. As with last year we are planning to have a club member only event in April and perhaps again in October or November. The April cub members only event will be fun as Augie Santiago and I are designing some "skills tests" for the event. We are hoping to have a large number of participants who will compete for "bragging rights". Additionally, we will have the Warbird Over Kingsbury event on May 17-19. You may notice that this is now a three-day event. We decided to do this to attract more out-of-town pilots. The CD for this event is one of our newer members, Tom DiCuirci. He is an experienced CD and was the Assistant CD at the very popular and well attended Warbirds Over Delaware for a number of years. An e-mail will be sent out shortly asking for volunteers so please help us host this event by volunteering. We decided to move our National Model Aviation Day event to September to avoid the oppressive heat in August. We will also have events in October and November and the type of event is TBD at this time. We had some discussion about making one of the fall events a Dawn Patrol or similar. Please let me or any officer know your thoughts on this.

The Pioneer Flight Museum will have their traditional Fly-In in May and again in November. We may be asked to provide a static display and if so, we would like to have anyone that can participate to please do so. The PFM is also planning on having more Model T car shows at Kingsbury so I think the field will be busy the whole year.

One final item is our annual Swap Meet. This event historically happened in mid-February. However, for 2025 we have had to move our Swap Meet to early March, to accommodate the Garden Ridge folks who are holding an annual event on Friday February 14, in conflict with our normal event date. However, this is a good thing as it will provide a bit more time between the Georgetown Swap Meet in January and the Weatherford Swap Meet in May.

In closing I would like to wish each of you happy flying and hope to see you at the field.

Sincerely,
Ed Valls

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. March 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

The Tri City Flyers March Meeting was called to order by the Club President, Ed Valls, at 7:00pm. 23 members including club officers were in attendance.

January Meeting Minutes: The club members were asked if they had any corrections to the January Meeting Minutes, since the February meeting was cancelled in lieu of the Club Swap Meet. No corrections were requested, and the January Minutes were approved as written.

Guests/New Members: Rusty Koehler presented 4 new member candidates to the club for approval. They are Tim Webb, a novice pilot from Seguin. He is sponsored by Mike Fisher. Randy Jamieson, also a novice pilot who has residences in both Austin and San Antonio, sponsored by Rusty Koehler. Roman Zemlyanskyy, an expert pilot from Mundelein, Illinois, sponsored by Ed Valls. Jeff Beehler, a novice pilot from Converse, was sponsored by Jim Rice. Jeff is the only new member in attendance at the meeting. Rusty asked him to give the club a brief account of his background. Jeff told those in attendance that he recently retired and had always been interested in R/C flying. He decided that it would be a good way to spend his free time. A vote to approve all the new applicants was called and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the club with the February financial summary. Mike and Frank George reviewed the February Swap Meet figures with the club. A vote to receive the February financial report was called for, and approved by the club.

Safety Officer Reports:

Seguin Safety Officer: Augie Santiago reported that two weeks ago two pilots had lost control of their aircraft and crashed. The two jet airplanes were both destroyed. The importance of pre-flight safety checks cannot be stressed enough.

Kingsbury Safety Officer: Mike Fisher reported no accidents since the January meeting. Mike helped with the Frank Lucci Aerospace Science Club youth fly in at Kingsbury. He helped the group with aircraft setup and buddy box flying at the event. Ed Valls and Augie Santiago came to assist Mike, but found he was well organized and had everything under control. Many thanks to Mike for a job well done.

Kingsbury Field Report: On Tuesday, Mike Zachau, Sherman Lindsay and Gil Martinez met at Kingsbury and spread 13 40lb sacks of fertilizer on the model runway. Sherman brought a fertilizer spreader that was towed behind the field mower. The Club plans to rent a commercial roller to further improve the field conditions before the April Fly-in event.

AMA Business: Frank George gave an update to AMA news including the AMA report on the FAA FRIA compliance deadline. He also reviewed details of the FAA rules concerning UAS flights. It was brought to the attention of members by Augie Santiago that a 7-day advanced NOTAM is required by the AMA before a Fly-in event. Rusty Koehler said he thought that wasn't needed if the fly-in site had a FRIA authorization. He wasn't sure and would double check on the AMA website.

Unfinished Business:

2024 Flying Events: The Club Board members met and discussed the 2024 event schedule to present to the members. Here is the 2024 Fly-in schedule.

Fun Fly-in (Club Members only) April 20, 2024. It will feature skilled flight challenges throughout the day. Augie Santiago and Ed Valls will oversee the challenges. Specific challenges will be discussed at the April club meeting.

Warbirds over Kingsbury (cd Tom DiCuirci) May 17, 18 & 19, 2024. There will be no kitchen on Friday and Sunday; lunch will be available on Saturday. Pilot prizes are being provided by Horizon Hobby and Balsa USA. Others are to be contacted for possible prizes.

National Model Aviation Day is moved from August to September 21, 2024 in hopes of cooler weather.

Club Fly-in October 21, 2024; discussion followed as to possible members only or as an open event.

Open Fly-in November 18, 2024; the possibility of making it a Dawn Patrol Event (World War 1 era airplanes) followed.

2024 Swap Meet Final Report: Frank George presented a report on the February Swap Meet. 71 of 74



tables available were rented leaving only 3 vacant. Customer turnout was OK but Frank felt that more local advertising could grow the event. The event turned a fair profit and Frank called on the members to volunteer to help more next year. Also, the event date has changed next year because of conflict with the Garden Ridge Valentine Celebration. The Swap Meet is tentatively set for March 7, 8, 2025. Gary Rice has indicated he should be available to run the kitchen.

Hobby Shop News: Ed Valls reminded the members about the New Hobby Town that has opened at 1309 N Loop 1604 W HWY, Suite 101, just west of Blanco Rd. in San Antonio. Ed met with the new owners, Ty and Sherry, and discussed the club's support for the business, and possible member discounts.

New Business:

Club LOGO: The new Club logo was presented to the members in attendance. Discussion followed as to T-shirts and possible hats with the new logo being made for club members by a single vendor. The attending members approved the new logo by unanimous vote. A question about the Established Date of 1971 was brought forth by Frank George. Rusty Koehler said he would research and advise the membership.

Board-proposed Rule Changes: The Board members discussed potential changes to the Bylaws and Seguin Flying Site Rules at a February meeting. A change to the Bylaws concerning wording and member status for the club's Junior members was proposed. The proposed Bylaw change was presented at the meeting to be reviewed for an April vote. This allows members time to review the changes. The Board presented the changes to be made to the Seguin Flying Site Rules. These will also be voted on during the April meeting. The Board is also proposing to raise the annual membership dues by \$5.00. Mike Zachau presented attending members with a profit/loss summary for 2021, 2022 and 2023, to support the proposal. This will be voted on in April as well. Members will receive an email notice about these important upcoming votes prior to April's meeting.

<<<<< End of Official Corporate Business >>>>>

Broken Prop Award:

Gary Barrett nominated himself for a T-33 EDF jet that crashed due to losing sight of it in the sun, and inability

to recover control in time to prevent the crash. He was granted the award by default as no other pilots were nominated. Jim Rice shared with the members what he had been taught with regard to dealing with losing sight of a model during operation near the sun, or other bright light. That is to close one eye and then open it after the hazard has passed.

Show and Tell:

Jim Rice presented an updated prototype of the Aero Max sport model he has been helping develop. It is almost ready to cover, and Jim shared the modifications that were made to improve this prototype.

Augie Santiago, Jr. presented a Kaos 60 he is working on. He explained that he acquired the wing and plans from Roger Taillefer.

Ed Valls showed a T-34 that he had bought at a swap meet and restored with the help of Augie Santiago, Jr. Ed also told members that he used Pro Modeler servos with which he has had success.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

April Business Meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

April Fun Fly-in (Club Members Only) April 20, 2024.



As we used to say growing up in Ohio “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb”. In Dayton, winter was over only after the annual mid-March ice storm. You probably have your own weather sayings, so I will stop on that subject and get to the news.

I encourage you to attend our monthly business meetings if at all possible. As you can see from the minutes here in the news letter, all members should be interested in club business that affects you. On average, about 1/4 of the members participate in discussions and decisions at our meetings that do affect all members.

Members will receive formal notice before the April meeting of the proposed Bylaw and Policy revisions to be voted on at the meeting. The changes are also previewed under New Business on page 3 of this newsletter.

Our planned flying activities for this year are described in the President’s Column and the minutes of this newsletter. Please look them over and put them on your calendars.

Shifting subjects now, I reported on the Swap Meet at the meeting. In this space, I offer my grateful thanks to all those who signed up and helped with various parts of the meet. After a short delay getting all of the tables located, our experienced setup crew had everything ready for the vendors in about 40 minutes.



We had 49 vendors, 42 of whom had advance reservations, plus 7 walk-ins. 40 vendors rented tables for 2 days and 9 for one day. The most common reservation was 2 tables for both days, representing well over half the table income. Many of our vendors are loyal participants year after year. In the years I have been coordinating our swap meet, I have only received positive feedback. Much of the credit goes to our club volunteers, and of course to the kitchen, which always contributes to our income.

The eating area is also popular for chatting.



As always, there were many impressive large RC Models on display to attract buyers.



Finally, thanks to Mike Zachau, Charles Rocaforte and Ed Valls for contributing prizes to help make this year’s raffle successful.

Moving on, as noted in the minutes, Mike Fisher hosted a group of students representing their Aerospace Science Club, for an introduction to aeronautics via RC model flying at Kingsbury. Mike, thanks for taking the initiative to run this event. Following is Mike’s summary of the activity, and pictures he provided.

On Saturday March 2nd TCF hosted a group of seven students. The group is called the “Aerospace Club” which is a STEM based after school group. The school these students attend is Basis San Antonio Shavano and the teacher/sponsor who works with the group is Ramiro Ortiz who was also in attendance. The students ranged from 8th to 10th grade. Frank Lucci a TCF Junior member is one of the students and is founder and “head honcho” of the club. We connected Frank’s Dxs transmitter to my Dx6e in the wireless Trainer/Student configuration. We were flying Frank’s Turbo Timber. Frank did most of the training after we did a checkout flight together. The

great. We hope to have this group of students all appeared to have a really good time and the weather was back in the near future after some highly recommended simulator time. I recommended that Frank host a “sim” party! All in all, it was a very fun and satisfying day for me also.

Here are five of the students who participated.



And Frank, preparing the trainer for a flight.



The next topic in the News Section is the Show and Tell segment of Thursday’s meeting. We had three very different items this month, beginning with Jim Rice showing us the latest prototype of a new aerobatic model he is helping develop. (See Jim’s original Show and Tell in

the Sept 2023 Newsletter). Improvements made in this



prototype include stiffening of the tail surfaces to eliminate flying wires, strengthening other areas with carbon fiber without significant weight increase, and incorporating a two piece fiberglass cowl to accommodate twin cylinder engines. Jim said the final AeroMax will be a complete kit with, a clear canopy and complete hardware kit in addition to the two-piece cowl and carbon fiber landing gear.

Augie Jr. always seems to be busy with some kind of model project. The Kaos-60 that he is piecing together will be ready for flight very soon.



Ed Valls brought our final show and tell offering this month, a used T-34 that he acquired some time ago, but just recently got around to refurbishing it and repainting it the way he wants. The T-34 was originally built from a Top Flite kit, and qualifies as Giant Scale with an 80” wingspan, and intended for .61-.91 power. Although Top Flite has been out of business for some time, Kits of this plane may still be found online, one having been sold on RC Groups as recently as January this year. Ed’s new paint scheme on the plane represents a US Air Force operational version. Finally, see the picture on page 6.



As a follow up to Ed's T-34 item, he said that he has been using Promodeler Servos with good success. You can read about them here.

<https://www.promodeler.com/>

They manufacture military Spec. grade servos as well as hobby grade servos in a large variety of sizes and torque ranges (and prices) for many different model applications.

Finally, here is a compact summary of Kingsbury dates to remember this year

Fun Fly-in ,(Club Members only), April 20

PFM: May 4, 2024 Wings 'n Wheels Spring Fly In
Warbirds over Kingsbury, May 17,18 &19

National Model Aviation Day, September 21

Club or Open Fly-in October 21

PFM: November 9, Wings 'n Wheels Fall Fly In
Open Fly-in November 18,

With that, I will close for this month, with my usual invitation. Please let me know if there is an RC model topic you would like to write about ,or have me write about in the Newsletter. As your Editor, I recognize this is your club newsletter, and will also appreciate any positive comments or suggestions to improve it for you.

Frank George, TCF News Editor
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