



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

APRIL 2024

AMA #850

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APRIL 2024 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I hope you are getting a chance to do some flying at either of our fields. As required by AMA our two safety officers, Mike Fisher and Augie Santiago, provided the required annual safety briefing at the April meeting. Details are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. Additionally, there have been some developments regarding FAA visiting some of the clubs in the northeast part of the country. They visited one field in Connecticut and checked and asked the members present for proof of their FAA "drone" registration. Additionally, they asked to see proof that the members had taken the AMA TRUST test. Not all the members at the field could provide the required proof and they were advised to comply with the AMA and FAA requirements to be compliant with the law. We will be sending a reminder of this requirement to all our members asking you to please comply with the requirements.

I had planned to have a club member only Fun Fly with some pilot skills challenges but due to a forecast for inclement weather on April 20, I have decided to reschedule the event for a later date

We are getting ready to host the "Warbirds Over Kingsbury" event on May 17 thru 19, 2024. We have a very energetic CD in Tom DiCuirci, and we believe that the event will be very well attended. If you wish to help, please reach out to me and I will forward your name to Tom.

Just a reminder that the Pioneer Flight Museum will hold its Spring Wings 'n' Wheels full scale fly-in on May 4, 2024. The Kingsbury field will be closed for RC operations on that day, but I would like to encourage all of you that are able to attend the PFM event.

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 April 11, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The Tri City Flyers April Business Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by our Club President Ed Valls. 19 members including Club Officers were in attendance, constituting a quorum.

March Meeting Minutes: Ed Valls asked the attending members if there were any changes or corrections to the March Meeting Minutes. None were noted so the March Minutes were approved as printed in the Newsletter, by unanimous vote of members present.

Guest/New Members: No guests were in attendance. Edwin Smith was submitted as a new applicant in absentia. Ed Valls sponsored him and introduced him as an experienced pilot. The members approved his application and voted him in as a new member.

Treasurer's Report: John Franklin presented the end of March Financial Summary, in Treasurer Mike Zachau's absence. The report was voted on and received as presented.

Safety Officer's Reports:

Seguin - Augie Santiago reported no incidents at the Seguin Flying Field.

Kingsbury - Mike Fisher reported no incidents at the Kingsbury Flying Field.

Kingsbury Field Manger Report: Gil Martinez reported that the Kingsbury Flying Field was in good shape following the recent rains.

AMA Reports: The AMA has reported that they are still awaiting Congressional approval to fund the FAA and to ratify the changes submitted by the AMA. A recent FAA Inspector visit to a Connecticut R/C Flying Field revealed that several local pilots were not current on FAA regulations. They could not provide proof of the Trust Certification and did not have the FAA Registration Number on their aircraft. The Inspector did not issue any citations but warned the group that a return visit was planned, and that non-compliance could result in citations.

Unfinished Business:

April 20, 2024 Member Fun Fly: Ed Valls called for volunteers to help with mowing and edging on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 9:00 AM, to prepare the field. Ed is going to bring a roller to roll the runway. Ed also organized a series of Flight Skills Challenges for the Fly-in. He gave a summary of each of the 4 skills tests he has planned. No prizes, but bragging rights and recognition, will be granted for the winner in each category.

Warbirds Over Kingsbury, May 17-19, 2025: Event CD, Tom Dicuirci, presented an update and outline for the event. He asked attending members to volunteer and circulated a sign-up sheet for event duties. He informed the club that custom made T-shirts would be given to each volunteer to identify them as volunteer

staff. Tom also gave an update on his efforts to secure Fly-in raffle and pilot prizes. He reported that prizes from Horizon and Balsa USA have been secured. He also stated that sponsorship has been requested from Dream Works R/C and Futaba. They have indicated support but as of the meeting date had not provided any details. Tom told members he has several surprises planned for the event. He also outlined flying rules for pilots at the event. They include spotters and a flight coordinator. He also informed the members that he has received reports from the Thunder Warbird Club that several of their pilot's plan to attend the Kingsbury Event. Tom has planned the event for three days, opening on Friday the 17th and concluding on May the 19th. Dry camping will be available, and lunch will be served on Saturday. A raffle open to all who wish to purchase tickets will be held. Augie reminded members that a Notam will need to be filed with the FAA to allow for higher flight levels. Tom said he was going to ask for the highest ceiling available. Tom told members that he is working on upgrades and enhancements to the experience for future Warbird Fly-ins. Ed Valls added that plans include rolling the runway again prior to the Warbird Fly-in.

New Business:

Tri City Flyers Document Amendments: Frank George was given the floor to conduct the vote on three proposed amendments to official Club documents. The proposed amendments were discussed and tentatively agreed to at the March meeting. The exact wording of each amendment was emailed to the membership prior to the April meeting, meeting all requirements to bring the amendments to a final vote. The first amendment voted on is a change to the Tri City Flyers Corporate Bylaws to make the Club Junior Membership requirements the same as the AMA Youth Membership. A 2/3 majority vote of voting members present is required to ratify the Bylaws amendment. A vote by show of hands was nearly unanimous, well above 2/3. The second amendment revised the Seguin Field Safety Rules in the Policy Document to update video and photographic limits, and aircraft refueling safety at the field. The vote by show of hand was well above the simple majority required for Policy Document amendments. The third amendment proposed an increase of \$5.00 per year to the membership dues in the Policy Document. The vote by show of hands on this amendment was also well above the simple majority required. All votes being completed, the meeting was turned back over to the Chair.

TCF Annual Safety Briefings:

Safety Officer, Kingsbury Flying Field: Mike Fisher restated the need for all pilots to have a spotter to watch for full scale aircraft and other R/C traffic. Review the no-fly zones on the Club website or the map posted at the field. Make sure your spotter is also



familiar with these zones. If full size aircraft are departing or landing the R/C pilot is to land immediately, and he is required to avoid the full-size aircraft even if it puts the model in jeopardy. Mike told attending members to report safety issues or incidents to the Safety Officer or Board members to let them work on resolving issues before any potential legal action is taken. He stressed the importance of locking the kitchen door before leaving the flying site. Charlotte Parker has informed Board members that the door has been left unlocked several times. Also, if the trash tub by the kitchen is full, please take the trash bag to the dumpster at the aircraft hangar when leaving. This helps control varmints and ants at the pavilion. Model aircraft combustion engines should only be started in the pit area and never under the pavilion or in the spectator area. Mike also stated that taxiing in the pit area is restricted. Fire extinguishers and fire blankets are in the kitchen at Kingsbury. If a crash occurs, please don't hesitate to grab a fire blanket and some water, and get to the site as quickly as possible. If some distance has to be covered to reach the crash, take some type of motor vehicle (i.e. your vehicle or whatever is available). The next time you are at the field please take the time to familiarize yourself with the available fire suppression equipment and its location. Mike also said that an email with the kitchen door combination will be sent to the membership, to allow all to access fire control items.

Safety Officer, Seguin Flying Field: Presented by Augie Santiago, each turbine pilot is required to have a fire extinguisher. Pilots are encouraged to disconnect any trailers and be prepared to take fire suppression equipment to a crash site. Augie told members to be aware that no flying is allowed over or near buildings at the site. He told members that a marked metal container is at the site. It contains 2 ABC fire extinguishers, 2 fire blankets, 2 containers of water and a pressurized water extinguisher. Ed told members that the most effective water type of extinguisher has been the pressurized type. A first aid kit is also in the metal container. Augie asked the pilots to stand close enough to one another so they can communicate their intentions when flying.

Augie and Mike both reinforced the need for pilots to comply with all FAA regulations concerning UAS operation. Augie also recommended that pilots have an experienced builder double check all new or repaired aircraft before the first flight. This may prevent loss of aircraft control and the safety issues associated with uncontrolled flight.

Kingsbury Field Road Improvement: Ed told members that Charlotte Parker had approached him about sharing the expense to replace the road base near the pavilion. Later, she contacted Ed and told him the base would cost about \$1,120.00. That would make

the Club half about \$560.00. A vote was called for and approved for the expense. Ed informed members that the dumping process and on-site equipment would cover installation of base materials.

New Club Logo and Shirts: Ed Valls showed the attending members examples of shirts with the new Club Logo. He thanked Matt Dirienzo for all the time and effort he spent with the graphics designer to produce the Logo. He also informed the Club of The Big Frog Design Co. in New Braunfels that he and Matt have been working with to set up a Tri City Flyers online store. He said that the online store would be ready soon and he would notify members how to order shirts or hats. He also informed members that the items can be shipped to them or picked up at the Big Frog facility.

Broken Prop Award: There was no nominee for the award at this meeting.

Show and Tell:

Jim Rice brought the Aero Max aircraft he has been working on with a kit developer. The plane has now been covered and except for a few minor details is ready for its maiden flight.

Mike Fisher showed Club members a 3D printed Manfred World War 1 Pilot Figure he had produced and painted. Mike plans to use it in a "Red Baron" airplane.

Adjournment: Jim Rice moved to adjourn and Augie Santiago Seconded. The motion passed.

Upcoming Events:

April Fun Fly-in April 20, 2024, Kingsbury Flying Field.

May Tri City Flyers Business Meeting, May 9, 2024, Converse American Legion Hall, 7:00 PM.

Warbirds over Kingsbury, May 17, 18 and 19, 2024. Tom Dicuirci CD.



Hello all. Here is your April 2024 TCF News. I hope you are getting some flying in with this rainy spring. One of the TV weather prognosticators recently said this the our wettest spring in 10 years. I believe it - the way my grass is growing. Ed Valls just announced our April Club Fly-in will be rescheduled due to this Saturday's threatening weather forecast. Watch your email for the new date.

Be sure to read the April 11 Minutes here in the newsletter. Take note of the Bylaw and Policy Document amendments. The annual dues increase will be effective with the 2025 dues. The updated documents will be posted on the Club website.

Ed Valls and Matt Dirienzo have put a lot of time and work into creating our new TCF Club Logo. If you have not been at the last few club meetings, and have not seen the various daft logos, look at page 1 of this newsletter. As reported in the Minutes they worked with Big Frog graphics in New Braunfels to create the final logo, and Big Frog is setting up a Tri City Flyers account on their website so members can shop and select merchandise for themselves. Big Frog is located in The Oaks shopping center on Walnut Ave. (Bus. 46) at Loop 337.

As an AMA chartered club, we are required to review field and flying safety policies annually. Please review the briefing notes in the Minutes, especially if you were not at the April meeting. It is also useful to review the AMA Safety Handbook. Go to: <https://www.modelaircraft.org/> and click on "AMA SAFETY INFO". The page that opens has a link to the Safety Handbook. It also has a link to the FAA Drone Zone to get a Recreational UAS Registration Number, and to the TRUST Test which is administered by the AMA.

Moving on to Show and Tell, since no one admitted to witnessing or experiencing a "Broken Prop" incident. Jim Rice brought the now finished AeroMax prototype sport RC model. He reported the plane weighs in at 14 3/4 Lb with a 65cc engine. Final test flights must be completed soon to support the kit developer's schedule to get the model on line

soon. Pictures of Jim's model will be used as artwork for the website and kit box.

Mike Fisher had a great contrast to the AeroMax with



his miniature 3D-printed pilot model. To appreciate the contrast in size, look in the lower left corner of Jim's AeroMax picture. Great job Mike - for a very tedious and highly detailed finish.

Show and Tell has always been a popular part of our meetings. I encourage others to bring items to share. As this month's offerings demonstrate, size doesn't matter. Your fellow members will be interested in your projects and may be inspired to try something new themselves.

Time to wrap this up and get it posted. I hope you find the news and club information useful. As always, contact me if you have suggestions or an interest in contributing to your newsletter.

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