



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

MAY 2024

AMA #850

Your 2024 Tri City Club Contacts:

President

Ed Valls
president@tricityflyers.com

Vice-President

Charles Roccaforte
vp@tricityflyers.com

Secretary

John Franklin
secretary@tricityflyers.com

Treasurer

Michael Zachau
treasurer@tricityflyers.com

Safety Officers

Seguin Field
Augustine Santiago
sequinsafety@tricityflyers.com

Kingsbury Field
Mike Fisher
okasafety@tricityflyers.com

News Editor
Frank L George
newseditor@tricityflyers.com

MAY 2024 EDITOR'S NOTES

On behalf of President Ed Valls, hello to all TCF members and guest readers. Ed was busy with final details and helping run our 2024 Warbirds Over Kingsbury flying event. So he turned the President's Page over to me this month. He and Tom Dicurici have worked very hard to create an event that attracted many new participants.

The Newsletter was delayed because the Editor was also busy working as a volunteer at the fly in. But, that enabled an event summary to be included in the News Section. So read on.

It is also important to read the Secretary's Minutes from the meeting, because they include important news about club activities, AMA business, and their continuing work with the FAA to minimize the impact of new rules on our hobby.

Your Editor's goal is to make the Newsletter both informative and interesting to read, especially for those who cannot be at the club meetings.

Frank George,
TCF News Editor

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



Call to Order: Tri City Flyers regular business meeting was called to order May 9, 2024 at 7:04 PM by President Ed Valls. 22 members including 3 officers were in attendance.

April Meeting Minutes: Ed Valls asked if anyone had any corrections or additions to the April 2024 Minutes presented in the Club Newsletter. There being none offered, the minutes were approved as printed by unanimous vote.

Guests/New Members: Rusty Koehler presented applications from two candidates to be voted into the club in absentia at the meeting. The application from Mark Netherlain, a novice pilot, was presented. He is sponsored by Matt Heil. Rusty also presented an application from past member, lascelles Mitchell, who has paid his dues and wishes to rejoin the club after several years absence. A vote to accept both applicants was held and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mike Zachau presented the Club's April Month End Financial Report. He included a summary of the club's income, expenses, and totals for the fiscal year. A motion was called for and seconded, with the attending members receiving the report as presented.

Safety Officers Report:

Augie Santiago reported no incidents at the Sequin Flying site.

Mike Fisher reported on an extremely safe month at the Kingsbury Flying site.

Field Manager's Report: Gil Martinez was not in attendance at the meeting. Mike Zachau reported that the mower had recently received some maintenance work and should be in good shape. Gary Barrett recently mowed the runway and some of the pit area, and told Ed that the gas and trans fluids are low at the site. Gary will contact Gil Martinez to have equipment ready for the maintenance day.

AMA Business Report: Ed called on Frank George to bring the members up to date on recent AMA activities. Frank reported that the final version of the FAA Reauthorization Bill is in Congress for approval. AMA continues to work with the FAA and Congress with regard to Model Aviation Regulations in the works, or on the table. The FAA may establish an office to deal with UAS operation in the U.S. As the CBO for model aviation, AMA is continuing to work with the FAA on relief from

altitude limits, and on streamlining processes. AMA also continues its programs to encourage younger people to be involved in Model Aviation. Jim Rice, who is on the AMA Safety Committee, told the members that the Committee had been recently flooded with update requests for large RC aircraft rules, turbine operation rules and FPV operation.

Unfinished Business:

Ed reported that the postponed April Fun Fly-in may be rescheduled for the month of June.

Tom Dicurici updated the members on the Warbirds over Kingsbury event. He informed them that 10 vendor donations, and one private one, have been made for the event raffle and pilot awards. Tom requested that members bring the entire family to the Fly-in. He also encouraged members to involve youth in Model aviation. All volunteers will be issued an orange Event Staff T-shirt to help identify them to event attendees. Tom wants the Flight Line Leaders to be very serious about activities and to limit horseplay on the flight line. Tom also plans to restrict the use of chairs on the flight line as a safety measure. We will limit the number of aircraft flying at one time to six. Warbirds will be flying until 5:00 PM, after which the RC field will be available for open flying. A Dawn Patrol flight has been approved by Tom, but must conclude by 9:00 AM. Mandatory Pilot Meetings are scheduled for 9:00 AM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Warbird flyers may begin to arrive Thursday May 16. Overnight camping is allowed and R/V parking available. Ed and Tom will coordinate the setup of Pit Area Canopies, and are encouraging pilots to involve spectators and welcome them to share the shade of their canopy. Lunch will be prepared and served on Saturday only. The club will offer pizza by the slice at a nominal cost for lunch on Friday. Soft drinks and water will be available at the event. An area will be designated for those wishing to bring Swap Meet items. The Kingsbury RC field will be closed on Tuesday, May 14 for field maintenance in preparation for the event. Tom is planning to file a Notam with the FAA to allow a 1,200ft flight ceiling during the event.

New Business:

The officers, as allowed by the by laws, have created a temporary position of Club Administrator. President Ed Valls appointed Rusty Koehler to the position, which has been approved by the officers. The position will be the POC for administrative



duties related to: a) the club website, b) AMA annual charter document submission, maintenance of the club mailing list in concert with the club Secretary, as well as “other duties as assigned”. This position will be a nonvoting member of the Board of Officers.

Ed asked for a volunteer to CD or Manage the NMAD fly-in. The event will be scheduled for mid-September, but Ed will be unavailable to run the event at that time.

Matt Dirienzo showed some shirts that he had procured online from the Land’s End Business Department. The shirts feature the club logo embroidered above the left pocket on a polo shirt and a button-down-collar shirt. Other options are available. Matt has been instrumental in developing the logo and has worked with Big Frog Design locally, and Land’s End on line. Ed and the members thanked Matt for the year long effort to update the club’s logo. Matt explained three additional options will be added to the one he showed that is currently available at the Land’s End website. Matt will supply a weblink to Frank for the Newsletter. John Franklin sent the weblink for Big Frog Design to the members on April 21. It includes links for club logo shirts, Warbirds Over Kingsbury shirts, and other logo items.

Broken Prop: There were no Broken Prop nominations made at this meeting, as it appears that not many as members are flying in the heat.

Show and Tell:

Jim Rice presented his Hanger-9 P-47. He has experienced difficulty with the model's landing gear. Jim has fabricated a repair but has not had time to fly the model since.

Ed Valls showed us a PT-17 Stearman that he got at the 2023 Bomber Field Warbird event. He has restored the model and a first flight should occur soon.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Rusty Koehler and seconded by Frank George. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

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

Next Business Meeting June 13, 2024; 7:00 PM at the American Legion Hall, 326 Legion Dr West, Converse, Texas.



Hello all. Here we are nearing the end of May, and I want to know where spring went. We are already seeing high 90s temperatures and are being threatened by 100° days. This is supposed to be our flying season, so better set your alarms and get out to the field early

As noted in the meeting minutes, we accepted two new members. Welcome Mark and lascelles. Congratulation to all our flyers for a safe month at both fields.

The 2023 FAA Reauthorization Bill has finally seen action in Congress. As reported in the minutes, at our meeting time it had been passed by the Senate and was waiting for discussion in the House. The bill has since been passed and signed into law including all the items AMA had advocated for. AMA's Government Relations Team will continue working in Washington to assist FAA's implementation of new elements of UAS regulation with no or minimum impact on our activities. You can follow their efforts on the AMA Government Advocacy Blog.

Matt Dirienzo updated the members on his efforts to give everyone options for purchasing club logo merchandise. I add my thanks to Matt for his work with Land's End to establish a TCF online account in their Business Department. This link

<https://business.landsend.com/store/tricityflyers>

will take you directly to the TCF store page, although it may not be obvious looking at the page. The Land's end site offers embroidered logos rather than the printed ones from Big Frog.

Thanks also to John Franklin for visiting the Land's End site and sending out an email on May 16 with some very useful tips to navigate through the "tricityflyers" store menus. Check your inbox if you haven't seen the email.

We had two Show and Tell airplanes this month. The first was a Hangar 9 P-47 that Jim Rice brought. This is an electric model and flies on either 4s or 6s LiPo power. Different propeller sizes are specified for the two power sources. Jim explained that he had problems with the retracts breaking easily because of plastic parts. He made a metal mounting plate to correct the

weakness. Jim was not alone with the retract problem, as it was pointed out in several reviews



of the model on Horizon's website.

NOTE: he flew the plane successfully at the Warbird Flyin with his modified gear mount .

Ed Valls presented our other Show and Tell. His plane is a Boeing-Stearman PT-17, based on Nick Zirolis plans, and finished to represent a restored 1942 plane flown by British Aviator Tracy Curtis-Taylor.

Ed acquired the model in a trade. His model also required considerable restoration as well. He found a lot of hidden structural damage. The 5 cylinder engine needed work and an exhaust collector ring. The covering and markings need-



ed to be replaced. Ed wanted authentic markings, and found a decal maker in England who



knew the airplane and could supply them. The final product is a beautiful representation of Curtis-Taylor's airplane.

Since there were no broken prop candidates again this month, I will finish the News segment with a brief review of the Warbird event held the week after our meeting. The field work team did a great job getting the field in shape for the event. Thanks to them and all the other club members who volunteered to work. There were many orange "Event Staff" T-shirts around throughout the meet.

The event sanction covered Friday through Sunday, but flyers began arriving with campers and planes on Wednesday. By Friday everything was set up and there was a good number of participants flying. Tom had the formal meet well organized on Saturday with designated times for electric, WWI, and other warbirds. Flying was fairly continuous in spite of the heat, so the spectators who came had some activity to see. A total of 38 participants registered for the flyin, easily setting a new record for any of our recent events. Here is the customary group photo of

pilots and planes

There were many beautiful scale models, such as this giant P-51



and equally large Fokker biplane.

Based on the 2024 event, it appears Warbirds Over Kingsbury has potential for a bright future.

That's enough for this month. I apologize for the delay. As always, comments and suggestions are welcome.

Frank George, TCF News Editor

newseditor@tricityflyers.com

