



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

JUNE 2024

AMA #850

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JUNE 2024 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone. I hope you are getting some flying done before the temperatures get too hot to be outside. On May 17 thru 19 Tri City Flyers hosted our first expanded Warbirds Over Kingsbury event CD'd by Tom DiCuirci. The event was one of our most successful events in quite some time. We had 17 of our club members volunteer to work at the event and we had 38 registered pilots. Tom put in a lot of time and effort to ensure a wonderful event. We had quite a few pilot prizes as well as some very nice items for the event raffle. I had a chance to talk to some of the pilots who traveled from outside the San Antonio, and they had some very complimentary things to say about the field, the organization and the PFM Museum. Tom is already working on the planning and scheduling of next year's warbird event. One of the things that we got some suggestions was for some changes/improvements to the runway. Event pilots suggested that we reduce the height and width of the berms on the edges of the runway as well as making more places for planes to leave or enter the runway after landing or when taking off. Our Field Manager, Gil Martinez, and I have begun some of the work required to make these changes.

I have also had some questions regarding new pilot stations, and I am talking with some of our members and our officers regarding a new design that can easily be disassembled and stored should the PFM ask us to do so. I will be provide additional information as the design develops.

We are going to have a National Model Aviation Day fly-in on September 14, 2024. The event will be open to any AMA member. One of our CD's, Augie Santiago, has agreed to manage the event for our club. Please plan on coming out and flying with us and invite any of your modeling friends to come along. All proceeds will go to a charity voted on by the club.

With the success of the Warbirds Over Kingsbury and, the PFM's Founder encouragement for our club to have more and bigger events, we have begun planning some events for next year. We will update you as next year's event schedule is finalized.

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 may purchase a light meal at the Post prior to the meeting.



Tri City Flyers, Inc. Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2024

NOTE: the June Minutes are a draft and not final until voted on at the July meeting. As such, the draft published here includes two corrections requested by Ed Valls, President, after the June meeting.

Vice President Charles Roccaforte called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 14 members were present.

Minutes for May 2024 Meeting: No changes were requested. The minutes were approved as printed in the May 2024 newsletter.

Guests/New Members: Greg Yancy who lives in Katy, TX was voted into the club as an ~~Associate~~ Adult Member, in absentia. [Correction by E.V.]

Treasurers Report: Mike Zachau reported on the monthly deposits, expenses, and ending balances for our club's financial accounts. The report was received as presented. Following the receipt of the Treasurer's report Mike also provided a financial summary of the recent Warbird event, which was a very successful event.

Safety Officer's Report:

Seguin - Nothing new to report

Kingsbury - Nothing new to report

Field Manager's Report: Rusty Koehler provided this report since Gil Martinez was unable to attend the meeting. Rusty announced that the Kingsbury field is now open for RC flying following a temporary field closure due to heavy rains. The mower requires some repairs which will be done by Chuck Martinez very soon. It was noted that mulching blades have been installed on the mower. There was a discussion regarding improving communications between Gil Martinez and members who are willing to help maintain the field. This issue will be addressed.

AMA Business: While not relevant to our club Jim Rice announced that the River City club which was not able to get a FRIA approval due to proximity to Randolph AFB, but was able to get an exemption from remote ID through an alternate process for club fields in controlled air space. The AMA worked with the FAA to create the process.

Unfinished Business:

2025 Swap Meet - Frank George announced that he has submitted a Nonflying Event Application to the AMA for our club's 2025 Swap Meet to be

held at the Garden Ridge Community Center. The Swap Meet is scheduled to be held on March 7-8.

National Model Aviation Day (NMAD) - Rusty Koehler announced that Augie Santiago Sr. has agreed to be the CD for NMAD event tentatively scheduled for September 21st 14th [Correction by E.V.] More information will be provided once the sanction has been approved by the AMA.

New Business: There was no new business.

Broken Prop Award: Jim Rice received this month's coveted award. Jim stated that while flying an E-flite Ultimate at the River City field, and doing a crankshaft maneuver, he lost control and the airplane crashed just outside the field's boundary. Jim had to navigate his way through a barbed wire fence to recover the airplane. He was not immediately able to determine the cause of the crash, but later evaluation of the crash damage revealed one of the aileron servos had a stripped gear. Jim was not able to determine if that gear was stripped before or during the crash. The airplane will be repaired and flown again.

Show & Tell: Matt Dirienzo showed a very innovative electric powered launch cart that he built. The launch cart, made of PVC pipe, is powered by an electric motor driven pusher propeller. A 5S LiPo battery pack is used for power. Two front wheels connected to servos provide steering for the cart during airplane launch. To view how this launch cart looks and works take a look at this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/MvFkiNBU7JQ?si=qmY6IzDuQcJNDPrI>.

Meeting Adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11th at 7:00 PM at the Converse American Legion.



Hello again and welcome to your TCF June 2024 News Section. The President's column has a number of news items as well, so I won't repeat them here. Be sure to review the June Meeting Minutes too, and be prepared to vote on their approval at next month's meeting.

The runway improvements Ed mentioned in his column should improve the safety of our runway area operations. One proposal is to widen the runway, which should help with handling our typical crosswind condition. I think the amount of rain we've had this spring, and the resultant mowing requirements, have given our mower and those who operate it a real workout. I can relate, as my old lawn tractor has responded by shredding belts, and most recently, throwing a blade.

Moving on, we have officially scheduled our 2025 swap meet. This will be the 43rd TCF meet, to be held March 7 and 8. The change in date to March was a result of scheduling conflicts with our usual February weekend. Our previous vendors will get an early heads up email about the date change.

In other event news, thanks to Augie for agreeing to CD our National Model Aviation Day event in September. There is also some discussion of a members' only fly in this fall. Members' only events are not sanctioned events, but volunteers are still needed to organize them.

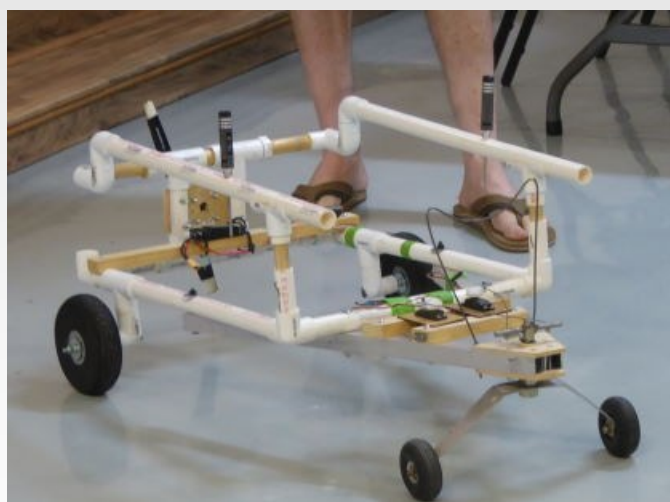
Jim Rice's detailed discussion of his "broken prop" crash experience demonstrated the value of not flying alone. You never know when the need for help may arise. Jim also related the serious consequences of a friend's failure to heed warnings about his readiness to operate his RC plane. Once again, caution and common sense are good safety practices.

There was only one Show and Tell entry this month, from Matt Dirienzo. I appreciate Matt's thinking outside the box to try new and innovative approaches to our flying activities. This month he

showed us a self powered takeoff dolly for his EDF jet without landing gear, but not suitable for hand launch. Matt requested no photos, but hey Matt, you posted a YouTube video, so here goes. In the first photo he is explaining the need.



Next is the dolly.



Matt commented that the many PVC pipe fittings used to assemble the dolly were a significant part of



the total cost. Most of the running gear, power and control system components probably came from his parts collection. Matt - don't be concerned about the unit's appearance - it works! See the video link in the Meeting Minutes. This professionally made dolly kit sells for around \$100.00 but has two important shortcomings. First, it is not steerable, an



Important consideration when flying from a grass runway like ours. Second, it requires the airplane to use power to push it along while trying to reach takeoff speed. So flashy looks are not everything.

Looks like I have some page space left, so here are a couple of my own show and tells. In keeping with Matt's theme, I have made several hobby items using PVC pipe. They were usually born out of necessity, like the first one; my simple ground starting restraint. I needed something to run and



adjust engines that didn't use a lot of space. It was first useful when my old club in CA had to operate temporarily from a one-lane private ranch road with no facilities. Note the simple installation tool. Here



it is still in use at my current home to adjust throttle settings. The CA situation necessitated my next field support item too, a simple support stand, easy to



carry and didn't take too much room in my car. It folds flat and the heavy duty vinyl fabric at the bottom both stabilizes the stand and provides a place for small parts and tools. The third support is adjustable for shorter airplane bodies. Oh, did I mention, the one-lane road we used also sloped downward significantly, and our prevailing wind



meant mostly down hill landings. And, the first guys at the field had to clean off the runway with an old coal shovel we kept in a culvert, because the road was in an active cattle ranch pasture. But I digress,



here is the folding stand holding my 63" Thunderbug fuselage. In the end, I believe our adventures at "the ranch" strengthened the club, as we survived and later became very active with a great new flying site.

So don't be bashful guys. Show and tell items don't have to be flashy or high tech. I'm sure many of our members are inventive and have come up with useful tips, gimmicks and gadgets that help them in our hobby. Or, maybe you have some hobby related event or activity that you remember, and perhaps contributed to your overall experience in the hobby we share.

So you see, there is still some whitespace on this page, and you have a month to think about something you might contribute to help fill it. In the meantime, enjoy flying when you can; stay cool and well hydrated when you are out there.

That's it for now - happy flying. Send me any suggestions or ideas for useful topics.

Frank George
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