



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

JULY 2024

AMA #850

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JULY 2024 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone.

There has been some discussion in the club regarding new pilot stations to replace the old ones. In consultation with our Kingsbury Safety officers, I presented a new design for modular pilot stations. We discussed the design, and we will construct them during a club work day which we will schedule for the early Fall. These stations can easily be disassembled and stored should the PFM ask us to do so.

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 to the event. All proceeds will go to the AMA Foundation.

I will be contacting the PFM to ask for some hangar space for a club static display during their annual Fall Wings and Wheels full scale fly-in. The event will be Saturday, November 9, 2024. Please plan on attending either as a participant with the club or as a spectator to support the wonderful work the Museum does to promote aviation.

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 a light meal at the Post prior to the meeting.



Tri City Flyers, Inc. Meeting Minutes, July 11, 2024
President, Ed Valls, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 17 members were present.

Minutes to Last Meeting: No changes were requested to the June minutes. The minutes were approved with the noted corrections printed in the June 2024 Newsletter.

Guests/New Members: George Zbranek who lives in Yoakum, TX and is a proficient RC pilot, introduced himself and was voted into our club as a new adult member.

Treasurers 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 Officer's Report:

Seguin: - Ed Valls announced that the Sequin field is closed to RC flying until further notice because FEMA is now occupying the field.

Kingsbury: - Mike Fisher had nothing new to report regarding any safety issues. There was a brief discussion that Matt Dirienzo fired some rockets that many enjoyed watching. Mike Fisher stated that Roger Freeman has given approval for such rocket launches.

Field Manager's Report: Field Manager Gil Martinez was absent. Ed Valls stated that if any club members have concerns regarding the condition of the Kingsbury field, they should contact Gil. Contact Ed Valls if Gil cannot be reached. Sherman Lindsay noted that he smelled a heavy gasoline smell in the Conex. Ed Valls stated that will be addressed during a workday, probably by installing a turbine vent on the Conex. Recent repairs have been done to the mower that include replacing the battery and confirming that the alternator is properly charging it.

AMA Business:

Jim Rice noted that a long time AMA member, Robert Underwood, who served in many AMA leadership positions passed away recently at the

age of 92.

AMA Government Affairs Blog: - Frank George commented on recent posts that could impact our hobby activities. First, on June 24, AMA posted that the US House had passed a version of the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act that included a provision to ban DJI drones from using the FCC Communications Infrastructure. The Act was then sent to the Senate for Action. Another AMA Post On July 3, reported the US Supreme Court had overturned a long standing Precedent that allowed federal agencies to interpret ambiguities in federal laws that apply to their responsibilities. Instead, under the Supreme Court's decision, courts would interpret the laws without consulting the agencies.

Unfinished Business:

Warbird Event: - Ed Valls provided a summary of the recent Warbird event. He thanked the many club members who had volunteered to make this event happen. Ed noted that Mike Fisher spent much time on the flight line as the Flight Line Manager, and was thanked for all that he did in that regard. 31 pilots registered for this 3-day event. It was noted that a District VIII AVP, Larry Cox, attended the event and was highly complimentary of how we ran our flight line. Ed Valls also mentioned that based upon some comments from visiting pilots regarding the size of our runway, some changes have been made. Net proceeds for this event were slightly over \$1,000 but several items were purchased for the event so the actual profit was close to a break-even amount. Those expenses will not be incurred next year. Our thanks to Tom Dicuirci who worked very hard as the CD to put this 3-day event together.

National Model Aviation Day (NMAD): - Augie Santiago has agreed to be the CD for our NMAD event scheduled for September 14th at our Kingsbury field. A motion was made by Rusty Koehler to donate the proceeds from this event to the AMA Foundation. The motion was unanimously



passed following a brief discussion. More information will be provided later regarding this event.

New Business:

Kingsbury Field Mowing Schedule: It was noted that Mike Zachau has emailed out a list to club member volunteers to schedule mowing. Eight members have signed up to help in the coming weeks. More volunteers are needed, so please contact Gil Martinez or Mike Zachau if you are willing to assist by mowing and helping maintain our field. Ed Valls noted that it is very important to properly clean the mower after each use, using the gas-powered blower stored in the Conex. Ed Valls has prepared a mowing height chart for different areas, which will be posted in the Conex.

Club Logos/Decals: Ed Valls provided to all members attending the meeting one each of the two newly approved club logo version decals free of charge. More will be made available later. Any club member who wants additional decals may purchase them for \$1.00 each.

New Pilot Stations: Ed Valls showed a small wooden model of what he has proposed to be built for pilot station barriers. Two pilot stations will be built, which will each be 3 feet high and 20 feet long. The frames will be made of PVC and painted green with black netting. The proposed pilot stations will be built soon.

Broken Prop Award: Mike Fisher nominated himself for having lost visual orientation with a silver-colored Mustang that he was flying on a cloudy day, making it difficult to see. The airplane was destroyed in the crash. Mike was the winner of this month's coveted award!

Show & Tell:

Bill Anderson showed a Scimitar flying wing that he built using a 3D printer. He stated that it flies very well. Bill also showed a recently purchased 16 channel RadioMaster transmitter. Bill stated that the transmitter was difficult to program but can be made compatible with Spektrum and

Futaba receivers, via added modules.

Matt Dirienzo showed a small RC model, highly modified from a Snark control line model kit made by the Scientific Model Airplane Company back in the 1960's. Matt made several modifications to make it an RC airplane. The airplane became more stable and easier to fly after Matt added wing area and some modifications to the wing tips

Sherman Lindsay showed his new Futaba 10J transmitter which he said was easy to program. Sherman also showed the decal that he purchased from Callie Graphics, which can be ordered to show your contact information, AMA number, and FAA registration number. They come in sheets with 16 decals each.

Jim Rice showed some Blue Magic Invisible Glove gel purchased from Amazon. This cream can be rubbed on your hands and can prevent CA glue from adhering to your skin. Just coat your hands with the cream and peel it off along with the CA when you are done working with the glue.

Meeting Adjourned.

Upcoming events:

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM August 8th at the Converse American Legion Post.

National Model Aviation Day (NMAD) Event: September 14th at the Kingsbury Site - Augie Santiago. CD



Hello all. Here we are in July, the second half of 2024. And we are in the middle of another hot Texas summer. Be sure to keep hydrated whenever you are outside, whether it's flying, mowing at Kingsbury, or other activities.

OK, let's get into the club news a bit. Several items of business in the minutes relate to Kingsbury field. Ed described a design for new pilot station barriers. Improved ventilation is planned for the Conex because of the volatile flammables stored there. A workday will be planned in the fall to address these and other items that may be identified.

A mowing schedule has been developed, and will be managed by Gil Martinez and Mike Zachau. Anyone interested in helping mow should contact Gil or Mike. You will be instructed on the care and use of the mower, as well as mowing height for different areas. Mowers can be compensated for their time.

Plan to participate in our National Model Aviation Day September 14, and volunteer to help with the event. Ed mentioned in his column that we may support the PFM fall fly-in with a static display, as we have done in the past. This has always been a positive opportunity to showcase our hobby, and we have enjoyed talking with many people about our activity. The flight simulator has also been popular with both young people and adults.

Since I follow the AMA Government Affairs Blog, Ed asked if I had any news to report. My comments, summarized in the minutes, on the House of Representatives provision to essentially ban DJI drones from the US airspace resulted in a question about whether that included existing drones. Upon checking after the meeting, it appears any DJI drones currently licensed by the FCC will continue to be legal. But the FCC will not license any new drones if the provision becomes law. The Senate is currently reviewing the Funding Act, but their preliminary draft did not include the DJI provision. If the Senate passes their version, then the two Bills will have to be reconciled by a Conference Committee. So now it's wait and see what happens.

Moving on to Show and Tell. First up was Bill Anderson with a Scimitar flying wing built using a 3D



printer.

Bill indicated the printing took a lot of time, but note the large tray for a battery and electronics. He also pointed out the nose cone is modular to support different activities. Holding the plane up to a bright light shows internal wing structure detail. Bill also brought a new RadioMaster TX16S Mark II RC trans-



mitter.

It is based on an open source protocol similar to Frsky, FLYSKY and similar radio brands. RadioMaster also has a line of compatible receivers. The transmitter can also be used with Spektrum DSM2 and DSMX, and Futaba SFHSS receivers, by purchasing an optional "4 IN 1" plug in module.

Matt Dirienzo provided our next show and Tell with a small RC model, highly modified from an old Control line model of the Northrop Snark nuclear capable cruise missile. The Snark was developed for the US Air Force, and deployed between 1958 and 1962 to provide an intercontinental nuclear delivery

capability until ICBM's came online. This Snark is on display at the Hill AFB Aerospace Museum.



I don't know where Matt finds these old kits. My quick Google search found a single reference to the old Scientific Model Airplane Company - on the AMA Plans website. No Snark plans there though. Here is



Matt with the box for his Snark.



Finally, here is Matt's highly modified RC Snark.

The modifications included enlarging the vertical tail and adding a horizontal surface. Note the real Snark did not have a horizontal tail, but the model (see box picture) did. The most obvious, and major, change was the wing planform and area. You might say he at least used the fuselage from the kit. The increased area clearly adds more lift. While Delta planforms are normally used for their high speed advantages, low speed research at The Ohio State University has shown properly designed delta wings can be useful at lower speeds because of their steep lift curve slope, and favorable pitching moment properties. Winglets with moderate deflection angles can improve static stability of these wings without significant impact on lift. So Matt, you did good.

Sherman Lindsay discussed his Futaba T-10J



transmitter, with which he is quite pleased. As noted in the minutes, he likes the programming logic in this full-featured TX. It has a 30-model memory and supports Futaba S-FHSS and T-FHSS receivers, giving it S.Bus and Telemetry capability.

Finally, thanks to Jim Rice for finding Blue Magic Invisible Glove cream. It is \$10. plus tax at Amazon if you avoid shipping fees with Prime. While cheaper at other online sites, shipping would likely eat up the difference.

OK, that's a wrap for this month.

As always, contact me with helpful comments or suggestions.

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