



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024



AMA #850

www.tricityflyers.com

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SEPTEMBER 2024 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone,

As I write this on Monday, September 16, we had our National Model Aviation Day event this past Saturday, and I am very happy to say that it was an overwhelming success. We had 35 registered pilots, some from as far away as Corpus Christi. Congratulations to Augie Santiago for running a wonderful event. Thanks also to all the TCF members who worked the event, and all the registered pilots for supporting our National Model Aviation Event for 2024. At the September meeting the club agreed to donate all proceeds to the AMA Foundation. I am happy to report that we will donate a minimum of \$500 to the foundation.

The Pioneer Flight Museum has asked us to present a static display of model aircraft for their Fall Wings and Wheels fly-in. The event will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024. I would like to invite any club member who wishes to participate in the display to please reach out to me for more information. If you cannot participate in the static display, then please consider attending the event to support the PFM and all they do to promote aviation.

We will have a club member only fly-in in mid-October, so please look for an e-mail announcing the date for the event. All members and their immediate family are welcome to attend. Free Food and beverages will be available to all attendees.

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 September 2024 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: President Ed Valls called the September Club Business Meeting to order at 6:59pm on September 12, 2024. 18 members including 4 officers were present.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Ed asked attending members if there were any changes needed to the August Meeting Minutes. Mike Zachau moved to approve the minutes as written, and Johnell Holly seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Guests/New Members: Father and Son, Sam Lota, and Sam Lota, were guests in attendance. They are interested in joining our club and have received some student flight instruction from Matt Greenlee. They presented themselves to the members and were given applications, and Rusty Koehler's contact info. Please join us in welcoming them to our club. (I asked the son, Sam Lota, if he was Jr., but he said he does not use Jr.)

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the financial report as of August 31, 2024. Jim Rice moved to receive the report as presented. Johnell Holley seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote..

Safety Officers' Reports:

Seguin: Augie Santiago reported there were no incidents at the Seguin R/C flying site.

Kingsbury: Mike Fisher was not in attendance, but Ed Valls reported that Mike informed him of no incidents in Kingsbury. Ed also reported that Gary Barrett is scheduled to mow the Kingsbury field prior to the Saturday, September 14 NMAD event. It was also reported that the fire extinguisher cart wheel has been replaced and the unit is now operational.

Field Manager Report: Gil Martinez was absent from the meeting. Ed reported that the Connex and the mower are clean, and all is in order. He thanked the members responsible.

AMA Business: There was no AMA business reported.

Unfinished Business:

>Augie Santiago, CD for the Saturday National Model Aviation Day, presented an update to the members. He left a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the event, and outlined the event timeline and lunch menu. The Fly-in will begin at 9:00am and continue until sometime near 1:00pm. Participants can continue to fly after that if they wish. The Kitchen will be serving hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch. The \$20 pilot registration fee will include lunch. Visitors are welcome to purchase lunch as well. Swap meet spaces will be available for \$5 each.

>Ed Valls proposed that the Club donate a minimum of \$500 to the AMA Foundation from the proceeds of the fly-in. If the proceeds should exceed that amount, any additional amount will be discussed at the October business meeting. Frank George moved to accept Ed's proposal and Jim Rice seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

>Ed asked the attending members to indicate their willingness to staff a Nominating Committee for the November Club Elections. A discussion followed regarding how many Board Members could be on the Committee, and how many members were required by the club by-laws. Frank George told members that the by-laws state, "up to three total members, and may include one Board member".

New Business:

>Mike Zachau told members he has been regularly spraying the flying site for weeds to make mowing the area easier. He also reported that a \$324 fee has been charged for pest and fire ant control. He proposed that instead of just marking the mounds as has been done, that the members could treat mounds with a topical fire ant treatment. This would reduce the Pest Control cost. The treatment would cost \$12 per container, which would treat over 100 mounds. Frank George moved to accept Mike's proposal and Johnell Holly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

>Bill Anderson reported that he has been instructed by the PFM staff that no vehicles are to be driven or parked between the restrooms and the green fence, as it could damage the septic system



pipng. This area has the restroom septic system drain field.

>A discussion about this year's Christmas party was held by the members. Our regular December club meeting date, Thursday the 12th at the Legion Hall, was proposed. Frank George was asked to comment, and said he had not spoken with Gary Rice, but indicated Gary might be busy at his new job during the December 2024 time frame. Frank suggested that we could do the meal like last year, with the club supplying the meat and related items, and members providing a covered dish. Frank also said that between 30 and 40 members have attended in the past. Tom DiCuirci told members that a neighbor of his is a caterer. He asked if we would be interested in him catering the Christmas Party. The cost would be a little higher but would cover the entire meal. We would also have an option as to the type of meal we would like. Tom will get estimates from the caterer in time for the October meeting. The Christmas Party will also feature a White Elephant gift program for those who want to participate. Tom told members he also plans to use this caterer at next year's Warbird Fly-in.

>Ed updated the members on the PFM Fall Wings and Wheels fly-in, and stated that the club has been invited to present a static display. The event will be on Saturday, November 9. All TCF display participants must have their vehicles unloaded and parked by 8:30am on Saturday morning.

> A question was asked about having a club member only fly in this fall. If the members wish, the event will be planned for mid-October. All club members and immediate family members are invited to attend. Food and beverages will be provided free of charge. Mike Zachau proposed that, if held, the club supply pizza for lunch at the event.

>Ed stated that the Seguin field lease will be up for renewal on May 31, 2025, and the JBSA has reached out to the club asking if we would like to renew it. Ed confirmed that we wish to renew the lease, and he would submit the required paperwork no later than 1 October 2025.

Broken Prop Award: Sherman Lindsay nominated himself after he lost control of his airplane during a recent flight. He explained to members that he had not been able to recover from a loop performed during the flight. No one else was nominated and the Award was given to Sherman.

Show and Tell:

>Bill Anderson showed the results of a failed LiPo battery charger, that he received from Matt Dirienzo. He warned members that the charging, storage, and use of LIPO batteries presents a significant fire hazard. He also showed the members a carbon fiber landing gear that he recently produced with his 3d printer.

>Jim Rice showed members his completed Ultra Dream Machine. He told members that his dad built the original Dream Machine, and that he and Gary had built and flown different versions of the plane in the past. He also showed a reusable razor knife he has been using successfully to cut iron on covering

>Ed Valls showed a completed 1/5 scale F-86 jet and explained the process he has gone through to finish the 3-year project. He explained the time-consuming procedure for the 9,000 rivets, and the custom cockpit in the airplane. He stated that the plane was built using a short kit made by a company in Croatia. Ed has finished balancing the plane but it has not yet been flown.

Meeting Adjourned: Jim Rice moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike Zachau seconded. The members approved the motion unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

Next Club Meeting: scheduled for 7:00pm October 10, 2024, at the American Legion Hall in Converse, Texas.

Members Only Fly-in: October, date to be determined.

TCF Static Model Display: PFM Fall Wings and Wheels Fly-in, November 9, 2024

TCF Annual Christmas Dinner: December 12, American Legion Post, additional details to follow.



Hello again TCF members and friends. Welcome to your monthly Club News section. I encourage you to read President Ed Valls' column, and take note of activity items mentioned there as well as in the Meeting Minutes.

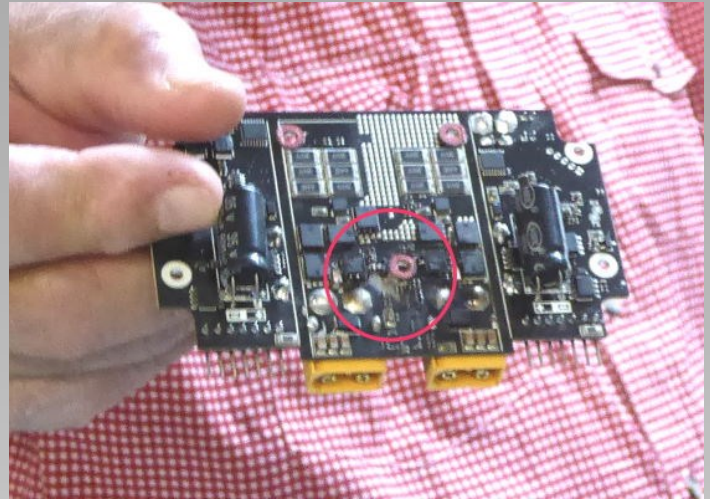
Thanks to Augie Santiago for CD'ing a successful NMAD Fly-in. With AMA's prior blessing we moved the event from August to September in hopes of cooler weather. If you were there, you know how well that worked. We had 35 registered pilots, so we exceeded our minimum AMA Foundation contribution goal. Read on to find pictures from the event.

It is time once again to elect TCF officers, for 2025-26 terms. We need candidates for Vice President, Secretary and Kingsbury Safety Officer. Everyone should have received Mike Zachau's email outlining each officer's duties. So please consider serving in one of the offices if asked. Believe me, you can do it. I have served in one or more positions in every club I have belonged to over the years, and never felt it was too much effort.

Initial plans for the annual TCF Christmas Dinner are underway. Progress to date is reported in the Meeting Minutes. Stay tuned for more details. A members only fly in is also being considered for October.

Sherman described his **Broken Prop** winning maneuver as a "figure 9" instead of the intended loop. I'm sure we have all had lapses in attention or judgement at some time in our flying hobby.

We have an interesting assortment of Show-n-Tell items this month. First was Bill Anderson, who disassembled Matt Dirienzo's smart LiPo charger that had failed. Bill examined the charger parts and found evidence of component failure on the main control circuit board. He attributed this to random failure of a component, that could have cascaded to associated parts. The picture above right attempts to show the circuit damage, in the red circle. Most advice regarding LiPo handling focuses on the batteries. Bill's point is that you should also not blindly trust the electronic devices used with LiPo's.



Jim Rice brought another variation of his father's Dream Machine design. This one is sized for a 40cc



gas engine. Jim said he is not a fan of wingtip plates, but in this case, adding them after a few flights resulted in better flying characteristics. The second



picture shows the high contrast bottom covering.



Our last Show-n-Tell is Ed Valls' long awaited 1/5 scale F-86 jet. Ed said it is powered by a 140 size turbine and, as noted in the minutes, has been a 3-year "labor of love". Beautiful job, Ed. The second



picture, here, is the project status he shared in the January 2022 Newsletter, when he also described the team that developed the kit in detail.



Thanks to everyone who brings their projects to share at our meetings. I appreciate the effort it takes, especially for the large airplanes.

Speaking of sharing, I call your attention to our upcoming static display at the PFM Fall Wings and Wheels event. This activity has been a very good showcase for our hobby. Many visitors go away with a greater appreciation that we are not just "playing with toy airplanes" after seeing our models up close, and learning about some of the technology involved. Inviting visitors to try the flight simulator also impresses them with the skill required, even for

a trainer type model. This picture from a previous year illustrates how we set up the interactive display.



If you haven't participated in the activity before, please consider joining us this year. I know there are some really impressive airplanes in our club.

My last news topic for this month is our Sept. 14th NMAD fly-in. As reported earlier in the newsletter, the event was a success in spite of the hot, humid weather. Maybe we can try October next year. AMA has told us in the past that they understand our weather issues, so we can hold the event later than August. We just need to report when we hold it, and how much we donated to a charity. They include the total results in their Annual Report.

OK, so now here is this year's NMAD event summarized in a few pictures showing some of the





participating aircraft. There were many more aircraft flown than this sample, and we had a number



of flyers from other clubs. However, the temperature resulted in some flyers packing up shortly after the noon lunch. One of the most impressive aircraft was a giant scale helicopter that the pilot admitted he was still learning to fly. Here it is lifting off to



hover over the runway. After demonstrating backing up, turning and moving forward from the hovering position, the pilot proceeded to an impressive flight



demonstration. Considering how well the pilot did with his two demonstration flights, I am convinced he will be even more impressive once he has learned the full capability of the aircraft. I'm also impressed by the care and safety he demonstrated as he continues his learning process.

OK, so that's it for this month. As always, I invite your comments, suggestions and content you think would be of interest to your fellow club members.

Frank George, TCF News Editor
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