



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

NOVEMBER 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

NOVEMBER 2024 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone.

Per a request of the Pioneer Flight Museum Tri City Flyers presented a static display of remote-controlled aircraft at the November 9, 2024 Annual Fall Wings and Wheels Fly-In. I am happy to report that we had ten club members bring aircraft for display. The Fly-In event was well attended with approximately forty full-scale aircraft in attendance and many attendees. I would like to thank those club members that participated in the static display

At the November meeting we had election of officers for the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Kingsbury Safety Officer. We had three club members offer to run for the position of Vice President. However, we had no additional members offer to be nominated for the positions of club Secretary or Kingsbury Safety Officer. Charles Roccaforte, Matt Greenlee and Brad Leininger were on the ballot for Vice President and John Franklin and Mike Fisher agreed to be renominated as the incumbent for their respective positions. Matt Greenlee was elected Vice President and John Franklin and Mike Fisher were re-elected to their current positions. I would like to thank these five gentlemen for running for office and I would like to encourage our club members to consider serving our club by running for office in the next election cycle.

We will have our annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The dinner is free to all club members, spouses and immediate family members. The main course will be catered and will be blackened chicken tenders and sausage over pasta. We are asking our members to bring an appetizer or desert. Everything else will be provided. We will need some help setting up and tearing down the room so please volunteer if you are able. Rusty Kohler will send out an e-mail asking for our members to RSVP. Please RSVP as we need to know how many people the caterer should plan for.

In closing, I wish each of you happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and wish you a wonderful 2025. Hope to see you at a meeting or at the flying fields.

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 November 2024 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Club President Ed Valls called the November business meeting to order at 7:00pm, November 14, 2024. 25 members, including 6 officers were in attendance.

October Meeting Minutes: Ed Valls asked those attending if there were any corrections for the October Club Meeting Minutes. There being none, Jim Rice made a motion to accept the minutes as written, with a second by Mike Zachau. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Guests/New Members: No guests were in attendance. Club Administrator Rusty Koehler recognized two new members; Ray Blankenberg and Jim Wittkamp. Ray gave the members a summary of his modeling background and personal info. Jim was not in attendance. Mike Fisher moved to accept the new members into the club and Johnell Holley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasure's Report: Mike Zachau presented the members with the financial update as of October 31, 2024. Mike Fisher made a motion to receive the report as presented and Johnell Holley seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Safety Officer's Reports:

Augie Santiago had no incidents to report from the Seguin Flying Field.

Mike Fisher also reported no incidents from the Kingsbury Flying Field.

Field Manager Report: Gil Martinez was not in attendance. Ed reported the Kingsbury Field is in satisfactory condition.

AMA Report: Jim Rice reported that the AMA Executive Director Chad Budreau is leaving. The AMA is advertising the position to be filled in February 2025. Tyler Dobbs will fill in until a new director is named.

Unfinished Business:

> Ed Valls reported the club's Static Display at the Pioneer Flight Museums Fall Wings and Wheels event went well. Eight members provided several aircraft and Frank George brought an R/C flight simulator to the event. The patrons who attended enjoyed the simulator, with some youth outperforming the adults. Gary Barrett reported that 550 vehicles and 40 aircraft were at the event. Ed thanked all who participated.

> Ed Valls reported that 10 club members attended the Boerne Charitable Fly-in and thanked them for supporting Boerne Aeromodellers as they support our fly-ins.

> Ed Valls reported that the upcoming Christmas

Party for TCF will be a catered meal of blackened chicken tenders and sausage on pasta with a spring mix salad and garlic bread. Appetizers and desserts will be supplied by the club members. TCF will supply the drinks and dinnerware. The American Legion Post will provide water and ice. The bar will be open to purchase mixed drinks if desired. Appetizers will be served at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm. Ed has asked for help setting up the room starting at 4:00pm. Those who wish to volunteer to help please contact Ed prior to the party. Rusty Koehler will oversee the RSVP requests because an accurate headcount is necessary for the caterer. Rusty will also oversee the club White Elephant gift exchange at the party. Ed Valls requested that anyone planning to attend who requires special needs for food because of medical conditions, to contact him with the info prior the party. Please allow enough advance notice for those requests to be processed.

New Business:

>Ed Valls reported that Roger Freeman, owner of the Kingsbury Aerodrome has requested more R/C flying events to be held in 2025. Then, Ed presented a tentative 2025 event schedule.

Warbird Fly-in 3rd weekend in May
National Model Aviation Day Fly-in,
September date TBD

Jim Rice Fly-in, date TBD

Cubs and Cousins Fly-in, date TBD

Members only Fly-in, possibly two events,
date(s) TBD

Fun Fly-in date TBD

Also, if anyone would like to add events, please contact Ed with your suggestions. Our club has a number of Contest Directors and Event Managers, and Ed would like to ask these CD's and EM's to consider hosting an event for the club. Our goal is to have the complete event schedule available by February 2025.

>Frank George oversaw the November TCF club officers' election. The office of Vice President, Secretary, and the Kingsbury Safety Officer were up for election this year. A nominating committee presented three candidates for Vice President, the incumbent for Secretary and the incumbent for Kingsbury Safety Officer. Before the vote Frank asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None were presented so it was moved, seconded and approved to elect the two Incumbents by unanimous vote. Ballots with the names of the vice president candidates were then passed out to all voting members. The marked ballots were then collected, and after tabulation by two members, Matt Greenlee was declared the winner by a majority vote.



Broken Prop Award: Ed explained to the new members that the broken prop award was all in fun and had been a club tradition for several years. Mike Fisher nominated Johnell Holley only if Johnell would nominate Mike. Johnell explained to club members that he lost sight of his aircraft in the sun and by the time he found it, it was too late, and the aircraft ended up in pieces on the ground. Mike explained that he flew two of his EDF jets too close to the ground; both ended in crashes. Augie Santiago Jr. nominated himself for a crash that occurred at the Boerne Fly-in. He explained that a glue failure resulted in a tail surface of the aircraft he was flying coming off during the flight. Ed reminded Augie Jr. that he was representing TCF at the Fly-in. The members voted and Johnell was the winner of the prestigious Broken Prop Award

Show and Tell: Jim Rice presented a Waco biplane he is building from an old kit. Jim told members that he enlisted the help of several long-time modelers because of a lack of instructions to build the plane. He said the available plans were in German and showed assembling the model by numbers. Parts numbered 1 thru 1493 were in the kit, which is why he required help. During his show and tell Jim requested that more members bring aircraft for show and tell as it is a wonderful way to pass on modeling skills to others.

Adjournment: Mike Zachau moved to adjourn and Rusty Koehler seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Upcoming Events:

TCF Christmas Party, December 12, 2024, starting at 6:00pm with Appetizers. A White Elephant gift exchange will follow dinner. There will be no December Business Meeting.

Tri City Flyers, Inc. Corporation Annual Meeting; January 9, 2025, 7:00 PM at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West, Converse, TX 78109.

Tri City Flyers 43rd Annual Swap Meet, March 7, 8, 2025 at the Garden Ridge Community Center, 9400 Community Center Drive, Garden Ridge, TX 78266.



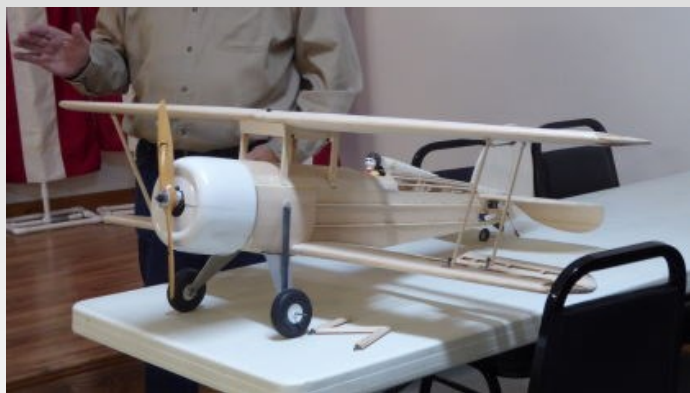
Hello to TCF members and friends. Welcome to November, the beginning of a flurry of year-end holidays. Buckle up and enjoy the ride.

The November business meeting was the final one for 2024. Christmas takes over in December with our annual dinner and white elephant gift exchange. Read all the details in the Minutes and President's column.

Congratulations, and thanks to the members who agreed to run for election and serve as club officers for the next two years. Those details are also in the Minutes. The officers and committee chairs take the time to provide current information about the club so remember to offer thanks when you see them.

Thanks to the three intrepid airman who nominated each other, and themselves, for the Broken Prop Award. Their varied experiences both emphasize the importance of safety, and remind us of our own experiences.

Jim Rice continues to be one of our most active model builders, and this month he brought a Waco Taper Wing biplane, built from an old German kit. As Jim explained, and as recorded in the Minutes, the lack of detailed instructions, and the limited directions he did have being in German, significantly complicated the model building. I know about paint by numbers, but never heard of build by numbers. This picture of Jim's taper wing "in the bones" is a testament to his skill and perseverance.



Waco introduced the ASO-J5 biplane in 1928, as a straight wing model. It did not achieve the predicted performance level, so one of their engineers designed a new tapered top wing, and the ATO-J5 taperwing model was introduced in 1929. Speed as well as handling and aerobatic performance were much improved. 67 of the 1929 taperwing planes were sold. Waco also manufactured custom versions of the plane for racing and aerobatic pilots. Three ATO's entered in a Bendix air race placed 1, 3, and 5. The plane also won the women's competition. The next picture shows one of the custom models pro-

duced. It is too late to Help Jim with his cabane strut configuration, but maybe it will suggest a covering scheme.



I share Jim's interest in seeing more member projects for Show and Tell. I like the occasional challenge of searching out more details on some obscure model a member brings us.

OK, on to another event. Our Saturday Nov. 9 static display in the old hangar at Kingsbury went very well. Supporting the PFM Wings and Wheels fund raisers is a good public service activity that also counts towards our "Leader Club status". I add my thanks to Ed's for those members who made the effort to bring a good variety of impressive models to



display.

The models were arranged in semicircles so people could see them up close. As usual, the jets attracted the most attention and questions, like "is that a real jet engine?". Foot traffic to our display was noticeably lower this year than in the past. But that did allow us time to talk with people who were interested. I don't know how many times I Said "Yes, they do all fly.". The simulator was used, but we did not have the crowds of kids around it. The lighter traffic did allow time to get pictures of several interesting planes at the fly in event.



I did get a picture of one youngster who was at the simulator for a good while.



Airplanes seemed to be landing and leaving all day, so I don't think all of the 40 reported visitors were there at the same time. Anyway, here is a small sample of some beautifully restored, and unusual, airplanes parked on the field. First up is a "gaggle" of biplanes in their parking area - plus one lonely Mooney. It appears to be a model M10 Cadet, which was based on the Ercoup Alon license that Mooney purchased from ERCO. Notice the Ercoup

Next up is a Beech Staggerwing biplane in the restored category.



Finally, here is an Aeronca C3, both unusual and beautifully restored.



heritage in the nose and landing gear, and the conventional tail surfaces with the distinctive Mooney vertical fin. This particular airplane sports a sliding bubble canopy that was available as a custom option.

OK, I'm way late with this so I'd better shut up and publish. As always, any comments and suggestions for your newsletter are appreciated.

Frank L. George, TCF News Editor
newseditor@tricityflyers.com