



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER

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www.tricityflyers.com

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February 2025 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone, welcome to 2025. Since we had to cancel our January meeting due to inclement weather, we conducted the February meeting as our Annual Corporate Meeting. Details are in the newsletter minutes report.

We have a number of events scheduled for 2025 with two of them being multi-day RC flying events. The schedule of events is listed later in this newsletter. Of note is that we will have the 2nd annual Warbirds Over Kingsbury in May and we will have the 25th Annual Rice Memorial in early October. Please make plans to attend as many of our events as possible. As always, we will need our club members to volunteer to help at various positions for our events so please consider volunteering to help.

We have been gifted some park flyer ARF models by a local modeler, and we will be giving these away periodically to those club members who attend our meetings. I would invite you to please attend some meetings if you are able. Our membership has become rather stable at about 76 adult members, and I would like feedback from you on how we might encourage more local people to join our club. I believe that we try hard to be a welcoming and helpful group but there might be some things we need to do, or perhaps do better. Please contact any of our club officers with your suggestions.

In closing I would like to thank all of you for your membership and support of the hobby and our club. We have had some weather of late that has made flying a bit challenging, but it should be getting warmer and a bit less windy.

Hope to see you at the flying field.
Ed

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.



Call to Order: Club President, Ed Valls, called the February 13, 2025, Annual Corporate Business Meeting to order at 6:57pm. 26 members, including 5 club officers, were in attendance.

Installation of Newly Elected Club Officers: 3 newly elected club officers were sworn in by the Club Parliamentarian, Frank George. They are Matt Greenlee, Club Vice-President; Mike Fisher, Kingsbury Flying Field Safety Officer; and John Franklin, Club Secretary.

January Meeting Minutes: There were no January 2025 minutes because the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

Guests/New Members: One new club member has met the requirements to become an active club member. His name is Steven Hernandez, and he is sponsored by Mike Fisher. He resides in Buda, Texas. Steven has his Turbine Waiver and has been flying for some time. The members voted him in unanimously, in absentia.

Mathew, from Lytle, Texas, was in attendance as a guest at the meeting. He expressed a desire to join the club. Ed Valls outlined the procedure to him. Mathew came forward and described to club members that he had been flying for 6 or 7 years. He wished to fly at Seguin, but Ed recommended that the Kingsbury Field might be more appropriate since he operates electric model airplanes. Ed also pointed out that Kingsbury is only 10 miles from the Seguin Field. Ed told Mathew to contact Rusty Koehler and to fill out his club application on-line, then the members can vote him in at the next meeting.

Matt Dirienzo brought to the attention of the members that a junior member named Cash was in attendance. It was his first meeting, but he has been a member for a year. Ed invited Cash to come forward and tell members about himself. He entertained the members with a description of his flying experience. All welcomed Cash to the meeting.

John Franklin presented a Membership Summary Report prepared by Rusty Koehler. It shows a current membership of 76 adult members, 3 family members, 3 junior members and 10 honorary members. Included are 15 new adult members and 3 new junior members. There were 15 non-renewing adult members and 2 associate non-renewing members from last year. Rusty also reported that Tri City Flyers have met the requirements to be an AMA Gold Leader Club in 2025.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the members with a financial report for the months of November, December, and January. He also outlined the expenditures for the December Club Christmas Party. An audit of the club finances was completed on December 6, 2024. Matt Dirienzo, Mike Fisher, and Frank George performed the audit with Mike Zachau. Mike presented the signed satisfactory audit report to the club. Mike also informed members that the JBSA Seguin lease fee check had already been processed. In the past the checks were not processed in a timely manner. New personnel are handling the checks and seem to be more efficient,

Safety Officer Reports:

—Seguin Field: Augie Santiago was not in attendance. Ed Valls reported all is in decent condition.
—Kingsbury Field; Mike Fisher reported no safety issues.

Field Manager Report:

—Gil Martinez reported no maintenance issues at Kingsbury.
—Mike Zachau discussed the use of member applied Fire Ant Granules to help with the annual expense for pest control at Kingsbury, and described the future procedures for members to control fire ants.

AMA Business: Frank George reported that a number of vendor discounts are available to AMA members. He also said the AMA has been working with FAA to finish sorting out the Remote ID certification and use at R/C flying sites. Jim Rice



told members that the AMA Executive Director resigned. Jim is on the AMA committee pursuing a replacement. He said to date AMA has received 100 applications for the position and from that, 5 are top prospects. Jim also explained the FAA requirements for a club to be recognized as a RIDE facility. This certification is in lieu of a FRIA club flying field certification. Our flying field at JBSA Seguin has similar requirements.

Unfinished Business:

— Ed reported that all who had offered feedback about the club Christmas Party were satisfied with the event. He also welcomed feedback from anyone attending the party. Most were happy with the catering service and Ed recommended the club consider it for this year's party. Ed presented the club's event schedule for 2025. He explained that the board had recently convened and discussed the event schedule. The schedule was distributed to members and Ed outlined the 2025 events.

— The club Swap Meet is scheduled for March 7 and 8, 2025. Event coordinator, Frank George presented an outline of the event, as he is the event manager. A volunteer sheet for the event was passed around and last year's event pros and cons discussed. Frank told members that 3 tables were all that is left for rent at the Swap Meet. He encouraged some of the same volunteers that helped in certain areas to sign up for the same service this year. He also asked that those who can, volunteer to help Gary Rice in the kitchen. Frank also gave members a timeline for the Swap Meet.

— Mike Zachau discussed a request by the Kingsbury landowners, to move the Conex storage container. He also recommended repainting the container.

— Ed Valls asked everyone to mark their calendars for March 22, 2025, as a Kingsbury field maintenance day. There will be no R/C flying on that day. He told members that he plans to bring a

generator to have power for installing the roof vents on the Conex. Also, he will bring the materials to install the new modular pilot stations, which will include painting the stations.

— Ed told members that the Seguin flying site was open to all. He said that some members were under the impression that the Seguin site was only for jet pilots. Those using the site now, are sharing use with propeller type aircraft.

— Jim Rice informed members that he will hold a raffle for the 25th Annual Rice Memorial Fly-in. He plans to donate funds raised in the name of the club and his father. He said that there will be 12 airplanes as raffle prizes.

New Business:

— Ed informed members that Jeff Leonard who owns Alamo Group MFG in Seguin donated 24 ARF models to Tri City Flyers. Jeff is relocating and did not have room to transport the models. He had received polite treatment by members of Tri City Flyers at an earlier visit and wanted the club to have the models. Ed wants to use some of the donated models as prizes at events. Some will be used as prizes for the Warbird Fly-in, and some will be used as raffle prizes for the Swap Meet. Another elder modeler also donated all his model supplies collection to Tri City Flyers. This modeler had quite a collection of assorted items that Ed has sold and given the proceeds to the modeler, who is on a fixed income. Ed brought some items to the February club meeting to be given to members.

— Ed told members that the Seguin Lease and the Kingsbury Lease are both up for renewal this year. He plans to negotiate with the Kingsbury landowners to help with the facility maintenance.

Broken Prop Award: Mike Fisher nominated Sherman Lindsey for this month's Broken Prop Award. Sherman told members that he lost control of an Astro Hog he was flying at Kingsbury. He explained that attempting to recover from a near miss with the ground ended with the plane in sev-



eral pieces. He also said he acquired the plane already built, and it had not been well built. No other members were nominated, so Sherman received the Award. He also told members he has another Astro Hog that was much better built. Thanks to Mike Fisher for building a traveling Broken Prop Trophy to recognize each month's winner.

Show and Tell:

— Jim Rice showed members a scratch-built bi-plane that he is constructing. He told them that he is also building one for his son, Gary. Gary's plane will have electric power and Jim's is powered by a 20cc DLE. Jim said his plane was lighter than Gary's. He told members that David Gray had drawn a profile of a model called a Too Cool Bipe. Jim plans to call his, A Tew Kewel Bipe.

— Brian Tobias showed members a Free Wing SR71 that he recently acquired. He said it features two 70mm EDF motors and operates on one or two 6s LiPos. The model has scale landing gear and a scale landing drag chute. He plans to maiden the airplane in a couple of weeks.

Adjournment: Jim Rice moved to adjourn, Charles Roccaforte seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

Tri City Flyers Swap Meet: March 7 and 8. March 7, 2025, Open for business 3:00 to 9:00 PM. March 8, open for business at 9:00 AM; raffle drawing approximately 12:00 PM, and estimated to be over around 2:30 PM.

March Business Meeting: 7:00 PM, March 13 at American Legion Post, 326 Legion Dr West; Converse, Texas.

Kingsbury Field Maintenance Day: March 22, at 9:00 AM. No flying that day.

Club members only fly in: Saturday, April 19, Pizza will be provided

TCF Kingsbury Workday: Saturday, May 10, preparation for the Warbirds Over Kingsbury (no RC flying that day)

2nd Annual Warbirds Over Kingsbury:

Wednesday May 14 through Sunday, May 18.

Club or Open Fly-In: Saturday, September 27. Format TBD by club

25th Annual Rice Memorial Fly-In: Friday, October 10 and Saturday October 11.

Club only or Open Fly-In: Saturday, November 22, Format TBD by club

In addition to the TCF events listed above, the PFM will hold their annual fly ins, which members are encouraged to support by attending and participating in TCF's static display.

Pioneer Flight Museum Wings and Wheels Spring

Event: Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3 (No RC flying these two days).

Pioneer Flight Museum Wings and Wheels Fall

Event: Friday, November 7 and Saturday November 8 (No RC flying these two days).



Hello TCF members and friends. I am pleased you are reading your February Newsletter - and that you made it this far. Running a bit late with the news this month because of final detail activities for the upcoming swap meet. More about the meet below.

Welcome to the newly elected officers for the 2025 -26 term. Thanks also for your willingness to serve. Shake their hand when you see them, and thank them for the time they donate working for your club.

I hope you read the February Minutes. They contain much detail about our club plans and events for this year. The Board of Officers has planned a number of activities to offer more opportunities for members to come together for fun, fellowship, and just to get better acquainted. Additional improvements and maintenance are planned for Kingsbury, although not included in the minutes. I encourage you to participate in the monthly meetings as well. Your club does much more than provide a place to fly your model aircraft.

The broken prop award is just one entertaining part of the meetings. Besides the lighthearted fun, you might learn about a situation to avoid.

The Show and Tell segment of our meetings gives members a chance to show off a new aircraft, a building tip, tool or anything they think may be useful other model flyers.

Speaking of show and tell, we had two offerings this month. Jim Rice brought the "Tew Kewel Bipe" he is building from scratch.



A brief search for the original model didn't turn up much. It was a profile type model popular among 3-D flyers in 2005-06, especially for its high alpha performance. Designed by a British modeler, kits were produced in small numbers, possibly by special order from the designer. It was made from wood and foam, and sized for a 110 to 180 four stroke engine. Here is a picture of one from a 2005 discussion thread.



Our second show and tell was Brian Tobias' new Freewing SR-71 EDF ARF.



This is a large model airplane. Constructed of EDF foam, it is 74.6 inches long with a 37.8 inch wing span. The empty weight is about 7.8 Lb. The



recommended 6S/5000mA battery adds about 1.65 Lb. to the flying weight and the 6000mA one adds 2 LB. The 12 blade EDFs are controlled by 80A ESCs with thrust reversing and 10A UBECs. Flight control is enhanced by a 6-axis gyro. This is more detail than I usually include for a show and tell plane, but the actual SR-71 has been a very impressive technical achievement, and I am waiting to hear how this model representation of the plane performs.

As promised, my last topic this month is our upcoming swap meet. 2025 is our 43rd annual swap meet, and has been a successful event over the years, both financially and showcasing our hobby. Our net profit over the last eight years has averaged about \$1,600.00, which has contributed significantly to our efforts to introduce the public to our hobby, promote model aviation, support worthwhile non-profits, and provide good facilities for us to enjoy RC flying.

As with all of our club activities, the swap meet can only be successful with club support. I circulated signup sheets at the February meeting to solicit member volunteer support for specific tasks at the meet. The sheets described each task and the anticipated time commitment. My goal is to get enough volunteers so no one will have to spend too much time working, and takeaway from exploring the merchandise. Following is a list of the tasks to be done, and where additional help is needed.

1. Friday 12:00 to 2:00 PM. **Table setup and arrangement.** Enough volunteers signed up at the meeting for this task.

2. Friday 2:00 to 5:00 PM. **Traffic control for arriving vendors.** Have 2 volunteers; can use 1 or 2 more to give them a break.

3. Friday 2:00 to 9:00 PM and Saturday 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. **Vendor Check in, admission collection and raffle sales.** Only have 1 volunteer; need at least 8 more to have two people at a time and allow rotation.

4. Friday 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. **Kitchen help;** Gary Rice does

the cooking. Helpers take and deliver orders, and collect money. Have one each for Friday and Saturday. Need 2 or 3 more to be sure of coverage.

5. Saturday approximately 2:30 PM until Done, usually about 3:30 with enough help. **Clean Up.** Clean up consists of cleaning table tops, folding and stacking chairs, picking up trash and anything vendors leave behind, emptying trash cans and sweeping the floors. In other words, leave the facility clean and neat, including the bathrooms. Note; Gary generally takes care of the kitchen. One helper would be useful.

Yes, task 5 sounds like a lot, but goes fairly quickly with enough help. It is important to complete this task in order to get our cleaning deposit refund. Have 4 volunteers, but at least 2 more will be very helpful.

To my knowledge we have always gotten the refund!

That's it gang - please seriously consider volunteering to help. No matter when you can be at the meet, there will be something for you to help with.

Contact me directly to volunteer or find out more.

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If you have any comments or suggestions about the newsletter format or content, contact me at

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Frank George, Tri City Flyers News Editor