



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

APRIL 2025

AMA #850

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APRIL 2025 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone, I hope you are all doing well and getting through the windy month of April. As mentioned previously, CD Tom Dicuirci is working hard to ensure a very successful Warbirds Over Kingsbury. The event will take place starting on Thursday, May 15 and continue through Saturday May 17. Tom, has arranged to have food trucks at the event for Friday and Saturday. This is a new approach as an effort to allow more members time to participate in the event, and fewer members needed to support the event. Please make plans to attend this event and come join the fun. As always, we will still need our club members to volunteer to help at various positions for all of our events, so please consider volunteering.

We will also have a few more "big" events during the year. Our annual National Model Aviation Day will be held on September 13, and will be managed by Augie Santiago. We will also host the 25th Annual Rice Memorial on October 10 and 11. Please make plans to attend these events and support the club.

In closing I 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.



Tri City Flyers, Inc. April 2025 Business Meeting

Call to Order: Club president Ed Valls called the April Business Meeting to order at 7:00pm April 10. There were 20 members in attendance, including 5 club officers.

March Meeting Minutes: Ed Valls asked the members for any March meeting minutes corrections or additions. None being offered, Charles Roccaforte moved to approve the March minutes as published in the Newsletter. Mike Fisher seconded, and all members voted aye.

Guests/New Members: John Franklin introduced the latest round of new members to the club. Gus Niver introduced himself and gave the attending members a brief history of his model career. He is sponsored by Charles Roccaforte. Gus resides in Wimberley, Texas.

Jay Fisher was recognized and gave a brief history of his model background, and explained his flying interests. Jay is sponsored by Mike Fisher. He lives in New Braunfels.

Ed Valls sponsored two new members, one being his stepson, Brian Strachan. The other being Rafael Ledesma from Manor, Texas. Both new members have extensive flying backgrounds. They were not in attendance at the meeting.

A motion was made by Jim Rice and seconded by Johnell Holley to accept all the new member applicants. All voted aye in approval of the new member applicants.

Frank George was also recognized as the club's latest Honorary Lifetime Member. Frank has always been a club leader and the first in line to volunteer when help is needed. He has coordinated the club swap meets and regularly participates in the club static displays at various events. Frank is the club Newspaper Editor and Parliamentarian. He was unanimously voted in as Honorary Lifetime Member by the club Board of Officers.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the March end of month financial reports to the attending members. A summary of the bank account balance, and the club income and expenses were presented. A brief discussion followed about the upcoming lease renewals for the Kingsbury and JBSA Seguin flying fields. Ed informed members that he expects lease rates to increase for both locations. He also told members that every effort is being made to keep rates low or gain benefits from landowners. Charles Roccaforte made a motion to receive the financial report as presented; Frank George seconded, all voted aye in approval.

Safety Officers' Reports:

Seguin: Augie Santiago was not in attendance. Ed Valls reported there were no incidents at Seguin.

Kingsbury: Mike Fisher reported there were no safety issues at Kingsbury.

Field Manager Report: Gil Martinez was not in attendance. Mike Fisher reported that volunteers did a workday at Kingsbury on March 22. The flying field conditions were improved by widening the runway to 95 feet by 700 feet. Several potholes were filled, and the runway was rolled with a commercial roller. New pilot stations fabricated by Ed Valls and Mike Fisher were installed. A roof air vent was installed on the Conex storage container. The volunteers were recognized and commended for their help. All members are encouraged to help with field maintenance and club fly-in events.

AMA Business: Frank George had nothing to report. Jim Rice told members he was assisting the AMA with their search for a new Executive Director. Tyler Dobbs, the Government Affairs Senior Director has been the acting Executive Director. If appointed to the position permanently, he will assist the Government Affairs Manager, Lucas Rodden. Jim was asked if there had been any adverse conditions because of the recent government cutbacks. He said that the AMA was optimistic but realizes there may be some challenges in the future when dealing with the government.

Unfinished Business:

April 19th club members' fly in: Mike Fisher is the CD for this event. He told members that the fly-in will start around 9:00am. Several flying competitions are scheduled, along with open flying between the activities. Pizza and drinks will be served at lunch. Mike has one airplane to raffle at the fly-in and one to give as an attendance prize. This event is for club members and their immediate family. It will be closed to others.

Warbirds Over Kingsbury: Event CD, Tom Dicuirci, presented the outline for the event to the members present. He asked that all members sign-up to help with the event as he expects a large turnout at this year's Warbird fly-in. Tom plans to have a Youth Color Guard at the event and has done quite a lot of promotion for the fly-in. He has solicited food trucks to attend and be available to provide food for attendees. He is encouraging members to bring



family and friends, and instructed volunteers to be available for the needs of guests. There are some high-end door prizes and a lot of warbird flying scheduled during the event. Tom has distributed an info flyer to many in the Central Texas and national warbird clubs. The Warbirds Over Kingsbury event is scheduled for May 15th thru May 18th. A Kingsbury workday is scheduled for May 13th to prepare for the Warbird fly-in. All members are requested to participate in the field preparation in order to showcase Kingsbury to the public.

New Business:

Wings and Wheels fly-in: The Pioneer Flight Museum has scheduled the event for May 3. An info flyer is available on the PFM website with more details. Ed Valls requested all who would like to participate in a static display at the PFM fly-in to contact him. He needs to compile a list to present to PFM owners, request space and confirm instructions for arriving, parking and setting up. Ed will present the outline to volunteers before the fly-in. There will be no R/C flying on May 3, 2025.

Broken Prop Award: Sherman Lindsey returned the Broken Prop Trophy he had been keeping warm for several months. Mike Fisher nominated Johnell Holley for this month's award. Johnell described an incident that he experienced with an aircraft he attempted to fly with a receiver for another airplane. Johnell discovered that a receiver oriented to a high wing tricycle gear aircraft won't work on a low wing tail dragger. Johnell received the Broken Prop Award by unanimous vote.

Show and Tell: At this month's show and tell Jim Rice described an airplane he built for another person. The airplane build started from a short kit the person had for an RC model named "Not for Sale". Jim explained some of the difficulty he experienced with trying to build without plans. He later discovered an error and was able to work around the issues. He told members he had done the build for a very nominal fee, to help out the young man.

Jim presented the model to the client uncovered, for him to finish the model.

Meeting Adjournment: Charles Roccaforte made a motion to adjourn, and Sherman Lindsey seconded. The members approved unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

April 19, 2025, Club Members Only Fly-in starts at 9:00am. Mike Fisher CD, Kingsbury R/C Flying Field.

May 3, 2025, Pioneer Flight Museum Wings and Wheels Fly-in. TCF RC model display Old Kingsbury Aerodrome.

May 8, 2025, Regular Club Meeting, 7:00pm American Legion Post; Converse, Texas.

May 13, 2025, Kingsbury Field Maintenance Day. Volunteers needed.

May 15th thru May 18th, Warbirds Over Kingsbury. Tom Dicuirci CD, Kingsbury R/C Flying Field.

NOTE: Additional events planned later in the year were outlined in the March Newsletter.

Hello again TCF members and friends. We are well into Spring now and I hope you are getting some flying in. My big accomplishment since the last Newsletter was getting my annual tax report finished and successfully submitted. I hope to get back to more fun things now.

Four new members joined TCF at the meeting this month. Gus Niver, Jay Fisher, Brian Strachan, and Rafael Ledesma are all experienced RC flyers. Look for them at our fields (or anyone you don't recognize for that matter) and talk to them.

Be sure to check out the calendar of coming events at the end of the minutes. I hope you find one or more that interest you among the variety listed.

Going on to other activities at the club meeting, Mike Fisher created a new traveling trophy for the monthly Broken Prop award winner. Sherman Lindsay, previous trophy winner, happily presented the Broken Prop Trophy to the April winner, Johnell Holley.



For newcomers, or anyone not familiar with the Broken Prop Award, it is not intended to embarrass anyone. It is really meant to convey the fact that anyone, even the most capable RC pilot can make a mistake, and to learn from it instead of beating ourselves up over it.

Moving on to Show and Tell, once again Jim Rice presented us with a unique and very different RC model build. Thanks, Jim, for keeping this segment of our meetings so interesting. A picture is the best way to describe this model.



It is a sport fun-flyer named "NotForSale" that Jim built from a short kit that a young man he knows had acquired. Unfortunately, the kit did not include plans, so Jim made some assumptions and started building. When things didn't seem "right" he tracked down the original article in the May 1993 "Model Airplane News" issue. Here is another view of the 53 inch span model, intended for 0.32 to 0.46 glow power. Jim incor-



porated some improvements to the model, including formed aluminum landing gear, strengthening in the nose, and servo placement to help with balance.

Looking at the fuselage shape and side area, I wonder how it would do for knife-edge flight. Just in case Jim's presentation has peaked your interest in this model, the short kit



is available with either a built up or foam wing at this website. https://www.eurekaaircraft.com/plan_kits/nfs.htm

The site also has links to the "Model Airplane News" article and the "AirAge Store" where the plans are available for \$19.00. "AirAge" publishes "Model Airplane News".

Finally, here is another example of the plane covered and ready to fly. This example



may have electric power.

Come on Guys, give me some more of your projects to write about. I know there are other creative things going on in our club. Just pack one up and bring it to a meeting.

I'll finish this month by sharing with you a shop item I have found very useful for a couple years. These SAE (Standard American English) and Metric bolt and nut gauges are from www.microfasteners.com.



Micro Fasteners is competitive with RTL Fasteners in the small hardware marketing business. I have used them for a long time, primarily because I found them before RTL, and they have always provided good quality, prices and service. As the picture shows, the gauges consist of actual bolts and nuts imbedded in plywood, with the sizes laser etched by each one. The SAE sizes range from 0-80 to 1/4-20 inch. The Metric range is 1.5 to 6 mm.

I try to keep my small hardware stored by size in pullout drawers or assortment boxes with dividers. But some small pieces manage to jump over the dividers to mingle with nearby neighbors. These gauges have been handy when I need to pick out a specific size. They have been durable as well. None of the individual pieces have come loose, even after being dropped on the floor. Simple aides like these can be quite useful to those of us who are "of a certain age".

OK, enough for this month. Hope you enjoy the Newsletter. Send me any comments and suggestions for items of interest to you.

Frank George, TCF News Editor

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