



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

JUNE 2025

AMA #850

Your 2025 Tri City Club Contacts:

President

Ed Valls
president@tricityflyers.com

Vice-President

Matt Greenlee
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

JUNE 2025 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone, I hope you are all doing well and getting a chance to do some flying in between the rain events this past month. I want to thank Matt Greenlee, our Vice-President, for conducting the June meeting as I was not able to attend.

As covered elsewhere in this newsletter, Tom DiCuirci and our club volunteers conducted a wonderfully successful 2nd annual Warbirds Over Kingsbury on May 15 thru 17, 2025. We had a very good pilot turnout as well as a large number of spectators. Our first attempt at using a food truck vendor in lieu of "running" the kitchen was very successful. I would like to thank Tom for an outstanding event and to all of our volunteers who worked the event, well done.

Our next event will be our annual National Model Aviation Day (NMAD) event to be held on September 13, 2025. All of the proceeds will go to charity so please plan on attending. In addition to the NMAD, our club will host two additional events later this year. Information on those events will be provided soon.

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 Business Meeting, June 12, 2025

Call to Order: Club vice president Matt Greenlee called the June meeting to order at 7:00 PM. President Ed Valls was on excused absence. 18 members, including 3 officers, were in attendance.

May 2025 Meeting Minutes: Matt asked members if there were any corrections to the May Meeting Minutes. None being offered, Rusty Koehler moved to approve the Minutes as written, Charles Roccaforte seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Guests/New Members: Rusty Koehler introduced new member applicant Jack Jones to the members. Jack's sponsor, Matt Dirienzo, gave the attending members a brief overview of Jack's recent visit to Kingsbury. Rusty interviewed Jack on the phone and took his application. Frank George made a motion to accept Jack as a new member to Tri City Flyers. Mike Zachau seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the May ending financial report to the members. He outlined all the expenditures and income for May. Mike included the Warbirds over Kingsbury event totals and outlined the club payment schedule for the Seguin field lease. John Franklin made a motion to receive Mike's report and Johnell Holley seconded. Attending members approved unanimously.

Safety Officers' Reports:

Kingsbury - Mike Fisher reported to Matt Greenlee, via email, that there were no safety issues to be reported at the Kingsbury flying field.

Seguin: No safety report was given because Augie Santiago was not in attendance.

Field Manager Report: No report was presented; Gil Martinez was not in attendance.

Unfinished Business:

Flying Field Leases - A new lease is now in effect for Seguin. The Kingsbury lease expires on December 31, 2025, and Ed Valls will begin negotiating a new Kingsbury lease with the property owner later this year.

Warbirds Over Kingsbury - Tom Dicuirci presented a report on the Warbirds over Kingsbury event for which he was the CD. Tom thanked all members who helped with field preparations and

worked at the event. Tom said a herculean effort was made by all who volunteered. He reported that 46 pilots registered and flew at the event. The visiting pilots were very complimentary about the condition of the field and congratulated the club on their efforts. Tom reported that the raffle was such a success that surplus tickets from previous raffles were used to keep up with the demand. Tom also gave members a review of the food truck and caterers who worked our event. The food was good, and served with generous portions. One caterer said he was willing to help with any future events (including Hamburgers).

Mike Zachau provided a detailed outline of the Warbird financials, including registration, raffle, and T-shirt sales versus expenses; the bottom line being the event made a profit after all obligations were met.

Tom also invited members who worked at the Warbird event to offer their comments and impressions about how things went. The comments covered several topics. Regarding the raffle, allowing bidders to select the prize or prizes they were interested in contributed to the raffle's success, but the workers had to keep clarifying how the bidding and drawing worked. However, removing the prize choice by putting all tickets in one "tumbler" could reduce raffle participation. Flight safety becomes more important as the number of pilots flying increases. Pilot briefings become more important to ensure visiting pilots from different areas and flying conditions are "on the same page" for our event. A number of incidents, i.e. crashes, occurred, largely because of the severe crosswind at the field. Pilots need to be made aware of our changeable winds, and an emergency safety protocol needs to be communicated to pilots in the air if a crash occurs. Communication is key to maintaining order and safety, especially for larger events. The deteriorated condition of the field speakers, due to age and visible damage, contributed to communication issues. Many thanks to Tom Dicuirci for his outstanding efforts.

New Business:

Annual Safety Briefing - Tabled until the July business meeting because neither Safety Officer was in attendance

FAA Flying Altitude Relief - Both of our club fields have been granted a waiver by the FAA from the previous 400 ft flight ceiling. We are now



able to fly to a maximum altitude of 1200 ft. Rusty Koehler presented an overview of the new flight ceiling and associated precautions to be observed. Rusty was instrumental in securing the 1200 ft ceiling at the Kingsbury and Seguin Flying Sites. We applaud all his efforts on this matter. He told members that the Seguin authorization was more difficult because of military guidelines at that site.

National Model Aviation Day - National Model Aviation Day will be held on Saturday September 13, at the Kingsbury field. Event Manager Augie Santiago will provide an update on the planning at the July meeting.

Broken Prop Nominations/Award: Ron Wahl was nominated for the award because of two crashes he had at the Warbird Fly-in. Ron provided a brief description of both accidents and won the award by acclamation.

Show and Tell: Matt Dirienzo showed members an EDF jet he had built from plans. He included a link for all who are interested. That link is <https://youtu.be/fpv83d4oEaE?si=zllev100U1ROQN0s>. This you tube site has step by step construction of the F-22 Matt built. Details and other aircraft plans are also available.

Adjournment: Sherman Lindsey made a motion to adjourn, and Charles Roccaforte seconded. All members voted aye.

Upcoming Events:

July Regular Business Meeting: July 10, 2025, 7:00 PM, at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West; Converse, Texas.

National Model Aviation Day: At Kingsbury Saturday September 13, Augie Santiago, EM.

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

Club Members Only or Open Fly-In: At Kingsbury, Saturday, November 22. Format TBD by the club.



Hello again to all TCF members and friends. Welcome to Summer in south central Texas - not that it made any difference with the Spring weather we were having. I have been staying close to home and air conditioning, except for absolutely necessary outside activity. Currently, I am refurbishing a couple planes and hope to get some early morning time at the field.

Be sure to review the June business meeting minutes on pages 2 and 3, and welcome new member, Jack Jones, when you see him.

The AMA has designated June as Flying Safety Month. However, our club annual safety review is postponed to July because neither of our Safety Officers were able to be at our June meeting. In the meantime, you may want to review the TCF Kingsbury and Seguin Flying Site Rules under the Menu/Flying Sites Tab, on our website, <https://www.tricityflyers.com/a/r/szz/rc/home> Login is not required.

Broken Prop: One of the airplanes that earned Ron Wahl the Broken Prop Award was his big ME-262 EDF that was flipped by the crosswind during takeoff. Ron had owned the plane for a long time - it was one of the "Popup" pictures on the TCF Homepage. Ron was heard to say he will get another one.

Show and Tell: The June item is a large F-22 fighter model that Matt Dirienzo built from foam board covered with Kraft paper. Based on past experience with the paper peeling back, especially along cut edges, Matt coated the entire plane with a sealer. Propulsion is provided by a pair of ducted fans. Servos and other electronics are still to be installed. The link in the minutes to a YouTube video showing the F-22 construction did not work for me. Entering it in Google gave the response "No longer available". However, searching for "Big foam board F22" gave me this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPV83d4oEaE> which has the same ID number. The author's name is Julius Perdana. Click on his name under the video to go to his channel and much more information. See Matt with his model above right.



Thanks, Matt.

Thanks to Matt Greenlee for successfully procuring an AMA "Training Day Starter Kit" for our new pilot training program. Competition was fierce as only 5 kits were awarded in each of the 11 AMA districts. Matt selected the "HobbyZone Aeroscout S 2.1m FTF Basic with SAFE" for our club. Accessories needed to use the plane with students are being collected.

That's it for June. As always I invite your comments and suggestions at newseditor@tricityflyers.com

Frank