



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



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JULY 2025

AMA #850

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JULY 2025 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone, I hope you are all doing well and getting a chance to get some flying in. There is not a lot to mention for this month's column but here are a few things. September our club will host the National Model Aviation Day fly-in. This event is open to any and all AMA members and their guests. The event will be one-day, run by Augie Santiago on Saturday, September 13, 2025. There is an entry fee and all pilots will receive a lunch with their paid registration. Any and all types of remote-controlled model aircraft are welcome. Please come out and support this event as all proceeds will go to charity. We will have a food truck on-site where you can buy your lunch.

Our next event after the National Model Aviation Day event will be the 25th Annual Rice Memorial. This will be a two-day event, Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11, 2025. All proceeds will be donated (equally) to the AMA Foundation and the Veterans Honor Flight Foundation. We will again have a food truck on-site where you can purchase lunch on both days. All registered pilots will get one free lunch with their paid registration. All types of remote-controlled aircraft are welcome so please come out and help us support these two wonderful charities.

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 July Meeting Minutes July 10, 2025

Call to Order: Club president Ed Valls called the July business meeting to order at 7:10pm. Eighteen members including club officers were in attendance.

June Meeting Minutes: Ed asked the attending club members if they had any corrections to make to the June meeting minutes. None were noted and a motion was made by Ron Wahls, seconded by Mike Zachau, and approved by unanimous ayes by those in attendance.

Guests/New Members: Mike Zachau reported that 2 junior members and one associate member had submitted applications. The junior members are Iskander Urazalinov and Giancarlo Josten. They are members of a high school R/C club headed by Frank Lucci. The new members will receive flight instruction at Kingsbury. Our new associate member, George Flood, is from Flatonia and has a large R/C model background. He has joined as an associate because of his resident location. Mike Fisher is his sponsor. The members in attendance approved of the new members unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau reported the end of June financial numbers to the members. He presented a summary of the club bank account balances, income and expenses. A motion was made by Jim Rice and seconded by Mike Fisher; the members voted to receive the report unanimously.

Field Manager Report: It was noted that the field needed mowing maintenance. Matt Dirienzo said that he had scheduled the maintenance in the upcoming few days. Gil Martinez was not at the meeting.

Safety Officers' Reports:

Augie Santiago: Augie said there were no incidents reported at the Seguin flying field, although he also said that he had not been to the field in a while.

Mike Fisher: Mike reported 2 incidents at

the Kingsbury flying field. He told members that 2 close contacts of an aircraft with other pilots had occurred due to the poor piloting abilities of the pilot flying the aircraft. Mike plans to coach the member, including buddy box assistance, to evaluate and hopefully improve his skills. Mike also reported that Charlotte Parker had voiced a negative opinion about the recent FAA increase in the operational ceiling for our RC Aircraft.

AMA Business: Mike Zachau reported an upcoming flight restriction for Kerr County due to a visit by President Donald Trump.

Unfinished Business:

Annual Safety Review: The required annual safety briefing was presented to the club by Mike Fisher. He encouraged all members to go to the TCF website and review the club flying site rules. He also outlined the AMA safety guidelines for the members. Mike told members that it is important to abide by the established rules to avoid disciplinary actions; verbal warnings followed by possible revocation of flying privileges could occur for repeated violations. A discussion by members followed concerning the use and proximity of flight spotters during RC operation. It is mandatory for turbine flight and recommended for other operation of our UAS's.

National Model Aviation Day: Augie Santiago presented an outline of the upcoming NMAD Fly-in, for which he is the CD. The Fly-in is scheduled for Sept. 13, 2025, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Augie has solicited support from several vendors for door prizes and contest awards. Mike Fisher has volunteered to run the kitchen at the Fly-in. Augie plans to have two flight sims and 1 or 2 trainers at the event. He is going to have Rusty contact Frank Lucci to inform the high school model club members. Augie also plans to include provisions for those who wish to bring swap meet items to sell.

Rice Memorial Fly-in: Jim Rice outlined the plans for the Fly-in scheduled for Oct. 10th and 11th 2025. The event will be in memory of Jim's late father who was heavily involved with



model aviation. Jim plans to donate 12 airplanes as prizes and sell raffle tickets to generate funds. Those funds will be donated ½ to the AMA and ½ to the Veterans Honor Flight Program. He also is looking into having a caterer to provide food for the event, and including one meal with registration. One option is to have lunch plates at a cost of \$10.00 for registered pilots, and \$12.00 for others. Jim also has an acquaintance who can provide a barbeque meal for approximately \$20.00 ea. The food choices are still being reviewed, and a final selection will be announced later. Sherman Lindsey will lead the registration, and several flight-line monitors will be appointed. The event will be open to all aircraft. Best of Show and Best Multi awards will be presented at the conclusion of the event. Jim has encouraged all to fly kit- or plans-built aircraft if they have them, as that is what his dad specialized in.

New Business:

Club Trainer: Matt Greenlee presented an Aero Scout Model provided to TCF through the AMA's Training Day Kit Program. Matt coordinated the application process to acquire the model and transmitter. Ed plans to store the aircraft in his garage with a limited number of people having access.

Kingsbury PA System: Frank George requested and received Board permission to acquire an enclosed cabinet to store the Kingsbury audio equipment in. The cabinet will protect the equipment from contamination and potential damage from insects and other "critters". A wireless Mic was purchased for the Warbird Fly-in and is available for other events, along with a new hand-held Mic. Frank was asked to investigate upgrading the field PA speaker system, and discussed the status. Inspection of the current system during the Warbird event identified some visible outdoor speaker damage, some nonfunctioning speakers, and others with distorted sound. The wiring for the field speakers also needs inspection and potential repair or replacement. Frank is working on specs for an upgraded

speaker system, to be provided for Board review, and recommended coordination with our landlord. Ed told members that he has rental access to a bucket truck for installation when eventually needed.

Broken Prop Award: No nominations were made at this meeting.

Show & Tell:

Jim Rice presented an ARF, Piper PA18 Super Cub, he acquired from our new associate member, George Flood. He explained some of the modifications he made to the model to bring it to Jim Rice standards.

Mike Fisher presented an Old School Model Works Ghost Kit he recently acquired and built. He displayed a working bomb bay which several members showed an interest in for doing a candy drop. This may pose problems as R/C aircraft are not to be operated over spectators' heads. A discussion followed about possibly doing some aircraft carrier landing contest at future events.

Adjournment: Jim Rice made a motion to adjourn, Ron Wahl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

Tri City Flyers regular August business meeting: scheduled for the second Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall, 326 Legion Drive West; Converse, Texas.

National Model Aviation Day: September 13, 2025, Kingsbury Flying Field from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Augie Santiago CD.

Rice Memorial Fly-in: October 10 and 11, 2025, at Kingsbury Flying Field, Jim Rice CD.

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

Hello again to all TCF members and friends. If you are reading this, you are already on our club website. So, if you are not a club member (or even if you are) check out the other information about our club, flying fields, pilot training program, events, and more.

I trust you checked out the business meeting minutes on pages 2 and 3. Members at next month's meeting will be asked to approve them, so take note of any possible errors. The minutes also help update club activities if you are not at the meetings.

The annual safety review reported in the minutes is an AMA club requirement. So, if you missed Augie and Mike's review at the meeting, I encourage you to review the TCF safety policies on the club website. You do not need to login. Click the Menu link on the Home page, then select the Kingsbury or Seguin safety rules in the "Flying Sites" column.

Finally, I hope you plan to participate in the upcoming club flying events to enjoy flying time with friends, and maybe meet some new ones.

I'm surprised no one at the meeting admitted having an incident that qualifies for the broken prop award. No, I'm not suggesting anyone should try harder. But, we all have mishaps, so just "fess up" because we all can learn from each other.

On to Show and Tell. Jim Rice brought his recently acquired 1/4 scale Nexa Piper PA-18 ARF.



Jim said he doesn't usually buy ARF's, and this

one initially had some problems, but ended up being an excellent flyer. The plane has a 106.6 inch wingspan. Online discussions suggest this is a re-branded VQ model that listed a ready to fly weight of 12.8 to 13.7 Lb. with the recommended 30cc 2stroke, 38cc 4stroke engine, or equivalent 2500W electric power. Motion RC currently lists the airplane under the Nexa name.

Thanks to Mike Fisher for our second show and tell offering. His airplane is a "Ghost" kit model from Old Time Model Works.



Mike said he hadn't built a kit for some time and needed to correct that. He is very pleased with the quality of the kit and the building experience. He also included the optional servo operated drop bay, which he demonstrated. The Ghost wingspan is 62 inches with 675 in² wing area. It's weight is projected to range from 4.5 to 6 Lb. RTF depending on power choice. The recommended power systems are 30 - 46 glow or 450+ watt electric. With a resulting wing loading range of about 15 - 20 oz/ft² the plane can be flown as a trainer, but capable of more depending on power selection and control setup. Good job Mike.

That's it for this month. Send any comments or suggestions to me at: newseditor@tricityflyers.com
Frank George, Editor