



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

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AMA #850

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WHAT'S IN THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Our president, Ed Valls, is busy working on other things this week so the following is a brief overview of the August newsletter.

First, the minutes and other business reports provide valuable information about our club and its activities. Please read them and take note of any comments or questions you have. Plan to attend the September business meeting where the minutes will be voted on to approve their filing in our permanent Corporate Records.

Jim Rice reminded us that AMA National and District Officer elections are getting underway. Watch for information on the candidates, and take part in selecting our organization leaders.

Contest Directors Augie and Jim are planning great flying events for September and October. Read the details and plan to be part of these and other club activities. Meet some members you may not normally see, and maybe some new flying buddies.

The Broken Prop award is intended to be a fun part of the meeting that also reminds us to be careful, and not get distracted when operating our aircraft. Show and Tell does show the impressive talents of our members along with useful tips and ideas.

So read on and enjoy
Frank George, Editor

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 August Business Meeting Minutes, August 14, 2025

Call to Order: The regular Tri City Flyers business meeting was called to order by Club President Ed Valls at 6:59pm. 16 members including 5 officers were in attendance.

July Meeting Minutes: Ed asked members if any changes were needed to the July Meeting Minutes. None being noted, a motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Ernie Swiontek and seconded by Jim Rice. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Guests/New Members: There were no guests or new members to introduce at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the end of July financial report. He compared the club expenses to the club income. Ed Valls told members that the board will work on a balanced financial budget soon. Mike indicated that the expenses were consistently out pacing the income. He also indicated that he will help with a balanced budget proposal for 2026. Jim Rice made a motion to receive Mike's report. Gary Barret seconded and the attending members voted yes unanimously.

Safety Officer's Reports:

Kingsbury: Mike Fisher reported one incident at Kingsbury. A pilot was observed flying over the Aerodrome repair hanger. Ed Valls addressed the pilot with a reinforcement of the Flying Field boundaries. The pilot acknowledged the infraction and took corrective actions.

Seguin: Augie Santiago reported there were no incidents at Seguin

Kingsbury Field Manager Report: Gil Martinez was not in attendance at the meeting. Ed Valls commended the job being done by the members doing the mowing maintenance at the field. He stated that the appearance of the facility was excellent. Mike Fisher said he would mow prior to the upcoming National Model Aviation Day Fly-in.

AMA Report: Jim Rice told members that the AMA elections were in progress. In an effort not to show favoritism, Jim offered to outline the candidates to any members who were interested, after the meeting.

Unfinished Business:

National Model Aviation Day: Augie Santiago presented details concerning the upcoming Fly-in scheduled for September 13, 2025. He told members the Registration would begin at 8:00am with a pilot safety orientation to be at 9:00am. After that the field will be open to all registered pilots

to fly. Ed Valls told members he wants to ensure all registered pilots will have an opportunity to fly. Augie told members that his employer had donated certificates for a spray in truck bed liner, and a window tint job. He also recognized Hobby Town, San Antonio, for their donation of a new E-flite Apprentice kit, and Balsa USA for a donation of R/C accessories. Gary Barrett offered to donate a new Spitfire aircraft to the raffle. Augie told members that he is in contact with a local Boy Scout Troop that intends to Camp over the weekend, attend the Fly-in, and assist TCF with support when needed. Augie said some of the Scouts are RG pilots. They will be allowed to fly, and adult parents will need to register if they wish to fly. Augie is planning events specifically for junior pilots. Lunch is to be catered and included for registered pilots. The lunch will cost \$12.00 for any who are not registered and wish to have a hamburger, drink and sides. Frank George will bring the Flight Simulator for those wanting to try R/C flight. The Club's trainer aircraft and an instructor will be available on a limited basis. Frank George will also provide the Club with the Raffle Ticket buckets from the Swap Meet to use. Provision will be made for those who wish to sell RC items at the Fly-in. A club field maintenance day is being scheduled Friday September 12, 2025. An email will be sent to members, prior. The Raffle drawing is scheduled for 2:00pm.

Rice Memorial Fly In: Jim Rice presented an outline of the 25th Rice Memorial Fly-in scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October the 10th and 11th. Jim requested the Club prepare the field for the Fly-in. Ed Valls said we plan to roll the runway and have a field workday prior to the Fly-in. He also told members that he had secured food catering for the event. Jim plans a raffle for which he has 17+ aircraft. He recognized donations from new to partially finished aircraft. Jim thanked Jeff Beehler, Bob Sawyer, and others who have donated or plan to donate. He plans to solicit donations from Hobby Town, Balsa USA and an adhesive company. He wants to sell raffle tickets for \$1.00 each or 25 for \$20.00. The lunch will be included with pilot registration and \$12.00 for all others. Lunch will be catered each day. Camping will be allowed but no RV utility connections are available. The proceeds from the event will be donated to the AMA and the San Antonio Veterans Honor Flight program.

New Business:

Club Election: Ed Valls informed the members that the club has an election coming for the club President, Treasurer and Seguin Safety Officer positions. He told members that a nominating committee needs to be appointed, and advised all



members to consider serving as a club officer.

TCF Policy Document: Ed announced that the club Board will consider revisions to the Club Policy Document. After all corrections are approved by the Board the revisions will be presented to the members at a regular meeting for approval.

Weather Station: Bill Anderson asked if he could restore the club's weather station to provide info to the website. The info has not been available for some time. He told members that he had checked and the WIFI connection at the pavilion is strong. Ed Valls recommended that we include access for the Kingsbury Aerodrome to use the weather station since no similar provisions are available to them at this time. Bill told members that he thought the repair would cost \$100 to \$150. The club authorized him to proceed.

Broken Prop Award: Mike Fisher nominated Gary Barrett for the award as he had two incidents at Kingsbury, recently. First, he failed to secure the wing on a Decathlon and also lost control of an edf jet. Matt Dirienzo was also mentioned because he crashed while watching Gary's plane wing come off. Matt was not in attendance and Gary won the award.

Show and Tell: Jim Rice presented a custom aircraft he recently repaired after Gary Rice encountered a loose battery that resulted in destroying the nose of a Skywing model airplane. Jim also described and displayed an electronic incidence meter he made after the maiden flight of the repaired model. He could not find an electronic meter from any model vendors, so he created his own. He told members that after he devised the electronic incidence meter, he rechecked the airplane and found a 3-degree difference between the wing and tail incidences.

Adjournment: Frank George made a motion to adjourn and Mike Fisher seconded. Ed Valls called for a vote and the members unanimously approved.

Upcoming Events:

Club Business Meeting, scheduled for 7:00 PM September 11, 2025 at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West, Converse, Texas.

National Model Aviation Day Fly-in, September 13, 2025. Registration starts at 8:00am. Augie Santiago CD. Flyer available on the TCF website.

The 25th Rice Memorial Fly-in scheduled for October 10th and 11th 2025. Jim Rice CD. Flyer available on the TCF website.

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



Hello all, welcome to the August TCF News section. Here we are, 2/3 of the way through 2025 and rapidly approaching the quarter-century mark. For me, the combination of heat and humidity has really impacted my outdoor time. So when I do muster enough ambition to get out to Kingsbury I will have to start with an old trainer again.

I hope you have read the meeting minutes on the preceding two pages. They contain some useful and significant information. Mike Zachau's financial report included a concern that we are operating in a deficit mode, and have been for several years, thus depleting our cash reserves. As a registered tax exempt nonprofit club, our sources of income are both limited and uncertain, so we need to maintain a good reserve fund. Our primary source of income is member dues. Our other sources are club sponsored events, and raffles. Both of these are limited by IRS and Texas rules. The Board promised to address this concern in their budget planning.

Safety Officer Mike Fisher reported there have been incidents of violating the flying area boundaries at Kingsbury. Pilots have been counseled, and tentative updated Kingsbury Safety Rules are posted on the club website. This and other revisions to the official Policy Document, currently under review by the Board, will be presented to the membership for a vote to officially amend the document.

OK, on to other business; Augie Santiago and Jim Rice are working hard to make their upcoming fly in events fun for everyone. Please support their efforts by planning to participate, and by responding to their requests for helpers. It would be great to have enough volunteers to take turns so everyone has time to fly. Add all of our planned evens to your calendars.

Ed Valls announced our upcoming election for President, Treasurer, and Seguin Safety Officer. The officers will serve two year terms, 2026 -'27. He also said a Nominating Committee is needed. If you are interested in serving on the committee, or running for office, contact Ed Valls or John Franklin.

Gary Barret was at the meeting and indicated he is feeling much better after his recent health scare and hospitalization. His return to flying activity at Kingsbury was noted by being awarded the Broken Prop trophy. Take good care of it until next month Gary.

As usual, Show and Tell was the last item of business on the agenda. Thanks to Jim Rice for another example of his creativity and craftsmanship in

repurposing salvaged parts from his son Gary's Skywing Slick 360's unplanned impact with the ground. Here is an example of the Skywing Slick, available in various sizes from Extreme Flight and



other online sources. The wing and tail from Gary's plane survived so Jim designed a fuselage based on his father's Dream Machine design to use them. The new plane is powered by a Stinger 20cc gas engine, and has several flights on it. Based on it's history,



Jim christened the new plane "Sick Slick". As the picture shows, he decided on an open cockpit for the plane, and used a Cub cowl to enclose the engine.

Jim said the maiden flight of the new airplane was less than satisfactory. He was not happy with the pitch axis behavior and control response. He described it as feeling like the wing and stabilizer were fighting each other. Upon checking, Jim found about 3° difference between the wing and stabilizer incidence angles. He borrowed an electronic incidence gauge that is more accurate than the mechanical beam type many of us use. Using that, he was able to adjust the wing incidence with respect to the permanently mounted stabilizer. The pitch axis behavior has been much better on subsequent flights.

Jim's experience led to the second part of his



show and tell. Jim said at one time there were several electronic reading incidence meters available to modelers. However, he did not find any currently available. He did find a small battery operated angle measuring device with a digital readout, made by Klein Tools. The device has a magnetic base, so Jim carefully cut the meter off the top of a regular beam incidence reader, preserving the bubble level. He then fastened a magnetic metal strip to the top of the level, and he now has a precise digital incidence meter, seen here.



Because the Klein meter has a reading hold button you can compare wing and stabilizer incidence angles accurately without having to prop the airplane up level. Just set it on a stable surface so it won't move. Measure one surface and hold the value. Then measure the second surface and see the difference. The angles can also be measured relative to the fuselage reference line.

Thanks for sharing your ingenuity again Jim. I plan to copy you and have found several online sources for the Klein meter for around \$33.00. Ignore anyone charging more.

To close out on a nostalgic note, here is a picture of an "electric" incidence gauge sold by Great



Planes in the 1995-2000 time period. The electric part of this gauge was the laser light projected from the small flashlight on the left end of the bar (in the picture) onto the angle scale on the right end. The light swiveles in its bracket to show the incidence angle reading on the scale.

Calibrating the system was a fussy effort that involved setting the distance from the laser to the scale, leveling the bar and then leveling the swiveling laser to the bar. Once calibrated the gauge operated the same as the ordinary mechanical gauge. I didn't think the readings were any more accurate than careful use of the mechanical gauge.

Apologies, if I got a bit long winded there. That's what happens when I start talking about my long experience in the hobby.

That's a wrap for this month's Newsletter. As always I invite your comments, suggestions and possible items for future issues. It is the club members' newsletter and I want to make it interesting for you.

Thanks for reading along.
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