



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

SEPTEMBER 2025

AMA #850

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SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITOR'S PREVIEW

Our president, Ed Valls, is traveling this week So, I am filling in with an outline of the newsletter. The September Business Meeting Minutes are printed on pages 2 and 3. Please review them and be prepared to vote on their approval at the October meeting. Especially if you were at this month's meeting, note any omissions or errors you see, and be prepared to bring them up during the October meeting review. Once approved, the published minutes are placed in our Corporate permanent document files. I encourage you to attend our meetings because the live discussions and conversations are much more lively than the minutes, and often include some good natured humor.

The next club activities are the October meeting, followed directly by the two day Rice Memorial Fly In. The Rice Memorial was held annually as a District VIII event with attendees from all over the district, and frequently AMA officials, for a number of years. The event was in memory of Jim's father, who was an excellent RC modeler, and very involved in the AMA. Jim is reinstating the event with hope of building it into a large event again.

Finally, please read the News Section meeting comments and event coverage.

I am hopeful we will actually see some cooler days to encourage more flying at both of our fields. Looking forward to seeing RC friends.

Frank George,
News 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 September Business Meeting Minutes September 11, 2025

Call To Order: Club President, Ed Valls, called the September regular business meeting to order at 7:00pm. 22 members including 5 club officers were in attendance.

August Meeting Minutes: Ed asked the attending members if they noticed any needed corrections to the August meeting minutes. None were noted. Charles Roccaforte made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Rusty Koehler seconded; the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Guests/New Members: Rusty Koehler came forward and recognized Norman Barilleaux who has submitted a completed application. Norman had belonged to the club in the past and was ready to rejoin. Rusty also recognized Allen Pullen for submitting an application, which needs the AMA membership to be completed. Rusty informed members that he was working with Allen to meet the AMA requirement. Allen is supported in his effort by his wife Jane. A motion to accept the applications of the new members was made by Mike Zachau and seconded by Rusty Koehler. The members voted unanimously in favor.

Treasure's Report: Mike Zachau present the club financial status as of August 31, 2025. Rusty Koehler made a motion to receive the report and Charles Roccaforte seconded. The members approved the motion unanimously.

Safety Officers Reports:

Kingsbury: Mike Fisher reported no incidents at Kingsbury in the last month.

Seguin: Augie Santiago also reported no incidents at Seguin for August.

Kingsbury Field Manager Report: Gil Martinez was not at the meeting. Mike Fisher told members that the field was in good but very dry condition.

AMA Report: Frank George told members that he has been watching the AMA website for the list of candidates for the AMA officer positions. He has not found any information on their website or communications,

Unfinished Business: Augie Santiago presented the final outline for the NMAD Fly-in on Saturday Sep-

tember 13, 2025. He also listed the available raffle prizes for the event. Ed Valls listed the needed chores to be completed on the scheduled workday, Friday September 12, 2025. Mike Fisher added the need to treat fire ants before the Fly-in. Augie Said he planned to be at the field at 6:30am, Saturday. It was also noted that a Boy Scout Troop will camp-out and help with the Fly-in this weekend. Ed Valls told members that the Rice Memorial Fly-in on October the 10th and 11th will have at least 20 airplanes for a raffle at the event. The catered meal plans were also presented.

New Business:

Officer Election: Ed Valls told attending members that 3 club officer positions are to be voted on for 2026-27. The positions are president, treasurer, and Seguin safety officer. Rusty Koehler has accepted the duty of nominating committee chair, with Charles Roccaforte assisting. The 3 incumbent officers have all agreed to run for another term. Ed Valls told members that if reelected, that will be his last term. Mike Zachau also said he would serve one more term if someone will shadow him to learn the treasurer's position before the following election. Augie Santiago is willing to continue as Seguin Safety Officer.

Annual Dues: Rusty also will coordinate the club membership renewals to begin in October. The dues will be \$80.00 per year, and members can lock in the rate with a two-year membership.

Christmas Party: Ed told members that the club Christmas party will be a catered event scheduled for the second Thursday in December.

Georgetown Swap Meet: Ed also announced that the Georgetown Swap Meet is scheduled for January 16th and 17th 2026. The table fee and the entry fee for that event have been increased to \$17.00 per table and \$7.00 per day.

Club Event Plans: Ed told members that a discussion has been held to hold more Fly-ins. They would be open to anyone with an AMA membership. The proposal will be discussed more at the October club meeting.

R/C Headquarters Update: Rusty Koehler told members that the R/C Headquarters retail store on Nacogdoches plans to close in September, and consolidate with the Rolling Oaks location.



Broken Prop Award: Mike Fisher nominated Carl Bertschy for the broken prop award. Carl had solicited Mike to fly an aircraft he recently acquired that had a flimsy wing design. Mike said the plane looked like a bird in flight and was very hard to control. The members voted and Carl received the award.

Show and Tell: Roger Taillefer showed the members an airplane that he had given to someone awhile back. To his surprise the person gave the fully restored aircraft back to Roger.

Roger Edgington showed the members two 1/2a racers he built by turning P-51 mustang's upside down. He told members that he had to make a few modifications for the plans to work, and that the planes flew well. They have reached the ripe age of 45 years.

Ed Valls showed an electric racer that he acquired from Hobby King. He became acquainted with the aircraft because Augie Santiago had recently acquired one.

Adjournment: Rusty Koehler made a motion to adjourn, and Roger Taillefer seconded. All members voted aye to adjourn.

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Upcoming Club Events:

October Business Meeting on October 9th, 2025, 7:00pm at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West in Converse, Texas.

Rice Memorial Fly-in, October 10th and 11th 2025 at the Kingsbury flying site.

Club Officer Elections, November 13th, 2025 at the regular Club Business Meeting.

A Club fly in is under discussion for mid-November; format and date to be determined.

Hello again, TCF members and fiends. The Fall equinox is upon us - next Monday, and we are promised a break in high temperatures here in south central Texas "soon".

Our 2025 NMAD fly in on Saturday the 13th was a success based on several measures. More on that event later. First, I hope you have read the September meeting minutes preceding this News section.

As noted in the minutes, I have been watching for information about AMA 2025 national officer election candidates. Today, I received my "AMA This Week" email, that includes an announcement on the candidates and their campaign statements. That information is in the October "Model Aviation" and will be in your ballot letter, along with a dues reminder if your membership is coming up for renewal.

Ed Valls announced the schedule for our upcoming annual Club officer election. I encourage all adult members to consider serving a term in one of the officer positions. The duties of each office are outlined in Article V of the Club Bylaws. The bylaws are available on the club website under the "Our Club" heading in the menu. You can read the document without logging in. Any of the current officers will also describe their duties if you ask them. Please respond to Rusty or Charles and step up to give the current officers a break, because they all have served multiple terms.

Club dues are paid by calendar year. Rusty will begin processing payments for 2026 next month, and continue through December 31. Club dues are \$80.00 for one year or \$160.00 for two. Rusty will accept cash, check or money order payable to Tri City Flyers, Inc. You may also pay with PayPal on the Club website.

Take note of the additional information in the minutes, as I move on to the Broken Prop award. Carl Bertschy was the only candidate this month, and Mike Fisher confirmed the wing flexibility made the plane very difficult to control. Carl told us he was very concerned when the airplane plans stated the wing design was such that a spar was not required, but he followed the plans anyway. The in flight result confirmed Carl's concern, and proved that any wing design needs a wing spar. Just a final note, the

wing tip of a fully loaded B-52 Bomber flexes up as much as 15 ft when the plane transitions from ground to flight. I assure you, that wing has spars.

Our Show and Tell items were quite varied this month. Roger Taillefer described his surprise to be given back an airplane that he had previously gifted to someone else. Even more surprising - the air-



plane had been completely restored! Roger Edgington followed with two 1/2A racers he



built about 45 years ago. I appreciate his inventiveness in adapting P-51 kits to create these models. 1/2A RC model racing was popular in the 1970s and '80s, and still has a small following at the local level. Larger models have taken over the major contest and competition racing scene.

Ed Valls presented our last Show and tell item for this month. He saw one of these planes flying at Kingsbury, and was impressed by its speed and agility. Interestingly, this model is reviewed in the latest issue (Oct '25) of Model Aviation.



Durafly EFXtra Racer Green Edition High Performance Sports Model 975mm

The following is from the Model Aviation review.
 Model type: PNF sport model speedster. Skill level: Intermediate to advanced. Wingspan: 38.4 inches. Wing area: 215 square inches. Length: 29.9 inches. Weight: 23.7 ounces. Power system: Brushless electric. Radio system: minimum four channels required. Construction: EPO foam.

Motor used: AeroStar 3536-1780 Kv brushless out-runner. ESC: 60-amp AeroStar with 5-amp BEC/XT60 connector. Battery: Turnigy nano-tech 3S 11.1-volt 65C 2,200 mAh, or 4S 14.8-volt 65C 1,800 mAh LiPo. Propeller: 8 x 6 (3S), 7 x 6.5 (4S). Radio system: Orange T-SIX 2.4 GHz six-channel transmitter, Orange Rx R615X 2.4 GHz six-channel receiver. Ready-to-fly weight: (4S) 30.6 ounces (3S); 30.8 ounces. Flight duration: Four minutes. You can read the full review in "Model Aviation".

Next up is a report on the 2025 National Model Aviation Day (NMAD) fly in held at Kingsbury on Saturday, September 13. The event was very successful overall. We had 31 registered pilots plus a good turnout of members and their families, as well as other visitors. Mike Zachau's financial report also reflects a successful event. The flightline was busy all day, until the wind picked around 2:30 PM.

Thanks to all our member volunteers who helped get the field ready and set up tables and chairs in the pavilion. The same caterers who provided food for the Warbird event served a simple, but good, summertime meal of burgers with everything, chips and drink. They have been very easy to

work with, and have become interested in RC modeling. Does that mean we are a good influence?

I mentioned that we had a good attendance, so here is a picture showing some of our visitors watching in the shade of the pavilion.



This also shows some of our members engaged in their most favorite activity - after flying that is - just talking.

This picture shows just a portion of the pit area, and the variety of models flown at the event. As with



most of our planned events, the canopies stretched out along the fence both north and south from the pavilion.

I typically struggle to get aerial pictures of our models, in part because I have not invested in the kind of equipment needed to track them. But the picture on the next page shows a lucky shot of a jet lining up on final.



Landing shots are a bit more successful with slower prop driven planes. This picture also shows a handy pickup cart for unplanned contact with the earth. And yes, it did get used.



We had an interesting addition to this year's NMAD. A Boy Scout troop's leaders had coordinated with both Kingsbury and our club to hold a weekend campout for our event.



Their goal was for the scouts to learn more about aviation. To support them, we set up two simulators, which were used continuously most of the day.

Our goal for the simulators was to familiarize the scouts with airplane control principles and RC controllers. This was followed by a turn on buddy box with Mike Fisher and a club trainer.

The club Board plans to continue our practice of donating NMAD proceeds to the AMA Foundation, which promotes education in science and aviation through model aircraft

In response to some member comments, the Board is also discussing expanding our number of events throughout the year. The events would generally be less formal than our regular big fly ins. Some might include a theme. This is an ongoing discussion, so if you have any ideas to suggest, give them to one of the officers

That is about it for this month. As always, I invite your comments and suggestions about your newsletter.

Frank George, TCF News Editor
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