



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

OCTOBER 2025

AMA #850

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OCTOBER 2025 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone, I hope you are all doing well and getting a chance to get some flying in.

Our annual National Model Aviation Day event was held on September 13 and CD'd by Augie Santiago. I am happy to report that the event was quite successful with 31 pilots. I would like to thank Augie and all of the club members who volunteered to help, and registered for the event. Augie was instrumental in getting Red McCombs auto dealerships to donate three very nice prizes for the event. Additionally, Carrie and Ty, owners of Hobby Town San Antonio, donated gift cards and an aircraft. Many thanks to our local companies for supporting model aviation. Please consider patronizing these local businesses.

On October 10 & 11, our club hosted the 25th Anniversary JH Rice Memorial Fly In. The event was CD'd by Gary Rice with support from Jim and Linda Rice, as well as other members of the Rice family. Our club provided the caterer, and club members who volunteered to work the event. The event raffled off approximately 23 ARF aircraft. Jim and Gary were very successful in getting these aircraft donations from many friends and members. Additionally, Radio Control Headquarters, Buddy RC and Hobby Town (again) donated ARF aircraft for the raffle. I am happy to report that the event was the most successful in our club's history. We will donate a majority of the proceeds to Honor Flight San Antonio and the AMA Foundation. I was happy to see that many of our members registered as pilots and did quite a lot of flying. Thank you to all of our friends who attended the event that supports Honor Flight San Antonio and the AMA Foundation.

If you have not heard of Honor Flight, please Google the program. They are a wonderful program that supports our military veterans, and they are worthy of our support.

That is all for now. Hope to see you at the field soon.
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 October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: President Ed Valls called the October Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 19 members including 5 officers in attendance.

September Meeting Minutes: Ed asked if any member in attendance had corrections to the September meeting minutes. None were voiced and Rusty Koehler moved to approve the minutes as written. Charles Roccaforte seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

New Members/Visitors: Ed asked Rusty and John if there were any new members to present to the club. There were none, and no visitors were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the club financial report as of September 30th. The vote to accept the report as presented was unanimous.

Safety Officers Report:

Seguin: Augie Santiago was not in attendance at the meeting. Ron Wahl reported that no incidents had occurred at the Seguin Flying Field. Ed Valls told members that a significant fuel spill had been reported to him. He will have Rusty Koehler send an email to members regarding precautions to avoid fuel spills on the Seguin asphalt runway.

Kingsbury: Mike Fisher reported there were no incidents at the Kingsbury Field.

Field Manager Report: Gil Martinez was not in attendance at the meeting. Mike Fisher, Gary Barrett, Doug Line and Ed Valls prepped the field on Thursday October 9, for the Rice Memorial Fly-in on October 10, 11.

AMA Business: No AMA business was reported at the October meeting.

Unfinished Business:

National Model Aviation Day: ED Valls reported that the National Model Aviation Day Fly-in Event, CD'd by Augie Santiago, was well organized, and successful. Thirty-one pilots registered for the event, and Augie had collected an impressive array of raffle prizes.

Rice Memorial Fly In: Jim Rice outlined the Rice Memorial itinerary for the members present. Jim reviewed the raffle ticket prices, the Fly-in timelines and a list of the donated prizes. A food caterer will be at the event both days for lunch. The

AMA Foundation and the Veterans Honor Flight of San Antonio will receive donations from the event proceeds.

TCF 2026 Dues: Rusty Koehler was available to collect 2025 dues, and announced he will be available to collect dues at the November meeting. Members may also pay their dues on the Club website via PayPal.

2026-27 Officer Election: Nominating Committee Chair, Rusty Koehler, reported that no new candidates had come forward for the three officer positions to be filled for 2026-27, President, Treasurer and Seguin Safety Officer. The incumbent officers have reluctantly agreed to serve if there are no other candidates.

Christmas Holiday Party: Ed Valls reported that the TCF Christmas Party is planned for Thursday December 11, the normal business meeting date and place. The dinner will be catered, and RSVP's will be needed by December 1, 2025 for all members and their immediate family members planning to attend. The caterers will provide an entrée and salad. Members are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert. The entrée will be discussed and determined at the November Club meeting. A White Elephant gift exchange will take place after the meal. Anyone planning to participate bring a wrapped gift of around \$25 value. Participation is optional but is always great fun.

New Business:

Club Fly In: An open AMA member Fly-in is planned at Kingsbury, for November 15th, 2025. Pizza and soft drinks will be available as lunch for a \$5.00 donation per slice.

Annual Swap Meet: Frank George outlined the 2026 TCF Swap Meet scheduled at the Garden Ridge Community Center on March 13-14, 2026. He accepted table reservations at the meeting and plans to open reservations to vendors November 1st, 2025. Table reservations are \$10.00 per day plus a \$5.00 daily admission fee. The daily schedule is the same as recent years and Frank will be asking for member support later. Frank asked members who have contacts with potential sponsors for help soliciting raffle prize donations.

PFM Wings and Wheels Event: Ed announced the Pioneer Flight Museum Wings and Wheels event for November 8th, 2025. He asked for a head count of the members who wish to be part of a static R/C model display at the event.



Broken Prop Award: Mike Fisher was nominated by Matt Dirienzo for the crash he had while flying a C160 twin belonging to Charles Roccaforte. A discussion followed and Charles Roccaforte was also nominated because of a model parachutist that became entangled during the flight. A vote followed with Charles receiving the award.

Show and Tell: No usual show and tell items were presented at this meeting. Jim Rice read a letter from his dad, from July 1982. The letter included a humorous composition written by a 5th grade student in the 1960's explaining why he thought being a pilot was a good career.

Adjournment: Rusty Koehler made a motion to adjourn; Frank George seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

Pioneer Flight Museum Wings and Wheels Fly In: November 8th, 2025. See the online flyer for more details. Contact Ed Valls for display instructions.

November Club Meeting: 7:00 PM, November 13th, 2025, at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West; Converse, Texas.

AMA Member Fly-In: November 15th, 2025 at Kingsbury. Open Fly-in for all AMA members. Lunch available for purchase.

TCF Christmas Holiday Dinner: Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange; December 11, 2025, at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West, Converse, Texas. Time and menu to be announced.

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Special Added Feature
The 5th grade student's composition:

"WHY I WANT TO BE A PILOT

When I grow up[sic] I want to be a pilot because it's a fun job and easy to do. That's why there are so many pilots flying around these days.

Pilots don't need much school. They just have to learn to read numbers so they can read their instruments.

I guess they should be able to read a roadmap too . . .

Pilots should be brave so they won't get scared if it's foggy and if they can't see or if a wing or motor falls off.

Pilots have to have good eyes to see through the clouds, and they can't be afraid of thunder or lightning because they are much closer to them than we are.

The salary pilots make is another thing I like. They make more money than they know what to do with. This is because most people think flying a plane is dangerous, except pilots don't because they know how easy it is.

I hope I don't get airsick because I couldn't be a pilot and then I would have to go to work."

(The above was written by a fifth grade student at Jefferson School in Beaufort, South Carolina. It's a classic.)

The material above was transcribed as written except to fit the column width and note spelling error. FLG



Hello again to TCF members and friends. We are supposed to be having fall weather, but it feels more like summer to me. The extended winter forecast predicts warmer than normal temperatures, but with periodic cold snaps. The drought is also predicted to continue into spring. For me, I'm just hoping for more good flying days.

In addition to providing the TCF Business Meeting Minutes, your Newsletter contains additional information useful to all club members. Our membership averages 85 to 90, year to year. But our monthly meeting attendance averages only about 20. So, I encourage all members to read the monthly news in order to keep up with Club activities.

Ed Valls gave good summaries of the NMAD and Rice Memorial events in his column. The NMAD fly in was also covered in the September Newsletter, and the Rice Memorial report follows in this month's News Section.

Rusty Koehler reminded members that 2026 dues are now payable, directly to him either by cash or check payable to Tri City Flyers. You may also pay with PayPal on the club website.

Election of 2026-27 President, Treasurer, and Seguin Field Safety Officer will be held at the November Business Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor prior to the vote. I encourage members to consider stepping up to give our current officers a break. You may nominate yourself or another member, with their prior permission.

We will continue our support of the Pioneer Flight Museum Fall Wings and Wheels Event, this year on November 8, with a static display of RC models. Please consider selecting a couple of your nice models to display, and help us introduce people to our hobby, The AMA and TCF. Contact Ed Valls or me for more details.

Ed also discussed details of the upcoming TCF Christmas Holiday party in the minutes on page 2. The party is always a festive time, and it is on our regular business meeting date, so it does not add anything new to your December calendar.

The last News Section article for October is about the 25th Anniversary Rice Memorial Fly-in, held at our Kingsbury site October 10th and 11th. Friday registration at the event started off light, with 23 pilots registered at the end of the day. Flying activity was steady, although the wind picked up considerably in the afternoon - as we all know frequently happens at Kingsbury.

Saturday registration was much better and we ended up with a total of 53 registered pilots, plus a good spectator turnout. Jim Rice estimated a total of 225

to 250 flights for both days - with no crashes or broken props. John Franklin's "crash cart" was relegated to hauling filled trash bags to the dumpster. Registration and raffle ticket sales were handled effi-



ciently by Sherman Lindsey and Charles Roccaforte.

The raffle was quite successful, largely due to the impressive array of ready to fly RC planes and ARF's donated by Jim, Gary and friends as well as sponsors, RC Headquarters and Hobby Town, both in San Antonio, and Buddy RC. Ticket sales were probably helped also by Jim and Gary, both excellent pilots,



flight demonstrating some of the completed prize airplanes. 23 airplanes and kits were raffled. In the end, a significant sum of money was raised for contributions to the Academy of Model Aerodynamics Foundation and Veterans Honor Flight of San Antonio.

As part of the event, registered pilots voted for the Best of Show airplane and Best Multi-airplane. In this case "multi" referred to such features as wings, engines/motors and tails. There were many viable candidates for best of show, and the final vote tally named Tri City Flyers member Keith Lowe the best of show with his giant scale Fokker D-VIII. (Continued on page 5)



Jim and Gary Rice awarded Keith a gift certificate to acknowledge his winning airplane.

Johnny also received a gift certificate prize from Jim and Gary



Johnny Longoria, member of the Victoria RC Club, won the Best Multi award with his giant scale OV-10 Bronco. Note that Johnny's airplane checks off two

Both of the winning airplanes were as impressive in the air as sitting on the flight line.

Overall, the 25th Anniversary Rice Memorial was judged a great success, especially after being dormant for 10 years following a 15 year successful run, with support from AMA District VIII and Headquarters staff. Thanks go to many people for the success of the event. First, to CD Gary Rice, assisted by his father Jim and the Rice family, for planning and making sure details were covered. Thanks to Tri City Flyers members for supporting field preparation, handling registration, runway management, cleanup and many other essential tasks.



multi categories; engines and tails. Johnny is not a small man, so you can judge the model's size by him.

That is a wrap for your October 2025 TCF News
As always, contact the Editor with comments and suggestions
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