



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

NOVEMBER 2025

AMA #850

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NOVEMBER 2025 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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

I was unable to attend the November club meeting as I had a previous commitment. I want to thank our Vice President, Matt Greenlee, for conducting the meeting in my absence.

On November 8th our club provided a static display of model aircraft in support of the Pioneer Flight Museum's Fall Wings and Wheels event. I would like to thank Frank George, Ron Wahl, and Sherman Lindsay for helping us support the event. The fall weather was wonderful and the PFM had a reasonably good turnout.

On November 15th our club hosted a no entry fee fly-in that was open to any AMA member with any kind of RC model. We had a very nice turnout of about 24 pilots who enjoyed a wonderful day of flying. I would like to thank one of our Intro Instructors, Matt Greenlee, for spending time introducing two prospective club members to model aviation, and "buddy boxing" them on the club trainer provided by the AMA.

Our annual Christmas dinner will be on Thursday, November 11th at the American Legion Post in Converse. All members and their immediate family members are welcome. However, you must RSVP to Rusty Kohler no later than the afternoon of December 5th. This will allow the caterer to make appropriate provisions for the dinner. Rusty Kohler has sent an e-mail to the membership requesting the RSVP.

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 November 13, 2025 Business Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Vice President Matt Greenlee called the November TCF business meeting to order at 7:04pm. 17 members including 4 officers were in attendance. President Ed Valls was excused for personal business.

October Meeting Minutes: Matt asked the attending members if there were any additions or corrections to the October Minutes. None were noted and the members voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

Guest/New Members: There were no Guests or New Members in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the end of October financial report to those in attendance. Mike also asked for volunteers to perform the annual financial audit. Mike Fisher, Rusty Koehler, Matt Dirienzo (pending confirmation) and Frank George volunteered to perform the audit which is scheduled for December 5, 2025 at Rudy's BBQ in New Braunfels, Texas. Frank George made a motion to accept the financial report as presented, and Mike Fisher seconded. The members voted all ayes to accept.

Safety Officers' Reports:

Seguin: Ron Wahl reported no incidents at the Seguin flying field. Augie Santiago was not in attendance.

Kingsbury: No issues or incidents were reported at Kingsbury

Field Manager Report: Mike Fisher told members that the Kingsbury flying field is ready for the Saturday Fun Fly-in. Gil Martinez was not in attendance.

AMA Business: Jim Rice attended a meeting and retirement dinner at the AMA Headquarters for current President Rich Hanson, who is retiring. He has been working tirelessly on a 2026 budget to help with deficit projections. Jim said the AMA has incurred a large expenses through Government Affairs, lobbying against restrictive FAA regulations. While at Muncie, Jim also participated in brainstorming

sessions to identify ways to increase membership.

Unfinished Business:

Rice Memorial Event: Jim Rice summarized the recent Rice Memorial Fly-in. 53 pilots registered for the event. Jim donated 26 model aircraft for raffle. Several vendors also donated door prizes and pilot registration "bling". Pilot registration, raffle ticket sales, and lunch sales generated enough money cover event expenses, plus generous charitable donations. Jim presented a donation to Honor Flight San Antonio Program. Contributions were also made to the AMA and the Tri City Flyers. Thanks to Jim Rice and Family for their efforts to make the Fly-in a huge success. Several club performance ceilings were exceeded. There were no model aircraft accidents at the event. The Tex Hill School in San Antonio continued a tradition to recognize local Veterans with a dinner and program prepared by the students. Jim said the dinner was quite an event and an outstanding job. He also said the students had collected money throughout the year to make a substantial donation to the Honor Flight Program.

2026 Swap Meet: Frank George updated members about the upcoming TCF Swap Meet scheduled for March 13 and 14, 2026. He told members that this year's Meet was moved to March because of Valentine's Day conflicts with the Garden Ridge Community Center. He also felt event participation was better in March, and 62% of the tables have already been reserved for next year. Frank is asking for help with vendor donations and contacts for raffle prizes.

November Fun Fly: The TCF Fun Fly-in is scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2025. The event will start at 8:30 AM. A pizza lunch and drinks will be available for a donation. The Club trainer will be available with Matt Greenlee as the instructor.

Christmas Party: The TCF Christmas Party is scheduled for December 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. All Members and their immediate family are welcome to attend. It is necessary to



RSVP to Rusty Koehler by December 5, 2025. A head count is needed to plan the catered meal. The main course is Roast Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans and Garden Salad. Those attending are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert. A voluntary White Elephant Gift exchange will follow the meal. Participants should bring a wrapped gift nominally valued about \$25.

Officer Election: Nominating Committee Chair, Rusty Koehler, presented the following slate of candidates for the club election; Ed Valls for President, Mike Zachau for Treasurer and Augie Santiago for Seguin Safety Officer. He asked if there were any write-in candidates from the floor. No additional candidates were proposed. Jim Rice moved to elect the Committee's slate of officers by acclamation. Seconded by Johnell Holley, the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business: There was no new business introduced for discussion or action.

Broken Prop Award: Gary Barret and Mark Miller experienced a midair-collision while racing their EXP aircraft. Mark was not in attendance so Gary received the award.

Show and Tell:

Gus Niver explained that he had been looking for an airplane suitable for a 0.15 rear exhaust engine he had for some time. After a conversation with Charles Roccaforte, Charles offered him a suitable model. Gus accepted and completed the plane, which he christened Thunderbird, after the legendary bird from Native American history.

Louis Viggiano presented a Free Flight Model like one he originally built and flew as a teenager. That plane was lost in a crash. He found another kit and built that plane as an RC version of the original. The airplane is quite old and has performed well as an RC plane.

Meeting Adjournment: Rusty Koehler moved to adjourn, and Mike Zachau seconded. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Upcoming Events:

TCF Annual Christmas Party, December 11, 2025 at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West; Converse, Texas 78109. No Business Meeting. Appetizers at 6:00pm with dinner at 7:00pm. White Elephant gift exchange to follow.

January Annual Corporate Business Meeting, January 8, 2026, 7:00pm. at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West; Converse, Texas 78109.



Hello all, welcome to the year-end holiday marathon. I barely noticed Halloween because early Black Friday promotions were already in the wind. Now Thanksgiving is upon us and Christmas ads are taking over.

Even without the holidays, this has been an active month for our Club. We hosted a Fun Fly on the 8th, which Ed Valls covered in his President's column on page 1. Attendance was impacted by the strong 90° cross wind that blew most of the day. We did have enough flyers and visitors to cover the cost of the pizza and drinks lunch through donations. I believe the officers will consider including more events like this one in their 2026 planning.

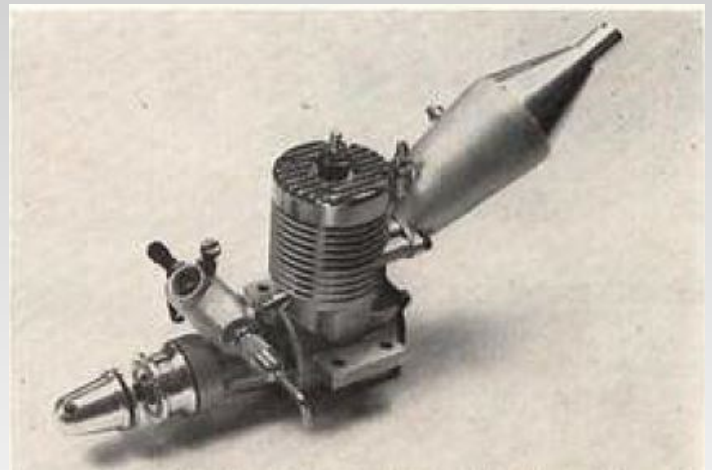
The last business item of the November meeting was the election of President, Treasurer and Seguin Safety Officer for 2026-27 terms. The incumbents had agreed to serve again and were reelected by acclamation because no additional candidates came forward. Many thanks to these officers for continuing to serve the club. I urge other members to step up and serve a term to give these faithful members a break.

Moving on to Show and Tell, Gus Niver brought his nitro conversion of a Great Planes Electro-streak that he acquired from Charles Roccaforte, shown here.



The nose was modified to install his rear exhaust Taipan 0.15 engine. The Minutes explain Gus's rationale for the name and trim scheme he chose. His plane appears to be the original Great Planes kit version of the Electro-streak. An updated version is available from Horizon Hobbies as an E-Flite ready to fly ARF.

I was also curious about the Taipan engine. The engines were manufactured in Australia by Gordon Burford in the 1960's and 70's. He created a wide range of diesel and glow engines, with the smaller sizes (15, 19, 21) being most successful. The rear exhaust 0.15 engine was introduced about 1968 as a high performance ball bearing engine with Schnuerle scavenging, intended for quarter midget pylon racing. Peter Chinn reviewed the engine in "Model Airplane News" and rated it a powerful engine very competitive with the best quarter midget engines available at that time. This is a picture of the engine Chinn reviewed.



Our final show n tell, offered by Louis Viggiano, is a classic free flight configuration. With the pylon mounted dihedral wing, curved shape of the wing and tail tips, it reminds me just a bit of the Lanzo Bomber As Louis explained, the model shown is the second example that he has built. He built the first one as a free flight plane and flew it when he was a teenager. Later, when he found a second kit, he built the current RC version, which he said flew very well. Finally, he said this model is also quite old and fragile. Its picture follows on the next page.



Thanks to these, and other members, who make the effort to share their projects with us. They show the great variety of RC projects available, and maybe inspire us to try something different.

Finally, please send Rusty your reservation to the Christmas dinner if you have not already. We must give the caterer a number by Dec 5. They will prepare and charge us per plate, by that number.

As the holidays continue through Christmas and other celebrations with gift exchanges, make your wishes known for any hobby type items you “really need”.

That’s a wrap for this month (finally). As always, send your comments and suggestions to me at: newseditor@tricityflyers.com

Frank George, TCF News Editor