



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



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JANUARY 2026

AMA #850

Your 2026 Tri City Club Contacts:

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JANUARY 2026 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone, welcome to the new year. I have some very good news to report to the membership at the beginning of the 2026 year. In 2025 TCF renegotiated the leases for continued use of the Seguin auxiliary field and the Kingsbury field. I would like to thank Mike Zachau for assisting me in these endeavors. With the new leases being signed sealed and delivered, we now have use of the Seguin field until December 31, 2030, and use of the Kingsbury field until December 31, 2031. With the signing of the new lease for the Kingsbury field the PFM has agreed to relieve us of the requirement to mow the parking area in exchange for a slight increase in the yearly fee. This relief will greatly reduce our annual mowing cost for the Kingsbury field.

In November 2025 we had a fly-in that was free to any AMA member, and I am happy to report that it was a great success. We had 26 pilots from the area as well as a few from out of town. There was no entry fee and we served pizza and drinks to the attendees. We had a small income thanks to the generous donations of the attendees.

With the new year upon us, I would like for our club to host two of these free fly-ins in 2026, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Additionally, in 2026 we will have the Warbirds Over Kingsbury event in May. So please prepare your warbirds (any size and any type of power system) and plan on attending this growing event. We will also have our annual National Model Aviation Day event but the date is TBD. I would like to schedule a few more events so please drop me a line if you have any interest in proposing an event.

That is all for now. I wish all of you a wonderful, safe and happy new year.

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, Inc. Annual Corporate Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2026

Call to Order: The Tri City Flyers Annual Corporate Meeting was called to order by our President Ed Valls at 7:00pm. There were 20 members including 5 club officers in attendance.

Installation of New Officers: Rusty Koehler swore in the three club officers who were elected at the November club meeting. Those Officers are Ed Valls, President; Mike Zachau, Treasurer; and Augie Santiago, Seguin Safety Officer.

November Meeting Minutes: Ed addressed the members in attendance asking if anyone had any corrections to the November Meeting Minutes. None were noted and a vote was called, with unanimous approval of the minutes as presented.

Guests/New Members: Rusty Koehler introduced two new members to the club. They are Craig Poston and Juan Galvez. Craig Poston was not in attendance, but Juan Galvez was. Rusty asked Juan to come forward and introduce himself. After a brief outline of his background and interests, the club voted unanimously to approve membership for Juan and Craig.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the members with the November and December budget numbers. He also outlined the Christmas party proceeds and expenditures. He told members that the caterer we used cost the club about half of last year's catered party. All the members approved of the meal provided. Mike also outlined the income or loss for the November Fun Fly-in. The club had a net income from the Fly-in which 26 pilots attended. There being no question, Rusty Koehler made a motion to accept the financial report as presented, and Johnell Holley seconded. Ed Valls called for a vote by those in attendance and the motion passed unanimously.

Safety Officers' Reports: Mike Fisher reported that no incidents or safety issues occurred at

Kingsbury. Ed Valls reported the same for the Seguin Flying field. Augie Santiago was not in attendance.

Kingsbury Field Manager Report: Gil Martinez was not in attendance. Ed Valls said that Mike Fisher will be appointed Kingsbury Field Manager with Gil's approval. Mike told members that maintenance at the field had been minimal since the area has recorded little or no rain over the last few months.- A discussion was held regarding the area TCF is responsible for mowing per the new lease. The new lease relieves TCF from the requirement to mow the parking area. Mike Fisher suggested that it is time to perform the annual maintenance on the club zero turn mower, and it was suggested that we ask Chuck Martinez (who has performed past mower repairs) to perform any required annual maintenance. Mike Fisher will make the request to Chuck. Sherman Lindsey and several other members performed maintenance on the club start-up stands to make the stands more portable. The bolts originally used to mount the wheels were replaced by solid axles.

AMA Business: Jim Rice told members that the District 10 Vice-president, Greg Stone, has been elected the new AMA president. The January edition of the AMA magazine, "Model Aviation" includes a very informative article on the life of Hazel Sig (Sigafoose)-Hester, and the influence she and her first and second husbands had on full scale and model aviation.

Rusty Koehler reported that the 2026 Club Charter renewal and the Gold Leader Club applications have been approved by the AMA, and copies will be sent to the appropriate club officers. Also, the 2026 insurance certificates will be sent to the PFM and the U.S. Air Force. Ed Valls recognized Rusty for the efforts in keeping up with the club annual Charter and Gold Leader requirements.

Unfinished Business

2026 Swap Meet: The 2026 Swap Meet sanction



has been approved by the AMA. 75% of the available tables have been reserved, and Ed asked for 6 able bodied members to help with set-up at noon on March 13th. Ed said a total of 8 or 9 volunteers will be needed for the set-up and to help Gary Rice help with the kitchen. Jim Rice is organizing the Swap Meet Raffle prizes to generate additional club revenue. He asked anyone who would like to donate a prize with a minimal value of \$50 or more to contact him. He has also been reaching out to the model vendors for additional prizes.

2026 Fly Ins: Ed proposed that the club consider two Fun Fly-ins for 2026. One to be held in the spring and one in the fall.

New Business:

Club Membership: Rusty Koehler presented the members with an audit of the club membership. He stated that the membership numbers are about the same this year as last.

Georgetown Swap Meet: Ed told members that the Georgetown Swap Meet is scheduled for January 16th and 17th and if anyone was interested in a sales table, contact the Georgetown R/C club.

Club Lease Status: Mike Zachau and Ed Valls negotiated a new lease agreement with Roger and Charlotte at the Kingsbury Flying Field. PFM agreed to mow the parking area in exchange for a small increase in the annual lease fee.

Broken Prop Award: Gary Barrett was nominated to keep the award for another month. Gary did not attend the meeting this month. The members unanimously voted for Gary to keep the award.

Show and Tell: Jim Rice presented a model that he had designed a fuselage for a wing his son Gary had given him. The model, resembling a down-sized Kaos, had a checkered early life. Jim entertained the members with a series of flight reports that had ended in crashes. He told members he had replaced the nose of the plane 5 times because of mishaps, and considered the trash can

for it. However, the 6th flight was successful so he decided to keep it.

Upcoming Events:

Georgetown Swap Meet, January 16th and 17th

Tri City Flyers regular business meeting February 12th at 7:00pm at the American Legion Hall, 326 Legion Drive West: Converse, Texas.

Tri City Flyers 44th Annual Swap Meet, March 13, 14 at the Garden Ridge Community Center, 9400 Municipal Pkwy, Garden Ridge, TX 78266.



Hello and Happy New Year to all TCF members and friends. I apologize for missing the January meeting, so my news section might be a little short.

I don't have any notes of my own to add to the proceedings. Don't groan too much, I may have to improvise.

Some of you may know I had my own adventure in December and into January. Lesson learned from my experience - pay attention to your body when it "talks" to you. I spent the last week of December in the Christus Hospital Cardiac unit. They discharged me on January 1 with a newly implanted heart pacemaker, several prescriptions and a wireless monitor that automatically tracks the pacemaker at home, and sends data to my cardiologist. By the way, getting out of the hospital on a holiday, with limited staff working, was an adventure by itself. 'Nuff said guys, pay attention and take care of yourselves; I am lucky to have my own retired nurse.

OK, on with more club news. Swap meet table reservations continue to flow in. As of today, we have 13 tables available, which means 83% are reserved. So, if you are like me, and have been in the hobby for a long time, look around your shop or hobby work area. You must have accumulated some "stuff" that you don't use, or really need. The swap meet can help you "clean house". Thanks to Jim Rice for working to collect raffle prizes. I can accept club member donations as well, and have recently received some very nice ones.

Take note of the club events proposed for this year in the meeting minutes. Contact the officers if you have any suggestions for these, or any other activity you think might interest members.

Thanks to Ed and Mike for their efforts to extend both of the leases that give us places to fly our models. A lot of effort goes into preparing background information to show both property owners that we are a positive asset to their operation. As a registered nonprofit, the IRS and Texas limit our fundraising ability, so it is important for our mem-

bers to support the club activities through which we are able to supplement our dues to cover essential expenses.

Thanks to Mike Zachau for sending me a pic-



ture of Jim Rice's Show and Tell plane.

I'm surprised that he had so much trouble with this version of a design that he has used successfully before. I admire Jim's tenacity and patience with the airplane, and apparently getting it fixed. Since I didn't hear his explanation of the issues, I can only guess if it was maybe some subtle issue with the wing that was given to him.

Several months ago, I published a school boy's essay on the desirability of a career as a pilot. Jim's mother had given it to him years ago. He also gave me a long list of "definitions" for RC Modelers. Some of them follow in no particular order - warning, some of these may only make sense if you were in the hobby in the 1960's.

Airplane: A heavier than air machine, which it obviously is.

Crash: Termination of a flight (see Airplane).

Aileron: A hinged surface on the wing of a multi-controlled airplane; also a black line on a single control airplane.

Balsa: An extremely light substitute for gold.

Block: What a part is made from after ruining six sheets of 1/16" Gold (see Balsa).

Cessna: A company that makes a very large model of the Goldberg "Skylane".

Field: A place where RC airplanes takeoff. Landings may occur elsewhere (see Crash).

Landing: A maneuver in which a 5 foot RC airplane contacts a sphere roughly 8,000 miles in diameter, and after which, the pilot smiles with satisfaction.

That's enough for now. There are more of these that I will save for another time - are you groaning now?



If not, this picture should do it. If you didn't get that RC thing you wanted for Christmas, maybe this is why.

Now I will quit for this month. This is your newsletter, and as always, I invite your suggestions for topics you would like to see in future editions. Send your comments and ideas to the editor's email:

newseditor@tricityflyers.com

Frank George, Tri City Flyers News Editor