



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

FEBRUARY 2026

AMA #850

Your 2026 Tri City Club Contacts:

President

Ed Valls
president@tricityflyers.com

Vice-President

Matt Greenlee
vp@tricityflyers.com

Secretary

John Franklin
secretary@tricityflyers.com

Treasurer

Michael Zachau
treasurer@tricityflyers.com

Safety Officers

Seguin Field
Augustine Santiago
sequinsafety@tricityflyers.com

Kingsbury Field
Mike Fisher
okasafety@tricityflyers.com

News Editor
Frank L George
newseditor@tricityflyers.com

FEBRUARY 2026 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello everyone, I hope all of you are well. I am saddened to have to tell you about the passing of one of our longtime club members. In January of this year long time club member, Charles Roccaforte, passed away after a short illness. Charles has served the club in numerous capacities including as our Vice President and Safety Officer. If you ever attended one of our flying events you would have found Charles at the registrations desk signing pilots in, as well as selling raffle tickets. I always found him to be a source of quiet and calmness in this world with so much background noise. I treasured the advice that he provided when I was faced with a difficult decision in life. He will be truly missed by our club and all of his friends. Rest in Peace Charles.

On a related note, please remember that model aviation is a hobby and is supposed to be enjoyable. When at the field, it is a time to enjoy your flying and the comradery of your fellow modelers. After having flown model aircraft for more than 60 years it is the friendships I have made through the years that give me pleasure, and I hope it is the same for each of you.

That is all for now. I encourage each and every one of you to enjoy the hobby and the friendships of your fellow modelers. I hope to see you soon at one of our fields.

Sincerely,
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 Meeting Minutes February 2026 by John Franklin, Tri City Secretary

Tri City Flyers, Inc. Business Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2026

Call to Order: The February Club business meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Matt Greenlee. President Ed Valls had an excused absence from the meeting. 20 members were present including 4 club officers.

January Meeting Minutes: Matt asked if there were any corrections to the January meeting minutes or the Newsletter. None being noted, Mike Zachau moved to accept the minutes as written. Johnell Holley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Guests/New Members: No new members or guests were present at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the end of January financial report. He itemized the income and expenditures, and reported the bank account totals to the members. John Franklin made a motion to receive the report, which was seconded by Rusty Koehler. The motion to receive the treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Field Manager's Report: Mike Fisher reported that the Kingsbury field conditions did not require any maintenance due to dry weather conditions. He also has run the mower and plans to contact Chuck for routine maintenance on it.

AMA Business: Frank George informed members of recent AMA activities as they would relate to club functions. John Franklin informed members that as the POC for the club he had received the 2026 Club Charter certificate, and the Insurance Liability documents through an email from the AMA. Rusty told John to be sure and forward the Seguin Insurance document to Ed Valls.

Safety Officers' Reports: Mike Fisher said that no safety incidents had occurred at Kingsbury. Augie Santiago was not in attendance, and Ron Wahl said no incidents had occurred in Seguin.

Unfinished Club Business: Frank George addressed the members with info about the upcoming March Swap Meet. He reported that the Garden Ridge Community Center has a new manager. Frank and Mike Zachau met with her to finalize meet details. The facility manager was given a copy of the table layout, and TCF will be able to verify the setup prior to the Meet. The City has assumed the task of table setup due to liability issues. TCF will only be responsible for cleanup after the Swap Meet. Frank said that only 3 or 4 tables had not been rented and that a large interest in the event exists, so he expects they will be rented soon. Gary Rice will oversee the kitchen for the event and will need volunteers to help. Frank intends to send a vendor email outline 2 weeks prior to the event. He has also been working to secure a

parking spot for those who bring trailers and would like to leave them overnight. Frank said his email will provide a schedule for the vendors' arrival, check-in and other details.

New Club Business:

Kingsbury PA System Update: Frank George told members that new PA system parts have been acquired for the Kingsbury facility. A workday will be scheduled to install that equipment. Please plan to help as the system needs to be installed before our flying events begin.

Warbirds Over Kingsbury: Tom DiCuirci outlined the Warbirds over Kingsbury event for which he is the CD. He said the sound system was on his list and that the club plans have addressed that need. He welcomes any input for the event raffle. He has secured some of the needed supplies for the event, and has been working to secure a food vendor. He is also hoping to find a way to supply ice cream for the event. The AMA sanction is approved for Monday thru Saturday with the main event on Friday and Saturday, May 15th and 16th. A field preparation workday is to be announced prior to the Fly-in. Tom is relying on his experience from the last two events to guide this event. Volunteers are needed to make the Fly-in a success, and Tom plans to ask those involved previously to fill the roles again.

Club Spring Fly-in: Matt Greenlee asked members to find a date for an April Fun Fly-in. The event, open to AMA members, was tentatively set for April 11, 2026. Mike Zachau will secure pizza for lunch that day.

Pioneer Flight Museum: The Museum has planned Wings and Wheels events for May 2nd and November 14th. They are encouraging TCF to have a static display at both events. Ed Valls will coordinate the participation.

National Model Aviation Day Fly-in: The date for this annual AMA sponsored event will require further discussion, and details will be announced at a later date.

Additional Fly-in Plans: A potential Cubs and Cousins Fly-in, and a club Fall Open Fun Fly-in both require further planning, and will need event managers.

March Meeting Schedule: The March Club Meeting has been cancelled due to prior commitments by Ed and Matt. The meeting would also fall one day before the Garden Ridge TCF Swap Meet.

Charles Roccaforte Estate: Mike Fisher brought some items donated to the club in memory of Charles Roccaforte. His wife Pat said that one of Charles' final requests was to give his collection of model items to the club. Some items will be sold at the Swap Meet with proceeds donated to the Roccaforte family. Other items were given to the members. We appreciate and will miss you, Charles.



Broken Prop Award: Gary Barrett has the trophy and was not in attendance. Matt Dirienzo was nominated for a crash involving his scratch built foamboard F22 EDF. Matt told members that he continues to work on power and control issues with the model. Matt accepted this month's award as no other candidates were identified.

Show and Tell: Norman Barrilleaux showed some useful items he produced with a 3D printer in support of his model activities. He told members about the Sharpr program he uses for the print jobs, and explained there are many websites that provide files to print items such as the ones he shared.

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

Scheduled Upcoming Club Events: March Club Business Meeting; cancelled due to officer prior commitments.

TCF 2026 Swap Meet: 1:00 to 9:00 PM March 13th and 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM 14th 2026, at the Garden Ridge Community Center, 9500 Municipal Dr. Garden Ridge, TX 78266.

Warbirds over Kingsbury: Main event May 15th and 16th 2026. Pilots meeting at 9:00am. Open flying during week. Camping is available with no utilities.

Charles Roccaforte Memorial Service: First Baptist Church; 15951 Winters Mill Pkwy, Wimberley, Texas at 10:00 AM, February 23, 2026.



As I open the news section for November, I must first share Ed's, mine and other members' sadness at the passing of long time club member, friend and mentor, Charles Roccaforte. Charles had been raised to the level of Honorary Member of the Tri City Flyers in recognition of his many years of service to the club. He will be missed by many, and I offer my condolences to his wife Pat, and the Roccaforte family.

Vice President Matt Greenlee conducted this month's business meeting for President Ed Valls. The meeting business included much discussion of upcoming club activities and events. Please take note of all the scheduled and planned items. Remember, this is our club and it can only continue if we are ready to participate and keep it going.

My swap meet update in Unfinished Business covered many details, and I will add a bit more below. First, I will discuss some of the other activities covered under New Business.

As some of our longtime members know, the kingsbury PA system is inadequate at best. A few years ago we were able to replace an ancient portable combination mixer/amplifier with a modern 200 Watt PA power amplifier and companion audio input mixer. The current speakers were, and still are, the main problem with the system. No one I have asked can say how old they are, or tell me anything about them. The bottom line is some don't all work, and those that do, are not all matched to each other. The planned work consists of 1) mounting a new cabinet in the kitchen to hold all of the audio electronics, 2) install new speaker wiring that is up to code and rated for the electrical load of the speakers, 3) repair existing wire conduit as needed, 4) remove and replace speakers on the existing poles, add a new speaker in the pavilion. Realistically, this will require more than one day, but should support our activities, as well as some of the PFM events. Sounds like a lot of work, but taken in logical order it is very doable.

Tom DiCurici is building the Warbird Fly-in into a major event, and will be looking for a good support crew.

We have supported the PFM spring and fall fund raising fly-ins for a number of years. I realize it is an effort to bring planes out in the morning, set them up and then collect them that afternoon. You might enjoy helping out with our display as well. Visitors are always impressed by our airplanes. Both young and old have fun with the simulator. It is also good public relations for our club, the hobby and AMA.

Now, a bit more about the swap meet March 13 and 14. We expect another successful fund raiser to help with club expenses. Our tables are almost all rented and prepaid, so vendor check in should go very well. Currently there are two tables available for Friday only, and two for Saturday. I expect to be fully booked because I am still receiving requests. John Franklin will be sending an email later this week asking for volunteers to help out. The proceeds from this event normally is enough to cover the annual cost for one of our fields.

Remember the other upcoming events and please to be a part of them.

Norman's show n tell of the variety of items we can make with 3D printing technology was very impressive to me as an "old school" modeler. The



accessory items he brought were just a few examples of the variety of parts, including entire airplane components, that are available for download and printing. It gives a whole new meaning to "building from scratch". Other TCF members are also using this technology, and I am happy they are interested in trying new approaches in our hobby.

How about some more show n tell items, because I know our members are doing some interesting projects.

OK, that's a wrap for this month. As always I am open to suggestions for content, or contributed articles you think would be of interest to the members. Contact me at the following email.

Frank George, Tri City Flyers News Editor.

newseditor@tricityflyers.com