



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



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SEPTEMBER

AMA #850

Your 2026 Tri City Club Contacts:

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SEPTEMBER 2026 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello again everyone. Well, the rain has stopped and now we have been dealing with the excessive heat. I am not sure about many of you, but the heat has put a damper on my flying activities. While attending the annual B-17 Bomber gathering at Monaville over the past weekend, there was a lot of conversation/discussion about the heat and modelers attempting to find crashed or lost aircraft. I was told that one modeler in the Houston area (I believe this is correct) lost or crashed his airplane and he went to find it in a corn field. He failed to take his cell phone nor any water, and was found by paramedics a number of hours later dehydrated and in very bad condition. He was transported to the hospital and did survive. However, in another case in the United States, a modeler went looking for his airplane and was found the following day. He did not survive. All of this to ask you to please be mindful of the temperature and surroundings when going to look for a lost aircraft. Always find another individual to accompany you, take your cell phone and water. Please remember, an airplane is not worth your life.

We will not have our annual National Model Aviation Day flying event as we could not find anyone to CD/run the event.

We will have our annual AMA Members Fly Free flying event on September 26. The event will be open to any current AMA member and any type of radio-controlled aircraft is eligible to fly. Pizza and drinks available. We are asking for a donation if you are able. The donations will go to the AMA Foundation.

That's all for now. Thank you all for continuing to support our club and I hope to see you at the field.

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 Business Meeting Minutes September 10, 2026

Call to Order: Club President Ed Valls called the September business meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 17 members including 4 club officers in attendance.

August Meeting Minutes: Ed asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August Minutes. The secretary noted that Johnell Holly's name was misspelled in the minutes. After some banter, Johnell accepted an apology. Ed asked for a motion to approve the August minutes as corrected. The motion was made, seconded and approved by the members.

Guests/New Members: John Franklin presented new members candidates to the club. Nathan Mullins was the only one of the three applicants in attendance. He came forward and gave the attending members a brief and entertaining outline of his modeling and past. He brings a history of aviation knowledge with him to the club. His wife is an active Army officer, and he is a self-employed, retired military veteran. Joseph Kouzez is an applicant who is an experienced RC pilot and a previous club member. He is returning after being out of the club for two years. David Rembert is an applicant who is returning to modeling after being out of the hobby for 20 years. He is looking forward to participating and flying. John Franklin asked for a vote to accept the three applicants, and all members approved the applicants.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the end of August financial report to the members. Jim Rice moved to accept the report. Sherman Lindsey seconded and all members voted to receive the report as presented.

Safety Officers Reports:

Mike Fisher told members that August had been a safe month with no incidents at Kingsbury.

Ed Valls told members that Seguin had no incidents as well. Ed Valls also told members that the entrance gates to the Seguin Field were in need of repair as was one of the FEMA buildings at Seguin. The JBSA Airfield Manager was notified and indicated that he would notify Civil Engineering and FEMA.

Field Manager Report: Mike Zachau asked Mike Fisher if he needed more fire-ant powder. Mike said they are ok for now. Bill Anderson said he had been stung by some fire ants at the Kingsbury field. Ed explained to members that some red flags are in the kitchen to mark the fire-ant mounds for treatment. Or, the members can treat the mounds themselves with the dusting powder available.

AMA Business: Jim Rice told members that the AMA has a letter campaign in place to address issues with the Federal Government and the AMA. Ed Valls encouraged members

to respond to any email requests from the AMA for support letters. The AMA will provide details for the letters in emails.

Unfinished Club Business:

Officer Election: Matt Dirienzo came forward and told members that he and Rusty Koehler have been appointed as the club officer nominating committee. Matt also volunteered to run for the role of club treasurer when Mike Zachau's term ends next year. He encouraged all to consider being a club officer. He also told members that Mike Fisher had volunteered to be the Kingsbury safety officer for another term. He said he would be looking for candidates for the Secretary and Vice President positions. If any of our members know of someone who would be willing to serve, please encourage them to contact Rusty Kohler or Matt Dirienzo.

Model Aviation Outreach: Matt recognized Jim Rice's recent efforts to establish a training program at local schools. Matt hoped to involve the Comal ISD with a program as well.

Club Christmas Party: Ed Valls told members that the 2026 Christmas Party will be catered by the same company as last year. He said the menu choices will be announced at the November meeting. Members are asked to bring a dessert or appetizer. Ed will ask Rusty Koehler to head the White Elephant gift part of the party. RSVP requests will be sent to members to get a head count for the party.

Club Member Fly In: The AMA Members Fly Free Fly-in will be held on September 26, 2026. The Fly-in will start at 9:00am and lunch will be pizza, for a donation. Proceeds will be donated to the AMA to help meet our Gold Leader Club requirements. The club will not have a NMAD Fly-in this year. All AMA members are encouraged to attend this event.

New Business: Ed announced the A.R.C.S. Inaugural Top Gun Electric Fly-in, and encouraged all to attend because of the A.R.C.S. clubs' support of Tri City Flyers. He provided the flyer to members, which has the dates, times and location of the fly-in. George Wilson is the CD of the event. A donation of 4 cans of food or a \$10.00 entry fee is required for all who wish to fly. Raffle prizes will be available.

Meeting Content: Ed Valls told members he is considering adding a "How To" feature to the meetings. He explained that we have done this after meetings in the past. Johnell Holly said he thought it would fit better at the beginning of the meeting. Ed encouraged all members to bring prospective topics to following meetings.

Broken Prop Award: Mike Fisher made a motion to eliminate the Broken Prop portion of the club meeting. Bill Anderson seconded. The members voted to retire the award

and the topic from future meeting agendas.

Show and Tell: Jim Rice presented an L-9 Bird Dog warbird model he recently built to take to the A.R.C.S. Fly-in. He said it had crashed on the maiden flight due to an incorrect wing incidence angle. The damage was repaired and the incidence angle corrected. Jim also showed the completed 65" version of the Dream Machine. He told members how the model has evolved from the 48" version.

Adjournment: Jim Rice moved to adjourn the meeting and Johnell Holly seconded. All members voted yes.

Upcoming events: AMA Members Free Fly-in, September 26, 2026. Beginning at 9:00am at the Kingsbury Aerodrome Flying Field. Pizza lunch will be served, for a donation.

October Regular Business Meeting: 7:00 PM October 8, 2026, at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West; Converse, Texas.

Hello again, and welcome to your September News Section. I am sorry that I missed the meeting because of a health issue. I do want to expand on a couple items in the Minutes. I am using a single column to better present information relating to Jim Rice's comment in the minutes about FCC proposals that could seriously impact our RC hobby. Here is a quote from a September 15 entry in the AMA's Government Affairs Blog.

“AMA representatives are currently in Washington, D.C., meeting with members of Congress, the Department of Defense, and other stakeholders to discuss these issues and their potential effects on recreational model aviation, education, small businesses, and the broader hobby industry.

These meetings are part of AMA's continuing advocacy as the federal government considers changes that could reach well beyond advanced UAS systems and affect equipment and components commonly used throughout model aviation. AMA is working to ensure that policymakers understand those potential consequences and the need to appropriately distinguish traditional model aviation from other UAS operations and technologies"

I normally monitor the AMA Government Affairs Blog. Here is a link If you would like to read the entire entry the sample above came from, as well as other AMA efforts on our behalf.

https://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2026/09/15/fcc-proceedings-ama-comments/?gl=1*1s8hbcn*_gcl_au*MzUxMTIxNzc0LjE3ODk5MzAxNzluMTgzOTA1MDQ4LjE3ODk5MzAxODguMTc4OTkzMDI0My45Nzk0NjM1MzMuMTc4OTkzMDE4OC4xNzg5OTMwMjQz

AMA did respond to this and a related FCC NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) that the FCC published with extremely short comment time limits, that violated all the established rules for comment time periods. AMA posted both of their responses on the Blog but there was not enough time to get members who don't follow the blog to respond. I did get a response submitted to the second announcement, but the short limit had already closed on the first one. I better stop here or I will end up on another soapbox.

Moving on, I was a little disappointed to see the broken prop award retired, but I do understand the reasons, which Ed Valls followed up on in emails to some of us who were not at the meeting. I have many years of RC experience with my share of crashes, and know I would be embarrassed to stand up and explain one.

I like Ed's suggestion to add "How To" topics to our meetings. We have done this previously, and I remember some very interesting presentations. I would support it again, but we need more than just a list of topics. We need members willing to put together a presentation on an RC topic they are comfortable with.

Show and Tell: thanks to Jim Rice for keeping this topic alive. Come on members, I know there are



other very interesting projects out there. First up is Jim's U. S. Army L-19 Bird Dog observation plane developed from the Cessna 170. the plane first flew in 1949 and entered service in 1950. It was used in Korea and Viet Nam, where it loitered above battlefields tracking enemy movements and directing artillery fire. That is where it earned the nickname Bird Dog. The planes designation was officially changed to "O-1" in September 1962. Over 3400 of the airplanes were built.

I don't have information on the source of Jim's plans, kit, or whatever he used. Anyway - another beautiful example of Jim's craftsmanship.

See more on page 5.

Confused yet? Here we are back to my usual two column layout. Now for Jim's second show and tell. This is the completed example of the latest version of his Dad's Dream Machine design, which has received much publicity over the years. Not surprising, a quick Google search uncovered several pictures of the model, plus plans sources, and even a short kit.

OK, so here it is. Another beautiful effort.



Jim talked about this project in last month's newsletters. I refer you there if you haven't read it, and note that a kit will be forthcoming. Thanks again, Jim.

Finally, my OMP Edge 540 is as ready to fly as I can make it. It hasn't maiden'd yet, but I hope to get it to Kingsbury soon - but not the fly-in! I want a day that is not too busy with distractions, when I can take my time. I will recheck the range onsite, and ground handing on grass before first flight.

In the meantime, my long term J-3 build as a WW II Navy NE-I is back on the table. It has been all framed up for some time. Most recently I tried every way I could to power it with my Saito-90 Mark II twin, but that thing was just too darn big! So now I am proceeding with an OS 95 4-stroke that looks like a perfect fit, both physical and power wise. Teaser - maybe I'll include details that I think may be of interest in future columns.

As always, in closing I invite your comments and suggestions. This is your newsletter too, so lets make it better together.

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