



Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER



www.tricityflyers.com

OCTOBER 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
seguinsafety@tricityflyers.com

Kingsbury Field
Mike Fisher
okasafety@tricityflyers.com

News Editor
Frank L George
newseditor@tricityflyers.com

OCTOBER 2026 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello again everyone. On September 26 we held our AMA Members Fly Free Fly-In. It was a very successful well attended event. We had about 25 pilots flying everything from electric to gas and glow planes. It was a very low key laid-back event, and our plan is to hold similar events more frequently in 2027. So please plan on attending if you can.

While working on a few planes (one repair and one resurrection) I came across some interesting tools and materials and thought I should share these with you. If need some high-quality birch plywood for a build, or for repairs please consider visiting: <https://www.woodworkerssource.com/plywood-sheet-goods/baltic-birch-plywood.html?srsId=AU7gw4XhmAOKj25j2Zc--9Ka1GcSo3V9sC0zTxrwmfjSb5hylbrVHQVg> I was also in need of some adjustable clamps when repairing a models and found these clamps. on Amazon. They are reconfigurable and might come in handy. They are called 3-piece Bar Clamp from SEDY. Finally, I have been flying electric airplanes for many years and have lamented the performance of current LiPo battery packs. In searching You Tube I found a channel called EDF jet RC. The gentleman is doing some really impressive things with new high energy Li-Ion cells from Samsung and Molicel. Please take a look at his channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/@EDFjetRC/videos>.

Remember that we will have officer elections at the November club meeting so if you are able, please attend to cast your vote.

We will have our annual club Christmas party on Thursday, December 10, 2026 so please plan on attending if you are able. An e-mail will be sent out on or about December 1 asking for an RSVP.

That's is 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 October 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Club president Ed Valls called the October regular business meeting to order at 7:05PM. 18 members, including 4 club officers, were in attendance.

September Meeting Minutes: Ed Valls asked members if any needed corrections or additions to the September minutes were noted. None being offered, a motion to accept the minutes as printed was made, seconded and approved unanimously by the attending members.

New Members/ Guests: No new members or guests were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Zachau presented the end of September financial report to club members. Gary Barrett made a motion to receive the report as presented. Rusty Koehler seconded and all members voted to approve.

Safety Officers Reports: Ed Valls told members that no incidents had occurred at the Seguin Flying site. Ed also reported that the main runway for the T-6 aircraft at Randolph Air Force Base is under repair, and during that time the Seguin field will be used more than normal. Ed also informed members that Mike Fisher has sustained an injury and will not be able to perform Safety Officer duties at Kingsbury for a time.

Field Manager Report: Gary Barrett and Mike Fisher have been doing most of the maintenance at Kingsbury. Gary will continue to maintain the field in Mike Fisher's absence. During Mike Fisher's recovery we would like to ask that if you fly at the Kingsbury field and Gary or others are doing field maintenance, please offer to assist if you are physically able.

AMA Business: Frank George reported that the AMA has been receiving reports of flight interference on the 2.4GHz radio band. The AMA would like anyone experiencing unexplainable transmitter communication problems to send them an email. Frank George can share the email address if you need it. Bill Anderson told members that he converted to ELRS band and had not experienced any issues so far.

Unfinished Business:

Nominating Committee: Matt Dirienzo reported to members that the club nominating committee has secured election nominations for the club

officer positions of Safety Officer at Kingsbury, Vice President, and Secretary. Those who volunteered are Mike Fisher, Safety Officer; Gus Niver, Vice President; and Jack Jones, Secretary. Rusty Koehler told members that the nominations were still open, but any further nominations would have to be accepted as write-ins on the ballot at the November meeting, before elections take place.

September Fly-In Summary: Mike Zachau presented the financial report for the AMA members Free Fly-in held on September 26, 2026. He said that two donation buckets were at the event and that the pizza for the fly-in had been donated by an anonymous person. Mike told members that the proceeds will be donated to the AMA in lieu of our National Model Day of Aviation Fly-in which was cancelled this year. Rusty Koehler made a motion to send \$200.00 to the AMA to help qualify for Gold Leader status. Mike Zachau seconded and all members voted to approve.

Farmer's Market Update: Ed Valls told members that the Farmers' Markets recently scheduled monthly at Kingsbury has moved back to the Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Station.

New Business:

Swap Meet: Johnell Holly came forward and presented the 2027 Swap Meet news. He told members that table reservations are available for members. He will open vendor reservations on November 1 for all unreserved tables. A discussion followed that table prices should be increased from \$10 each day to \$17. Johnell told members that could only be done in the following years because rates have already been publicized. The floor layout for the 2027 Swap Meet remains unchanged.

Static Display Planning: Ed Valls told members that the PFM Wings and Wheels event is scheduled for November 14, 2026. He said the club has a place to present a static display if we would like to participate. He asked that those interested in bringing airplanes to show to contact him. Unfortunately, there is no space to park trailers.

Future Event Planning: Discussion followed about possibly having 2 or 3 AMA Members Fly Free events, similar to the recent Sept. 26 event throughout 2027.

Mower Maintenance: Ed also discussed the field mower maintenance with Gary Barrett and Mike

Fisher. It was determined that some of the regular maintenance items have not been done. It was decided that the mower should be taken to a professional shop. Ed asked the officers for approval to take the mower to Dietz Tractor in Seguin for some much needed maintenance of the transmission as well as a general tune up.

Kingsbury Field Closure: Ed also told members that the Kingsbury Flying Field will be closed Oct 10 because of a private PFM event.

Seguin Field Closure: He stated that the Seguin Field will be closed Oct 17 for maintenance by the military.

Christmas Party Planning: Ed told members he will have the food choices for the club Christmas Party at the November meeting. Rusty Koehler has agreed to MC the White Elephant gift exchange at the party. Rusty will also be accepting membership renewals through the end of the year

Meeting Planning Comment: Norman Barilleaux suggested that the club consider presenting the meetings online to the members. He felt like it would promote more participation by members.

Show and Tell:

Ed Valls showed members some new light weight lithium-ion battery technology that he is considering. He said the units produce more energy faster and cooler than what was previously available with lithium polymer batteries. Ed also shared some new clamp technology he has recently come across. It features extended clamp length with less investment in multiple clamps. He also showed some plywood he acquired from "Woodworker Source" for less money and higher quality than other sources. Links to these products will be available in the October club newsletter.

Matt Dirienzo presented several Stanzel Models he had recently acquired. He explained how he and family members had visited the Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum in Schulenburg, Texas. Matt said it was very interesting and thought the club might be interested in a field trip there in the future.

Adjournment: Rusty Koehler made a motion to adjourn the October Meeting. Johnell Holly seconded and all members voted yes.

Upcoming Events:

November Club Meeting, November 12, 2026.
American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West;

Converse, Texas.

PFM Fall Wings and Wheels event at Kingsbury, November 14. No RC flying. TCF Static Display.

Christmas Party, Thursday December 10, at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West; Converse, Texas. Details to follow.

Hello all TCF members and guests. Welcome to the October News Section. I trust you have read Ed's President's column and the meeting minutes. Ed's column provides details for accessing some of his Show and Tell items, along with other club news. Pictures of his items are also in this section. Please note all of the club upcoming activities reported in the minutes and participate in as many as you can.

As I reported at the meeting, the AMA has convened a committee to investigate a number of recent reports they have received about interference on the 2.4GHz frequency band. The committee is currently reviewing these reports and has asked AMA members to report any additional instances of suspected interference. If any of you experience a control issue while flying, and are not able to confirm it as "dumb thumbs", or identify an equipment failure, please mention it to a Safety Officer, and email the details to the AMA 2.4GHz Interference Committee at amagov@modelaircraft.org. Include as much detail as possible, including club name and AMA charter number if appropriate, plus field location. Also include the date and local time, number of transmitters on at the time, the make and model of your RC gear, and your name and contact information if you are willing to have them contact you about the incident. AMA is serious about investigating these reports because of possible reactions from the FAA or FCC.

The officer elections will take place at the November meeting, so plan to attend and vote. Nominations from the floor may be offered in addition to the candidates identified by the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in having a voice in Club management, you may nominate yourself or another member - with their prior permission.

Johnell Holly is taking swap meet table reservations from club members prior the general notice to all vendors November 1. If you are interested in a table, or tables, contact him at

Johnell.Holly@gmail.com

The swap meet flyer is attached to the event listing on the TCF website calendar page.

Be sure to put the December 10 Christmas Party on your calendar. That's the second Thursday, our regular monthly meeting night. The meal will be catered by the same people who did last year's dinner, as well as food at several Kingsbury events.

Moving on to Show-n-Tell, we had two very different presentations, first from Ed Valls and then by Matt Dirienzo. Ed first showed us a sample of

birch plywood he purchased online to use in his rebuild project. He was quite impressed by both the quality and price. Here is the sample he showed us. I checked out the website Ed provided in his news-



letter column, and they do have a wide selection of wood products.

Ed's second item was a reconfigurable clamp that is adjustable to different widths, pictured here. You can currently get a 3-pack of these clamps on



Amazon Prime for \$18.00, or a 3-pack of shorter six inch clamps for \$15.00.

Finally, Ed described some recently available high energy, high discharge rate Lithium Ion batteries that he is considering to replace his LiPo power batteries. I did find a couple relevant videos on the channel Ed mentioned in his column. A Google search found cells currently available have practical Power Ratings of 4,000 to 5,000 mAh and 10C dis-

charge ratings. I also found there is a lot of R&D activity on other high power battery technologies. For now, here are the cells Ed is currently evaluating. As you can see, these cells are smaller and lighter



than LiPos. And, they have potentially safer packaging. My online look also showed they are more economical. I look forward to hearing about Ed's experience.

experience.

On a totally different topic, Matt Dirienzo discussed the history of the Stanzel Model Airplane Factory, and its museum that he recently visited in Schulenburg. He was attracted there by a popular control line model they produced years ago, but is still found online. Here he shows us the Tiger Shark kit he purchased there. Matt also brought a balsa glider that



he purchased. It is launched from a dowel and spring attached to a trigger mechanism.

Matt demonstrated the glider which launched, but with mixed results. Matt suggested a possible club



field trip to visit the museum. Ed responded that he was aware of a community event planned there next May. My online visit to the museum website revealed the broad inventiveness of the two brothers who started the business, and also invented several airplane oriented carnival rides. Their event calendar listed an event called "wings and Wheels" Saturday, May 1, 2027 but no details.

Thanks again to Ed and Matt for two very diverse topics. Ed's battery discussion of Li-Ion technology also fits the description of a technical discussion topic such as some members have suggested for our meetings.

Lets keep the show and tell going gang.

That's about it for this month. As always, comments and suggested topics for discussion are welcome at

newseditor@tricityflyers.com

Frank George, TCF News Editor