Tri City Flyers

NEWSLETTER

www.tricityflyers.com

NOVEMBER 2026

AMA #850

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NOVEMBER 2026 PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello again everyone. We have had a lot of rain in the local area and I hope all of you are safe and not terribly affected by the weather. Speaking of the weather, it has begun to cool off so I hope you get a chance to get some flying in.

We had elections of officers at our November meeting for the positions of club Vice-President, Secretary and Kingsbury Safety Officer. We elected Gus Niver as our new Vice-President, Jack Jones as our new club Secretary and Mike Fisher as Kingsbury Safety Officer. I am grateful to Jack Jones, Gus Niver and Mike Fisher for running for office. I would also like to thank Matt Greenlee and John Franklin for their years of service to the club as Vice-President and Secretary, respectively. Finally, I would also like to thank Mike Fisher for continuing to serve as our Kingsbury Safety Officer.

Our club had a static display of R/C aircraft at the fall Wings and Wheels event held at the Pioneer Flight Museum property on November 14. I would like to thank Frank George, Ron Wahl and Sherman Lindsay for "staffing" our display area. Attendance at the event was good and we had a number of parents and young people get some simulator time with our club simulator.

We will have our annual club Christmas party and dinner 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 November 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: President Ed Valls called the November meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 17 members, including 5 officers, in attendance.

October Meeting Minutes: Ed Valls asked the members if there were any corrections to the September meeting minutes. None were noted. A motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote to approve the minutes as printed in the Newsletter.

New Members/Guests: No new members were at the meeting. Jack Jones' wife accompanied him and attended the meeting as a guest. When recognized Jack told members that she was considering joining the group and becoming active in R/C flying.

Treasure's Report: Mike Zachau presented the end of October financial report to the members. Frank George made a motion to receive the report. Mike Fisher seconded and the motion passed by voice vote.

Safety Officers' Reports: Mike Fisher said there were no safety issues at Kingsbury. Ron Wahl noted that none had occurred at Seguin.

Field Mangers' Report: Ed Valls told members that the zero-turn club mower had been serviced at Dietz Tractor in Seguin. It was necessary to rent a trailer to haul the mower as it is wider than a standard trailer. William Enox said that he had trailers available that would haul the mower in the future if needed. Gary Barrett had reported to Ed that the club gas edger has ceased to work. Ed took the edger home and discovered that the drive cable on the lower stem had failed. Ed ordered a replacement part but was told the part was on back order and it would be quite some time for the replacement to arrive. A replacement part is actively being sought. If none are available, a new trimmer will be purchased.

AMA Business: Frank George told members that he had not seen any recent news from the AMA as they continue dealing with recent Government issues. Frank and Jim Rice noted a lot of negative responses to recent proposals have been posted.

Unfinished Club Business:

March 2027 Swap Meet: Johnell Holly came forward and told members that approximately 30 tables are still available for those wishing to sell items at the upcoming Swap Meet. He said that he posted an email on November 1st to any vendors interested in selling items at the Meet. He noted that all tables were rented in advance for this year's meet, with vendors waiting for cancellations. He encouraged any members to come forward after the meeting, because he doesn't expect the tables to be available for very long. Johnell told members that Garden Ridge had approved the placement of a banner at the entrance prior to the Swap Meet date, to inform the public of the event. Ed Valls asked members to consider donating good merchandise to the club to sell or raffle.

Wings and Wheels Event: Rusty Koehler sent an email to members reminding them that the Kingsbury field will be closed for the PFM Fall Wings and Wheels Fly-in, November 14, 2026, 9:00AM to 4:00PM. No R/C flying on Friday or Saturday. Tri City Flyers will present a static display at the event. Ed Valls asked anyone interested to have their items at the field by 8:00AM. The PFM organizers would like those participating to unload at the hanger, and park behind the car barn; then return and set-up the display.

Club Annual Dues: Mike Zachau told members that he would be accepting membership dues after this meeting in Rusty's absence.

Club Christmas Party: The club Christmas party is scheduled for December 10, 2026. Ed presented members with three menu options from the caterers. The members voted for the BBQ chicken drumsticks and pulled pork with bread, potato salad, and green beans with bacon. Rusty Koehler will send an email requesting RSVP's from those who wish to attend. Members were asked to bring an appetizer or dessert dish. A White Elephant gift exchange will be held after the meal. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift of around $25 value to the party. Since not all attendees are club members, gifts may be hobby related or otherwise, to accommodate all guests. Ed requested 5 volunteers to help set-up and decorate about 4:30PM on the 10th. Appetizers should be available by 6:00PM, and the meal will be served at 7:00 PM. Mike Zachau volunteered to acquire the plates and silverware for the party. Ed Valls will be out of town on the day of the party so Matt Greenlee will fill in for him. Rusty Koehler plans to coordinate the White Elephant gift



Tri City Flyers Meeting Minutes November 2026 by John Franklin, Tri City Secretary

exchange. Ed asked that members who plan to give gift cards double check to make sure they are activated. I t was brought to attention that a card from last year had zero dollars on it.

New Business: Club Officers elections were held for the 2027-28 term. The approved slate of candidates was Gus Niver for Vice President; Jack Jones for Secretary, and Mike Fisher for Kingsbury Safety Officer. No additional candidates for those offices were nominated from the floor. It was moved and seconded to elect the slate of candidates by acclimation. The motion passed without dissent.

Show and Tell:

Classic Kaos: Gus Niver presented a Bridi Kaos he recently completed. The aircraft features an OS .60 in^3 ABC engine. Gus described how he selected the pattern details and covering process to members. The aircraft performs traditional pattern flights well and is very stable in flight.

Mr. Mulligan: Matt Dirienzo presented a Mr. Mulligan model that he recently completed. He gave an account of the original aircraft's history, and told members that his aircraft was a Great Planes electric fly kit. He acquired the custom decals from Callie Graphics. He has flown the model several times.

Fleet Biplane: Jim Rice showed the members a Fleet Biplane that Jeff Behler had given him. The aircraft had been in storage and needed restoration. Jim has been working on the restoration and brought the aircraft to demonstrate his way of confirming the flight surface incidence angles. Jim modified an incidence meter with an electronic angle gauge he acquired from a hardware store. He replaced the glow engine with an electric motor and explained some of the detailing he had done.

Li-Ion Power: Ed Valls continued his discussion of high energy Lithium Ion batteries from the October meeting. He has built 6s and 5s batteries to put in several of his electric airplanes. He has successfully flown the new flight packs and reported they worked well but more testing is needed.

Adjournment: William Enox made a motion to adjourn. Jim Rice seconded the motion and all members voted yes

Upcoming Events: Tri City Flyers Christmas party, December 10, 2026; 6:00PM at American Legion Post 593, 326 Legion Drive West, Converse Texas 78109



Tri City Flyers News Section November 2026 by Frank George, Tri City News Editor

Hello again to all TCF members and guests. Welcome to your November News Section. Please let me know if you see any errors or omissions in the meeting minutes on pages 2 and 3, or mention them at the next meeting, before they are approved.

First, thanks to our newly elected 2027-28 vice president, secretary and Kingsbury Safety Officer for stepping up to serve.



Thanks to Johnell Holly for taking the lead on our annual swap meet. This is our most successful fund raising event, and contributes a significant amount to our budget every year. He will be asking for additional help as we get closer to the event dates. Volunteers can help with advertising, soliciting raffle prizes, and of course, setting up and running the meet.

We supported the PFM Wings and Wheels open house with a small display of RC models, and our flight simulator. I add my thanks to the volunteers Ed named in his column. There was a good number of visitors, but I think the weather forecast for rain later in the day kept the number of fly-ins small. Our display was also much smaller than in previous years. Please consider participating in this display next year. Yes, it is a bit of work, but I always enjoy telling people about our hobby, and they are impressed by our planes.



Be sure to put the Christmas dinner on your calendar for December 10. This is a fun family event, and the caterers always do a good job. Watch for Rusty's email and RSVP promptly so the caterer can plan for your meal.

Show and Tell was quite varied this month, so here goes. First up, Gus Niver showed us and described his recently completed Bridi Kaos 60. This 1970 Joe Bridi design became one of the most popular pattern aerobatic planes of its time. Several manufacturers offered both kit and ARF versions of the airplane. Full kits are currently available from Hangar one and Old School Model Works, as well as classic versions on e-bay. Here is Gus with his model and his own custom trim scheme.



Next up is Matt Dirienzo's Great Planes Mr. Mulligan. Formally designated as the Howard DGA-6 racing monoplane, it was designed, built, and flown by **Ben Howard** and **Harold Neumann**. They famously piloted it to win both the Bendix Trophy and Thompson Trophy at the 1935 National Air Races.



The airplane crashed over New Mexico when Ben and Maxine Howard were flying to the 1936 Bendix race. The Howards survived, but with serious



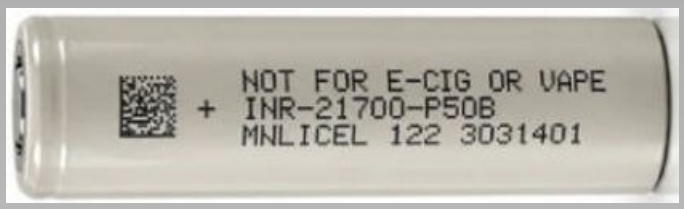
injuries. The picture above shows some of the detailed decals on the model.

Now, unfortunately, I have to apologize to Jim Rice and Ed Valls. Honest guys, I did snap pictures but I think my old point-and-shoot camera finally quit on me. It has been unreliable for a while, but I think the buttons have finally stopped making good contact when pushed. Some pictures did not show up on either the internal memory or SD card. It has now been permanently retired, and replaced with a newer camera that I already have.

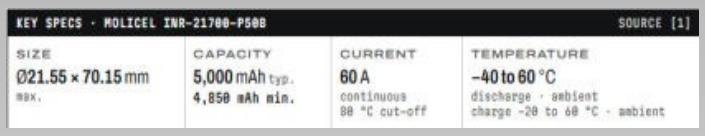


While its not the same plane, here is a very lightweight Fleet Biplane model designed by Pat Tritle, that is similar to the one Jim is restoring. Jim showed how he used his modified incidence angle gauge (previously described in the August 2025 Newsletter), to check the wing and tail incidence angles. He also demonstrated how to compare the two angles.

Now, to follow up on Ed's LiIon battery experiments, here an example of a high performance cell similar to the ones he is using.



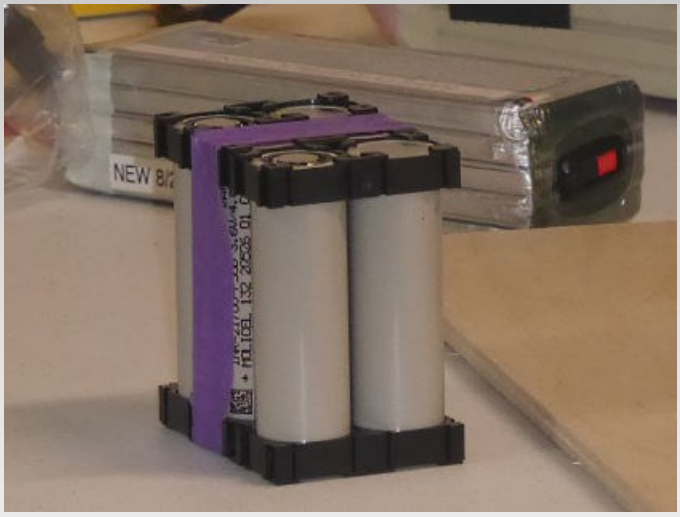
Here are the general specification for the cell, which costs about $12.00.



KEY SPECS · MOLICEL INR-21700-P50B — SOURCE [1]

SIZE	CAPACITY	CURRENT	TEMPERATURE
Ø21.55 × 70.15 mm max.	5,000 mAh typ. 4,850 mAh min.	60 A continuous 80 °C cut-off	−40 to 60 °C discharge · ambient charge −20 to 60 °C · ambient

Finally, here is a picture of a pack Ed showed us last month, comparing a 4S LiIon pack to a 4s LiPo pack behind it.



That's about it for this month, cobbled up News Section and all. Please send any thoughts for topics of interest about our hobby. Contact me if you would like to write about a topic you think would be of interest to club members.

Frank George, TCF News Editor
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