

# The Comets' Tale

*The Official  
Newsletter of the*



**April 2011**

|                      |                  |                |
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George Boston, Mike Ambarian, Marilyn Nash, Alastair Brennan, TJ Moran

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George Lanquist TJ Moran Steve Steinmetz Alastair Brennan

The Comets' Tale is the official newsletter and record of the Ventura County Comets, AMA Chartered Club #173 and is published monthly at the Comets' Tale Plaza, somewhere in Ventura.

*Editorial contributions are welcome.*

## Next Meeting:

Thursday, **14 April, 6:30 PM** at the  
**Oak View Community Center**

**Coming  
Up!**



**14 April**  
Comets Meeting  
**Note Date &  
Time Change**

**16-17 April**  
Comets Float Fly

**Sunday, 24 April**  
Warbird Day, Camarillo  
Flying Circus

First Sunday of each  
Month  
Open House at Santa  
Paula Airport

**From the President** It's April, and that means Spring Float Fly. Marilyn passed out the advertisement flyers at last month's meeting and we talked a little about coordination of the event. I will be the designated Contest Director (CD). I am sure that both Don Ashworth and Emery Balasa will be heading up the radio impound. Don and Emery will most likely be registering the flyers and collecting their fees. TJ and George Lanquist will be operating the boat and Mike Ambarian will be heading up the flight line as our Field Marshal/Safety Officer. As always, Mike and Steve Steinmetz will be working their wonders cooking the tri-tip lunch, and maybe we can get Dick Hanna to peddle the Sausage Burritos. If the weather holds, it should be a great time. So if you haven't heard, plan on coming out the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> for a lot of fun, good food, and great friendship.

Following last month's meeting we held an auction of all of Bud Scolari's flying gear, planes and helicopters. When it was all over the club put \$530 in the treasury. There was a lot of good gear, tools, engines and planes that went for some unbelievable prices. On a similar note a former club member John Anderson (JD) passed away a month or so ago. Like Bud, Jim had a lot of flying gear and some new kits. Don Ashworth is coordinating this effort, and our plans are to auction off JD's stuff **before the start of the April meeting**. The April meeting is set for the 14<sup>th</sup>, one week earlier than normal. This is because of the Float Fly. Also, we need to end the meeting as early as possible because many of the attendees

will be camping out at the lake and have to get back through the entrance gate before it gets locked at 9 PM. So we plan to start the auction at 6:30, or as early as possible. What we don't auction off at the April meeting, we will tackle at the May meeting. So plan on getting to the Community Center at least 30 minutes early, and bring a lot of money for some great deals! Take care, and safe flying.

*George Boston*

**ROOT'S RAMBLING!**

On February 20 I attended the Condors early airplane fly in. They called this their Dawn of Flight Golden Era Breakfast event. The breakfast was great, the weather was perfect after several days of rain, and no wind all day! I am including several pictures I took at this event. We had a great time and I'm sorry more of our club members didn't attend. Picture 1 is one of the many posters they had up.



Pictures 2 and 3 are of a beautiful Nieuport 28. Notice the mountains in the background. It was a beautiful day.



I took my scale 1925 Curtiss 3RC-1 racer and WW1 Fokker Dr.1 Triplane as shown in picture 4. These models are both 1/4 scale.



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6

A very large Jenny and a smaller S.E.5 are shown in pictures 5 and 6. These models are both ARF's and fly well.



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An electric ARF Stinson of about 50-in span is in picture 7.

I couldn't pass up a picture of the 1937 Quaker model in picture 8. Can it be considered a 100% scale model from the Golden Age of aviation?



8

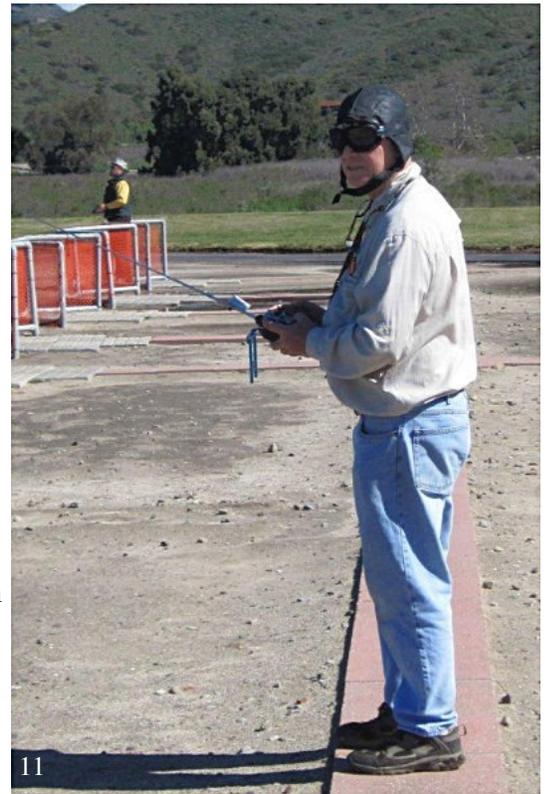


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Ron Scott is shown having a nice flying day in picture 9.



The big Jenny and my Fokker are on display in picture 10. I didn't get his name but the guy in picture 11 was certainly flying in the style of this great Dawn of Flight event.



A couple of weeks ago I got a call from a fellow by the name of Don Hiebert. He got my name and number from the Comets newsletter on the internet. He is an air traffic controller at the Camarillo airport. He called because he has a daughter in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Mesa Union school in Camarillo. She is in a special GATE class studying birds and aerodynamics. I volunteered to give a talk and demonstration on building and flying models. Lynne Slidders is the teacher. At my



recommendation she has ordered some Delta Dart kits from the AMA. Don Ashworth and TJ Moran volunteered to help. We presented our talk this week to 4 classes ranging from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grades. I put together a simple discussion of how an airplane works (lift, drag, pitching moment, CG, controls, etc.). See picture 12. I also demonstrated a rubber powered indoor model and simple model construction. However, the hit of the session for each class was when we went out in the school yard and TJ flew his little 3D capable electric r/c model. The sessions were a big hit, well appreciated, and we had a great time doing them. I left float fly flyers and also invited any kids interested to contact one of us and we would set up a buddy box flight instruction session for

them. It would be great if we could do more of this kind of thing for the kids in the area who might be interested in aviation.

I thought I would also include one picture of the model I have been working on for about one and a half years (picture 13). I will provide a more detailed discussion of it next month. I have been telling everyone what model it is so it's not a mystery. Doe's anybody remember this WWII airplane?



*Bob Root*

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2011 MEETING

**President George Boston** called the meeting to order at 7:30. There were 19 members present. There were no new guests and the minutes were approved.

**Treasurer TJ Moran** reported that we have 60 members and that we are running behind 2008/2009. That said the announcement is that at April 1<sup>st</sup> the gate combo changes and the newsletter will only go out to current members. So you know what to do - if you haven't get your dues in.

As mentioned, last month, the club's financials were audited by Andy Carlson and Ron Golding. The 'books' were approved and signed "Audit Complete" by those two.

**The Park Liaison**, Ken Marsh reported our relationship with the Lake is going good.

**The Field Marshal**, Mike Ambarian was not in attendance so there was no report.

### Old business:

The club promotion efforts were revisited. It was found out that the Ventura County Fair in interested in supporting us with an area (table) in the hobby/crafts building for a day. They are expected to call back with more info. And most importantly they will help us support the hobby for no charge!

The Camarillo air show was brought up and it was found out that the Condors (Camarillo club) are not participating this year.

### New business

One member brought up the "Certificate of Solo Flight". This certificate is sponsored by the AMA and can be given to new pilots once they solo. I am making copies to keep at the Lake for such a day

The approaching Float Fly was discussed and arrangements were made to ensure success. Such as tables, cooks, and volunteers to man the transmitter impound - Seems as though we will have it covered. We even have the necessary paper work from the AMA for the event. Marilyn Nash made a number of flyers for the event and were handed out to a few members so they could bring them to hobby shops etc. to advertise the event.

President George will ask the Lake for a gift of an annual pass for a float-fly raffle prize.

Berny Hammer brought the Model of the Month. It is a 1959 design Royal Coachman. High wing, 3 channel, .25 glow powered. Berny scaled up the plans, and cut a foam wing for it instead of the tradition ribs. Finished in Aerogloss dope and weighs in a 4.5 lb. Bernie said this was a 'free' airplane as all parts for it were "scrap" from around his shop.

The raffle rounded out the evening and the meeting adjourned at 8:12.



To rewind to the beginning of the evening - Everyone could not help but notice that there were a few tables set up with a lot of R/C stuff as they entered the hall. This was all the equipment that our fallen flyer, Bud Scolari, left behind. We put a period on Bud's time with us by auctioning off the gear. A few members picked some nice stuff. And in agreement with Bud's family the club received the money from the auction

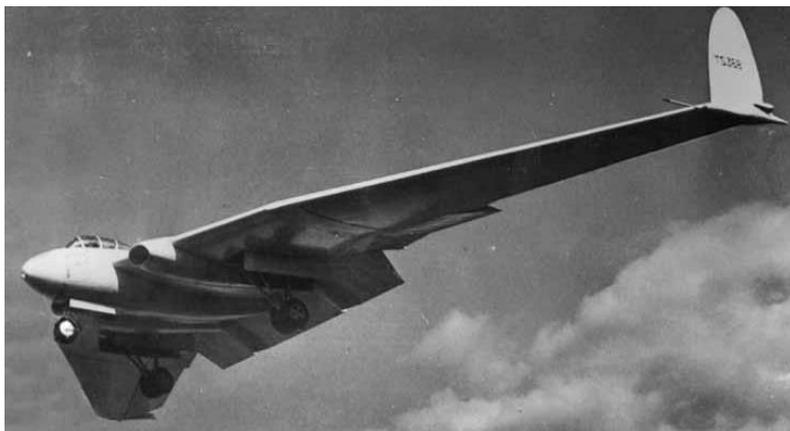


*Alastair Brennan*

## IMPORTANT SPECIAL NOTICE

The April Comets meeting has been moved from 21 April (third Thursday) to **14** April (second Thursday.) Kunkle Hall (our regular meeting room) has been reserved for 14 April.

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### MYSTERY PLANE REVEALED

So, did you know what this airplane is (was)? I got one correct answer from Rick Howell, and he's not even a Comet! Anyway, this here is the Armstrong Whitworth A.W. 52, a jet-powered prototype from 1947. It was intended as a research airplane that would lead to a mail plane and eventually, an airliner. First, there was a glider version of this, and the results were encouraging enough to build two jet powered versions. These were two seaters, and had ejection seats in the front, pilot's position, but not the

back seat. Go figure. The first one crashed when the elevons apparently fluttered, causing a pitch oscillation that got progressively worse until the pilot ejected (the first ever ejection for a British pilot.) Fortunately, he was flying solo that day, since the back seater wouldn't have been able to eject if he was aboard. Pretty sporting, no? Anyway, the crash and disappointing flight test results resulted in the cancellation of the program. The second prototype was scrapped in 1954.

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Approximately two months ago a former club member, Jim Anderson (known to many of the club members as JD) passed away at his home in Las Vegas. I have no details on his passing. Don Ashworth probably has more info on Jim's death than anyone else in the club. Please give Don a call if you have questions. I didn't know Mr. Anderson. He left the club before I joined in 2002.

The heir to Jim's estate has donated all of his flying gear, kits, etc. to the club. Don Ashworth will be bringing it to the April meeting on Thursday the **14th** and we will be conducting an auction before the meeting starting at 6:30PM. Don tells me there is a lot of stuff, including some great kits. Last month we auctioned off all of Bud Scolari's flying stuff and there were some great deals. I assume this auction will be the same. So if you're looking for some great deals, and adding to your inventory of flying stuff, plan to attend.

The proceeds are for his friend Mary who took care of him for many years. (she can use the money)

George Boston, President VC Comets.

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## **Cleaning Pushrod Tubes**

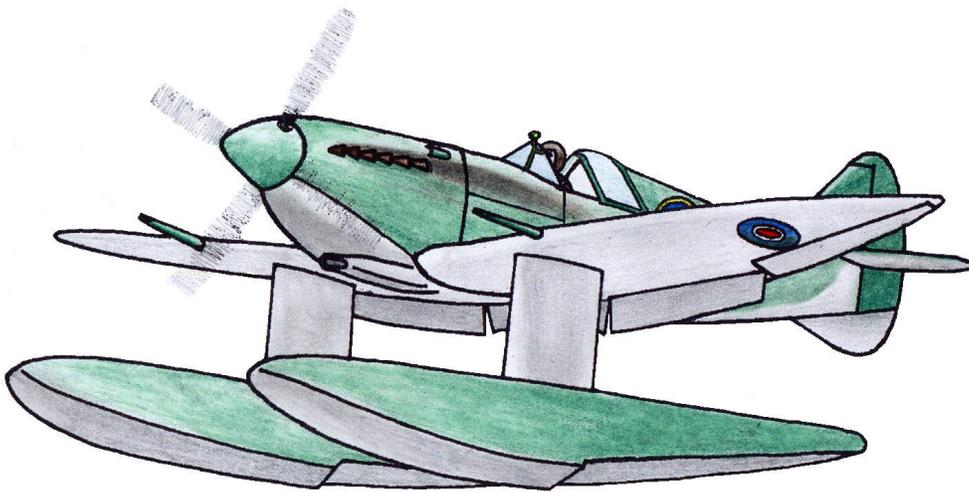
The oily residue of model fuel sometimes makes its way into the pushrod tubes, which also capture small particles of grit. The oily residue also makes some of the flexible plastic pushrods and tubes swell and soften slightly, which makes operation in curves almost impossible.

A simple cure is to apply a solution of powdered graphite, mixed with mentholated spirits or rubbing alcohol. Holding the model in an appropriate position (thus having one end of the errant tube in an upright position), apply the solution with a syringe onto the rod (or it can be applied to the mouth of the tube while moving the rod in a back and forth motion) to encourage the solution to circulate. The mentholated spirits, or alcohol, wash away the oily residue and grit, leaving the graphite behind providing a good lubrication to the pushrod.

—San Gabriel Valley Radio Control League, South El Monte, California



**NO WHEELS**



# Ventura County Comets' **FUN FLOAT FLY!**

**16 & 17 April, 2011**

***Entry Fee: \$15.00 (No Pre-registration)***

*Hosted by:*

**Lake Casitas Recreation Area**

**And**

**The Ventura County Comets**

There Will Be A Great Raffle!

***Your Original A.M.A. MEMBERSHIP Card is REQUIRED ,  
no copies, please .***

**No helicopters, no flight training!**

- AMA Sanctioned Event
- RV Parking at the Flying Site  
(No Hookups at the Flying Site)
- Hookups in Camping Areas with Reservation  
by calling 805-649-1122
- Adjacent Picnic Areas
- 10 years or older in the pit area
- Great Spectator Viewing Access
- Food and Drink Available
- Plenty of fun

**Need More Info? Call:**

***George Boston, C.D. 805 750-0901 OR 805 646-6992 OR Ken Marsh 805-646-1962***