

The Comets' Tale

*The Official
Newsletter of the*



December 2010

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Board of Directors

George Boston, Mike Ambarian, Marilyn Nash, Sandy Billings, Emery Balasa

Instructor Pilots

Emery Balasa Steve Billings Andrew Carlson Bob Root Ron Scott

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: Christmas Potluck,
Thursday, 16 December, 7:00 PM at the
Oak View Community Center



From the President

Ho, Ho, Ho, and Merry Christmas. Yep, it's that time of year, and to kick off the holiday season right, we are having our Christmas Party, and Potluck on Thursday the 16th. Because we are doing the potluck we will be starting at 7:00PM rather than the normal meeting start time of 7:30. As always, Marilyn Nash is coordinating the party and without a doubt it will be a good time for all. If you haven't got in touch with Marilyn yet regarding what dish to bring, give her a call (her phone number is listed above with the other club officers) and she will be happy to provide some suggestions. Also, don't forget that after dinner we will be conducting our semi annual raffle, and you **MUST BE PRESENT** to receive a gift if your name is drawn. We will also be installing our new officers, T.J. Moran treasurer, and Alastair Brennan secretary.

I guess I put a jinx on the club only float fly last month when I wrote in the Tale that we were hoping for blue bride skies and no wind. Quite a few guys flew on Friday, and we had a great BBQ lunch, but it rained almost all day Saturday and part of Sunday. Oh well, there will be next year, and since we paid our dues this year with bad weather, next year is bound to be great. We have been having cold mornings out at the field this month, but once the sun gets up, the flying weather is great. So if you haven't been out to the field lately, set a side a day and go out and have fun flying and visiting with your fellow flyers. Take care, and safe flying.

George Boston



Coming Up!

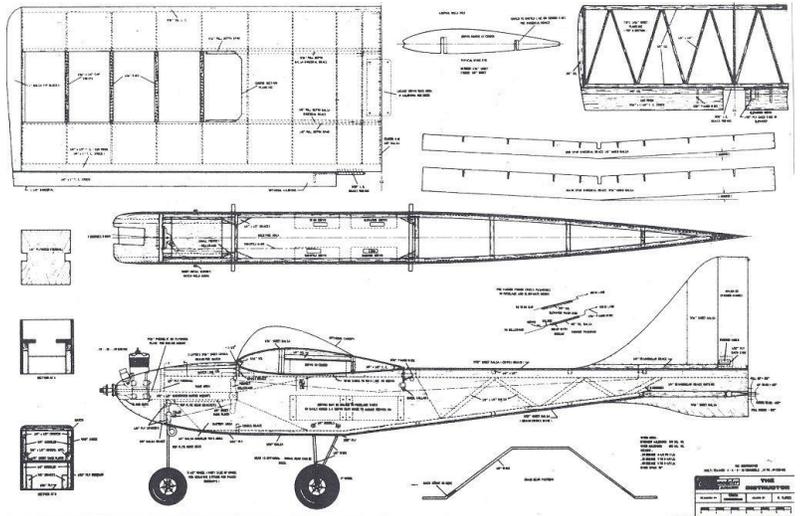
16 December
Comets Christmas Party
Call Marilyn at
532-1433 for Food Assignments!

First Sunday of each
Month
Open House at Santa
Paula Airport

Root's Rambling

Merry Christmas! I hope everyone makes it to the club Christmas party. There is always a lot of great food.

Many years ago I built a model from Radio Control Modeler magazine plans. It was a good flyer and a great intermediate trainer capable of most maneuvers. Lately I found the plans for this model in an old book published in 1979 which summarized all the plans presented in RCM prior to that time. The plane was called The Instructor and is shown in picture 1. Looking at the old style reed radio type servos shown it was probably designed in the early 60's.



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For my Christmas present in 1967 I bought my first proportional radio from PCS (see ad in picture 2). The system was similar to the famous Kraft radios of the time but it was sold direct so it was about \$100 less expensive. It was marketed and sold by Cliff Wierick and he used his girlfriend Charley in all the advertisements. \$300 to \$400 dollars was a lot of money in 1967 when the \$10,000 per year I was making was considered a good salary.

Anyway, I built The Instructor shown in picture 3 in 1968 to learn how to fly with a proportional radio. The field we flew in was a cow pasture.





Picture 4 is another picture of the model with my two daughters (age 2 and 4), the model, the radio, and if you look closely you can see one of the cows! When I say cow pasture I mean cow pasture!

I ran across the RCM plans summary book last month about the time I was getting tired of the never ending scale details of the Fokker T5 bomber I have been working on for a year or so. After seeing The Instructor plans I decided to build another one after all these years. It didn't take long. It is so simple I just blew up the airfoil to full scale and built the rest without plans utilizing materials I already had in the shop. The new Instructor is shown in picture 5 almost 43 years after picture 3.



Picture 6 is another view. The colors were set by the material I had on hand. It seems to fly well, although I have now replaced the main landing gear with a wider unit to prevent turnovers during taxiing. Because our style of flying has changed after all these years I also increased the size of all the control surfaces and increased the overall model size 8 % because the en-

gines are more powerful now. Power is an MDS 40, weight is 5 ½ pounds, and wing area is about 700 sq. in. I am now back diligently working on the Fokker model.

I have one more picture for this month. Picture 7 shows Andy Carlson and his electric powered Stik. Notice the four bladed propeller. As more blades are added the prop becomes less effective, but when the diameter is limited by ground clearance adding blades is the only way to absorb more horsepower. Andy's latest electric powered model certainly has a lot of horsepower. We can't have too much horsepower!



Bob Root

November 2010 Minutes

The Comets meeting was called to order by President George Boston on November 18, at 7:30 PM, at the Oak View Community Center. October minutes were approved. We had one guest, James Larmon, and no new members.

Treasurers' Report: We have 83 members and the Club made a small profit on the Float Fly. Emery Balasa is accepting member dues. Be sure your AMA card is up-to-date.

Field Marshall/Safety Officer: Mike Ambarian had no report. Sandy Billings notified Jerry Deanda that Mike's phone number is listed incorrectly on the Comets Tale.

Park Liaison: Ken Marsh reminded all that no planes are to be launched for the Club Float Fly until they are inspected by the Park Ranger. The Water Board has taken the procedure seriously and we intend to protect the Club's relationship with them. There was good coordination with the Park Rangers during the public Float Fly last month.

Old Business:

The nominating committee for Secretary and Treasurer resulted in Alastair Brennan being voted in as Secretary and TJ Moran as Treasurer.

Dale Nash verified all who had Club property and requested updates.

Purchasing of tables for the Float Fly events was brought up again. Dave Berthiaume volunteered storing them. It was reported that moving the big tables is starting to take its toll on them and they are starting to break up. Dale Nash took the action to purchase tables: 3 each 8 foot long and 5 each 6 foot long.

The Lake was generous to donate the car pass for the Worker Bee raffle and George Boston will be writing a letter of appreciation.

New Business:

The Float Fly event, the weekend of Nov. 19 thru 21 has an 80% chance of heavy rain. It was suggested that to keep boats out of the area, the floats be put out on Friday and pulled on Saturday. Kenny Marsh will verify a Ranger will be at the Lake Friday morning to inspect aircraft floats. George Boston will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers on Friday.

George Boston received an email from AMA asking for verification of contact information on our Leader Members. We have two: Bernie Hammer and Kenny Marsh.

In planning for the Christmas Party, December 16 at 7 p.m., Marilyn Nash needs a head count and what you plan on bringing for the pot luck.

George Boston received an email from a relative of Bud Scolari. If anybody would like more info, contact George.

Model of the Month:

Dennis Fingold brought an Extra ARF which uses an OS 1.60 2-cycle engine.

Bob Root brought in an Instructor plane weighing 5 ½ pounds and uses an MBS .40 engine.

Judges voted for Bob's plane.

Raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.



Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Billings



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From Notam, Bayou City Flyers, Katy, Texas

Protecting Yourself From Hazardous Materials

by Chris Myers

If we caught our kids out in the garage sniffing paint or glue, we would send them to counseling. Yet, as adults we do this and call it modeling.

Last year I read an article about a man who was working with acetone in his house. After using it, he almost collapsed. Getting out of the room and lying down, he returned to normal.

When I look at the shelves in my work room, the chemicals stored there range from Balsarite to various spray cans, paint, lacquer, pesticides, etc., to CA to acetone, along with a couple cases of fuel. In addition to this, I use balsa and do a lot of sanding, creating particles to clog my lungs.

In the process of repairing and maintaining our aircraft, our hands come in contact with several hazardous materials. Our body absorbs these chemicals, and consistent exposure to them can be a danger to your health.

If you dissect our hobby, it quickly becomes apparent that we often spill fuel and CA on our hands. We sniff the paint and glue fumes and use grease and oil in our maintenance. It all gets on our hands. If you are an active modeler, you have a lot of exposure to hazardous materials.

Below is a list of a few items you may want to keep around the workshop. They should help minimize the risk of exposure to hazardous materials.

1. Get a fire extinguisher.
2. Go to an auto paint and body shop and pick up a good face mask.
3. Buy a small fan for ventilation. [Tech editor's note: A large fan is recommended. In order to move more air, a small fan must be run at a higher speed and that causes some of its own problems. A large fan running slow moves sufficient air without making other problems.]
4. Work in a room that is properly ventilated.
5. Buy a box of rubber gloves.

Our hobby is great fun, but more than the propeller deserves some serious attention to keep you from being in harm's way.

Fly safe and have fun. □