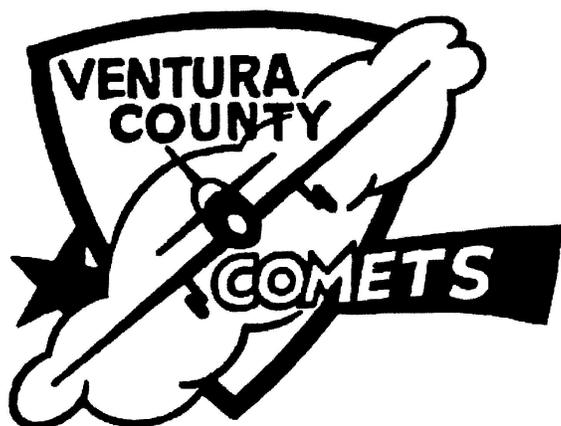


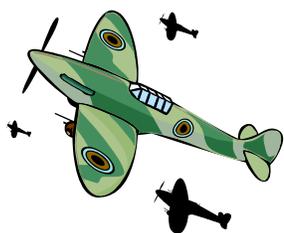
The Comets Tale



**December
2016**

**Annual Christmas
Meeting:**

**Thursday, 15 December, 2016 7:00 PM
At the Oak View Community Center**



**Coming Up!
Comets' Christmas
Party!**
Thursday, 15
December

Hello Comets,

Happy Holidays to you all! Our Holiday party is Thursday December 15th at 7pm. If you haven't already, please call Head Elf Marilyn and let her know what dish you're bringing. Her phone # is 805 532-1433 or 805 558-2522.

We'll see you there!

I welcome the new and old volunteers to fill our vacating positions. George Boston will take over as President and Park Liaison, Lynn Breedlove will take over as Secretary, Dave Berthiaume will take over as Newsletter editor. Dale Nash will remain Vice-president, T.J. Moran will remain Treasurer, George Lanquist is our Safety Officer. and Don Sorenson is our webmaster. Thanks so much to you

guys for helping out with a cause that is so dear to so many of us. Your efforts really mean a lot!

I had a great time being your President for the last two years. There was more fun holding office for this great club than there was actual "work". Even though I will not be holding an office after this month, you guys are still stuck with me. I'll still be helping out wherever I can, and I'm looking forward to building an even better parade float next year! Also, I volunteered to be the monthly meeting "Coffee Guy" (don't worry, I promise not to spike the decaf with Baileys Irish Cream!!)

President	Dave Fishman	(805) 340-0192
Vice President	Dale Nash	(805) 532-1433
Secretary	Alastair Brennan	(805) 388-0180
Treasurer	TJ Moran	(805) 646-6084
Field Marshal/Safety	George Lanquist	(805) 646-5365
Park Liaison	John Dugan	(805) 646-6898
Webmaster	Don Sorenson	(805) 968-4288

Comets Website: VCComets.com

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Board of Directors

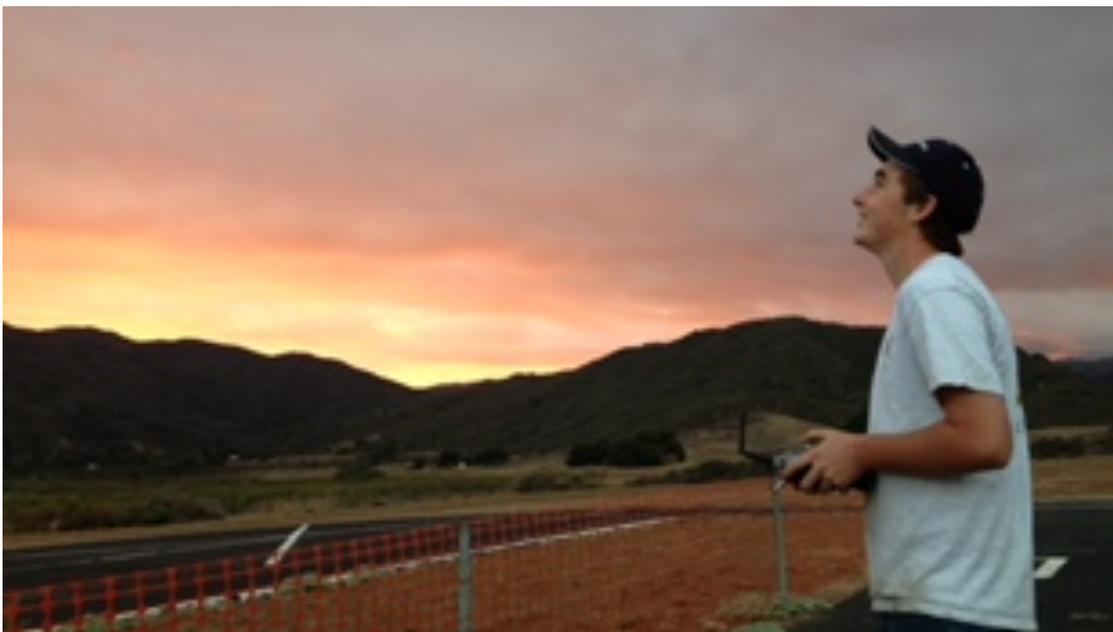
Dave Fishman, Dale Nash, TJ Moran, George Lanquist, Alastair Brennan

Instructor Pilots:

Dave Fishman, Steve Billings, Andrew Carlson, Bob Root, Ron Scott, George Lanquist, TJ Moran, Steve Steinmetz, Alastair Brennan

The Comet's Tale is the official newsletter and record of the Ventura County Comets, AMA Chartered Club #173 and is published monthly at the Comet's Tale lair in Camarillo CA

The two highlights of my presidency have to be the Ojai 4th





This would normally be the space for Bob Root's column, but this month we got a special communiqué from

Randumb Thots :-) Huh? December already? Christmas is in sight? Didn't we just do the New Year's thing?

Work on Lola the RV-6 continues. Since the fuel tanks are out, we've been doing some of the things we'd been putting off. The new 5-point seatbelts are almost in place; just a little more sheet metal stuff to do and they're done. My wife Dianne, the Shim Mistress, Princess of Sheet Metal Dimples, Lady of the Plate Nuts and Rivet Squasher Adept did a lot of the work. New seat cushions will be ordered shortly. We'll be installing a new oil cooler and doing some tweaks on the exhaust system, and the Biggest Thing, the fuel tanks will come back from frozen Minnesota back soon. Once they're in place, we can put everything back together and weigh the airplane. Yes, we'll be doing that, too. No better time since we've made a few changes over the years and just calculated the effects, and besides, there's no fuel in the airplane, right? Then we get back being the Scourge of the Skies again. Whatever that means.



And to think our guy Andrew just went out and bought a fully functioning Mooney. He did the smartest thing, I think. Isn't that a real nice airplane in those photos last month?

Since Lola has been down for a couple of months, we've missed out on flying Young Eagles twice. There will be no formal Young Eagle rides on the upcoming First Sunday Open House at

Santa Paula Airport since the event falls on New year's Day, but if Lola is flying, maybe we can pick up a kid or two. I'm not sure what will be going on at the aerodrome anyway.

I did a bit of checking around the internet trying to find out if there was any new information on the tragic crash of the Bugatti replica raceplane. All I can come with so far is the preliminary NTSB report, which does not shed much new light. No cause (if we'll ever know) but they did say they could establish continuity of the rudder controls. It was not possible to determine if the other controls were connected because of fire damage to the wreckage. They mention there were GoPro cameras in the wreckage and said those cameras had been gathered up and will be checked for useful footage. Maybe they'll have something useful. It's not clear if there was any sort of data logging system in the airplane but I'm supposing that even if there was, it would have been on the instrument panel and destroyed by the fire. A witness said the airplane did not appear to be climbing normally and I'm leaning toward an accidental stall/spin. I'm not sure if there was any washout in that sharply tapered wing or if it was judged unnecessary because of the forward sweep. We'll probably never know.

Fight Gravity!

.Jerrv

Firecracker Construction

Wing

- Picture 1: Install gear blocks. Cut holes in foam with sharp knife or heated wire.
Glue 1/16 balsa wing skin sheeting to size. Sheeting overhangs the wing cores 2 or 3 inches.
Wing semi span is 27 in. Tape glue joint.
Turn over open joint, add glue, close, sand, and tape second side.
- Picture 2: Glue and clamp wing skins to wing cores (in foam they were cut from) using heavy objects..
Use West System epoxy which is very thin. Put epoxy on balsa wood skins and try to minimize amount used.
- Picture 3: Trim wing skins to rough shape and glue tips together with 1/16 in. cross grain balsa spacer.
Trim wing skins to foam. Glue on Leading and sub trailing edges.
When dry plane and sand to contour using tape to protect wing skins.
- Picture 4: Make aileron torque rods and install with trailing edge. Tack glue aileron in place.
Shape leading and trailing edges and fill any low spots with light weight spackle.
- Picture 5: Sand wing root with large sanding block to proper dihedral angle (2 in. under each wing tip = 4 in. total). Epoxy wing halves together using tape to hold.
- Picture 6: Fiberglass center joint with second layer in middle where fuselage will rest.
Use low tack tape along edge and trim with razor blade when epoxy is hard.
Sand and fill edges and low spots with spackle.
- Picture 7: Mount servo and bend up gear. Axle length is function of wheel used.

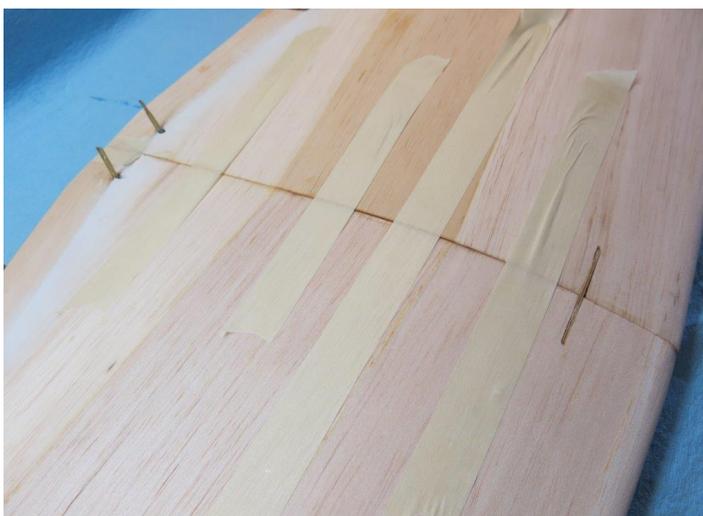
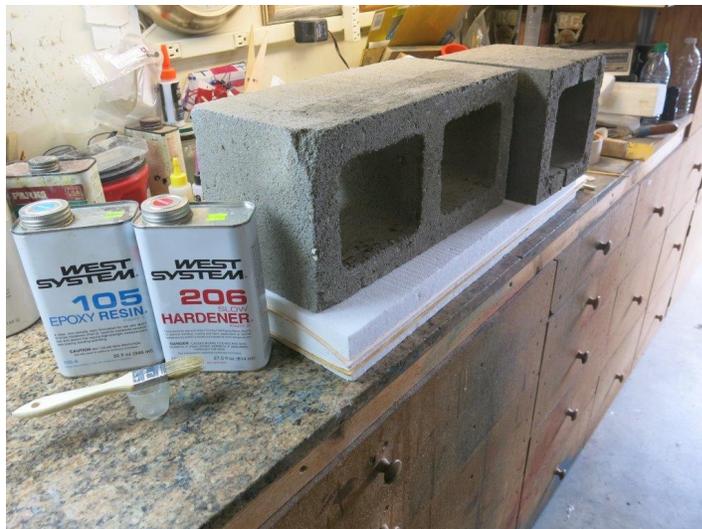
Fuselage

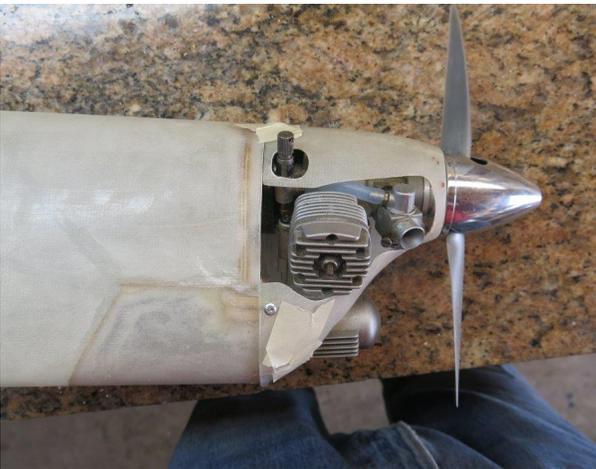
- Picture 8: Lightly sand fuselage to get rid of shine. Sand any bumps and fill holes with body putty.
Mount engine on engine mount.
Clamp firewall to fuselage using a big clamp on the sides.
With engine sitting on firewall for pattern cut hole in cowl as needed.
Remove firewall and make two 1/8 ply tabs for cowl mounting in the area of the firewall.
Make two 3/16 ply tabs for cowl mounting below firewall.
Prior to applying adhesive to the fiberglass fuselage, lightly rough-up the areas with 60-80 grit sandpaper to ensure a good mechanical bond. Clean lightly with acetone or lacquer thinner.
Remove firewall and glue tabs to fuselage and cut slots in firewall to fit over them.
When dry clamp firewall back in place and drill and mount cowl .
Hold fuselage nose up with engine sitting on firewall and adjust location of firewall and engine for proper spinner location. Adjust for slight right thrust (1 or 2 deg. is plenty).
Note that the firewall is inset to allow for a fillet when gluing to the fuselage.
When satisfied with set up tack glue engine mount to firewall.
Remove firewall, drill for mounting holes, brake mount loose, and glue in blind nuts.
Remount engine, clamp the firewall back in place, and mount cowl.
When satisfied with fit glue firewall in place.
Glue 1/16 ply on upper mounts in front of firewall.
Add epoxy/micro balloon fillets on both sides of firewall/fuselage joint. See Picture 8a.
- Picture 9: Add plywood interior fuel tank and exhaust baffle parts behind firewall as shown .
- Picture 10: Add wing hold down plywood parts.
- Picture 11: Front view with engine and spinner mounted.
- Picture 12: Finished wing saddle. Start by cleaning up wing saddle.
Mount the wing with rubber bands, and adjust for proper alignment.
With the wing straight drill and tap for ¼-20 nylon mounting bolts.
Cover the center of the wing with Monokote backing or plastic food wrap.
Put an epoxy/micro balloon mixture on wing saddle and bolt on the plastic covered wing.
Form a small fillet on the outside and when dry remove wing and sand the sharp edge.

Empennage

- Picture 13: Shape tail feathers from ¼ balsa.
Make and install tail wheel in rudder with fiberglass reinforcement.
Cut a slot in fuselage for the horizontal stabilizer.
Start with a narrow slot and check alignment with the wing.
When satisfied open up slot to fit the ¼ in. stab.
Glue 1/16 in. balsa on inside of fuselage and cut this out for stab.
If using interior elevator control make and install horn and pushrod at this time.
Glue in vertical and horizontal stabilizers checking for proper alignment

- Picture 14: Cover empennage and add small fillet to joints.
Mask tail and primer fuselage. Sand and fill holes.
I put second coat of primer on and sanded lightly before spraying color.
- Picture 15: Make light ply plate for mounting servos and switch.
Back up mounting screw areas with 1/8 plywood.
Locate servos for balance. I added 1/4 balsa side pieces for better joint to fiberglass.
See picture 15a.
- Picture 16: Cover wing and controls, mount the equipment and you are ready to go.







Firecracker Price list

Basic kit:	Fuselage	35.00	
	Foam Wing Core	10.00	
	Plans	5.00	
			Total 50.00
¼ Plywood	Firewall and Wing hold down		4.00
Landing Gear and Aileron Torque Rod	Grooved Hardwood Block	2.00	
	1/8 Wire Landing Gear	4.00	
	Aileron Torque Rods	4.00	
			Total 10.00
Wing Balsa	Wing Sheeting 1/16x4 (8 pcs)	1 8.00	
	L.E. 1/2x3/4 Balsa	7.50	
	Sub T.E. 1/4x1/2 Balsa (2)	2.00	
	Trailing Edge Balsa 5/16x1 ¼ (2)	3.50	
			Total 31.00
Fiberglass	Wing Joint Reinforcement		2.00
Tail Balsa	1/4x4x36 (1 ½ pcs)		7.00
Thin Plywood	Misc. 1/16 & 1/32 Parts		5.00
Elevator Horn	Wire and Brass Tube		2.00
			Total 111.00
Misc.	Mount L.G. blocks in foam wing cores	10.00	
	Solder Aileron Horns	3.50	
	Solder Elevator Horn Parts	2.00	
	0.25 Engine Mount	5.00	
	1 ¾ in. Metal Spinner	25.00	