

# The Comets' Tale

*The Official  
Newsletter of the*



**February 2011**

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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, 17 February, 7:30 PM at the  
Oak View Community Center

**Coming  
Up!**



**25-27 March**  
SBRCM Float Fly, Lake  
Cachuma

**14 April**  
Comets Meeting  
Note Date Change

**16-17 April**  
Comets Float Fly

First Sunday of each  
Month  
Open House at Santa  
Paula Airport

### **From the President**

At last month's meeting we finalized the schedule of planned events for this year. So please take a minute and note the following dates and events on your calendar:

April 16-17 Comets Float Fly  
May 21 Electric Fun Fly & Glowpower < .15 & BBQ  
June 25 Quaker Fun Fly & Balloon Drop  
July 23 Warbird Day & BBQ + Swap meet  
Oct 15-16 Comets Float Fly  
Nov 18-20 Float Fly - Club Members Only  
Dec 15 Christmas Party (Potluck Dinner)

Please note that both the April and October Float Flies will be held the third weekend of each month, necessitating a change to our monthly meeting schedule. We will be conducting our monthly meeting on the second Thursday of these two months.

Another item discussed was a change in policy regarding our access to the field following a period of significant rain. In the past when there was heavy rain with significant runoff in Santa Ana Creek, the lake management would close the park road crossing the creek. When this occurred the management would open

a temporary gate off of Hwy 150 just past the Santa Ana Creek bridge to allow access for the campers who occupy camp sites in the campground opposite the store. The temporary gate off of Hwy 150 does not have a guard inspecting vehicles and boats before entering the lake. To keep folks from gaining access to the back of the lake and the Coyote launch ramp through the temporary gate off of Hwy 150 the management would lock the gate on the park road just past the store (Gate F). We have one of our locks on Gate F, and up until now we could open Gate F when it was locked and continue to the flying field. In January we received a letter from the Lake Manager that our lock was going to be removed from Gate F and we could no longer access the flying field when the park road is closed because of flooding on Santa Ana Creek. They are concerned that if we failed to re-lock Gate F, potentially somebody with a boat that had not been inspected could access the Coyote launch ramp and possibly contaminate the lake with the Quagga mussel. I am not aware of any incident where we failed to lock Gate F; however, the Lake Manager sets the policy for our access to the flying field, and we must comply. I strongly recommend that before you go out to the field following a major rainstorm, you call the lake first and verify that the park road crossing Santa Ana Creek is open.

On a final note, and as a continuing reminder, if you have not yet renewed your annual membership, please do so right away. AMA, as part of our charter renewal, is asking for our updated roster, and in March we will be changing the combination number on all of our locks. Take care, and safe flying.

*George Boston*

**ROOT'S RAMBLING!**

Lately I came across an old 1962 Air Progress magazine in my poorly organized files. This month I'll discuss some of the interesting pictures I found. Picture 1 shows a Vought Crusader landing on a carrier.



The seas were rough and he hit hard enough scrape magnesium parts which started a fire as seen in picture 2. Notice that the canopy has started to open. The pilot has decided it is time to leave.

He is clear of the airplane in picture 3 as the airplane goes over the side.

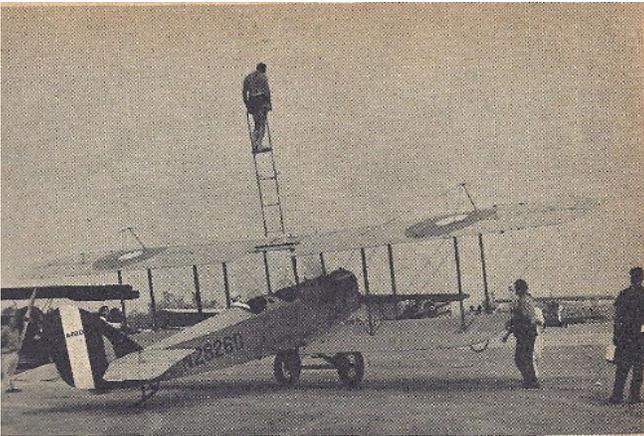




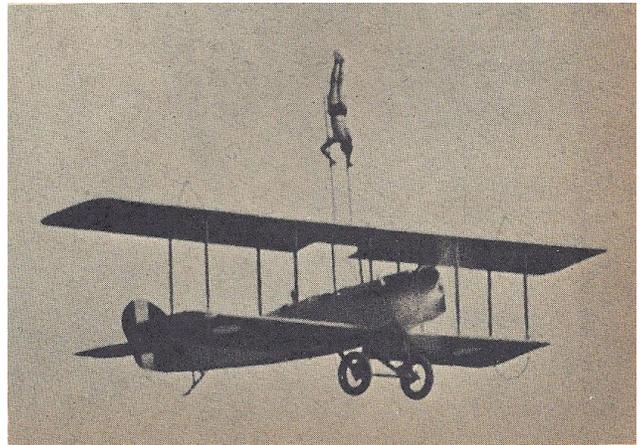
He is well clear (but upside down) in 4.



The parachute is opening in picture 5. Apparently the chute opened before the pilot hit the water as he wasn't seriously injured.



Another way to risk life and limb is shown in picture 6 and 7. How about doing tricks on top of a ladder on top of a Curtiss Jenny in order to make money at air shows? This obviously occurred before the age of too many lawyers.



In my younger years I thought the Douglas F4D-1 Skyray was one of the really neat military jets. As an aeronautical engineer I liked wings and this was a wing. Pictures 8 shows an F4D-1 launching

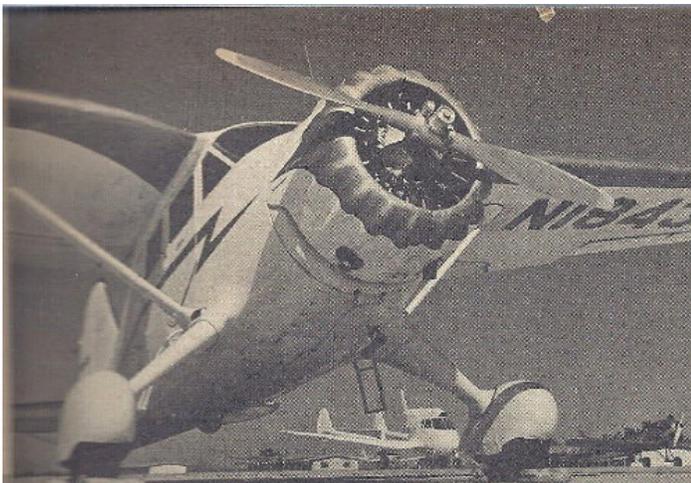
from a carrier and 9 shows the same plane coming back aboard. A pretty sight don't you think?



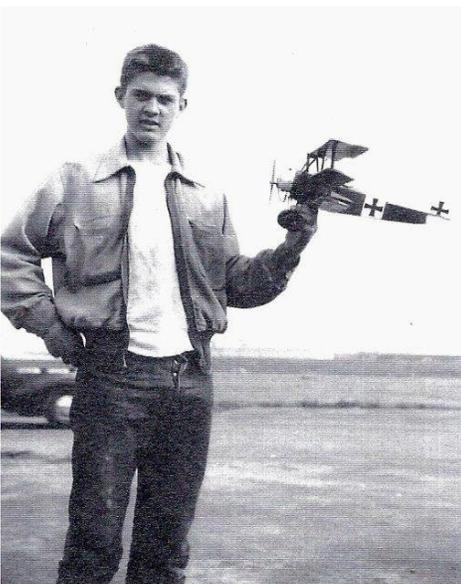


One of my all-time favorite airplanes is the Aeronca C-3 shown in picture 10. It would make a great model and I am saving it for the time when I'm too old to keep up with the fast ones. I figure it ought to fly just like a Quaker. It could even be put on floats as seen in picture 11. When I first went to work for Boeing after getting out of school four of us young engineers rented a lake front house on Lake Washington. The stories about that are for another day, but there was a C-3 on floats moored about 6 houses

down from us. I used to watch it take off which required a slight breeze. It couldn't get off smooth water and it took at least one circuit of Mercer Island to get high enough to proceed. That's what 36 horsepower can do for you.



Another all-time favorite of most of us is the beautiful Stinson Reliant such as the one shown in picture 12. Also notice that there is an unusual airplane in the background. Do you know what it is? After a little research I found that it's a Stearman Hammond Y-1S as shown in picture 13.



It was entered in a government competition to build a safe airplane. Stearman built about 20 of them between 1934 and 1938. It wasn't fast and turned out to be more expensive to build than originally planned. The war came along and that was the end of any interest in it.

I don't want to end up discussing an unlucky 13 pictures so I have included picture 14 for good luck. It is a picture of my first Fokker Dr-1 triplane in 1953. It was a 1/2 a powered original free flight model which utilized a pendulum driven rudder for stability. This worked very well.

That's enough rambling for this month so have a great month and I hope to see you soon.

*Bob Root*

## January 2011 Minutes

Meeting called together at 7:37 by President George Boston. There were 25 members present. The meeting was started with last month's minutes being accepted and approved.

The treasurer's report was approved, and the members were reminded to pay. Both the Field Marshall and Park Liaison had no new business to report.

### Old Business:

The William B Gast trophy was updated with Jerry's name and the club's property document was updated.

The Lake donated an annual pass for the Last float fly raffle. In response Prez. George wrote a letter of thanks for their gift.

George had a few words to put a period on the estate of our fallen flier Bud Scolari.

### New business:

According to the bylaws we need a bit of catching up – We need to audit the treasure's report. This was brought up by our host, the Lake. Three people were needed and Steve Steinmetz, Andy Carlson and Ron Golding volunteered.

We reviewed this year's calendar of events. Lots of fun planned so get the new stuff ready to fly and the get the old stuff ready to sell at the annual swap meet (July). The schedule will be posted on the web site. Probably by the time you are reading this...

The group discussed the closing of the road when heavy rains make the Santa Ana run high. It was understood that we will not be able to use an alternate entrance when the primary road is closed.

President George brought up a point that together we should look into ways to promote our hobby. Examples such as a county fair booth, Camarillo air show and handouts were discussed.

The quick discussion was about road (driveway) to the runway. As we all know it is a little rough. It is on the Lake's to-do list, but it is not a priority.



We finished with the model of the month competition. 2 were entered and a third was brought to demonstrate some great workmanship.

First Model of the month was Leo Gabriels with a .46-size U-Can-Do ARF. Electric powered with high-speed digital servos.

Second was mine. A scratch-built model called the Blue Birds. It is 4 planes in one. Looks like four Thunderbirds in a diamond formation.

The one that wasn't entered was a 200% Quaker by TJ Moran. Big, with a big motor, big prop and big bomb bay. 27-soda-cans-in-the-bomb-bay big.



The judges gave the prize to me.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

*Allastair Brennan*



## 2011 CALENDAR - R/C FLYING EVENTS

(VENTURA COUNTY & AROUND By: Ron Scott as of 1-30-2011)

- January** 7,8,9 AMA Convention & Hobby Show @ Ontario, CA  
15 Electric Fly (indoor) @ Simi Valley Rec. Center 5005 LA Ave. @ 7:30 PM  
27-30 Electric Festival @ Mesa Arizona ----- [www.arizonaelectricfestival.com](http://www.arizonaelectricfestival.com)
- February** 5 Night Fly/Fun Fly 4 to 9:00 pm – Valley Flyers Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
12 IMAC flying competition @ – Tucson, Az - [www.mini-iac.com](http://www.mini-iac.com)  
20 Dawn of Flight – World War 1 thru preWW2 airplanes, fun fly – breakfast, etc. – Condors field  
19 Electric Fly (indoor) @ Simi Valley Rec. Center 5005 LA Ave. @ 7:30 PM  
26-27 Poker Fun Fly – (Donuts and Coffee) Camarillo Flying Circus <http://members.dslextreme.com/users/t1god/>  
26 Boat Racing @ Condors/Pond Rats – Camarillo [www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx](http://www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx)
- March** 19-20 RCX – Model Airplane Expo @ Pamona Fairplex - [www.rcx.com](http://www.rcx.com) or phone 203 529-4649  
12 Electric Fly (indoor) @ Simi Valley Rec Center 5005 LA Ave. @ 7:30 PM  
20 Valley Flyers Apollo Field – Giant Scale Fly-in ..... [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
25-27 Float Fly – Lake Cachuma – SBRCM club, No Charge, no BBQ or raffle . . . [www.sbrcm.org/](http://www.sbrcm.org/)  
25-27 Float Fly – Visalia Russell Pond – for directions - [www.CVRCSoaring.com](http://www.CVRCSoaring.com)  
26 Electric Fun Fly – Condors field Camarillo [www.CICondors.com](http://www.CICondors.com)  
27 T-28 Races – Stock – (Donuts and Coffee) Camarillo Flying Circus
- April** 2 Annual Swap meet @ Crosswinds - Lake Castaic - [www.canyoncrosswinds.com/](http://www.canyoncrosswinds.com/)  
10 Simi Valley Flyers – Electric only - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet  
8-10 Q40/Q500 pylon racing – Valley Flyers [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
16 Electric Fly (indoor) @ Simi Valley Rec. Center 5005 LA Ave. @ 7:30 PM  
16-17 Float Fly @ Lake Casitas – Ventura County Comet  
10 Simi Valley Flyers – Electric only - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet  
23 Electric Fun Fly - Valley Flyers – [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
23 Boat Racing @ Condors/Pond Rats – Camarillo [www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx](http://www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx)  
24 Easter Sunday  
24 Warbird Day – Camarillo Flying Circus  
30 IMAC – flying competition – Santa Maria, CA  
29-30 Pre-23st Annual Gathering of the Giants event @ Condor field (for out of town guests who arrive early)
- May,** 1 23st Annual Gathering of the Giants event @ Condor field – [WWW.CICONDORS.COM](http://WWW.CICONDORS.COM)  
April 30-May 1 Float Fly – Millerton Lake - Fresno Radio Modelers – John Lockwood 559-298-1606 or [www.frcm.org](http://www.frcm.org)  
2 Fun Fly and BBQ Camarillo Flying Circus  
8 Mothers Day  
14 IMAC – Riverside RC Club – Perris, CA  
15 Funfest - Simi Valley Flyers ONLY .  
21 Electric Fun-Fly & Glowpower < .15". + BBQ @ Comets Field  
22 Combat – Battle For The Empire – Corona R/C Club – info see [www.RCCOMBAT.com](http://www.RCCOMBAT.com)  
21-22 L A Jets Fly-in – Valley Flyers [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
28 IMAC flying competition @ Bakersfield [www.mini-iac.com](http://www.mini-iac.com)  
28-30 Memorial Day – Giant plane Fly-in – Castle AFB – near Merced
- June** 3-5 Western States All Electric Fly-in see [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com) for details  
10-12 Float Fly - Lake Cachuma – Santa Barbara R/C Modelers. No BBQ, or raffle  
12 6th Annual Helicopter day @ Condor Field  
11 Scale Fun Fly & Free Air Show at Crosswinds Field - Lake Castaic  
18 Simi Valley Flyers - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet  
19 Fathers Day  
24-26 Q40/Q500 Pylon racing – Western Championship – Valley Flyers [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
25 Quaker Fun Fly & Balloon drop - Comets Field - Lake Casitas

- 26 War bird day –CI Condors Field – all clubs welcome. WWW.CICONDORS.COM  
 26 Glider & Electric Fun Fly & Helicopter Day – Camarillo Flying Circus \$10 Entry fee
- July**
- 2 IMAC flying competition – Chino, CA  
 4 Fun Fly & BBQ @ Canyon Crosswinds <http://www.canyoncrosswinds.com/>  
 9 Swap Meet San Diego - Chula Vista – Don Madison  
 10 Fun Fly & Swap Meet @ Valley Flyers/Sepulvida Basin  
 23 Warbird day & BBQ + Swap Meet @ Comets Field \$10 Entry fee includes lunch  
 23-24 IMAC flying competition @ Camarillo – Condors field..... [www.mini-iac.com](http://www.mini-iac.com)  
 22-24 L A Jets – Valley Flyers/Sepulvida Basin [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
 24 T-28 Day – Camarillo Flying Circus (Donuts and Coffee)
- August**
- 5-7 All Scale Event – Valley Flyers/Sepulvida Basin [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
 13 Simi Valley Flyers Electric only - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet  
 13-14 Boat Racing @ Condors/Pond Rats – Camarillo [www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx](http://www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx)  
 21 Fun Fly & Swap Meet – Valley Flyers [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
 26-28 Float Fly @ Lake Cachuma, No BBQ, or raffle.  
 28 Fun Fly & BBQ – Camarillo Flying Circus
- September**
- 4 Giant Scale Fly-in – Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
 11 Funfest - Simi Valley Flyers ONLY  
 17 Big RC Swap meet @ Condors field in Camarillo open flyin  
 17-18 Float Fly @ Lake Castiac Lower Lake (pending Lake approval)– Canyon Crosswinds  
 24 Poker Fly – Camarillo Flying Circus (Donuts and Coffee)  
 25 Fun-Fly & BBQ – Valley Flyers
- October**
- 1-2 Glider Festival @ Visalia, CA ( [www.CVRCSoaring.com](http://www.CVRCSoaring.com) )  
 8 Simi Valley Flyers - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet  
 8 Boat Racing @ Condors/Pond Rats – Camarillo [www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx](http://www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx)  
 7-9 Helicopter Fun-Fly – LA – 3-D - Valley Flyers  
     15-16 Float Fly @ Ventura County Comets - Lake Casitas  
 23 All Electric Fun-fly - Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
 21-23 Float Fly @ Visalia – Russell Pond for directions check [www.CVRCSoaring.com](http://www.CVRCSoaring.com)  
 28-30 Lake Cachuma Float Fly – Santa Barbara R/C Modelers – No BBQ or raffle  
 30 Combat (donuts & Coffee) Pilot and Airplane Dress up Day – Camarillo Flying Circus
- November**
- 5 Night Fly & Fun Fly -Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
 18-20 Float Fly @ Ventura County Comets – Club members only.  
 20 T-28 Day – (Donuts & Coffee) Camarillo Flying Circus  
 27 LA Jets - Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)
- December**
- 3 Warbird Day @ Condors Field + Toy Collection  
 4 Christmas party - Camarillo Flying Circus  
 11 Toys-for-Tots Fly-in – Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)  
 15 Comets Christmas party  
 25 Santa Claus brings new stuff to replace all the planes & engines that Murphy broke during the year.

For Corrections or additions, Call Ron @ 805-522-5455

CLUB OR EVENT	CONTACT	PHONE #
<input type="checkbox"/> AVTI (Lancaster) . . . . .	Jerry Budd . . . . .	(805) 943-4970
<input type="checkbox"/> Desert Hawks (Lake Havasu). . . . . www.deserthawksrc.com	George Field . . . . .	(928) 855-1197
<input type="checkbox"/> Comets (Ventura County). . . . . www.vccomets.com	Ron Scott . . . . .	(805) 522-5455
<input type="checkbox"/> Condors (Camarillo). . . . . www.cicondors.com/	Ron Scott . . . . .	(805) 522-5455
<input type="checkbox"/> Camarillo Flying Circus . . . . . http://members.dslextreme.com/users/t1god/	David Walk . . . . .	(805-205-3092)
<input type="checkbox"/> Giant Scale Squadron . . . . .	Dave Hendrix . . . . .	(213) 758-2935
<input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas R/C Club . . . . .	Tom Hart . . . . .	(702) 566-0668
<input type="checkbox"/> Port-A-Potti Pilots (Sylmar) . . . . .	Robby Hombre . . . . .	www.RobinsHobbies.com
--- Pond Rats RC Boat Racing club	Ken Wiley . . . . .	(805)-910-9540 www.camarillopondrats.com/default.aspx
<input type="checkbox"/> R/C Marathon- . . . . .	Corona R/C Club . . . . .	(208)486-6063
<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Barbara RC Modelers . . . . . www.GLIVERS@COX.net WWW.SBRCM.ORG	Jerry Rivers . . . . .	(805) 964-1370
<input type="checkbox"/> SGVRCL (San Gabriel Valley) . . . . .	Jim Riccio . . . . .	(310) 973-3696
<input type="checkbox"/> The Unlimited (Torrance) . . . . .	Lesley Burnett . . . . .	(310) 320-8369
<input type="checkbox"/> Torry Pines Gulls . . . . .	Charlie Richardson . . . . .	(619) 630-8775
<input type="checkbox"/> Valley Flyers (Sepulvida) . . . . . www.valleyflyers.com	George Finch . . . . .	(310) 459-1577
<input type="checkbox"/> Simi Valley Flyers . . . . . www.simivalleyflyers.com	Tod Krueger . . . . .	(805) 526 4099
Visalia Glider Festival . . . . .	Ed Hipp . . . . .	www.cvrcsoaring.com
Canyon Crosswinds . . . . . www.canyoncrosswinds.com Web Master – Steve @ 661-263-0261	Wally Briggs . . . . .	(661)722-0029
Perris Lake . . . . .	Oscar Weingart . . . . .	(951) 684-8712
- Santa Fe Dam R/C Modelers . . . . . WWW.SFDRCM.COM	Web Site / Calander	(626) 821-4133 ..
Southern Calif - Slope racing Org. www.socalsloperacing.com	- - - - -	-----
IMAC(International Min. Aerobatic Club www.mini-iac.com/DesktopDefault.aspx	Andy Portman	(805) 388-719
Riverside RC Club . . . . . www.riversidercclub.org		
- Simi Indoor Electric fly Simi Valley - Matt Keennon . . . . . keennon@avinc.com		(805) ??????? Matt Keennon

(AV)

Good Internet web Sites

- AMA Calender of events www.modelaircraft.org/events/calendar/Flying Events/wc012010.htm
- " Club Links . . www.modelaircraft.org/clubsearch.aspx
- " Newsletter . . . www.modelaircraft.org/templates/ama/newsletters.asp
- Gliders . . . . . www.rcsoaring.com
- " . . . . . www.sloperacing.com
- " . . . . . Visalia Glider Club – www.CVRCSoaring.com
- " . . . . . www.nesail.com
- " . . . . . gliderking.com, combatwings.com
- Electrics . . . . . www.sefsd.org
- Warbirds. . . . . www.rcwarbirds.com
- Airforce Pictures . . www.topcover.com

## 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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# *Update on FAA*

**by Dave Mathewson, AMA President**

By now, nearly everyone should be somewhat familiar with the FAA's intent to create regulation for the operation of small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) in the national airspace. There's been a lot of speculation about what will be contained in the sUAS proposed rule that is scheduled to be released as a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) sometime in June 2011.

The NPRM will contain proposed regulations that will likely have some impact on model aviation. The FAA is prohibited by law from disclosing the exact language in the NPRM until it's released in the Federal Register. However, we have been able to determine, in a generic sense, what some of the proposed language might be. The NPRM will likely address things such as how high, how fast, and where a model aircraft may fly. We know that the FAA has drawn a hard line between recreational use and commercial use.

AMA is continuing to work with the FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Program Office (UAPO) and is in contact with the UAPO on a weekly, if not daily, basis. Face-to-face meetings between AMA representatives and the UAPO staff take place in Washington on a regular basis.

AMA's internal workgroup, consisting of members with a diverse and knowledgeable model aviation background, meets weekly by conference call and continues to develop standards that will eventually be submitted to the FAA for adoption that will allow modelers who follow these standards additional latitude from the rule.

We're fighting a tough battle between keeping our members informed and not painting an overly tenuous picture of the future of model aviation. Not knowing exactly what will be in the proposed rule makes this a difficult challenge. And we're still working through some issues today that may be satisfactorily resolved before the NPRM is released.

The February 2011 issue of Model Aviation magazine will contain an interview with FAA Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, Peggy Gilligan, detailing why the FAA feels its needs to create new rules for model aviation and the direction the process is taking. Representatives from the UAPO will attend the AMA Expo in January and participate in a roundtable discussion, open to the membership that will provide additional insight into the regulatory process. The roundtable will be taped and posted on the AMA Web site.

Now is the time for modelers to become more familiar with this regulatory process, and to prepare for action in case the need arises in the coming months. Within the next few weeks a section will be added to the AMA Web site for Academy members and all who are concerned about the future of aeromodeling. It can be found at [www.modelaircraft.org/news/ama-faa.aspx](http://www.modelaircraft.org/news/ama-faa.aspx). The site will feature background information about this topic, the latest developments, and how to communicate with your federal representatives.

As club officers and Leader Members you can help now by making your club members and modeling friends aware of the regulatory effort and the possible need for us all to get involved in the not too distant future.

Model aviation has an impeccable safety record spanning more than seven decades. Overly onerous regulation not only is unnecessary, it has the potential to harm the recreational activity that we all enjoy.