

# The Comets' Tale

*The Official  
Newsletter of the*



**February 2014**

President	Alastair Brennan	(805) 388-0180
Vice President	Dale Nash	(805) 532-1433
Secretary	Lynn Breedlove	(805) 933-6647
Treasurer	TJ Moran	(805) 890-2217
Field Marshal/Safety	George Lanquist	(805) 646-5365
Park Liaison	John Dugan	(805) 646-6898
Webmaster	Don Sorensen	(805) 968-4288

dsorensen@tri-counties.org

Comets' Tale Editor Jerry Deanda (805) 641-3730 deandamid@charter.net

Comets' Website: [www.vccomets.com](http://www.vccomets.com)

**Board of Directors**

Alastair Brennan, George Lanquist, Dale Nash, Lynn Breedlove, TJ Moran

**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: Thursday, 20 February  
7:30 PM at the Oak Park Community Center**

**Coming  
Up!**



**12 - 13 April 2014  
Saturday & Sunday  
Comets' Float Fly at Lake  
Casitas**

**25, 26, 27 April  
Friday—Sunday  
SBRCM Float Fly at Lake  
Cachuma**

**First Sunday of each Month  
Open House at Santa Paula  
Airport  
Free Young Eagle rides for kids  
8-18 years old**

## Prez Sez:

I seem to be missing a lot of days flying, so someone will have to catch me up one of these days on what fun I've missed.

**At the February meeting we will have a guest speaker: Tom Wolf. This is a local guy that won the Scale Masters at the end of 2013. He will give us a summary of the work before and during a contest such as this.**

I finished my floats— Remember a month or two ago I found plans on the internet. As sort-of described, I dug through my box of "scrap" and found some suitable wood. Well, there's a picture:



I weighed the new versus old and came up with the following:  
Gee Bee brand (plastic) floats: 7.5oz each  
All balsa floats: 4.7oz each (including paint)  
So all told a bit of a weight savings and more importantly they look better.

It seems I always learn something while building and this time was no exception. As I started on this project I opened a new bottle of “thin” CA that I had just bought at the local hobby shop, and immediately had trouble with it – so I thought. The glue was not sticking and when it did it took a number of minutes to set. This is not how it is supposed to go. Usually I am plunking down parts and as fast as you can grab the next part the first one is set.

I brought the glue back to the hobby shop and a sample of the wood to prove my theory that I got some bad glue – perhaps a bad batch was mixed. I showed an employee what was happening and he was a little taken aback too. We tried another bottle, same problem. Tried another brand of “thin” CA and same problem... Suddenly the light bulbs appeared – it must be the wood. We then tried “thick” CA and it glued the sample wood I brought and he allowed me to trade for that bottle.

I found out that balsa will dry out to the point that CA won't work on it. I pitched this idea to the folks at Mercury Adhesives; these are the guys that brag in the magazines that they know everything there is to know about CA glues, and they may be right. I got this an answer when asked if old wood will give CA trouble:

*“Yes this is common with old wood due to no moisture content.*

*Cyanoacrylate (C5H5NO2) is an acrylic resin that cures almost instantly. The only trigger, or catalyst, it requires are the **hydroxyl ions** in water. Since almost any substrate you may want to glue will at least have trace amounts of water on its surface CA will adhere to most anything.*

*When CA comes into contact with water it undergoes a process called **anionic polymerization**. In short this simply means the CA molecules start linking up into chains and these chains start whipping around to form a durable plastic mesh. The glue thickens and hardens until the thrashing molecule strands can no longer move.”*

Thanks to the guys at Mercury Adhesives for setting me straight and the folks at Hobby People for their patience with a guy bringing in bits of balsa wood and demonstrating how I can't glue them together.

Lastly there is the still the striping of the runway to attend to. Let's talk about some ideas and dates at the meeting.

See ya at the meeting,

*Alastair Brennan*

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## Root's Rambling for February 2014



This month I have a few pictures from the AMA show in January. Pictures 1 and 2 show a beautiful Monocoupe built by Lawrence Klingberg.



Another model built by Lawrence is the fascinating Supermarine Walrus shown in picture 3.



I didn't find any information on the nice Douglas dive bomber shown in pictures 4 and 5.



Two Staggerwing Beechcraft 1/5 scale models built by Jim Markham and Richard Burman are shown in pictures 6 and 7.



8 Another model with no information is the striking S.E.5 in pictures 8 and 9.



# Early Bird Jenny

- 2/3 scale version of Curtiss JN-4D "Jenny" trainer
- Uses modern construction techniques and fabric covering
- Engine is 3 cyl Suzuki from 1992 Geo Metro
- Cruise speed is 70 mph on 3 gph
- Designed by Dennis Wiley in 1987
- Built (2001-??) by Rhon Williams from plans
- Special thanks to Jim Lezie

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Picture 10 gives basic information on an interesting 2/3 scale Jenny project shown in pictures 11 and 12. The January 1963 cover of Model Airplane News is shown in picture 13. This issue featured the plans and construction article for building Ed Kazmirshi's Taurus pattern airplane. This was considered one of the best pattern airplanes at the time. The Taurus shown in picture 14 was built from these plans by Jim Levell.



*Bob Root*

**MINUTES of the JANUARY 2014 MEETING**

Meeting was called to order by Club President, Alastair Brennan, at: 7:30 pm

**New Members & Guests:**  
None.

**Treasurer`s Report:** ( T.J. Moran)  
T.J. reviewed the Treasurer`s Report for all members present. The treasury funds are low due to the major expense of the runway fabric. Motion was made and the report was approved.

**Safety Officer`s Report:** (George Lanquist)  
No safety issues to report, however, there were two crashes at the field on Thursday the 16th, one of which was a transmitter malfunction.

## **Park Liaison Report: (John Dugan)**

John Dugan announced that he would be the CD for the April Float Fly.

### **Reminders:**

The April meeting will be on the 10th of April instead of the 17th.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

- TJ Moran brought up a new problem with the runway material. The glue joints are coming apart. (These were made with the factory supplied glue) A small team of member volunteers re-glued the joints using "Henry's Black Jack Roofing Glue". This seems to be holding up so far. Thanks guys!

- AMA Show – Dave Fishman & Berny Hammer talked about the show and both said it was pretty good. Berny said that Sunday is best due to less crowds and better buys.

- Our member, Tom Wolf won the 2013 "Scale Masters Grand Champion Title". What a great accomplishment. Congratulations Tom! Tom will give a talk on this subject at the February meeting and I'm sure it will be very interesting. Be sure and attend this meeting. I'm sure he will bring his champion Mosquito (maybe).

- Motion was made to approve the December's meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as written.

### **Model of the Month:**

Steve Billings brought in a "Quadcopter". The make is a "DJI" and is rather expensive (about 1300 bucks). It is white in color and is about 18 inches square. It weighs about 1.2 lbs. It is basically a camera platform that can be sync'd with a smart phone or iPad at the transmitter, so it can be flown with it out of sight but have a view of its flight path on the smart phone. It also has a self preservation mode which means it will return to its take-off location after a short period of time if control is lost. More info can be had at "Marty's Hobbies" in T.O. if interested.

### **Raffle:**

- As usual good modelers won some good model stuff.

### **Meeting adjourned at:**

8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted:

*Lynn Breedlove - Secretary*



## That Mystery Airplane

Berny Hammer recognized the Spinks Akromaster right away. I'd bet he wasn't the only one. Charlie Hillard was the Chief Engineer and test pilot on this early cut at an aerobatic monoplane. Financing was from Pappy Spinks, and they named it for him. Info is a bit sketchy, but I do know Hillard won the World Championship in one in 1970. Pretty sure

the fuselage and tailfeathers were welded steel tube and the wing was all metal. Power was a 200 horse Lycoming, which could not have been a bit more than it needed. Harold Krier was killed when one of these things spun in and the wreckage of that airplane apparently still exists. A second Akromaster was photographed in Texas last September, so there is still at least one around, but I have no idea when it was out of the hangar last, and I have no info on whether there were ever any more.



# 2014 CALENDAR - R/C FLYING EVENTS

(VENTURA COUNTY & AROUND By: Ron Scott as of 1-4-14)



- January** 10-12 AMA RC/hobby Show in Ontario  
26 T-28 Race (1<sup>st</sup> one) Rain out date of Feb 2 @ Santa Barbara RC Modelers WWW.SBRM.ORG
- February** ? 2 RC Swap Meet at Hemet Model Masters www.hemetmodelmasters.org  
2 Fun Scale Event - Valley Flyers Apollo Field www.valleyflyers.com  
16 Fun Fly & Swap Meet – Valley Flyers Apollo Field www.valleyflyers.com  
? 9 AMA/FAI PATTERN AVTI (Lancaster) http://www.avti.org/  
15 Heli Fun Fly - Valley Flyers Apollo Field www.valleyflyers.com  
?16 Electric Fly (indoor) @ Simi Valley Rec Center 5005 LA Ave. @ 7:30 PM  
? 24 Poker Fun Fly – Camarillo Flying Circus - http://webefier.com/drupal/
- March** ?9-10 Pattern Contest at Hemet Model Masters www.hemetmodelmasters.org  
15 Heli Fun Fly - Valley Flyers Apollo Field www.valleyflyers.com  
?16 Quickie 500 Pylon races – San Gabriel RC League – Whittier Narrows Rec. Park 818-554-3517  
?16 Electric Fly (indoor) @ Simi Valley Rec Center 5005 LA Ave. @ 7:30 PM  
?24 T-28 Races – Camarillo Flying Circus
- April** 5 IMAC flying competition - Valley Flyers Apollo Field www.valleyflyers.com  
?6 Simi Valley Flyers – Electric only - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet  
?4-6 Warbirds over Las Vegas–William Bennett Field-Bill Hope bhope22@gmail.com, 410-533-3405  
25-27 Float Fly – Lake Cachuma – SBRM club, No Charge, no BBQ or raffle  
11-13 Q40/Q500 pylon racing – Apollo Field - Valley Flyers www.valleyflyers.com  
12-13 Float Fly @ Lake Casitas – Ventura County Comets  
?20 Electric Fly (indoor) @ Simi Valley Rec Center 5005 LA Ave. @ 7:30 PM  
?21 Swap Meet – Camarillo Flying Circus  
20 Easter Sunday  
?20-21 SC Scale Masters Event at Hemet Model Masters www.hemetmodelmasters.org  
?28 Warbird Day – Camarillo Flying Circus  
?26-28 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Giants event @ Condor field – WWW.CICONDORS.COM
- May** ?4 IMAC flying competition @ Bakersfield - www.mini-iac.com  
10 Fun Fly & Engine Clinic – Apollo Field - Valley Flyers www.valleyflyers.com  
?11 Scale Fun Fly - Canyon Crosswinds www.canyoncrosswinds.com  
?25 IMAC flying competition @ Prado (Chino) - www.mini-iac.com  
11 Mothers Day  
17-18 RCX – Model Airplane Expo @ Long Beach Convention Center - www.rcx.com  
?18 Electric Fun-Fly & Glowpower ≤.15". + BBQ @ Comets Field  
?19 Fun Fly & BBQ – Camarillo Flying Circus  
?18 Quickie 500 Pylon races – San Gabriel RC League – Whittier Narrows Rec. Park 818-554-3517  
?18 CPGT Pattern contest @ Condor field (Per Robert Fish)  
?26 Warbird Event- Canyon Crosswinds - www.canyoncrosswinds.com  
24-25 L A Jets Spring Fly-in – Valley Flyers www.valleyflyers.com  
? 24-26 Float Fly – Visalia Russell Pond – for directions - www.CVRCSoaring.com  
?30-6/2 Memorial Day weekend – Giant plane Fly-in – West Coast Mini-Fest – Castle Airport  
Central CA Modelers. Contact Scott at scottmalta@comcast.net or 209-617-5789
- June** ? 8 I MAC flying competition @ Fresno - www.mini-iac.com  
6-8 Float Fly - Lake Cachuma – Santa Barbara R/C Modelers. No BBQ, or raffle  
?7-9 Scale Fly-in Prado Airpark, Chino, - Randy Wilbur 949-683-9662 See www.scaleSquadron.com  
6-8 Q40/Q500 Pylon racing – Valley Flyers www.valleyflyers.com  
?9 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Helicopter day @ Condor Field  
?8 or 9 Scale Fun Fly at Crosswinds Field - Lake Castiac  
?15 Simi Valley Flyers - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet  
?15 IMAC flying competition @ Riverside - www.mini-iac.com  
?15 Swap Meet – Discount Hobbies – Chula Vista **Phone:** (858) 560-9633  
15 Fathers Day  
?22 Helicopter and Multi-copters only day – Camarillo Flying Circus  
21-22 Western States All Electric Fun Fly – Apollo Field - www.valleyflyers.com for details.  
? 23 Glider & Electric planes and helicopter Fun Fly – Camarillo Flying Circus  
?22 Quaker Fun Fly & Baloon drop - Comets Field - Lake Casitas  
?29 War bird day –CI Condors Field – all clubs welcome. WWW.CICONDORS.COM  
? 27-30 Rally of Giants, Medford Oregon – www.rogue-eagles.org Contact Cliff Sands 541-941-0503
- July** ?4 Fireworks and night fly - Canyon Crosswinds - www.canyoncrosswinds.com  
6 Swap Meet & Fun Fly - Valley Flyers Apollo Field www.valleyflyers.com  
?13 Swap Meet San Diego – Don Madison  
19 L A Jets – Valley Flyers – Apollo Field www.valleyflyers.com  
?20 Swap meet @ Crosswinds - Lake Castiac www.canyoncrosswinds.com  
?27 Warbird day & BBQ + Swap Meet @ Comets Field \$10 Entry fee includes lunch  
?20 11<sup>th</sup> IMAC flying competition @ Camarillo – Condors field www.mini-iac.com  
?28 T-28 Races – Camarillo Flying Circus
- August** 2-3 All Scale Event – Valley Flyers - www.valleyflyers.com  
?3-4 Glider – Slope racing @ Grass Mountain www.socialsloperacing.com  
?10 Simi Valley Flyers Electric only - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet  
?17-18 Camarillo Air Show  
16 Fun Fly & Swap Meet - Valley Flyers Apollo Field www.valleyflyers.com  
22-24 Float Fly @ Lake Cachuma, No BBQ, or raffle.  
?25 Fun Fly & BBQ – Camarillo Flying Circus
- September** ?1 Swap Meet & Dawn Patrol Contest @ Hemet Model Masters – www.hemetmodelmasters.org

- 7 All Electric Fun Fly – Valley Flyers [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)
- ?7-8 3D Helicopter Jamboree – all welcome - Canyon Crosswinds - [www.canyoncrosswinds.com](http://www.canyoncrosswinds.com)
- ?14 **Big RC Swap meet** @ Condors field in Camarillo open flying???
- 21-22 Float Fly @ Lake Castiac Lower Lake– Canyon Crosswinds [www.canyoncrosswinds.com](http://www.canyoncrosswinds.com)
- 20-22 Float Fly @ **Lake Mc Swane near Merced...**
- 29 Poker Fly & Swap Meet – Camarillo Flying Circus
- ?27-29 Lake Hemet Float fly – Hemet Model Masters – [www.hemetmodelmasters.org](http://www.hemetmodelmasters.org)
- October**
- 3-5 Lake Cachuma Float Fly – Santa Barbara R/C Modelers – No BBQ or raffle
- ?4-6 Glider Festival @ Visalia, CA ( [www.CVRCSoaring.com](http://www.CVRCSoaring.com) )
- ?4-6 Tucson Aerobatic Shootout - [www.desertaircraft.com](http://www.desertaircraft.com)
- ?5 Quickie 500 Pylon races – San Gabriel RC League – Whittier Narrows Rec. Park 818-554-3517
- ?12 Simi Valley Flyers - Fun Fly, BBQ, & Swap Meet
- 12 Try & Fly- Public open house - Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)
- 18-19 Float Fly @ Comets - Lake Casitas
- ?25-27 Float Fly @ Visalia – Russell Pond for directions check [www.CVRCSoaring.com](http://www.CVRCSoaring.com)
- ?24-27 Giant Scale Air Races - Rabbit dry lake (Unlimited planes flying @ 150 + MPH) [www.usrainfo.org](http://www.usrainfo.org)
- ?27 Combat – 4 rounds – Camarillo Flying Circus
- November**
- 1 Swap Meet & Fun Fly -Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)
- 9 LA Jets - Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)
- ?8-10 Float Fly, @ London Bridge, @Windsor Beach Park, Lake Havasu, Az. (Desert Hawks Club)  
web site [www.deserthawksrc.org](http://www.deserthawksrc.org)
- 21-23 Float Fly @ Comets – **Club members only**
- ?24 T-28 Day – Camarillo Flying Circus
- December**
- ?1 Warbird Day @ Condors Field + Toy Collection
- 7 Toys-for-Tots Fly-in – Valley Flyers – Apollo Field [www.valleyflyers.com](http://www.valleyflyers.com)
- 18 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

<u>CLUB OR EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>	
:AVTI (Lancaster) . . . . .	?Jerry Budd . . . . .	(805) 943-4970	<a href="http://www.avti.org/">http://www.avti.org/</a>
:Desert Hawks (Lake Havasu) . . . . .	?George Field . . . . .	(928) 855-1197	<a href="http://www.deserthawksrc.org">www.deserthawksrc.org</a>
:Comets (Ventura County) . . . . .	Ron Scott . . . . .	(805) 522-5455	<a href="http://www.vccomets.com">www.vccomets.com</a>
:Condors (Camarillo) . . . . .	Ron Scott . . . . .	(805) 522-5455	<a href="http://www.cicondors.com/">www.cicondors.com/</a>
:Camarillo Flying Circus . . . . .	. . . . .	(805)	
:Giant Scale Squadron . . . . .	?Dave Hendrix . . . . .	(213) 758-2935	
:Las Vegas R/C Club . . . . .	?Tom Hart . . . . .	(702) 566-0668	
:Port-A-Potti Pilots (Sylmar) . . . . .	Robby Hombre . . . . .	(818)	<a href="http://www.RobinsHobbies.com">www.RobinsHobbies.com</a>
:R/C Marathon- . . . . .	Corona R/C Club . . . . .	(208)486-6063	
Santa Barbara RC Modelers . . . . .	Lloyd Gibbs . . . . .	805 688-4855	<a href="mailto:lrgiggs@msn.com">lrgiggs@msn.com</a> <a href="http://WWW.SBRCM.ORG">WWW.SBRCM.ORG</a>
:SGVRCL (San Gabriel Valley) . . . . .	?Jim Riccio . . . . .	(310) 973-3696	
:The Unlimited (Torrance) . . . . .	?Lesley Burnett . . . . .	(310) 320-8369	
:Torry Pines Gulls . . . . .			<a href="http://www.torreypinestgulls.org">http://www.torreypinestgulls.org</a>
:Valley Flyers (Sepulvida) . . . . .			<a href="http://www.valleyflyers.com">www.valleyflyers.com</a>
:Simi Valley Flyers . . . . .			<a href="http://www.simivalleyflyers.com">www.simivalleyflyers.com</a>
Visalia Glider Festival . . . . .	Ed Hipp . . . . .		<a href="http://www.cvrcoaring.com">www.cvrcoaring.com</a>
Canyon Crosswinds . . . . .	Wally Briggs . . . . .	(661)722-0029	<a href="http://www.canyoncrosswinds.com">www.canyoncrosswinds.com</a> Web Master Bob Archery @ 661-618-4388
- Santa Fe Dam R/C Modelers . . . . .	Web Site / Calander	(626) 821-4133	<a href="http://WWW.SFDRCM.COM">WWW.SFDRCM.COM</a>
Southern Calif - Slope racing Org. <a href="http://www.socalsloperacing.com">www.socalsloperacing.com</a>			
IMAC(International Min. Aerobatic Club			<a href="http://www.mini-iac.com/DesktopDefault.aspx">www.mini-iac.com/DesktopDefault.aspx</a>
Riverside RC Club . . . . .	<a href="http://www.riversiderclub.org">www.riversiderclub.org</a>		
. . . . .	- Simi Indoor Electric fly Simi Valley - Matt Keennon . . . . .	(805) ????????	Matt Keennon (AV) <a href="mailto:keennon@avinc.com">keennon@avinc.com</a>
. . . . .	- Corona RC Club <a href="http://www.coronarclub.com">www.coronarclub.com</a>		
<b>Good Internet web Sites</b>			
-	AMA Calender of events	<a href="http://www.modelaircraft.org/events/calendar/Flying%20Events/wc012010.htm">www.modelaircraft.org/events/calendar/Flying Events/wc012010.htm</a>	
-	" Club Links . . .	<a href="http://www.modelaircraft.org/clubsearch.aspx">www.modelaircraft.org/clubsearch.aspx</a>	
-	" Newsletter . . .	<a href="http://www.modelaircraft.org/templates/ama/newsletters.asp">www.modelaircraft.org/templates/ama/newsletters.asp</a>	
-	Glidors . . . . .	<a href="http://www.rcsoaring.com">www.rcsoaring.com</a>	
-	" . . . . .	<a href="http://www.sloperacing.com">www.sloperacing.com</a>	
-	" . . . . .	Visalia Glider Club – <a href="http://www.CVRCSoaring.com">www.CVRCSoaring.com</a>	
-	" . . . . .	<a href="http://www.nesail.com">www.nesail.com</a>	
-	" . . . . .	<a href="http://gliderking.com">gliderking.com</a> , <a href="http://combatwings.com">combatwings.com</a>	
-	Electrics . . . . .	<a href="http://www.sefsd.org">www.sefsd.org</a>	
-	Warbirds. . . . .	<a href="http://www.rcwarbirds.com">www.rcwarbirds.com</a>	
-	Airforce Pictures . .	<a href="http://www.topcover.com">www.topcover.com</a>	