

The Comets Tale



February 2018

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Board of Directors

George Boston, Berny Hammer, TJ Moran,
Lynn Breedlove

Instructor Pilots:

Dave Fishman, Steve Billings, Andrew Carlson, Bob Root, Ron Scott,
TJ Moran, Steve Steinmetz

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 Lair, in Agoura Hills, CA.

Editorial contributions are always welcome.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, **February 15, 2018 7:30 PM**

At the Oak View Community Center



President's Message:

Gosh February is already here. I just watched the Super Bowl last Sunday and now I can assume that 2018 is officially off and running. On Saturday the 3rd of Feb I attended a memorial service for our good friend and fellow flyer, Gerooge Lanquist. It was a very nice gathering. My guess is that there were around 80 folks paying their respects, and more than 30 members from our club attending.

It may have been attributed to the month of Jan, but at our last monthly meeting we had all of 10-12 members attending. NOT GOOD. Berny

Hammer is our new Vice President and did a great job running the raffle, with many great prizes. Thanks Berny, and Bo. Greg Nowland and I were talking out at the field a few weeks back and he suggested that we pay a courtesy call on the National Forest Fire Station, across from our field on HWY150. I did just that and had a very good conversation with ranger Tracy Dott who is the

Helitack Captain/Aviation Safety Officer for the fire station. We talked about the AMA Safety Code and our Field Safety Rules. I also emailed to her a copy of these documents. Not surprising she was most concerned about drones operating in their air space during fire fighting operations. The forest service contracts for their helicopter support beginning in June and running throughout the fire season. I extended to her an invitation to speak at one of our monthly meetings, and she said she looked forward to sharing their operations with us and to get back in contact with her around June when they resume their helitack operations.

Getting back to improving attendance at our monthly meetings it has been suggested that we invite guest speakers a few times a year that would speak to subjects of general interest to the membership. Tracy certainly meets this description, and perhaps you can suggest others that we can get in contact with, inviting them to speak to our membership. I am going to work on this, but I could really use your help and suggestions on how we can improve attendance at our monthly meetings. Thanks for your support.

Safe flying, George Boston, President

MINUTES of the January 2018 MEETING

Meeting was called to order by Club President, George Boston, at:

- **7:28 pm**

New Members & Guests:

- **No new members or guests were present.**

December, 2017 Meeting minutes:

- **The December meeting minutes were approved by the members present.**

Treasurer`s Report: (T.J. Moran)

- **T.J. presented the treasurer`s report. Most significant was that the treasury is still in good shape.**
- **We have 34 paid members at this time, however, members have thru March to renew. This happens every year – some members wait until the last days to renew. We ended up last year with 93 members total. There are 17 to 18 members that have not renewed their AMA membership and AMA does not give a grace period, you just get dropped.**
- **Several members have made donations to the club which is greatly appreciated.**
- **The Treasurer`s Report was approved by the membership present.**

Safety Officer`s Report: (Dennis Fingold

- **No issues were reported.**

Park Liaison Report: (George Boston)

- **George ran into Dave Fishman who asked him if he knew that a sign was posted at the field that no flying was allowed at this time. The Park also called George about a sign posted at the field and asked if he knew anything about it and George stated that he did not know about this but he would look into it. George looked up the FAA web site and reviewed the TFRs and there was a posted restriction on flying in our area. It was due to the Thomas Fires and there are a lot of emergency aircraft in the air. The restriction was until Feb. 28th and the airspace that is restricted is from 200 to 9000 feet, however, due to impending weather (rain) the restriction was lifted.**

Old Business:

- **Christmas Party was a resounding success and everyone had a good time and ate a lot of good food. (thank you Marilyn and Dale Nash for setting everything up and organizing the party)**

New Business:

- **President George Boston stated that he was concerned that about the gradual lack of attendance at our monthly meetings. There is a core group of members besides the club officers that regularly attends but there was always 10 to 15 others members who attended and not always the same members. Usual attendance used to be 20 to 25 members. This meeting only had only about 8 or 9 members attending. George stated that he did not know what to do about it at this time.**
- **The new schedule for 2018 has been compiled by Ron Scott. It`s not 100% correct and George asked Ron if he would adjust the dates. Our schedule is pretty much the same as 2017. The schedule will be out soon.**
- **Two of our members had major losses in the Thomas Fire. One was Dennis Fingold and Richard Metzger. If anyone has any gear or planes etc. to get these guys going again please contact them.**
- **George announced that George Languist passed away on January 1st. George stated that his daughter is organizing a “celebration of life” on February 3rd at picnic area 12 near coyote launch ramp.**
- **New schedule for the AMA show is now Nov. 2nd thru the 4th and the Fairplex at Pomona.**

Model of the Month:

- **No model of the month.**

Raffle:

- **Bernie and Beau Hammer got their first shot at the raffle. It went very well and they did a real good job.**

Meeting adjourned at:

- **8:20 pm.**

Lynn Breedlove(two boats) – Secretary



Proof Positive: Ron Scott really does throw away some of his model aircraft.

AMA Charter Club #173



Respectfully submitted:

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