

The Comets' Tale

*The Official
Newsletter of the*



January 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, 20 January, 7:30 PM at the
Oak View Community Center

From the President

Happy New Year all. I hope the holidays were fun and that Santa was good to you? We had a great holiday, and I got in some good flying days before all the rain came. If you didn't make the Comets Christmas Party, too bad, we had a great time and the food was outstanding. At the January meeting we will be going over the planned events for this year and locking in on the dates for the April and October Float Flies. This April we have the same problem as last year, in that we are going to have to schedule the Float Fly the third weekend of the month which will require that we conduct the April monthly meeting the second Thursday rather than the third. If we moved the float fly back by a week to tie it into the third Thursday, we will be in conflict with Easter Sunday. There are other dates that will also have to shift for various reasons. I encourage you to attend the January meeting and participate in the schedule review. We need to get everybody's input. Just this last week the weather has warmed up and the field is in great shape. So if you haven't been out to the field lately, take a morning and go flying, and please be safe. On a final note, if you haven't sent in your annual dues payment, please do so as soon as possible. It won't be long and we will be changing the combination number on all the locks. See ya on Thursday the 20th.

George Boston



Coming Up!

16 & 17 April
Comets Float Fly at Lake Casitas

First Sunday of each Month
Open House at Santa Paula Airport

Root's Rambling

A group of us attended the AMA Expo on Friday January 7. I didn't see too much new although there are a lot more electric powered ARFs than in years past. There seemed to be more models in the display area. Maybe more modelers are building their models these days. I hope so. In any case I took pictures of most of these models and I'm including some of them. Many didn't have any information so I haven't included details such as builder, scale, etc. The scale models include the following:

1. Large 1/6 scale Sikorsky S-29



2. One third scale Sopwith Pup on floats

3. A nice Supermarine Spitfire (note the flap indicator on top of the wing)



4. Interesting Nieuport 28

5. German Rumpler with lots of wires



6. Large 37 percent scale Little Toot home built

7. Nice DC-3



8. Hawker Typhoon

9. Large scale model of a Stits Sky Baby



10. Small electric Bearcat stick model



11. Large scale Bearcat (notice the scale landing gear),



12. Large scale Rockwell OV-10 (the attached write up had flight pictures)



13. Nice A-4 in Blue Angels paint scheme.



Since there seemed to be interest last month in my discussion of old models in the

old days I may write some more on the subject in in the future. For now I am including pictures of a couple of my first original designs. Picture 14 shows my younger brother holding my original design towline free flight glider in 1950. I was 13 at the time. Picture 15 was taken in 1951 of me holding an original design 1/2 A free flight model. Notice that they both utilized what was called geodetic construction at the time (the wing ribs are not stream wise, but cross each other at an angle. This produces a stiff wing but I suspect the airfoil isn't so hot. I was always trying everything I read about in the model magazines. It seems I still spend (waste?) a lot of time trying out the new ideas I read about.



Keep flying and I'll be back next month.

Bob Root

December 2010 Minutes

The Comets meeting was called to order by President George Boston on December 16 at 7:06. There were 53 members, friends and family present.

The meeting started with the introduction of the newly appointed Treasurer, T.J Moran and Secretary, me, Alastair Brennan.

George recognized the work the past treasurer Emery Balasa and secretary Sandy Billings had done.

The gratitude continued and George mentioned Bob Root and his monthly "Root's Rambling" articles. Thanks to Mike Ambarian for his constant maintenance routine for the flying field.

And a nod to Marilyn and Dale Nash for their efforts to put together the monthly raffles.

George brought up a past award. This is the William B Gast award. This honor has been part of the club for years. It was given in memory of the late Mr. Gast who did many selfless acts for the club and is passed on to others that do the same.

President Boston nominated Jerry Deanda. The motion was approved and Jerry is the latest recipient. The meeting adjourned at 7:12. And the Christmas potluck started a few seconds later.

- *Alastair*

Sanding Tool

While repairing a couple nonremovable wing struts in the connection joint at the fuselage (Fokker D-VIII), I used a small amount of spot putty to correct some gaps in the wood strut. When next to the fuselage, it gets quite tight limiting the sanding process.

I attached a small piece of self-stick sandpaper to one of my wife's best butter knives to reach into this tight spot. After all, nothing is too good for modeling use. Works great. Also can be used to reach into the fuse or wing if needed to sand. Use a round item such as a pen or pencil for a radius.

—*Mike DaBiere, Front Line Flyers, York, Maine*

