

# The Comets Tale



**January 2019**

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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

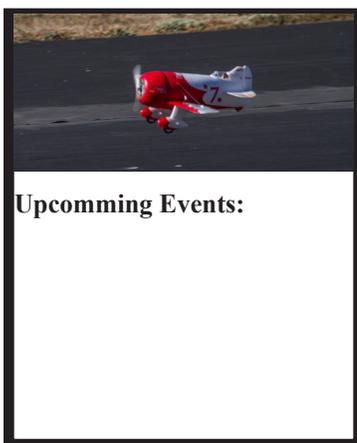
The Comets' Tale is the official newsletter and record of the Ventura Count Comets, AMA Chartered Club #173 and is published every other month at the Comets' Tale Lair, in Agoura Hills, CA.

*Editorial contributions are always welcome.*

## Next Meeting:

Thursday, **January 17, 2019 7:00 PM**

## At the Oak View Community Center



### President's Message:

Happy 2019 everybody. Those years just keep flying by, faster and faster. I know it's a cliché but it is scary how fast they go by. I joined the club in the fall of 2002, asked Ken Marsh to teach me how to fly and began forming new friendships that grow stronger every year. When I joined, there weren't many electrics. Virtually all the guys were flying glow and a few gas powered planes. Almost all the gas powered planes were huge, 33%er's or larger. There was a lot of kit and scratch building, and ARF's were taking hold as their construction and kit components improved. The frequency board was in constant use with many fliers sharing the same frequency, exchanging

clothes pins constantly.

Wow, have things changed. Stop by Marty's Hobbies and see how many gas/glow powered ARF's he has on the shelf. Or for that matter how many engines. The answer is none. He can still get them, but

they have to be ordered. And there are NO kits on the shelf, and the numbers available for ordering are shrinking all the time. Interest in scratch and kit building is all but dead. We only have 3-4 club members that are actively building today. Because of advances in electronic ignition systems, gas motors are now available as small as .40 size, and are a real advantage over their equivalent glow power motors when considering that a gallon of glow fuel costs around \$30! Almost all ARF kits available today have provisions for installing electric motors, batteries and miscellaneous support gear. When it comes to new products, electrics probably represent 75% of the hobby. Just take a look at the ads in Model Aviation. Oh, and that Frequency Board, it has all but been eliminated with the introduction of 2.4GHz technology. Drones and first person view (FPV) are poised to become the future of our hobby/sport. I am not being judgmental of all the changes that have taken place, but for a guy that started flying U control back in the 60's, and love the smell and noise of a glow powered airplane, things are changing too quickly for me. It would not surprise me that in 2019 we will be welcoming new members wanting to fly their drones using FPV at the field on a routine basis. All of us need to get into a new paradigm of where our hobby is going and how we can embrace it to sustain our club and flying site.

Our Christmas party was a lot of fun. As with so many of our planned events, the party was not as well attended as in the past, but for those who were there, we had great food, some wonderful raffle prizes, and most of all time to hook up with old friends and catch up with all that has happened over the past year. Raffle prize winners were yours truly, Bo Hammer, Bob Root, Dan Elsasser, Leo Gabriels, and TJ. A special thanks to Dale and Marilyn Nash who were the elves that coordinated the party, and Berny Hammer who put together the raffle. And to all of you who helped out with set up and breakdown, and those who put together dishes for the dinner, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Our next business meeting is scheduled for 17 Jan at 7PM. Our main topic will be scheduling flying site events for 2019. Ron Scott will be coordinating with all the clubs in greater SoCal to publish his annual calendar of AMA flying events, and he will be asking for our input very soon. TJ will be conducting a silent auction of George Lanquist's flying and building gear, and there are bound to be a lot of great buys. We will be serving pizza and subway sandwiches for dinner, along with coffee and cookies. Please shoot me an email if you plan to attend so I can get a feel for how much food to buy. Oh, and don't forget that your 2019 club dues need to be paid (\$50), along with your AMA membership. Thanks and see ya on the 17th.

**Safe flying, George Boston, President**

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## **MINUTES of the November, 2018 MEETING**

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

- 7:30 pm

**New Members & Guests:**

- No new members or guests were in attendance.
- Meeting attendance was 19.

### **September, 2018 Meeting minutes:**

- The September, 2018 meeting minutes were approved by the members.

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

- T.J. presented the treasurer`s report which covers 21 Sept. thru 15 Nov. The treasury remains in good shape. Income was mostly due to members dues being paid. Expenses were small.
- The Treasurer`s Report was approved by the membership present.

### **Safety Officer`s Report: (Dennis Fingold)**

- Narration of Dennis Fingolds Big Stick (dead stick) landing. Dennis glanced away then looked back to see his plane bounced over Beau Hammer. Minor damage to the plane and no injuries. This could have had a much different ending. Moral: keep your eyes on your plane at all times and if the plane is coming toward you – get out of the way.

### **Park Liaison Report: (George Boston)**

- No news on this subject.

### **Old Business:**

- No progress on the storage shed. (it was proposed that we increase its size by adding on to it or? Park has to approve.
- Congratulations & thanks to the Steinmetz boys for putting on another great BBQ.
- The “fun fly” had good attendance and a good time was had by all.

### **New Business:**

- TJ announced that the remainder (6 approx) will be auctioned off at the January, 2019 meeting. (maybe some of his modeling gear too)
- Elections:  
Alister Brennen will be returning to So. Cal. in January 2019 and has volunteered to serve again as Club Secretary. Thank you Alister.  
George Boston has volunteered to remain as Club President. Also thank you George. I think this is his 3rd term as Prez.
- FAA – Review and discussion of the reauthorization act such as the 400 foot rule. Not known yet what the final rules/requirements will be but its possible that we may even have to pass a test. More to come I`m sure.
- Christmas Party – Marilyn Nash has volunteered to continue arranging, decorating and tabulating the menu for the party. Thank you Marilyn, you do a great job and we appreciate all your efforts.
- We will also have our (now) annual raffle at the Christmas Party.

### **Correction to September, 2018 meeting minutes:**

- It was reported in the September, 2018 meeting minutes that in the future there would be two raffles per year one in June and one at the December Christmas party. That statement was incorrect and should be that there will be only one raffle per year and that would be at the Christmas party. Tickets for the raffle would be the tickets filled out by members who attended club meetings and put in the "can" for the Christmas raffle.

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

- We had two entries: First was Bernie Hammer with his real thing. Second was Bob Root with his 1942 Swiss Flying Club Glider. The glider was very large and complicated to build. Building took about a year.
- Bob Root was the winner.

Hope all of our members and families had a great Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

### **Meeting adjourned at:**

- 8:30 pm.

### **Respectfully submitted:**

**Lynn (two boats)Breedlove– Secretary**

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### **CHRISTMAS 2018 PARTY PHOTOS**









AMA Charter Club #173

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