

# The Comets' Tale

*The Official  
Newsletter of the*



**July 2009**

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### Board of Directors

Mike Ambarian, Dale Nash, Sandy Brown, Emery Balasa and Steve Billings

### Instructor Pilots

*Emery Balasa Steve Billings Andrew Carlson Bob Root Ron Scott*

*George Lanquist T.J. 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, 16 July, 7:30 PM  
at the Oak View Community Center**



**Coming  
Up!**

**Sunday 26 July**  
Warbird Day, BBQ and  
Swap Meet at Lake  
Casitas  
\$10 Includes Lunch

**25-26 July**  
IMAC flying  
competition  
@ Condor's Field

**29-30 August**  
SBRCM Float Fly at  
Lake Cachuma

**1st Sunday of Each  
Month**  
Open House at Santa  
Paula Airport

## ROOT'S RAMBLING

Here is another ramble whether you're ready or not. I have a few pictures of new airplanes in the club, and then I will present some pictures which T.J. Moran took at our Quaker model fly-in. Thanks for the help T.J.

Although he hasn't flown it yet the beautiful Lysander shown in picture 1 was built by Don Ashworth. He built it using plans and parts he got from one of the kit cutters several years ago. He says he now also has plans for a better design but they are a different size and he couldn't throw away the parts he already had. During construction he made a lot of modifications to the design he started with based on his experience and the good features shown in the second design. He still has to finish some of the equipment fine tuning and run the engine. It is a beautiful scale model of a 1935 British fighter. This airplane was obsolete as a fighter even before WW II started, but it was utilized throughout the war to fly espionage people into Europe and escaping pilots back out. The usual operation was a flight into and out of small fields at night using automobile lights etc. depending on what the underground could come up with. We've all seen the movies showing this.



George Lanquist's new Piper Cherokee is shown in picture 2. He built this from an old Midwest kit. It is covered with Ultrakote. He has a bunch of flights on this model and says it flies great. He is still looking for passengers to put in the cabin.



The T-34 shown in picture 3 was built by Murray Cooper from a Great Planes kit. It is covered with Ultrakote and is surprisingly light. The wing span is about 80 inches and it seems to have plenty of power with a Saito .91. Ken Marsh is trying to get it flying. Ken has one flight on it but the elevator was way too sensitive and the nose gear broke when it hit pretty hard on the landing. Ken has it back together and has been working on several problems to get ready for the next flight.

The Edge shown in picture 4 was built by Dan Smock. It is fairly large and is powered by a gas engine (about 50 cc I think). It seems to fly very well and he has a lot of flights on it.



The Ventura County Comets held a Quaker fun fly on June 28 and T.J. Moran took a bunch of pictures. I have included a few here. The Quaker is a 1937 free flight design that is very popular in the Comets club. We had 13 models at this event. I have refused to build one because everyone has one. Because I fly Mode 1 and everyone else in Southern California flies Mode 2 I haven't flown anyone's Quaker. I won't try to explain what Mode 1 and 2 means other than the controls on my transmitter are set up differently

than everyone else's (think popularity in Seattle in the 60's and 70's vs. California in the 90's). Anyway, my buddy Don Ashworth has two Quakers and we got to talking... The result is he loaned me one of his Quakers and I put my receiver in it and had a great time flying it at the fly-in.

Pictures 5, 6, 7, & 8 show a few of us and our Quakers. In picture 5 George Lanquist is bolting the wing on his Quaker. The Steimetz brothers are preparing their models





in picture 6. It looks like one of them is putting a water balloon in his bomb bay (a popular addition to the Quaker). Dale Nash is preparing for flight in picture 7.

I see a nylon wing bolt sticking up in picture 8 so I must be mounting the wing on the Quaker I borrowed from Don Ashworth.



The other Ashworth Quaker is shown on takeoff in picture 9.

The Quaker shown in picture 10 belongs to Ken Marsh. He has been flying it for a long time. It is made up like a highway patrol plane and he even has a siren in it. However, the wing folded on a turn to final and the result is shown in picture 11. This was one of the original Quakers with balsa spars and no shear webs between spars. This old timer construction (it was originally a 1937 free flight model) has a reputation



for failure. In this case the problem must have been fatigue because the model had a tremendous number of flights on it.



The Don Ashworth Quaker I was flying is shown in picture 12 during take off. These fly-in events are pretty laid back as shown in picture 13.



Finally, all the Quakers and their pilots are shown in picture 14 except for the two which Ken Marsh crashed. The second crash occurred when he looked away and didn't see his airplane until it was in the lake. The rest of us had a good day.



My latest project is finally almost finished after 1 1/2 years. It is a 1/4 scale 1925 Curtiss R3C-1 racing bi-plane. I will include details next month. Until then have a great month with lots of happy flying.



*Bob Root*

## June 2009 Minutes

The Comet meeting was called to order by Vice President Dale Nash on June 18, at 7:30 PM, at the Oak View Community Center.

The May minutes were approved. We had no guests and one new members, Mr. Travis Stockman.

**Treasurers' Report:** We have 89 members and finances are in good shape. The report was approved.

**Field Marshall/Safety Officer:** No report

**Park Liaison:** No report

### Old Business:

The runway has developed larger cracks and continues to peel. Mike Ambarian volunteered to pick up the materials to patch the cracks but had to go to France for a funeral.

### New Business:

We were reminded about the Quaker Fly on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Mike and Steve Steinmetz volunteered to cook hot dogs and hamburgers for the event.

### Model of the Month:

We had no Model of the Month due to our free drawing and free dinner meeting.



All the tickets were sold on the Yak and Engine. Leo Gabriels' ticket was drawn. Congrats, Leo!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 just in time for the arrival of the subs and pizza.

Respectfully  
Submitted,

*Sandy Brown*

Spotted flying happily around the lawn before the meeting was Dave Watson

# Quaker Fun-Fly June 2009



Ron Scott



Matt Scrima



Matt Scrima



Ron Scott



Ron Scott

# War Bird Fly-in



## Comets R/C Flying Field – Lake Casitas

July 26, 2009

No competition, just have fun

Flight time - - - - -8:30 – 2 or 3:00 PM

Entry Fee -----\$10.00 (Includes Lunch)

Lunch ----- 11:00 to 1:00PM

Raffle ----- None

Visitors Welcome—(No Fee to Watch)

For More information call Ron Scott @ (805) 522-8455, or Mike Ambarian @ 805-889-4549