

# The Comets' Tale

*The Official  
Newsletter of the*



**July 2010**

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### Board of Directors

George Boston, Mike Ambarian, Marilyn Nash, Sandy Billings, Emery Balasa

### 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,  
15 July, 7:30 PM at the Oak View  
Community Center**



**Coming  
Up!**

**24 July**  
Warbird Day & BBQ +  
Swap Meet @ Comets  
Field

**14-15 August**  
Santa Paula Airport  
Airshow

**21-23 August**  
Float Fly @ Lake  
Cachuma

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

### From the President

I know I am stating the obvious, but we didn't publish the Tale last month. Jerry was due some R&R, so he took a well earned vacation and we skipped publishing in June, which would have covered the month of May. So this month we will be addressing both the months of May and June. A lot has happened over the past two months. We held our annual Electric and Glow Power < .16 Fun Fly and BBQ on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. It was well attended, with all the tables occupied with fliers. Mike and Steve Steinmetz did the cooking, as always, and boy was it good! They cooked left over Tri-Tips from the April Float Fly, with all the fixings. It was a good time for all and the weather was outstanding.

Then on June the 27<sup>th</sup>, we had our Quaker Fun Fly and Balloon Drop. There were only six (6) competitors for the Balloon Drop, but the balloons were flying hot and wet. Leo Gabriels won the event, at the expense of his Quaker. We kept telling Leo, DON'T WATCH THE BALLOON, KEEP YOUR EYES ON YOUR PLANE! Guess what, Leo was watching the balloon, while his Quaker did a tight loop, nose first into the center of the runway. We did have a good number of Quakers, about 10 as I recall, and Bob Root was flying his Old Grandpa, flaps full down. And all the fun is not over yet.

This month on the 24<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our annual War Bird Fun Fly, BBQ and Swap Meet. At the June meeting I will be looking for volunteers to help out with the cooking, organization, and safety. There will be a \$10 entry fee, which includes lunch. It should be a lot of fun, especially watching yours truly try to land his Hanger 9 P-51 Miss America (I have been consistently, inconsistent with my landings and have bent the wheel struts at least 15 times, not to mention grinding my spinner all to **\*\*!!\*** on the pavement. Oh well, my landing screw-ups provide great entertainment for all my fellow flyers who provide continuous words of encouragement). So please mark your calendar for the July 15<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting, and the 24<sup>th</sup> for the War Bird event. Good flying to all of you, and please be safe.

*George Boston*

### ROOT'S RAMBLING

This month I have a bunch of pictures of various events which have occurred since my last discussion. I have received pictures from George Boston, T.J. Moran, Steve Billings, and Dave Berthianume among others. Thanks to all of you. It makes my task easier.

Many of the club members have known my grandson Ben Cremer since he was a small boy. He has always been interested in airplanes and used to visit me whenever he could so we could fly models. He is now 21 and in the Air Force. He is a Loadmaster on C-130's and picture 1 shows him and two buddies with Guam in the background. He is on the right.



On May 30 the club had a fun fly for electric and small gas powered models. Three days before the event a few of us were at the field trying to fly. It was like flying in Seattle as can be seen in picture 2.

I'm holding my electric powered glider and my very small (28 in. span) Jungmeister at the fun fly in picture



3. It was a beautiful day and we had a great turnout. Every table had someone using it. In fact there were two at some tables. I think everyone had a good time and the BBQ was great thanks to Mike and Steve Steinmetz. A few of us are flying in picture 4 (I'm obviously flying the glider). A few laid back modelers are preparing their models in picture 5 (or not!). Pictures 6, 7, 8, and 9 show some of the models. Although he didn't fly it at this event Dan Elsasser has a nice electric P-82 Twin Mustang which is shown in 10 and 11.

Some of the club members attended the Santa Barbara club float fly at Lake Cachuma. They had great weather for their event and I have included a couple of pictures from this event (pictures 12, 13, 14).



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Fly Safe!  
*Bob Root*

## May 2010 Minutes

The Comet meeting was called to order by President George Boston on May 20, at 7:30 PM, at the Oak View Community Center.

The April minutes were approved. We had no new members or guests.

**Treasurers' Report:** We have 76 members. Treasurer's report was approved.

**Field Marshall/Safety Officer:** Mike Ambarian reported that the asphalt is not holding up. He will try to coat with a sealant he has at home.

**Park Liaison:** Ken Marsh reported that members have been leaving the lock open at the main gate of the field. The open locks have a habit of disappearing! He reminded all members to not leave the lock with the combination showing – spin the numbers! Lock the locks!

### **Old Business:**

There was a discussion of how we may save money on food at the next Float Fly. It was suggested we might serve chicken or charge the working members half price. It was decided to wait it out and see what happens in the October Float Fly.

Flyers from the San Fernando Flyers relayed their appreciation to the Club for a "Great Float Fly".

TJ and Joe Horswell presented the display board, with a cover made of lexan, and the plan to mount it on the side of the shed. There were no objections to mounting it on the shed. Joe presented the material that will be displayed on the board. George Boston stated the Lake wants signage stating the "Flyer must have an AMA membership" or will be cited by the Lake. Gate sign is to be 20" x 20"; will have the AMA website and the Lake phone number. It was suggested to add a rule to clean up the tables and field after use.

A motion was made, and approved, to purchase a new sun shade to replace the one broken during the Float Fly.

George Boston and Bob Root are now confirmed as Contest Directors (CDs).

All are reminded to forward pictures to Don Sorenson for the Club website.

### **New Business:**

Lake Cachuma Float Fly is June 4 thru 6.

Electric and Glo power only Fun Fly is May 30<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8 a.m., after 10 anyone can fly. Food will be provided. Confirm with George for head count to ensure there is enough.

AMA rules state: every plane shall have a visible ID, with address, name, and AMA # on the outside. Field Marshall/Safety Officer (Mike Ambarian) will start enforcing.

A member reported that he was camping at the flying site and was told by Lake personnel that he would have to move. This was a mistake on the Lake's part as members of the Club are authorized to camp at the field. Be sure to have you member card with you. Camping at the field is \$30 for weekends and \$25 during the week.

The gear Bing Fabian donated to the Club last month was much appreciated and a letter was drafted, for Club members to sign, thanking him for his contribution.

No Comets Tale for May. May and June will be combined and published in July.

June is free raffle and dinner. Drinks, pizza and paper goods will be picked up/arranged by Lynn Breedlove.

**Model of the Month:**

Joe Horswell showed his T Rex Helicopter, made from Hobby King kit, weights 8 pounds and has 3D capability.

The raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

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**June 2010 Minutes**

The Comet meeting was called to order by President George Boston on June 17, at 7:30 PM, at the Oak View Community Center.

There were no May minutes to approve as they would not get published till July. We had no new members or guests.

**Treasurers' Report:** We have 81 members. Treasurer's report was approved.

**Field Marshal/Safety Officer:** No report.

**Park Liaison:** Ken Marsh reported that a Lexus commercial had been filmed at the flying field. He attended to ensure no parking would be done on the runway. Ken stated the food was good.

**Old Business:**

The signage was approved by all. Joe Horswell is waiting for the sign person to return from vacation.

Electric and Glo power only Fun Fly was well attended – at least 35 flyers. Thanks to Mike and Steve Steinmetz for cooking wonderful food once again. Thanks, also goes to Mike Ambarian and George for cutting weeds around the field and BBQ area.

**New Business:**

Quaker Fun Fly and Balloon Drop is June 27. Any type plane can be used. From 8 to 10 a.m. will be the Fun Fly and after 10 the field will be open to all flyers. No helicopters for the Fun Fly. Judges will be needed for logging scores – Bud Scolari volunteered. The balloon drop winner, coming closest to the bull's eye, will win \$20.

No Show and Tell this month.

There will be no raffle for the months of July and August.

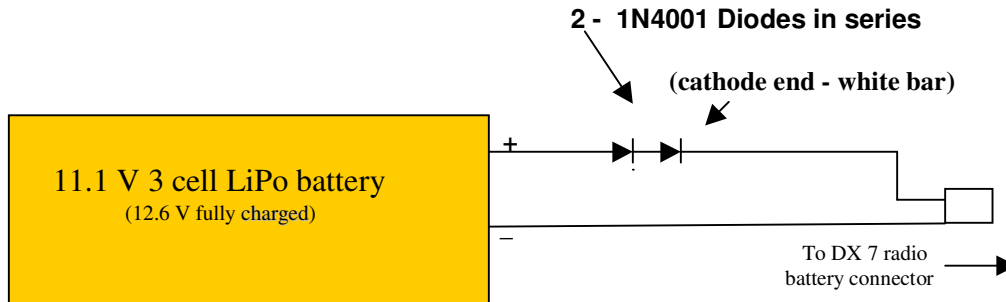
The free raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50. We all enjoyed pizza!

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Sandy Billings*

# **DX 7 Li Po Battery Modifications to work safely**

## **Lipo Usage in the Spektrum DX 7**

**Modifying the Spektrum DX-7 transmitter to work with a LiPo battery - It will only need to be charged once a month, with regular usage.**



Note: Spektrum does not recommend using LiPo's in the DX7 transmitter.

If you want to use a LiPo without the diodes, you risk the regulator circuit board eventually burning up.

### **Modifications:**

- Add 2 diodes in series to the + side of the battery lead -- #1N4001 diodes. As shown above.
- Diodes will lower the voltage approximately 1.6 volts (from 12.6 to 11.0 volts) assuming a fully charged 12.6 volt battery.
- They are installed in the **+** red lead.
- Cathode (white bar end) goes towards the radio *plug*,
- Anode (no bar end) goes to the plus + red wire from the battery.
- Put some shrink tubing over them.

### **To charge:**

- Disconnect LiPo from DX7, then use the balancing connector output leads to charge with. Do not try to charge thru the radio plug.

### **Reprogramming the DX 7:** (To set the alarm so your LiPo does not drop too low in voltage)

- Ensure the Aileron D/R switch is in the UP position.
- Press and hold the DOWN and SELECT buttons and turn on the radio.
- Now you're in the setup menu.
- Scroll up/down until you get to the screen that says [Model Reset]
- Press the Adjust Decrease button (r/h side of LCD)
- Flip the Aileron D/R switch down
- Press the Adjust Increase button
- Flip the Aileron D/R switch up
- Press the Adjust Decrease button
- Keep alternating this Aileron D/R up/down and Adjust Increase/Decrease sequence (about 5 cycles)
- The radio will 'beep' and the LCD will go dark. This is the LCD test.
- Scroll Up/Down (left side of LCD screen) through the Service Menu and go to the alarm menu,
- Set alarm to 10V, and voltage to 11.5, ( if you have a fully charged 12.6 3S battery).
- Scroll to "all settings ok" push clear. — The DX7 is now updated for LiPo's.



On June 27th the Comets had the annual balloon drop. There was plenty of competition as 8 pilots and nine planes vied for the top bombardier prize. All flew Quakers. Poor Leo Gabriels watched his balloon instead of his airplane and the result is below. I didn't get any results, but TJ Moran sent these photos.







Bob Root sent this photo of a Mystery Plane. Do you know what it is? I sure didn't. Hint: the PH on the tailboom means this airplane is registered in the Netherlands.

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From the newsletter of the Silent Electric Flyers of San Diego

## Aviation Wisdom

1. Truly superior pilots are those who use their superior judgment to avoid those situations where they might have to use their superior skills.
2. Rule One: No matter what else happens, fly the airplane.
3. Forget all that stuff about thrust and drag, lift and gravity; an airplane flies because of money.
4. The propeller is just a big fan in the front of the airplane to keep the pilot cool. Want proof? Make it stop; then watch the pilot break out into a sweat.
5. If you're ever faced with a forced landing at night, turn on the landing lights to see the landing area. If you don't like what you see, turn 'em back off.
6. A check ride should be like a skirt, short enough to be interesting but still long enough to cover everything.
7. Speed is life; altitude is life insurance.
8. Never let an airplane take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five minutes earlier.
9. Don't drop the aircraft in order to fly the microphone.
10. If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger. If you pull the stick back, they get smaller. Pull back more and they start getting big again.
11. Hovering is for pilots who love to fly but have no place to go.
12. The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.
13. Flying is the second greatest thrill known to man; landing is the first!
14. You know you've landed with the wheels up when it takes full power to taxi.
15. Those who hoot with the owls by night should not fly with the eagles by day.
16. Young man, was that a landing or were we shot down?
17. Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.
18. Fighter pilots believe in clean living. They never drink whiskey from a dirty glass.
19. Things which do you no good in aviation: Altitude above you. Runway behind you. Fuel in the trunk. A navigator. Half a second ago. The airspeed you don't have.
20. If God meant man to fly, He'd have given him more money.
21. Flying is not dangerous; crashing is dangerous.
22. Flying is the perfect vocation for a man who wants to feel like a boy, but not for one who still is. →