

The Comets Tale



July 2020

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Board of Directors

George Boston, Berny Hammer, TJ Moran,
Alastair Brenman

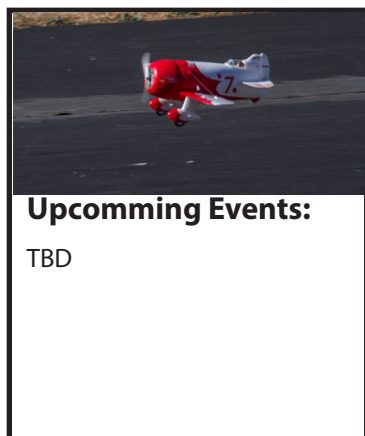
Instructor Pilots:

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, **TBD**
At the Oak View Community Center



Upcomming Events:

TBD

Presidents Message:

Hello all. I need to begin with an apology for not getting the Tail published prior to the date of our by-monthly meeting, which would have been the 16th of July. I won't try to give excuses. I just didn't take care of it on time. When I did contact Dave Berthiaume, our Editor and Publisher, he said that he was getting ready to head out for a short vacation and wouldn't be back until early this week. He said that getting the Tail out would be his first priority when he returned home. My bad all the way around. I promise, I will do a better job in September.

Like all of you I wish this pandemic would come to an end, or at least slow down. The news is not good. The governor has re instituted a number of

measures/restrictions impacting all of us, trying to slow down the spread of the virus, but it's acting like a runaway truck going down hill. From my perspective I am on pins and needles that the county health officer is once again going to close down all the beaches permanently, and if that happens, I am confident the lake will follow suite. When they closed the lake over 4th of July weekend, it was because the beaches were closed at the same time. I want to express my sincere thanks to all of our members that have followed

our Covid19 guidelines out at the field with practicing social distancing by trying to keep a minimum of 6' distance when talking to fellow members, and wearing a face covering when they can. There has only been a few occasions when I have had to remind someone that they are not following these rules. These are truly challenging times and all of us have to be vigilant and respectful of each other, by going the extra mile to ensure we don't contract the virus, and more important, keep from spreading it to a fellow member because we didn't practice good social distancing.

With respect to our by-monthly meetings and our planned events out at the field, they have all come to a screeching halt. The lake has restricted any gatherings of more than 10 people, and there are signs posted all over the park to that affect. As model airplane flyers, we have been exempted from the 10 people rule while flying our planes. They consider us to be similar to fisherman, fishing along the bank of the lake while keeping 6' minimum spacing. All of our flight tables, and along the flight line of designated pilot stations are separated by at least 6'.

Needless to say the July meeting at the Oak View Rec Center has been cancelled. This will be the third business meeting we have cancelled since the pandemic outbreak back in early March. Just as a point of reference, we resumed flying out at the Lake on the 1st of June, then had to shut down over the 4th of July weekend. We have resumed flying for just a little over a month. Thanks to all the members who pitched in to help clean up the field after it sat idle for almost 3 months. With the exception of the runway surface and taxiways, the field is in pretty good shape.

I feel it is important for the health of our club to resume our business meetings, but with Covid19 our hands are tied with conducting meetings at the Rec Center. I was considering a proposal that we pick a day of the week, say the 3rd Saturday of the month that we would have normally met, and conduct a quick business meeting out at the field over in the BBQ area. However, their rule that no gatherings of no more than 10 people negates this. Actually, the more than 10 people rule was established by the county health officer and the Lake is only enforcing it. Bottom line is we can't hold any meetings of the membership, regardless of the location. So, beginning with this issue of the Tale, I will address all the topics that we would have normally addressed in our business meetings. I encourage all of you to send me your thoughts and suggestions on how we can keep our club healthy and active given the burden of dealing with this pandemic. I know this is not the best way to discuss business issues affecting the Club, but I can't come up with a better alternative. Here goes:

Business Topics

New Members: The following folks signed up to become a Comet since our last meeting in January.

Jeff Hall and Jon McConnel. Welcome guys and we hope to see you out at the field soon, if not already.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes: The May meeting was cancelled

Treasurers Report: The July Treasurers Report is attached to this months Tale

Safety Report: There are no new issues to address regarding safety. I have observed since the field has reopened that some of our members continue to not observe safe take off rules (taking off directly from the taxi approach to the runway) and not keeping their model flying in the designated pattern and out beyond the runway. Please be safe when flying and operating you model.

Park Liaison Report: Nothing to report

Old Business:

Tough Shed Project

TJ has started preparing the foundation for our new Tough Shed with the purchase of concrete paving blocks. Many more will have to be purchased and positioned to facilitate the construction of the new shed, which will be located next to the existing shed. If you would like to help out with this effort, see TJ

out at the field or drop him an email. I am sure he would appreciate all the help he can get.

FAA NRPM on Remote ID of UAS

There has been virtually no movement at the FAA on the proposed rule for remote identification of UAS. However, the FAA has sent out notices to those folks who are registered with the FAA as a recreational flyer, that they need to reregister before the end of this year. Go to the FAA Drone Zone website and register if you have not already done so. "<https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/>". Make sure you register as a recreational flyer. You have plenty of time to do this, but don't let old man time sneak up on you and catch you by surprise.

Repair/Repaving the Runway

I was on vacation during the month of June, up in the eastern Sierra chasing trout. I just got back last week and have re-started our effort to repair and fix our runway and taxiways. Because of the lake closure from March through May, we had to suspend this effort with seeking advice and costs from paving contractors. Hopefully we will have a plan of action very soon and will be able to share the details with everybody.

New Business:

I hate to have to bring this subject up, but one of our most respected and a long time member brought this to my attention. A week or so back a confrontation between two of our members took place over the occupation of a flight table. I know we all have a table or parking space that we desire to snag when out at the field, and in most cases we respect each others preferences, but THERE ARE NO RESERVED FLIGHT TABLES OR PARKING SPACES. This policy is applicable to all members, including the president. If you have to have a specific parking space and or flight table and it's occupied when you get to the field, pick another day to fly!

End of Business Topics

Since the Lake has reopened it's great getting back out to the field and flying our planes. For the most part, everything looks like it has in the past, and all of the flyers seem to be having a good time. Other than the short shutdown for the July 4th weekend, the field has been open 7 days a week. The Lake management has been very supportive of our use, management of the model airplane field, and has stopped by on a number of occasions to see how we are doing and to offer their help/assistance with our getting back up and operational. If you haven't been out to the field since its reopening, take a morning and come out for some great fun. Included in this month's issue of the Tale are some pictures of our members, at the field since reopening.

Until we see each other again, safe flying.

George Boston

Tresurer's Report:

VENTURA COUNTY COMETS			
PERIOD <u>22 MAY 2020</u> TO <u>16 JULY 2020</u>			
CLUB ACCOUNT	THIS PERIOD		
CHECKING - \$18,429.80	EXPENSES -	\$426.06	
CHECKS - \$ 50.00	INCOME -	\$ 200.00	
CASH - \$ -0-			
	<u>\$ 18,729.80</u>		
TOTAL -		MEMBERSHIP -	84(79)
2019-78	2017-93	2018-86	
2013-78	2014-86	2015-83	2016-92

Who's Man Cave is this?









AMA Charter Club #173

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