

The Comets' Tale

***The Official
Newsletter of the***



June 2012

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Bored of Directors

George Boston, Mike Ambarian, Dale Nash, Alastair Brennan, TJ Moran

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: 7:00 PM,
Thursday, 21 June, at the
Oak View Community Center... We Get Pizza!**

Coming Up!

Saturday, 23 June
Comets Quaker Day and
Balloon Drop at Lake Casitas

Sunday, 24 June
Glider & Electric Fun Fly
Camarillo Flying Circus

Saturday, 30 June
Warbird Day at Channel
Islands Condor Field
All Clubs Welcome

First Sunday of each Month
Open House at Santa Paula
Airport

A Word From Dale:

Last month's meeting was short and sweet. We had the drawing for the Katana plane. It was won by Berny Hammer. The club made \$100 off the profits of the raffle.

Next meeting will be pizza and sandwiches and the FREE drawing. The red attendance tickets that you put in each month will be put in the lucky machine. Remember, YOU MUST be there to win.

Pres. George is still on his trip. He was leaving Florida, heading North. Do you think we will recognize him when he finally shows up?

We still have Float Fly T-shirts for sale. If you would like one, please let Marilyn know.

See you all at the big meeting next week.

Your acting Pres. Dale

Small gas and Electric Fun fly – Were you there?

Alastair Brennan

The schedulers couldn't have picked a nicer day. Sunny, warm and the winds stayed down which was good for the small planes. And we had a fair amount of people.



TJ

Moran and Ron Scott and an electric U-Can-Do-3D



P-82

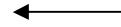
I thought one of the stand-out planes was the Dan Elsasser's Nitro Planes P-82. Ok it's an ARF, so no builder's bonus points, but the fit and finish was great; really a nice looking piece. Complete with factory installed retracts. If you know Dan, he of course made it electric power. You still got that twin-engine resonance as it flew.



Dan Elsasser's P-82



George Lanquist and a powered glider



Jake Hooper and his Cub



We had a couple of those Park-Zone-ish flyers too. The little planes got to enjoys the expanse instead of the usual constraints of a playground. I always think it is funny looking to see these tiny planes using the regular runway. They can take off in 6 inches and land/stop in 12. With a little practice I bet you could take off and land on the hat of one of the peanut gallery's members. Always fun to have those little planes at the field.

And speaking of... we had the "row of ridicule", "the peanut gallery", the Simon Cowels of the model airplane field. Who were grading take-offs, landings, and even their own comments and tall tales with the usual, "Are you serious", You gotta be kidding me", I was waiting for a "Forget about it"...maybe next time.



Ron Scott brought a nice looking foam P-47. Flew nice. Initially the scale-looking prop gave Ron trouble, but he swapped it for a classic 2-blade wood one and was up, up and away.

Mike and Steve Steinmetz brought the tri-tip, on cue at 11:00. This was the leftovers from the Float Fly. We had rolls to make sandwiches, potato salad salsa and chips.



Lunch time!!!

Low -key events like these are always fun. No contest pressure. Show-up and bring others next time will ya?

MINUTES of the May 2012 meeting

The meeting was called to order at exactly 7:30 by VP Dale. Dale was in again for the vacationing George Boston.

We had 15 members in attendance. The minutes were approved and Treasurer TJ Moran told us that we made a couple bucks from the Float Fly. This included proceeds from lunch and the t-shirts/sweatshirts sales. From what I heard the new Comets clothing line was a hit. If you didn't get a shirt let us know. Marilyn and Sandy are handling the garb.

We have 73 members signed up. We finished last year with just over 80 members, so we are a few members under the mark.

The Safety and Park Liaison representatives were not present.

Old Business

President update: Out until July. He does check in with his VP. So if you want to hear stories of his travels ask Dale.

Ventura County Fair: Last year our club hosted a booth for a few days. Members spent staffing the booth. The club saw this as an opportunity to draw some new members. The result was poor. And looking towards August it was put to vote and the club decided to not repeat this effort at the fair for 2012.

We have guests at the field August 31 – September 3. The flying field will be closed due to this non-Comets event. The guests' plan is to camp like we do when there is a Float Fly. We have a collective worry that the campers may park on the runway and damage it. We have a two pronged attack for this.

1) One club member has offered to stand guard as the guests arrive. 2) One club member is looking into the cost of some temporary fencing.

Float Fly: A thanks went out to everyone that helped. Sounds like the event went off smoothly.

New Business

Two days following the meeting will be the small gas and electric fun fly (5/19). Complete with free lunch. Hope you make it. The group volunteered TJ to be the voice of reason and run the show.

The field was mowed by a couple members recently.

We introduced a new position for the club: The Sunshine Person. The duties are to let others know who is doing poorly (health, accident, etc). Marilyn Nash is taking on the responsibilities for now. However this means that if you hear that about another club member not doing well, pass it on to Marilyn so she can help.

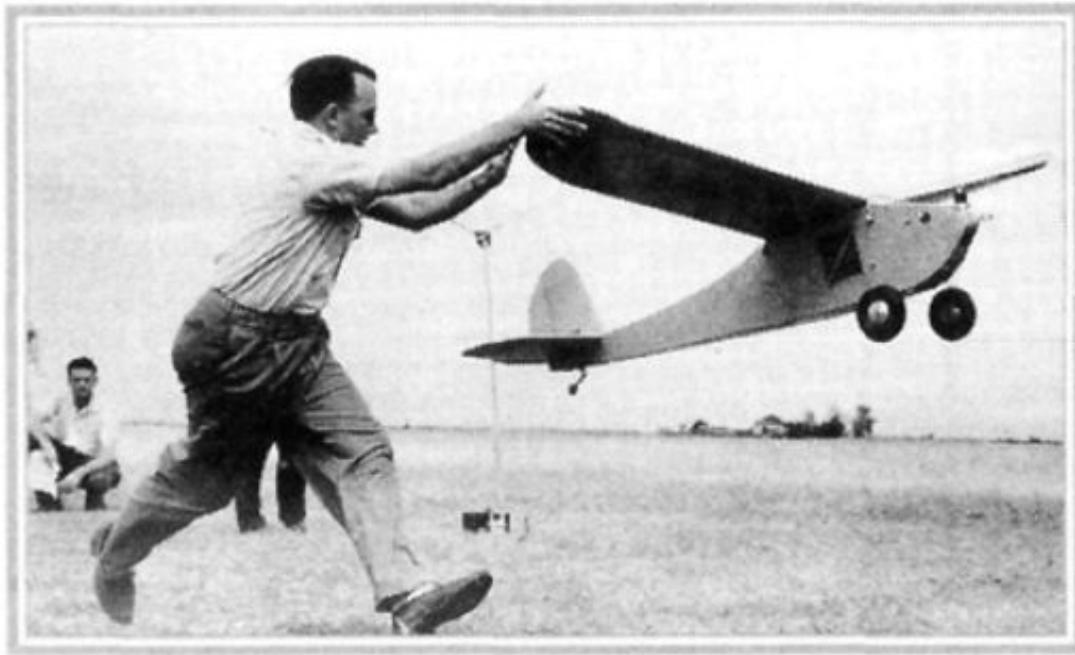
We raffled off the Katana 50. This was the plane that had the limited number of tickets

June meeting: The mid-year get together. Dinner will be provided - pizza and submarine sandwiches. There will also be a free raffle. Stop by for some food and yakking; bring a plane to show off.

Lastly we had the usual raffle, after the usual coffee break and cookies. Some people walked away with some nice stuff.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08

Respectfully Submitted, *Alastair Brennan*



MYSTERY PLANE!

I didn't hear from anybody on this one. I'll bet some of the old timers recognized Walt Good and the model he called Guff. Walt's brother Bill is the pilot, you can see his feet under Walt. This is likely the first really successful radio control model, first flew in AMA competition in 1937. This photo was shot at the 1947 Nationals.

Here's another Mystery Plane, sent to me by Bob Root, who got the photo from his buddy Eloy Marez. I removed the registration number off the tail. Actually, Bob and Eloy both didn't know what this plane was, and neither did I. I cheated and looked up the number. This one is pretty obscure, but it really was an airplane and did some flying.



Here's a photo of TJ Moran's Super Quaker dropping 126 eggs. Steve Pfister and I were so proud when we dropped a dozen eggs from the top of his Quaker years ago. TJ sure has us beat. And I know for a fact that the local seagulls love it when something like this happens. Actually, I like it too, especially since TJ is buying the eggs. And the Coverite.