

The Comets' Tale

*The Official
Newsletter of the*



March 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,
18 March, 7:30 PM at the Oak View
Community Center



**Coming
Up!**

April 9-11
Santa Barbara R/C
Modelers' Float Fly at
Lake Cachuma

April 17 & 18
Comets Float Fly at Lake
Casitas

**1st Sunday of Each
Month**
Open House at Santa
Paula Airport
(except April)

ROOT'S RAMBLING

In February I attended the pre WW-II informal fly-in put on by the Channel Island Condors. It was a nice laid back affair. Not too many airplanes, but those in attendance seemed to have a good time. I enjoyed showing off my new 1/4 scale Curtiss R3C-1 racer. It really flies nicely.

I took a few pictures to show everyone what they missed. Picture 1 includes a Jenny, a Fokker D-VII, a Fokker Dr-I triplane, and a Cub. These are typical scale models of airplanes which were around before WWII.



1



2

The big Jenny shown in picture 2 is actually an ARF. It seemed to be a good flyer.

A well finished ¼ scale Nieuport 28 built from a Balsa USA kit is shown near touchdown in picture 3.



3



4

Another nice looking and flying model is the Super Stearman shown in pictures 4 and 5.



5



I'm not sure what the name of the airplane in picture 6 is, but it is a scale WW-I two place fighter. The model was designed and built by Nate Rambo. Unfortunately he couldn't get the engine started (it ran fine last time!).

A nice little electric powered WACO is shown taking off and landing in pictures 7 and 8.



Another nice electric powered model is the Taylorcraft shown in picture 9.



My 1/4 scale 1925 Curtiss R3C-1 racer is shown in picture 10.



10



11

The Condors club has a neat portable kitchen built into a trailer as shown in picture 11. They served a great breakfast at this event. There were a lot of Condor club members helping to make this a very enjoyable event for all the attendees.

I thought I would include a few pictures of new airplanes I've seen out at the field lately. Don Ashworth bought the Shoestring shown in picture 12 and 13 from one of the raffle winners at the club Christmas party.



12



13

He powers it with an OS .46 and although I don't have a picture of it in the air yet, it flies very well.



14

Now that TJ Moran has retired we see him out at the field on Tuesdays. I shot a nice picture of his electric 3D machine (picture 14).

The last two pictures (15 and 16) show the Edge 540 I bought on sale from Cermark at the AMA show in January.



15



16

Powered by a Mark 2.1 cu.in. engine and weighing 13 ¼ lb., it is the best flying airplane I've ever flown!

Bob Root

February 2010 Minutes

The Comet meeting was called to order by President George Boston on February 18, at 7:30 PM, at the Oak View Community Center.

January's meeting was cancelled due to rain and there were no minutes to approve for last month. The last meeting held was November and those minutes were approved. We had 1 new member – Dave Berthianume and 2 guests – Eric Mason and Dave Murphy.

Treasurers' Report: We have 55 members and finances are in good shape. Emery Balasa's Treasurer's report was approved.

Field Marshall/Safety Officer: Mike Ambarian reported the resealing of the field is already flaking off. He will be applying patching material.

Park Liaison: Ken Marsh reports all is good.

Old Business:

No news on the plane that was going to be donated to the Club. The matter is considered a dead issue.

New Business:

George Boston gave his views of his duties as President of the Comets. He views himself as facilitator, interfacing with the Lake, following up to make sure information is relayed, keep things moving, bring concerns up and share thoughts. He is looking forward to the next 2 years as our President.

Everybody is reminded that dues are due at the end of the year for the next year. If you haven't paid for 2010, and intend to stay a member, please see Treasurer Emery Balasa. The gates combination has been changed and, once your dues are current, Emery will provide members with the new combination.

Ron Scott reviewed the schedule of events. It was suggested the October meeting be moved from the 21st to the 14th, followed by the Float Fly on October 16 and 17th. Ken Marsh is verifying the Cross Country run will not be happening the same weekend and Emery Balasa is checking to make sure the room at the Community Center will be available.

Ron suggested we get another Contest Director certified by AMA to increase our CDs to 4 to step in for future events when needed. Any showing interest should see George Boston for details.

Bud Scolari reminded all that the speed limit at the lake is 15 MPH.

Members were asked to provide pictures so the web site could be updated with more recent shots. Don Sorensen is our Webmaster. Jerry Deanda also stated he would accept contributions for the newsletter.

Model of the Month:

We had two Model of the Month entries: 1) Leo Gabriels brought in a Fourstick 40 which weights 4 1/2 pounds and contains an OS .46 engine. And 2) Bernie Hammer won with his 1933 Messerschmitt Bf 108 weighing 8 lbs 4 oz. with a .91 engine.

The raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Sandy Billings



Photo by Bob Root

A note to the Comets from former Comet John Strobel III:

To the Editor of Comets' Tale; I don't know whether you noticed it or not but on Saturday March 6th, the obituary for Arthur (Art) "Bud" Chaffee was in the Star. The reason this should be of interest to you is that Art was a charter member of the original "Ventura Comets Model Airplane Club" formed in 1950. In those days we flew U-Control on a grassy field at Ventura High School, between the auditorium and the cafeteria (That field is now covered by the music building) but as the club's first president I thought you might like to know that one of the pioneers in U-Control and Radio Control model airplane flying has left us. Art flew about every Ukie that was available at the time but the one he was most remembered for was a bright red A. J. Walker Fireball. He did things with that airplane that amazed us. Art was a true pioneer and innovator in modeling. He was the first one at the old High School flying field with a third wire engine control, he flew R/C with every new issue of equipment from the old Bonner escapements and a Mule transmitter and receiver to the first reed R/C edition seen in the county. He progressed through all of the radio equipment through the years but took advantage of being able to fly on his own ranch on Santa Clara Avenue near Saticoy. As the 1st president of the old "Ventura Comets Model Airplane Club" I thought you would like to know that one of the founders of model aviation in Ventura County is no longer with us.

Sincerely,
John W. Strobel III

For Sale; Sig Spacewalker 1/3 Scale, including an installed Zenoh G-45, 2-Stroke Gasoline Engine. \$300 or best offer.

Contact Dale Nash 805-532-1433

For Sale; Two used Futaba (72 MHz) 6XAs Super 6 channel PCM/PPM selectable transmitters with up-graded batteries, including two Futaba R138DP receivers.

\$125 for the TRX & RX as a set, or both sets (2-TRX's & 2-RX's for \$200)

Contact Dale Nash 805-532-1433

For Sale; One used, Futaba (72 MHz, 7 channel) 7CAP Digital proportional R/C transmitter, including a Futaba R138DP receiver.

\$200

Contact Dale Nash 805-532-1433



Mystery Plane!

Do you know
what this is?