

The Comets Tale



**March
2017**

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Board of Directors

George Boston, Dale Nash, TJ Moran, George Languist,
Lynn Breedlove

Instructor Pilots:

Dave Fishman, 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 Count Comets, AMA Chartered Club #173 and is published monthly at the Comets' Tale Lair, in Agoura Hills, CA.

Editorial contributions are always welcome.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:30 PM

At the Oak View Community Center

**Upcoming
Events:**



April 22; Fun Fly & BBQ

May 20; Electric Fly & Glow-power

June 17; Quaker Fun Fly & Ballon Drop

President's Message:

A subject that I know is dear to all of us is the horrible condition of our parking lot and the road leading to the field. When I served as president a few years back, for 3 consecutive years I tried in vain to get the lake maintenance crew to fill, grade and compact the approach road. We did get them to clean up the parking lot, but it took forever. Because of the recent rains and lack of maintenance, the facilities are in the worst shape they have ever been. There isn't a day that goes by when I am out at the field, that someone complains to me about the parking lot, and justifiably so. I spoke to the head of the facilities maintenance unit and asked if he could get a tractor over to the field and

grade the parking lot, in addition to taking care of the approach road. His response was very positive and he said that they would try to get to it in the next week. That was two weeks back, and still no action. This morning (3/13) I went over to the lake, hat in hand to ask when they will get our parking lot fixed. They were apologetic and said they would try their best to get it done within the next week. They do have legitimate competing priorities. I am sure that you have seen the piles of fill dirt all along the main road leading to the back of the lake. Their are also some dirt piles up on the hill sides. This dirt is coming from the county and

the lake only has a few days left using the county grading equipment to get it spread and compacted. They can't tackle our parking lot until they get this job done.

During the Thursday night meeting TJ is going to present a plan to rent a tractor for a day and just do it ourselves. The lake does not have a problem with us doing the job ourselves, but asked that before we sign a rental agreement for the tractor, we check with them first to make sure they don't have specific plans to do the grading in the next few days. This is a high priority for us, and rest assured we will get it done one way or another. I appreciate your patience with all of this. Because we are not a money making enterprise at the lake, we fall well down the pecking order for facilities care and maintenance.

At last months meeting Dave Fishman proposed having an auction of flying equipment donated by Alastair Brennan, and Vince Masa who passed away last year, and his estate is donating all of his planes and flying gear to the club. We were going to delay having this auction for a few months; however, circumstances now require us to hold the auction at this Thursday's meeting. After we have wrapped up all of our normal business we will conduct the auction. So bring lost of money, and be prepared to stick around for 30 minutes or more to take advantage of some great buys. See ya there.

Safe flying,, George Boston

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting was called to order by club President George Boston at 7:30 pm.

Guests & new members

We had a guest this evening whose name is Walter Kalinoski. Welcome Walter. Walter related his history of modeling and stated that he hasn't modeled in some time, but now had the urge to resume. Pres. Gerorge stated that the club had trainer planes and buddy box radios and he was welcome to come out to the field and one of our trainers would help him get started again.

Pres. George discussed the Santa Barbara situation regarding the loss of their flying field. We have had an influx of S.B. club members join our club and they are more than welcome. However the search for a new flying field continues.

Meeting Minutes for January

Meeting minutes were approved by the members present.

Treasures` Report

Treasurer T.J. Moran gave the Treasurer`s Report and it showed quite a positive increase in funds. The Treasury seems to be in good shape for now.

Field/Park Report

George Lanquist reported that there hasn't been any problems.

The parking lot and entry are getting worse due to rain run-off and may get worse yet with the coming storms.

Pres. George suggested that members call the park to see if the model field is accessible.

New Business

President George Boston discussed and/or revised this years schedule and made corrections with the input help of the members present.

Dave Fishman scheduled meeting auction for items donated by members. Members present agreed that the April meeting would be the auction. It was decided that no raffle would be held for April.

Old Business

TJ Moran put together a history of raffle profit vs. loss: result was that for the last 5 years, raffles lost approx.. 1500 dollars per year.

V.P.Dale Nash passed around a list of catagories for members to put an "X" beside the type of items they would like to see to make the raffles more interesting.

Also Dale Nash reviewed things he had done or tried with the raffles. Result (can`t please everyone)

Discussion about our raffles from eliminating them or keeping even though they lose money. Pres. George stated that he enjoyed the raffles and was in favor of keeping them.

It was related that Dave Berthiaume was our new Tale editor and was doing a good job. He has request-ed input such as stories etc. to add to the tale.

Dave Fishman told the story Alaster Brennen`s modeling history and his contribution to the club over the years. He will be added to the "club plaque" in recognition.

Model of the Month

No model of the month.

Raffle

Raffle took place and good stuff was won by good modelers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Lynn Breedlove, Secretary

Lake Casitas Musings

I've studied the Casitas Lake water levels over the last couple of years and correlated to our last Float Fly October 2014. Basis: Casitas at 100% of capacity holds 254,000 acre-feet of water at the full level of 567 feet above sea-level.

Today the lake was at 42.32% of capacity at a level of 498.32 feet above sea-level. This calculates to 107,492 acre-feet of water.

Our last float fly was October 2014, and at that time the lake was at about 133,000 acre-feet, or about 52% of capacity.

We cancelled the April 2015 float fly, and at that time the lake was at about 124,000 acre-feet, or about 49% of capacity. It is implied we need the lake to be somewhat at or above 52% capacity for us to have a Float Fly.

We need another 25,000 acre-feet of water, or about another 10% of capacity.

TJ

Several members of the Ventura County Comets (some of whom are also SBRCM members) have taken an interest in flying Quickie 500's. The flying is completely informal:

- No callers
- No turn judges
- 2 turn pylons about 475 feet apart
- Just about any engine in a Quickie 500 airframe

It is strictly for-fun racing. We have had up to 4 airplanes in the air at once. Dub Jett (a well-known pylon racer) once said, "Racing with 2 or 3 other airplanes around a course is 10 times more "experience" than practice cruising around the course alone." I believe it! The Quickie 500's, while fast and having good handling qualities for racing, in no way resemble any full sized aircraft. One of the local RC pilots, Bob Root, a pylon racer from the past, also has a love of scale aircraft, and has designed and kitted a .25 powered scale model of the 1930's racer, a Keith Rider R-4 Firecracker. The model has a 54 inch wingspan and about a 50 inch long fuselage. With a .25 power plant, it is not too "scary" to fly as are the higher powered Quickie 500's. Bob made a mold and produces fiberglass fuselages, cuts foam wing cores, and can supply most all of other airframe parts needed along with a set of plans and written instructions. Bob has built and flown the prototype, and there are 5 other airframes under construction by Comets Club members. I have one under construction and should have it flying in another month or two. I'm using an old GMS .25 engine that seems to run OK.

TJ Moran / Bob Root







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