

# The Comets Tale



**March 2019**

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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, **March 21, 2019 7:00 PM**

## At the Oak View Community Center



### President's Message:

Hello everyone. As I write this message I am sitting in my mothers home in North Las Vegas caring for her (93 years young) and my stepfather who had hip replacement surgery the end of January. Consequently I haven't been out to the field in almost a month, and haven't had a chance to play with my planes. I hope to be back home by early March and I am really looking forward to getting back out to the field. With all the rain storms that have passed through Southern Cal over the past month, which we really need, I hear that the lake water level has risen more than 10'. Wow, this is wonderful news. I hope none of you have experienced any problems as a result of the

storms, and the field has not suffered from too much erosion to the parking lot and access road.

As I am writing my message, an email came in from AMA headquarters communicating a federal policy that we all need to comply with. This is the opening text of the message:

"We're writing to let you know the FAA issued an Interim Final Rule today that will require drone pilots and model aircraft pilots to display their FAA-issued registration number on the outside surface of their aircraft. The rule will take effect on Monday, February 25, which means the markings must be in place for any outdoor flight beginning on that date." Please take care of this immediately. AMA may begin enforcing this requirement through your liability insurance issued by AMA. That is, no number on the aircraft, no insurance coverage.

We had a great meeting in January. Everybody seemed to have a good time, especially with the silent auction of George Lanquist's remaining flying gear, building stuff and airplanes. At the March meeting TJ will give us an update on how much money was raised at the auction. All of the proceeds were turned over to George's wife Carrah. There were excellent buys and many left with their car packed to the roof. We finalized the Flying Events Calendar for 2019, and it is attached to this newsletter. In lieu of the Electric Fun Fly held in May, we will now be holding a Glider Fun Fly. All other events remain the same. As new business, I also proposed that we stand up a ad hoc committee to address the need to establish a comprehensive policy for flying drones. Included would be a designated flying area, safety rules and type of aircraft permitted. Volunteering to serve on the committee were Jim Polk, Ron Scott, Dave Fishman and myself. I have also extended an invitation to Brandon Thompson to join the committee, but have yet to hear back from him. Given that the lake management has adopted a waiver policy for flying drones, put us in charge of managing it, and designated that drones may only be flown at our flying site, we need a more structured approach for management and oversight of drone technology.

Also at the January meeting, for Model of the Month Bob Root presented a powered glider he built from a kit he bought at the AMA Show this past January. He won model of the month for his effort, and shared a really interesting story of the plane and his experience building and flying it. I asked Bob to prepare a short write up of his presentation, with pictures for publishing in the Tale. Following my message is Bob's write up. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

On a final note the next meeting is set for 21 March at 7pm, and if you haven't already taken care of it, your annual membership dues are DUE. Please make a note on your calendar and plan to attend the March meeting. Thank all of you for your continued support to our Club. Safe flying, and I hope to see you out at the field soon.

**George Boston, President**

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### **January 2019 Meeting Minutes**

There was a new member, Steve Smith who joined us at the meeting.

Alastair (that's me) was introduced as the new Secretary and thanks went out to Lynn B for serving as Secretary for the last three years.

The November meeting minutes were approved and the Treasurer reported that funds are in good shape. Recent expenses were noted as the Christmas dinner and raffle. Membership stands at 43 (this includes 6 lifetime members).

There was no news from the Safety Officer

President and Park Liaison George brought up that the field is occasionally being left unsecured. Other club members have found items such as, the gate, the shed, and frequency board unlocked. So far there has been no vandalism. We are asked/reminded to be vigilant; make sure other club members know how to lockup all the items.

There has been no progress on the additional storage shed. Pres. George will follow-up this month with an email to Lake Management.

The Christmas party was mentioned. Thanks to all that attended. Thanks to Bernie and Bo for putting together the raffle and especially to Marilyn and Dale for coordinating the event.

There is no major change to the FAA Reauthorization Act.

The group reviewed the 2019 calendar of events (thanks to Ron Scott for drafting the calendar). It was noted that we should have a volunteer coordinator for each event that would be responsible for promoting the event and coming up with possible programs to make the event more interesting, including prizes. Look for Ron Scott's calendar of events via email.

Additionally it was suggested that we promote group participation at events hosted by other clubs, perhaps carpool to the events.

Pres. George brought up that we consider promoting drone flying. This is to attract new members and to embrace how the hobby has expanded (including FPV). The club should define a drone flying space that may include an obstacle course for fun fly competition. We need to promote the flying site, encourage guests/visitors to make use of the facility and consider joining the club. This discussion concluded with members volunteering to establish a committee to develop a plan for this. The committee members are, George Boston, Ron Scott, Jim Poke and Dave Fishman.

Model of the Month:

Bob Root brought in a "Cumulus", a kit produced by Carl Goldberg. Electric-powered and weighs 27oz... about the same weight as the same model Bob built in 1951.

Dave Fishman wants to make another model airplane float for the Ojai 4th of July parade. If you are interested find Dave.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21

The next meeting is Mar 21 @7pm. Dinner will be served.

Post meeting there was an auction for the remainder of George Lanquist's hobby collection. A lot of deals were made.

Reminder: Club dues are do.

**Respectfully,  
Alastair**



Bob Root, Cumulus Freeflight

In the summer of 1951 I was 14 getting ready for high school in Portland Oregon. The Portland Stardusters club I belonged to held a free flight contest every year and this model was one I built to compete. I powered it with either a K&B .19 In AMA class A or with a K&B .23 to compete in class B. This model was always a favorite of mine although not as successful as other designs I competed with. At the AMA show in November I found someone selling an original Carl Goldberg kit from this era for half the price they usually go for in this day and age. I couldn't pass it up so the second picture shows the results. It's been a long time since I built a kit with die cut (crunch) parts. The hobby has come a long way. It is R/C controlled (rudder, elevator, and motor) with electric power. It weighs a little under 27 ounces which I think is close to the glow powered free flight model weight in 1951. First flights show I have a great flying machine with good soaring potential (and it looks great).

Bob Root



What is that??



AMA Charter Club #173

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