

The Comets Tale



March 2021

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Board of Directors

George Boston, Berny Hammer, TJ Moran,
Alastair Brenman

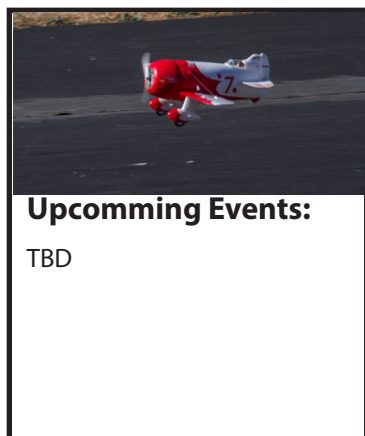
Instructor Pilots:

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:

In prior messages I have addressed practices of not flying safely that I have observed at the field, or have been told about by fellow members. I usually end my message with a note of "safe flying". What I am about to share with you is a testament of how an otherwise normal, beautiful flying day can go to hell!

I have been trying to get a new, never flown size 90 Ultimate in the air for well over a month. It's powered by an OS 120 four stroke glow engine, swinging an 18" prop. I have had continuous engine problems with it and was confident I had them resolved, and would be successful getting it in the air. It was early Tuesday morning, February 2nd. I use a restraining device on the table

when starting and warming up my planes before taxing out to the runway. After starting the engine, walking around to the back of the table to remove the glow starter, then returning to the front of the table to adjust the high speed needle valve, I stuck my right fingers into the spinning prop! I didn't reach over or around the prop, but tried to reach through it to grab the needle valve. I have no explanation why I did this. I attribute it to a lapse of conscious awareness of what I was doing.

I severely cut my middle finger, cutoff about an inch of my ring finger, and almost lost my little finger. Greg Newland took me to emergency at Ojai Community hospital. From there I was sent to Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura. I was released after they sewed up my middle finger, with instructions to see an orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand injuries. I have since had surgery to repair cut tendons in my little finger and had the remaining portion of my ring finger removed that was mutilated by the prop. I am currently in a brace to keep me from re-injuring the repaired tendons and will not get out of it until the end of March. I am in physical therapy and it will be months before my right hand fingers get back to normal use. Beyond being very traumatic, the pain and swelling is constant, but getting better. Having only one hand has been a real challenge.

I am not looking for sympathy, and please don't feel like you need to send me your good wishes. Many of you already have. Anytime one of our members has an accident we all feel sorry for them and hope for their quick recovery. I share my accident with you to emphasize how, in a matter of seconds we can put our health and lives in jeopardy when we fail to be safe when flying and operating our models.

I am embarrassed, angry with myself, and just can't believe that I now have to deal with this situation for what appears to be many months ahead. All because I let my concentration fail. I have been flying RC for over 20 years and at least that many more flying control line airplanes. I have never experience a prop strike. I have always thought of myself as being safe and conscientious when at the field, but "sh**" happens to the best of us, and sometimes we don't get a second chance. It could have been much worse. I am grateful that I am left handed and can still get most things done, although it has taken hours to type this message one handed! PLEASE BE SAFE

The county health officer mandate of prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people is still in effect. So the March 2021 Comets business meeting is cancelled. Here is my update of business issues affecting the club:

New Members:

We have three new members. Richard McCandless, Christian Morris and his son Connor Morris. Welcome to the club guys. Hope to see you out at the field soon.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes:

The January meeting was cancelled

Treasurers Report:

The March 2021 Treasurers Report is attached to this months Tale

Safety Report:

I am not aware of any significant events at the field, other than my personal experience shared above. Please be safe when operating your model.

Park Liaison Report:

Nothing to report

Old Business:

FAA NRPM on Remote ID of UAS

The FAA has issued the final rule on the requirement for remote ID of UAS. Activity is underway to finalize mandatory testing requirements for all UAS pilots. The AMA will be delegated authority by the FAA to test AMA members and report results back to the FAA. It is my understanding this will be a "no-fail" test.

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Repair/Repaving the Runway

We have a paving contract with Smith - Patterson paving located in Ventura. Details regarding the contract and actions that have to be performed, both before and after the paving work were communicated in an email sent out to the membership on 3-11-21. If you did not receive a copy of this email please let me know (gboston25294@roadrunner.com) and I will send you another copy. The date to perform the paving work has not yet been set, but we anticipate the paving will be accomplished before the end of March.

New Business:

As I stated in the January Tale, it's that time of year to renew your AMA membership, and pay your club dues for 2021. Also, if you have not already done so, you need to renew your FAA Small UAS Certificate of Registration. It expired 12 December 2020. On 1 April the combination numbers will be changed on the gates. If you have not renewed your membership you will not have access to the field. You will also be removed from the distribution list for receipt of the Tale, and for email updates.

Calendar of Flying Events:

To the best of my knowledge, no events are scheduled for 2021 because of Covid 19 restrictions. As I become aware of events, I will share them through email.

End of Business Topics

Thanks again for your continued help and support to our club. It is sincerely appreciated by me and all the members of the Board. Safe flying.

George Boston, President

Treasurer's Report:

VENTURA COUNTY COMETS			
PERIOD 11 JAN. 2021 TO 11 MAR. 2021			
CLUB ACCOUNT		THIS PERIOD	
CHECKING	\$38,263.79	EXPENSES	\$210.40
CHECKS	\$ - 0 -	INCOME	\$4,487.00
CASH	\$ - 0 -		
TOTAL	\$38,263.79	2021	
2019-78	2017-93	MEMBERSHIP	7000
2013-78	2014-86	2020-85	
	2015-83	2016-92	



**The following photos
are from member Luke
Ackerman.**





The following airplane is for sale:

Quique Signature Series 85 inch, semi scale Yak-54 with a DA 50 engine.

Contact: Nick Hydesmith, email: nhydesmith@sbcglobal.net , Phone: 805-699-8166







AMA Charter Club #173

Ventura County Comets
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