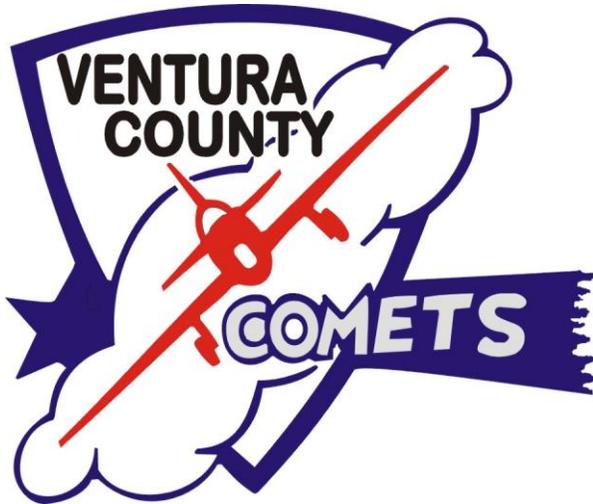


The Comet's Tale



March 2024

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Greg Nowland, Alastair Brennan

The Comet's Tale is the official newsletter and record of the Ventura County Comets AMA Charter Club #173 and is published every other month at the Comet's Tale Lair in Camarillo, CA. Editorial contributions are always welcome.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 21, 2024,

7:00 dinner, 7:30 Meeting

At the Oak View Community Center

Prez Sez:

The hills are green, the lake is over 90% full, and snakes are coming out of the ground. That's right. A rattlesnake was spotted this week around our transmitter impound box. Snakes like shady places, under buildings, porta-potties, heavy shrubs. Be alert when retrieving downed planes.

Here is some advice if you do encounter a rattlesnake:

1. Remain calm and do not panic
2. Do not try to kill the snake
3. Do not throw anything at the snake, like rocks or sticks
4. Alert people to the snake's location
5. Keep your dog on a leash
6. If you hear a rattle, don't jump or panic

Our next club meeting is Thursday, March 21, at the Oak View Community Center. Pizza and subs from Ojai Pizza at 7:00. Meeting starts at 7:30.

The April Float Fly has been sanctioned by the AMA and just last month, the FAA granted AMA members the ability to operate without broadcasting remote ID information at AMA sanctioned vents. George Boston can give us all an update at the meeting.

If you haven't paid your club dues yet, remember the combo for the gates and shed will be changed on April 1st.

Please remember to always roll the combo numbers when closing a lock, and never share the combo with anyone who is not a member.

See you all at the meeting,

Jeff Hall

Meeting Minutes:

The usual dinner of pizza and sandwiches started at 7:00.

Meeting started at 7:28. Kicked off by the new President Jeff. There were 21 people present which included 2 guests.

The Comets event calendar is released, and this was added to the county-wide events calendar, which was also released. If you did not get a copy of the calendar, contact Jeff or me.

Resealing the runway was brought up. George B. is heading this up and he and a representative from the paving company plan to meet to review and discuss. We are at the three-year anniversary of the repaving.

The previous meeting's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report was given by the VP as the Treasurer was out. Funds are in good standing. So far we have 39 paid members.

A reminder to pay your dues was mentioned.

Safety report: Remember to not take off before the 3 lines on the runway (when taking off right to left). You can accelerate (apply full throttle) before the three lines, just don't leave the runway before the 3 lines. (take photo)

Park Liaison: George will to walk and talk with Park staff to review the area. George will fill out the AMA paperwork to make it a sanctioned event. There may be the need for a temporary FRIAN to host the event outside of the authorized area.

Discussed handicap parking at the field. Perhaps create a designated spot at the end of the line-up of tables (at the BBQ end).

New business

The EDF fun fly was moved to the following weekend (Jan 27).

We had a couple show and tells. Bob R discussed fiber-glassing and Dan talked the Spektrum remote I.D. module (~\$99 from Horizon hobby)

There is a Fun fly, Feb 24th

The meeting dismissed at 8:34

T.J.'s Tips

Now that our wonderful Lake Casitas is over 90% full, more of our RC model flights will be overflying the rising water. As we all know, stuff happens, and our models sometimes end up in the lake. The damage can range from minor to very bad, which can include losing an expensive engine or other component.

A safety cable between the engine or component and a firm piece of the aircraft structure (I usually use the aft wing mount area) can help save the part. The cable should be at least 100 pounds test. I personally like to use braided Kevlar: strong steel fishing leader will also work well.

Another application of a safety cable is using stainless steel safety wire between the muffler and its glow engine. Safety cables can be employed with glow, gas, or electric. It is a minimal weight penalty, and inexpensive “insurance.”



Engine



Aft Wing Mount

Upcoming Events

March 23rd - Glider fly Event, 2 contests, BBQ at Lake Casitas

April: 19th-21st - Lake Casitas Float Fly

Comet's Facebook Page: [Comets RC Club and Airfield at Lake Casitas](#)

