

The Comets' Tale

*The Official
Newsletter of the*



May 2012

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Bored of Directors

George Boston, Mike Ambarian, Dale Nash, Alastair Brennan, TJ Moran

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: 7:30 PM,
Thursday, 17 May, at the
Oak View Community Center**



**Coming
Up!**

Saturday, 19 May
Comets Electric, Small
Gas Fun Fly and Lunch
at Lake Casitas

Sunday, 20 May
Fun Fly and BBQ,
Camarillo Flying Circus

First Sunday of each
Month
Open House at Santa
Paula Airport

A Word From Dale:

Once again we had a successful Float Fly. This success was all due to our great group of volunteers! We had all our bases covered and things ran smoothly. Thanks to all who helped make this a fun time for all.

We were slightly down on attendance but still managed to pull off a profit. The weather was good. The usual crashes, what would a Float Fly be without them! TJ managed to win several prizes, he must have been wearing his lucky underwear.

The Katana will be raffled off at this month's meeting, all tickets have been sold.

Don't forget the Electric Fun Fly on May 19th. We will also be serving a tri tip sandwich lunch and contest prizes.

See you all at this month's meeting.

Acting Prez. Dale

Root's Rambling

The Comets held a great Float Fly April 20, 21, and 22. We lucked out on the weather. It was terrible the weekend before but nice for our event. Scotty took pictures 1 & 2 showing the field from his Cessna L-19 on Saturday afternoon.



1



2

It was beautiful on Friday, foggy Saturday morning but cleared up by 10:00. It stayed nice for the rest of the weekend.



3



4

Tom Wolf brought his big Boeing Clipper. It is shown in pictures 4 & 5. I know I have shown pictures of it in the past, but it's a favorite of many of us.



5



6

TJ finally finished the floats for his new Funtana as shown in pictures 6 & 7. He had engine problems initially, but when he got them sorted out the plane flew great.



8

The fellow in picture 8 (I didn't get his name) brought three large unusual scale models. These included the four engine Martin flying boat he has flown at our float fly in the past, the



7

Grumman Duck shown in pictures 8, 9, & 10,



9



and the unusual early biplane shown in pictures 11, 12, & 13. It handled the rough afternoon water surprisingly well.



As with most fly-ins there were a lot of Piper Cubs. They came in all sizes, one of which is shown in picture 14. There was also one with the smoke system shown in picture 15.



The red Fokker (really an Antic) shown in picture 16 was a good flyer which handled the afternoon wind with no problem.



Pictures 18, 19, and 20 were taken by TJ Moran and give an overview of some of the activity.





We hope to see the regulars and a few new faces at our October Float Fly. You will enjoy it.

I want to thank all the club members who came out to help run this event. We got a lot of compliments. As always the Steinmetz brothers did a fantastic job on the barbeque.

I also want to thank George Lanquist (picture 21) who spent a good part of the day in his boat rescuing models that couldn't make it back to the beach.



Bob Root

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2012 MEETING

The meeting was held at the Casitas Springs Community Center, our usual haunt, and was called to order at 7:05 PM, just about on time, by VP/Acting Pres. Dale Nash. Eventually, there were 21 members drifted in and there were no guests.

The Minutes from last month's meeting were approved with one small change, to wit: Vice Pres. Dale asked me to fix his name in the newsletter masthead,. (which I have done)

TJ Moran gave the **Treasurer's Report**, saying that our expenses had been pretty high for the month, what with Float Fly prizes and food expenses, fuel for that huge Quaker of his, and t-shirts and sweatshirts for stock. He reported we now have 73 paid members.

Mike Ambarian gave the **Safety Report**. He says the runway is getting worse, and that there was not much else to report.

OLD BUSINESS was all about the upcoming Float Fly. Veep Dale showed a signup sheet for Float Fly volunteers and asked members to commit to a specific job for one, two or three days of the Float Fly, especially since we were a bit thin on workers at the last Float Fly. Mike and Steve Steinmetz were not present, but some members said they'd committed to cooking both days. There was some doubt that we'd have enough firewood for both days, Mike Ambarian said "We'll see". (there was enough) A rumor ran thru the meeting that CD Bob Root would be wearing a pink vest. I don't know if that really happened. John Dugan said he'd see that the grass was cut, the Porta-Potties were in place and that the park Rangers would be there on schedule to inspect models for mussels. He also said he would not be present on Saturday. Marilyn Nash and Sandy Billings confirmed that they had prizes and tickets ready for the raffle. I counted 7 names on the volunteer list, the last I saw. Thanks, folks!

NEW BUSINESS Well, there wasn't any.



SHOW and BRAG We had one entry, TJ with his giant Funtana on floats. This is a nice-looking model, very colorful and well done. TJ said it was cobbled together from a kit the late Comet Jim Anderson had lying around, but it looked 'way too good to be a cobbler job. He built his own floats from foam, with carbon fiber scrim and 3/4 oz fiberglass over everything. Power is from a YS 1.2 swinging a 16.5 x 10 propeller. (!) He said he tried hard to keep the weight down and unless he's lying, (he isn't) he succeeded... the thing weighs just 10 lb 9 oz, quite an achievement. There were no judges appointed because everybody figured they'd just get confused trying to pick a winner from among one entry.

Leo Gabriels had a question about who could fly on Friday at our Float Fly, as that was called a 'Comets Only' day. I think I got this right.... it was decided that Friday would be Comets only until 10 AM, after which anybody with a valid AMA membership could fly.

There weren't no raffle at the meeting.

There was a mention that TJ had handled the insurance issues for Lake Casitas officials.

Veep Dale had a stack of prints of an email from Pres. George Boston about his road trip.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21. At 16 minutes, this might be the shortest Comets meeting on record.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry 'kid' Deanda,

filling in for the absent and Right Honourable *Alastair Brennan*



MYSTERY
PLANE!

OK, so here's an old photo of a guy launching a model airplane. I'm not sure how he went at this... maybe he invented the wingtip launch before we knew, but anyway, can you identify this airplane and the man launching it?