

The Comets Tale



May 2020

**THE FLYING FIELD
IS STILL CLOSED**

**Next Meeting:
Thursday, TBD**

At the Oak View Community Center

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Board of Directors

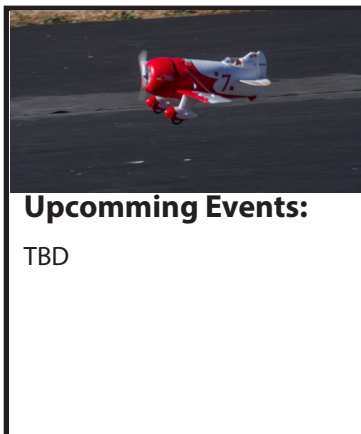
George Boston, Berny Hammer, TJ Moran,
Alastair Brenman

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.



Upcomming Events:

TBD

Presidents Message:

Hello everyone. I sincerely hope this months Tale finds you, your family and friends healthy and spared any illness from COVID19. It would not be an exaggeration to say in the past two months our world has been turned up side down. There seems to be some light on the horizon, and the state is beginning to ease up on some restricted activities, but it looks like we may be some months away from resuming anything like a normal life style. I am writing my message on the 8th of May, there is no word of when the Lake will reopen and we will be able to resume flying at our field. If you haven't driven by the Lake lately, you would find the entrance is completely roped off with signs of Closed/No Entrance. I have been in touch with the security staff and asked

for their help with cutting down the weeds around the field. They said they would be happy to take care of my request. I also asked for their reading of the tea leaves regarding an opening date and they had no idea of when it will happen. To the best of my knowledge we are still under a Stay At Home order from the county health officer and are restricted to only essential travel (grocery store, pharmacy, doctor, etc). I am hoping this order will be modified soon and we will be allowed more access to recreational activities, and Lake Casitas will reopen. I am keeping my fingers crossed.

Since we didn't have a business meeting back in March, and we won't be having a meeting this month, I thought I would devote my message to issues we would have discussed at the meeting. I will try to be short and only focus on matters that have significance:

1. Membership and dues: The combination numbers for all of our locks have been changed, as normal, and only dues paying members have access. Please don't give out the combination numbers to folks who ask for them, without first checking with TJ that they have paid their dues.

2. FAA Proposed Rule Change for Remote ID of UAS: There has been no response to the comments submitted by all of us to the NPRM. As of the cutoff date for comment submission, more than 53,000 comments were submitted. The folks at AMA Headquarters think it will be sometime before we hear back from the FAA, and if they plan to revise the proposed rule based on our comments. However, just this week the FAA announced that they have selected 5 companies to develop remote ID technology as described in the proposed rule. Clearly the FAA is moving forward with the implementation of remote ID of UAS. What remains unknown is how it will affect the model aviation community. Especially as it pertains to fixed wing models, registration, etc.

3. Recreational Flyer FAA Registration: The FAA has extended the date for registering with them as a recreational flyer to December 12, 2020. You have to go to the FAA Drone Zone web site to register. Make sure that you register as a recreational flyer. The URL is <https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/>.

4. Because of the pandemic: We cancelled the scheduled April Fun Fly and will be doing the same for the May Glider Fun Fly. We will have to wait and see how things go with reopening the Lake before we make a decision on holding the June Quaker Fun Fly and Balloon Drop. To the best of my knowledge all of the scheduled events to date, across all of the Southern Calif clubs have been cancelled. On the 18th of July we are planning to hold our annual War Bird Fun Fly, Swap Meet and BBQ. Hopefully we will be able to host this event, although we may have to institute some form of social distancing to ensure the health of everybody attending. If the Lake has reopened, I am confident we will be able to make this happen.

5. In an effort to spruce up our Comets Web Site, Don Sorensen our web master is asking the membership to send to him pictures with a short explanation/description of our models. TJ has forwarded to him a number of pictures and I am planning on doing the same. Here is your chance to show off your planes. Our members have many great planes with some highly interesting background/history of why they were built and what their scale counterparts accomplished in the aviation world. Please take a few minutes and send Don your input (donsorensen52@gmail.com).

6. Back in February I got an email from the president of the Camarillo Flying Circus. His name is Robert Wagner and he is also a member of the Comets. Robert asked if I would like to participate in a gathering of the AMA club presidents here in Ventura county (Ventura County RC Association). The goal would be to share areas of interest, accomplishment and to promote the hobby/sport throughout the county. Robert is a new member of the Comets and has never flown at our field or attended one of our meetings. He has invited me to come flying at their field, and I plan to take him up on his offer as soon as this crazy stay at home order is lifted. The association has conducted one meeting, which I failed to attend, and will resume getting together as soon as it's safe and practical. I plan to put this as a standing agenda item for update during our Comets business meetings. Thanks Robert for taking the lead on this. It's something we should have done many years ago.

7. Runway Repair: Before the Lake closed we had 3 paving contractors do a walk through of the field and submit their estimates for repair/slurry seal/repaving of the runway and taxi areas. One of the contractors has not got back to me with their estimate and I am in communication with them via email.

We plan to reach out to two more contractors who have done paving work for some of the other AMA clubs here in the county. Because of the Lake being closed we will delay any further contact until it re-opens. The scope of work defined by each contractor are not consistent, therefore their costs vary greatly. Most likely we are going to have to decide what the scope of work will be, go back to them and ask that they prepare another estimate specifically along the lines of what we request. That way we won't be mixing apples and oranges. In all likely hood the cost will be a minimum of \$20,000. Obviously we are going to have to come up with some fund raising schemes to make this happen. It's too early to get spun up on the cost associated with the repairs. Whatever our decision, it will only occur after we have examined all the viable alternatives, and have reached consensus with the membership that this is the best course of action to take. I encourage all of you to keep a positive outlook on this effort, and I am confident that we will get through it successfully without breaking the bank.

8. Additional Storage Shed: Just before the Lake closed, TJ was planning to begin the effort to level the site location on the east side of the existing shed. Our plans are to use a combination of concrete pavers and gravel to achieve a level area that must be established before Tough Shed can begin assembling the new shed. This project is on hold until the Lake reopens.

9. Scale Masters Competition: TJ, Bob Root and John Dugan competed at the Scale Masters meet held in Mesa Arizona back in March. TJ shared with me that they had a great time, and congratulations to Bob Root. Bob got 3rd place in Expert with his Aeronca C-3, and 2nd place in Advanced with his WACO YMF-5. He also got 1st place in static with a score of 99.5 out of 100, and won the Tom Wolf Memorial Craftsmanship Award. Attached are photos from the event.

I know that these are difficult times for all of us. I am blessed because I have a retirement income, with excellent health insurance. I have 3 children, now adults with their own families who are really suffering from the impact of the stay at home orders. One has been furloughed from his jobs without pay, and one has three rental properties that are vacant, and they can't meet their mortgage payments and may go into default. But the good news is we are all healthy, and are looking forward to getting past all this. I am sure that each of you can share a similar story. So at this point that's all we can do is look forward to getting back to a more normal life, being with family and flying our airplanes out at the Lake. Hang in there, it will get better. Don't hesitate to drop me an email. I would love to hear from you. Please be safe and stay healthy.

George Boston, President



I think Bob needs to add more wall space for all his awards.

Great Job!!







AMA Charter Club #173

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