

The Comets Tale



May 2021

President	George Boston	(805) 750-0901
Vice President	Berny Hammer	(805) 760-0711
Secretary	Alastair Brennan	(805) 338-8114
Treasurer	TJ Moran	(805) 890-2217
Field Marshal/Safety	Dennis Fingold	(805) 646-6203
Park Liaison	George Boston	(805) 750-0901
Webmaster	Don Sorensen	(805) 968-4288

Comets Web Site: VCComets.com

Comet's Tale Editor: Dave Berthiaume - dave@flyingastudios.com

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, **July 15, 2021**

At the Oak View Community Center



Upcomming Events:

May 23, 2021: Warbirds over Oxnard @ The Camarillo Flying Circus field.

Presidents Message:

Hi everyone. I hope the May Tale finds you healthy and getting in a lot of flying off our new runway. I know that I have sent out a few emails updating you on our progress with repaving the runway, along with a few pictures. I want to dedicate this issue of the Tale to a more thorough overview of the project.

I have to admit that in Feb of 2020 when we experienced the damage to the Geotextile fabric because of a severe wind storm my immediate thoughts were how are we ever going to get our flying site back into top notch condition. Especially given the cost of repaving the old surface with new asphalt. At the time the project seemed overwhelming.

With help and consensus from the Board Members we stood up the Go Fund Me web site and started putting out messages and emails that we were soliciting contributions for a repaving project. Ultimately, we collected approximately \$20,000 in contributions and committed another \$10,000 from the treasury to fund the project. We put out a solicitation letter to four different paving contractors based in Ventura County asking for their best price to repave all the old asphalt with a new layer 1,1/2" thick.

We signed a contract with Smith - Patterson Paving located in Ventura. The actual cost for the project came in at \$31,874.79. The next lowest bid was \$6,000 higher.

We were fortunate to have awarded the contract to an outstanding company that did everything we asked of them and more. At their expense they contributed paving fabric to help repair large cracks in the old surface that would have otherwise opened back up in a short period of time after applying the new asphalt. They also helped with the purchase of paint for all the striping work. They began work on a Tuesday and finished all the paving two days later. Two weeks after the paving was completed, we did all the striping work using volunteers from the Club. The estimated cost to contract out the striping work was \$2,500. We were able to do it ourselves for less than \$600 due to saving from having the paving contractor buy the paint for us, and because the Casitas maintenance staff loaned us their paint striping machine.

We now have what I consider to be the finest model airplane flying site in the county. I want to thank the following folks for making this happen: John Dugan for helping out with coordinating the work of the paving contractor and the paint striping, Dennis Fingold for being on site during the paving effort, Dan El-sasser and Greg Nowland for helping with the paint striping, and TJ for being there throughout all aspects of this project. A number of guys volunteered to help move the flight tables off the pavement just prior to the paving effort. Sorry guys, but I didn't take names and we appreciate your help. I also want to say a special thanks to the Casitas administrative staff for their support and help with contractor access to the site, and for the loan of the paint striping machine which saved the Club at least \$350 in rental fees.

A final word of appreciation goes to all of you who so generously contributed the money required to make this happen. Your commitment to keep our flying site viable, and now a premier facility reflects upon you, the very best of our membership. Thanks to all of you.

Unfortunately, on a negative note I have to report that our effort to secure a funding grant from the AMA was not successful. Back in February we applied for a Flying Site Improvement Grant through the AMA. They recently replied back with the following comment:

"Thank you for your recent application to the Academy of Model Aeronautics for the 2021 Flying Site Improvement Grant program. The decision-making process was a difficult one this year due to the high number of quality worthwhile applications we received.

Unfortunately, your club's application was not selected for funding this year. This action does not reflect the value of your site improvement project. We simply received requests that exceeded our available funds. We appreciate the time and energy you put into preparing and submitting your application."

I was very disappointed with their decision, but it is what it is. We will not be eligible for resubmitting an application in 2022. The Board put a lot of time and effort putting together our application. For any of our membership that would like to see our application I will be happy to forward a copy to you.

I have included a number of pictures of the paving effort. Also, you will see there are a couple of pictures of the new storage shed configured/organized by TJ. He has put a lot of work into moving items from the old shed to the new one and organizing both. It's very impressive. As you will note he even constructed a work bench in the new shed and outfitted it with donated tools. Feel free to ask for access to the shed to use the work bench and/or tools. Please see TJ, Greg Nowland or me for access.

The restrictive Covid 19 environment is beginning to change for the positive; however, the May 2021 Comets business meeting is cancelled. TJ has contacted the Ventura County Recreation Department that reserves the recreation meeting rooms and we are confirmed to resume our business meetings beginning July 15th. So, a year and one half later we will resume our by-monthly meetings on the third Thursday of July, September November, and our Christmas Party on December the 16th. As always, we will be meeting at the Oak View Recreation Center with the meeting beginning at 7:00 pm.

The Casitas administrative staff continues to enforce the social distancing requirements and will not allow gathering of more than 10 people. As soon as this policy is rescinded, we will begin planning to resume our Fun Flys at the field.

Here is my update of business issues affecting the club:

New Members: We have four new members. Tom Dullam and son Grant Dullam, Neal Daneman and Frank Lyons. Hope to see you out at the field soon.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes: The March meeting was cancelled.

Treasurers Report: The May 2021 Treasurers Report is attached to this month's Tale.

Safety Report: We had another serious accident at the field. A guest, who is an AMA member was flying a fixed wing electric and not using a restraining device during run-up. The model got away from him and struck his child causing lacerations to his leg. He was transported by his father to one of the hospitals in Ventura. We have not heard anything further from the parent.

We have noticed that a number of pilots are not using a restraining device for their models during starting and run-up. Our safety code requires that all pilots use a restraining device, regardless the type of power (gas, glow, electric). Beginning immediately, we are going to enforce this policy. Pilots who do not have a restraining device will not be allowed to start and run-up their models. Please be safe when operating your model.

Park Liaison Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Repair/Repaving the Runway: I am happy to report that this project is considered complete and closed.

New Business: There are no new business items.

Calendar of Flying Events:

There are events scheduled for the months of May and July. The Camarillo Flying Circus has scheduled a War Birds Over Oxnard flying event at their flying site on 23 May. Promotional flyers providing details of this event were sent by email to the Comets membership. There is a giant scale event scheduled for July 28 - Aug 1st at Santa Maria, CA. Please contact Chuck Barns, Tri-Valley Modelers at 805-886-7921 for more details.

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.

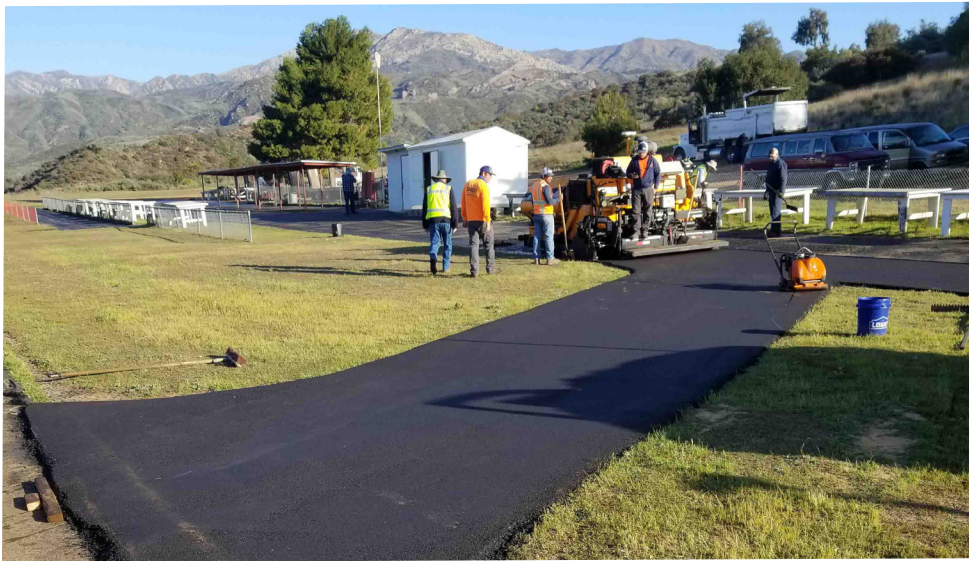
George Boston, President

Tresurers Report:

VENTURA COUNTY COMETS			
PERIOD <u>12 MAR. 2021</u> TO <u>20 MAY 2021</u>			
CLUB ACCOUNT		THIS PERIOD	
CHECKING	\$ 7,358.51	EXPENSES	\$ 32,615.83
CHECKS	- \$ 150.00	INCOME	- \$ 2,110.55
CASH	\$ 250.00		
TOTAL	\$ 7,758.51	MEMBERSHIP	2021 - 85(78)
2019-78	2017-93	2020-85	
2013-78	2014-86	2015-83	2016-92

















Ron Scott's Video:

LINK: (1) ron scott - YouTube