

The Comets Tale



May 2022

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Board of Directors

George Boston, Berny Hammer, TJ Moran,
Alastair Brenman

Instructor Pilots:

Dave Fishman, 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, May 19, 2022
At the Oak View Community Center



Upcomming Events:

Giant Scale-Freno CA
May 26-28, 2022

Cachuma Lake Float Fly
June 3-5, 2022

Presidents Message:

How fast 2 months have gone by. Not a lot to report but a few fun things happened. We had a good Fun Fly Swap meet. Lots of Flyers and Byers showed up to make it a great day. Mike & Steve cooked up a feast for us that was delicious as usual. The Giant Scale meet is happening in Fresno May 26-28 as per the Calendar. Coming up on the first weekend in June is the Cachuma Float fly. So go out there and have some fun. Weather at the field has been fantastic. Thanks to TJ and all the volunteers the field is once again cut and looking pretty spiffy. Thanks to all you hard workers. If you haven't paid your dues please get with TJ. We have changed the gate codes at Lake Casitas.

The meeting is coming up on Thursday May 19th. Would love to see some new faces at the meeting. We will be discussing a possible replacement for the Vice President. If you are interested or know someone that has the spare time to step in please contact me. We will be having Pizza, Sandwiches and Drinks at 7:00 for anyone looking for a free Dinner. Meeting convenes at 7:30.

Hope to see you there.

I was at the field talking to TJ the other day and he mentioned a friend of his is getting out of flying and gave it to TJ to try and get some money for the club. **So there will be a massive amount of planes and equipment at the meeting on Thursday**

Mike Taylor

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March 17 Meeting Minutes

New president Mike T called the meeting to order at 7:28pm – After we had our fill of pizza and sandwiches.

Old Business

Raffle: Outgoing president George B suggested revisiting the meeting raffle. Side note that the supplies at in the shed at the flying field. Suggestions were to go back like we did a couple years ago where there was a pay-to-play raffle at each meeting. Or a raffle at the Christmas party with raffle entries based on meeting attendees. Or all of the above.

The Treasurer mentioned that in the past the club lost between \$100 to \$150 at each meeting's raffle.

New business

Reminder: Pay your dues.

Float for the July 4th Ojai parade. President Mike will talk to Dave F. about plans for this project.

George B brought up the suggestion-made and information-sent about the club purchasing a drone to look for downed aircraft. The gallery leaned towards not buying the drone.

The clubs port-a-pottie has been worked on (door repaired). You will note that there is a bungee cord to keep the door closed. Reattach it when you have finished using it, so wind does not blow the door open and damage it.

The Camarillo Flying Circus model club is having a Warbirds context on Mar. 26

The next Comets' event is the April 16 fun fly and swap meet

Treasurer's report:

The funds are in "good shape" Most of the expenses mentioned were looking back at the Christmas party. Note that a formal January meeting was not held to discuss accounting details.

Greg N brought a Quickie 500 powered by a Jet .40 weighs in a 3 lb 15 oz. It was built from a kit produced by Old School Model works.

George B brought a Firecracker, build form a kit produced by club member Bob Root. This is another example of the club racer Bob designed. It has a fiberglass fuselage and balsa-sheeted foam wings. Powered by a O.S. AX .35. The finish is Klass Kote paint for the fuselage and the wing was covered in Monokote

President Mike wrapped up and we adjourned at 8:11pm





**Fun Fly Photos from
Ron Scott- Thanks
Ron**









California Hobbies

Saturday, April 16 was a sad day for the RC community. California Hobbies in the Magnolia Center in Goleta closed their doors and joined the many, many local hobby shops who have closed over the past decade. As youngsters, many of us can remember visiting a small local hobby shop where we could only watch in awe at the many goodies they offered. There was usually a man there who seemingly knew everything about airplanes and was ready to share his knowledge to anyone who would listen.

California Hobbies owner, Ken Chalfant, was such a man. As an adult (yeah, I consider myself an adult, in spite of the way I act,) the local hobby shop continued to have that appeal. A place where you could go linger around and share your latest RC adventure which usually involved buying a few parts.

Several overriding trends such as the internet, Amazon, Covid, the power of big hobby vendors, rising overhead costs, and a decline in the overall demand have coincided to make a small, local hobby shop a thing of the past. Ken Chalfant is a member of several local RC clubs including the Ventura County Comets. Those of you who have watched him fly 3-D aerobatics had the opportunity to observe a master at work. I know we all hope Ken stays active in RC.

California Hobbies will be missed.