

# The Comets' Tale

*The Official  
Newsletter of the*



**November 2010**

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George Boston, Mike Ambarian, Marilyn Nash, Sandy Billings, Emery Balasa

**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.

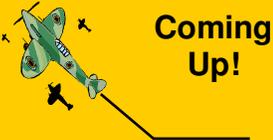
*Editorial contributions are welcome.*

**Next Meeting: Thursday,  
18 November, 7:30 PM at the  
Oak View Community Center**

**From the President**

Hello all. Hard to believe but another month has flown by. I missed the October Float Fly because of personal conflicts and commitments that had me tied up the same weekend. In fact my wife and I were gone for almost the entire month of October. I called Marilyn Nash, who stood in for me at the monthly meeting, and got an update on how both the meeting and Float Fly went. She said that the turnout for the Float Fly was a little disappointing, but she also said that everybody had a good time, and as best as she can recall there were no major flying incidents (e.g., mid-air crash) and the food and raffle gifts were great. I don't know how we came out financially after covering the cost of the raffle gifts and the food, but I know that Emery will bring us up to date at the November meeting. The lake staff was very generous with contributing an annual vehicle pass to the list of raffle gifts. We (the club) owe them big THANKS. To all of you, who volunteered to help out, THANK YOU! And finally a special thanks to Bob Root who stood in for me as the Contest Director.

Well, beyond it being turkey month, it's time for the Club Members Only Float Fly. It's set for Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> through Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>. No cost, all club members welcome. Hopefully we will have blue bird skies with no wind. Marilyn and Dale, and all the other camping regulars will be there, along with a ton of



**Coming Up!**

**19-21 November**  
Comets Only Float Fly  
**1st Sunday of Each Month**

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**16 December**  
Comets Christmas Party

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First Sunday of each Month  
Open House at Santa Paula Airport

daily fliers, I hope. We had sufficient leftovers from the lunch fixings used at the July War Bird Fun Fly, such that we plan to fix lunch (hamburgers and hotdogs) for everybody on Saturday. **So even if you don't fly, come on out and have lunch on the club!**

Don't forget the monthly meeting on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Take care, and safe flying.

*George*

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## ROOT'S RAMBLING

The Ventura County Comets annual September Float Fly (Sept. 16 & 17) was a great if not tremendous success. We had about 50 pilots show up for the event. Although the weather was cool it wasn't cold and the wind remained relatively calm. The attendees were able to fly all day both days under a high overcast. The following pictures of the weekend activities were taken by Dave Berthianume and Bob Root (me).

Picture 1 was taken by Dave and shows some of the on shore activity.



Picture 2 (also by Dave) is of the Raffle prizes. Sandy Billings and Marilyn Nash did a great job selling raffle tickets. The registration was ably run by Emery Balasa and Don Ashworth.

Don is shown in picture 3 trying to keep warm on Saturday. It wasn't that cold Don!





The youngest flyer was Jackson Fricke who is shown in picture 4.

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Eric Marten brought the very nice 1/3 scale J-3 Piper Cub shown in picture 5. This was one of the bigger models we had at the event and looked very realistic in the air.



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6

Picture 6 shows Jim Peason being helped by John Dugan as they prepare Jim's 'sorta' Schneider racer. This model was another great flyer.

We had two Canadair water bombers in attendance. Stan Wagner and Paul Moran were the proud owners. Dave Nash is shown launching one of them in picture 7.



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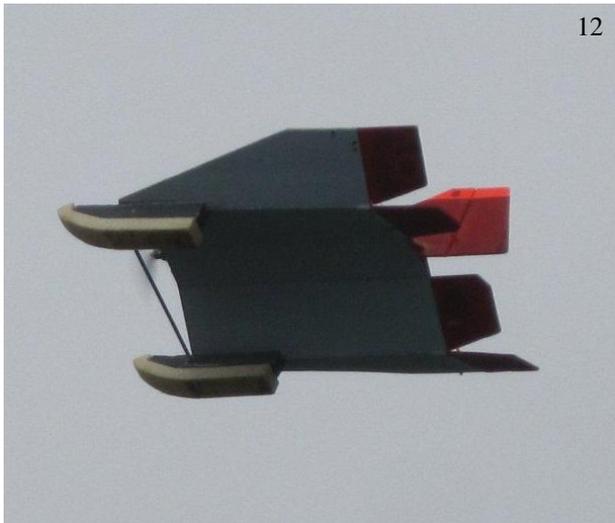
I caught them together in Picture 8 (the models!).



Tony Del Grosso brought a nice Eindecker built from a Balsa USA kit. It had a 20cc gas engine and was finished



with silk and dope (like in the good old days). Dale Nash and Steve Billings are launching it in picture 9 and it is shown in flight in picture 10.



There were several unusual designs in attendance.

Picture 11 shows Jeff Nimit's large 8 pound electric powered delta model. Stan Wagner brought the "thing" shown in flight in picture 12. It is shown taxiing in picture 13. It seemed to fly quite well.



One of my favorite models is the nice WACO flown by Jeff Maxwell and shown in picture 14.



Although it didn't happen often the classic end to a nice flight is shown in picture 15 taken by Dave . This is Joe Beer's Quaker.

I will end with picture 16 (also taken by Dave) showing the hard working TJ Moran and Leo Gabriels as they bring in another stranded model.

The Ventura County Comets model club holds a Float Fly every April and September at our field at the north end of Lake Casitas. Come out to the next one. I think you will enjoy it.

*Bob Root*



## Minutes of the October 2010 Meeting

The Comet meeting was called to order by Vice President Marilyn Nash on October 14, at 7:30 PM, at the Oak View Community Center.

The September minutes were approved as corrected. There were two references to the Friday public flying time, one stated noon while the other correctly stated 10 a.m. Edo McGowan's name was also corrected. We had no guest or new members.

**Treasurers' Report:** We have 83 members and finances are in good shape. Emery Balasa's Treasurer's report was approved.

**Field Marshall/Safety Officer:** No report.

**Park Liaison:** No report.

### **Old Business:**

All the new signs are up and look great. Thanks TJ Moran and Joe Horswell.

At the Float Fly, this weekend, Bob Root will be doing the duties of CD, Marilyn Nash and Sandy Billings will be selling raffle tickets, Mike Steinmetz and Steve Steinmetz will be cooking, Tony Porto will be checking floats and many others will be working to create another great event.

### **New Business:**

The Secretary and Treasurer positions are up for grabs. Dale Nash will be performing duties as the nominating committee for the two year duty.

Marilyn Nash suggested buying 7 tables for workers instead of hauling tables. It was brought up that there is a problem with storing them as the shed is full. The purchase may be considered if someone can store them.

It was clarified that lunch at the Float Fly will be \$8 and admittance to the lake is \$12.

The Park has kindly donated a year's Park pass as a prize for the Worker Bees raffle.

Lake Cachuma Float Fly is the weekend after ours.

The Club only Float Fly will be held November 20 and 21.

### **Model of the Month:**

No Model of the Month

No Raffle was held and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sandy Billings*

## Here's a note from Edo McGowan, a new Comet:

I'm working on a set of wings for a large motored camera-carrying glider, 14 inch chord and span of 12.5 feet, Kfm3 airfoil (roughly 14 sq ft of wing and a total wing loading of around 8 oz/sq ft). My immediate design problem is constructing a wing box and then choice of control surface mechanisms. I will bring one side of the wing structure to the meeting next week, but since not all members show up, I am requesting to be put into contact with someone who has designed something along these lines so I can converse on the subject. This is merely a request for you to think about this before the meeting and hopefully, that will allow you or others to suggest a mentor for me on this project.

Thanks & cheers-----Edo

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## Tips & Tricks

### All Screwed Up

I recently discovered a great way to mount canopies, cowlings, hatches, virtually anything that requires a mounting screw, to attach it to an airplane. I'd like to share it with the rest of my modeling friends.

As anyone who's ever tried to mount a fiberglass cowling or a plastic canopy on a balsa wood model knows, one of the most difficult things to do is to get the wood hard enough to reliably hold the mounting screws so they won't vibrate out in flight and allow the part to crack or fall off. In the past, the best method has seemed to be to use hardwood or plywood blocks, pre-drill the holes, and then harden them with CA. While that may work for a while, if you have to remove the screws a few times they eventually get loose again and you're right back at square one. Often, the next step is a bigger screw, which adds weight and looks crummy! So here's my solution ...

Cut a small piece of plastic antenna tubing slightly longer than the length of the screw. You can use any hard plastic tubing you have (not fuel tubing), just make sure the inside diameter is slightly smaller than the body of the screw. Antenna tubing is a perfect fit for the small allen-head servo mounting screws I like to use.

First, drill a small hole through the part and into the block (or balsa) as you normally would. Next, enlarge the hole to the outside diameter of the tubing. Make sure you're accurate with this hole, as it's important that the tubing fit snugly into the wood before gluing. You should have to tap the tubing into the hole with a small block or tool. If it's loose, drop down a size on your drill bit. You may want to practice on a scrap of wood at first to find the right bit sizes. Now just use thin CA to secure the tubing into the wood, and give it several minutes to dry.

Your screws will bite into the plastic tubing much better than they do into wood, and you can remove and replace them as many times as you need to. The friction of the tubing on the screws' threads will act like "lock-tite," and they won't vibrate out or loosen in flight. I keep several sizes of plastic tubing handy to match the various sizes of screws I use on my airplanes. You can use pan head, socket head, or flat head screws, whatever you prefer, they all work equally well with this method. And it's easy to modify an existing mount to use this method, too.

Good Luck!

—David McCormick, President, Falling Water Radio Control Flying Club, Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee