

# The Comets Tale



**November 2019**

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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, **November 21, 2019 7:00 PM**

At the Oak View Community Center



### President's Message:

Hello all. I hope the month of November is treating you kindly, and that you have found time to be out at the field flying. The weather has been great. Much has happened since our September meeting. As a result of recommendations made at the meeting, we have installed three new signs on the chain link fence facing the parking lot. One sign contains old copies of Model Aviation with a note that says "free for the taking". Another sign advertises "SATURDAYS LEARN HOW TO FLY RC MODEL AIRPLANES"; with the club providing the plane, fuel, and everything required to fly with the assistance of one of the Club's certified pilot instructors. And a third sign states "PILOTS

WHO DO NOT HOLD MEMBERSHIP IN THE VENTURA COUNTY COMETS MUST SECURE APPROVAL TO FLY THEIR MODEL AIRCRAFT BY COMPLETING FORM-061918.DOC". This last sign enforces the requirement that all pilots show proof of having AMA membership/liability insurance before they fly. Members of the Comets must complete this.

form if they plan to fly rotor powered models, and TJ has already coordinated this effort. A few months back Dave Fishman, on behalf of the Club, purchased two sets of used bench seats similar to the seats that are located by the covered tables next to the chain link fence. Last week Greg Nowland installed one set at the West end of the covered area and the other set replaced the old group of seats that were damaged many years ago. You would never know that the seats that Dave bought were used. They look virtually new. Great job Dave and Greg. Thanks much.

Our annual calendar of events called for a fun fly, swap meet and BBQ lunch on Saturday the 19th of October; however, we ran into a conflict with a cross country track meet that was scheduled on the same day. Consequently, we rescheduled the October event for the Saturday following our November meeting (Nov 23rd). This will be our last scheduled event for this year so put it on your calendar and plan to attend. All planes and flyers are welcome. The cost of the BBQ lunch is on the Club. We will get started around 9am, and it should be a lot of fun.

On the 24th of September we had a fire on the hillside West of the runway. A glow powered plane lost control and crashed at the bottom of the hill about 10' above the lake. It started a fire in the brush and grass that burnt an area around 10' square. We were very fortunate that a number of our members immediately responded with fire extinguishers, and got the fire put out before it had a chance to spread beyond the immediate crash site. We placed an emergency phone call to the lake rangers and asked that they come on site to inspect the crash site and insure that the fire was not in danger of re-igniting. They took pictures and were satisfied with the actions we took. Since the day of the fire we have acquired additional extinguishers, and recharged the ones used to put out the fire. We were very lucky that there was no wind that morning, that there were many fliers present to jump in to help put the fire out, and the crash site was accessible. Otherwise it very well could have been tragic. As the saying goes, Murphy Prevails. Who would have ever thought that a glow powered plane would catch fire, but it did! Some immediate thoughts: Don't fly alone. Always have the door open to the shed for quick access to the fire extinguishers. Be vigilant and fly safely. Should a fire occur immediately call the lake entrance gate (805-649-2233 X-6) and report the specifics. And follow our policy for the use and charging of LiPo batteries.

Our next meeting is set for 21 November. We will start at 7pm with pizza, Subway sandwiches, soft drinks, water and coffee for dinner. Our #1 agenda item will be planning for the Christmas Party set for 21 December. We will also be taking nominations from the floor for the election of Vice President and Safety Officer. And don't forget that at this meeting will be setting up a table of used model aircraft gear, free to anyone attending. So bring your stuff that you are tired of looking at, and can't get rid of! We need to get started on time. A number of our members are camping at Lake Casitas and have to get back through the entrance gate before 9pm. Take care, safe flying and see ya on the 21st.

**Safe flying,**  
**George Boston, President**

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## **Meeting minutes - September 2019**

President George called the meeting to order at 7:24. There were 18 members and 1 guest present (Victor M.).

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer reported that funds are in "good shape". Membership is at 78. Application to continue the meeting room in oak view is being submitted. The report was approved.

The additional storage shed was discussed. Tj (treasurer) will update the proposal for the new shed and submit to the lake.

Damaged benches (under the awning/canopy) will be replaced. The benches have been purchased. The club is looking for a work crew to help with this project. Contact George Boston and Greg Nowland.

Ad hoc committee for drone policy was brought up. Some info was forwarded to the committee lead, but has not been followed up on ...yet.

The July warbird/bbq/swap meet was well attended. Thanks to Mike and Steve for taking care of the grub.

An idea was brought up to bring in hobby items to give away; you know the stuff you can't use, yet can't throw away. If you have some of this stuff, bring it to the meeting and pass it on to fellow modelers.

Alastair gave a quick summary of the on-going display at the Santa Paula Oil Museum. He has gone the last couple "1st Sundays". The display closes mid-November.

The club will no longer mail paper copies of the club's newsletter. A copy of the newsletter will be posted on the frequency board and be available at each meeting.

Nominations were needed for VP and Safety Officer, however, the incumbents agreed to stay on for another term. So unless you are interested in running for position of VP or Safety Officer, nominations are not needed.

The club received an email from another hobbyist that will give planes/equipment to the club. Mike T agreed to pick up the supplies and bring them to the next meeting.

### **Models of the month:**

There were three contestants (Photos on Page 7-8)

The first was a house of balsa p-51 kit. Built by Bob Root. It weighs ~3 pounds, powered by a .25 Engine. "It's a hot rod" states Bob.

The second plane was a F3D30; a bit of a pylon-racing-looking plane. This was brought in by the father/son team of Bernie and Bo Hammer. Powered by a K&B .40

The third entry was a Supercuda (pattern plane). Bernie said it took 55 hours to build. Loaded with Spring Air retracts, and carries an elaborate air brushed paint scheme, it weighs about 8 pounds. The Supercuda took the win.

**Respectfully,  
Alastair**

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**One last flight before dark and yes that is a nice sunset.**







**Your Editor's humble  
Lair while traveling  
far and near.**



**MODELS OF THE MONTH**









AMA Charter Club #173

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