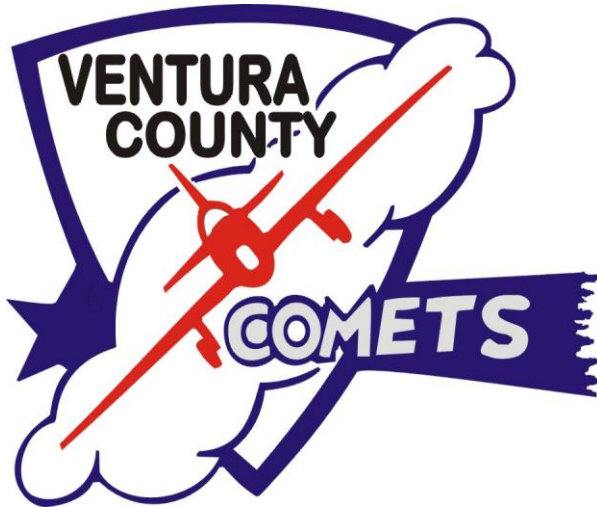


The Comet's Tale



September 2024

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Instructor Pilots: Dave Fishman, Bob Root, Ron Scott,
Greg Nowland, Alastair Brennan

The Comet's Tale is the official newsletter and record of the Ventura County Comets AMA Charter Club #173 and is published every other month at the Comet's Tale Lair in Camarillo, CA. Editorial contributions are always welcome.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 19, 2024,

7:00 dinner, 7:30 Meeting

At the Oak View Community Center

Prez Sez:

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you this month after the sudden, tragic death of our friend, mentor and treasurer, TJ Moran. I am grieving his loss, as are many of you, and would like to dedicate our next meeting on Thursday, to our memories of TJ. I am calling for all members to attend and share their unique memories of TJ with the rest of the club to help us all get through this difficult time.

With the loss of TJ as our treasurer, we need to ask for volunteers to step up, be nominated, and confirmed as the new club treasurer. We need to take a vote at our meeting on Thursday in order to have an orderly transition for assuming responsibility of our club assets, liabilities, membership and tax reporting.

I would also like to discuss the catering options for our Christmas party, which has been scheduled for Saturday, December 14, at the Oak View Community Center from 12-4 PM.

Please attend, support YOUR club and make your voice heard.

Your Prez,
Jeff

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 after dinner of pizza and sandwiches.

There were 20 members present.

The minutes were approved

Treasurer's report: Funds are in good standing. A large expense since last report was the slurry seal for the runway.

Membership is at 95 (88 paid / 7 lifetime members)

Safety officer mentioned to ensure these things are on your airframe: Name FAA number, AMA number and phone number. Also, do what you can to clean you table when finished for the day; wipe off fuel and oil. And put in the cans any trash.

President Jeff encouraged everyone to speak up if you see something. Also to call out the take-offs and landings.

And be considerate if you are breaking in motors. Do that at the far side of the shed; the tables closest to the entry gate.

Park Liaison: The first is the road to the flying field. We may need a small committee to fix. We need a practical plan to use the Lake's equipment and our help to get this done. George will approach the Lake staff.

Second, a kayak was donated (by John Green) to the club for retrieving planes from the lake. George and Greg to out a safety protocol.

Float Fly prep: Need to relabel floats and build a few new ones. This was completed by TJ and Alastair

Glider Fly contest was discussed; it included offering a cash prize.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26

A few pictures from the Glider Fun Fly



A few pictures from the Ballon Drop Fun Fly



A few pictures from the Float Fly







The Passing of TJ Moran

So helpful and gracious with his time and supplies - The know-it-all-guy, the repair-guy and have-it-all-guy. I remember TJ from when I was a kid (in the 1980s). Tearing up the skies, flying fast and what I thought was a bit reckless. As a teenager I thought this crazy guy was scary and unapproachable.

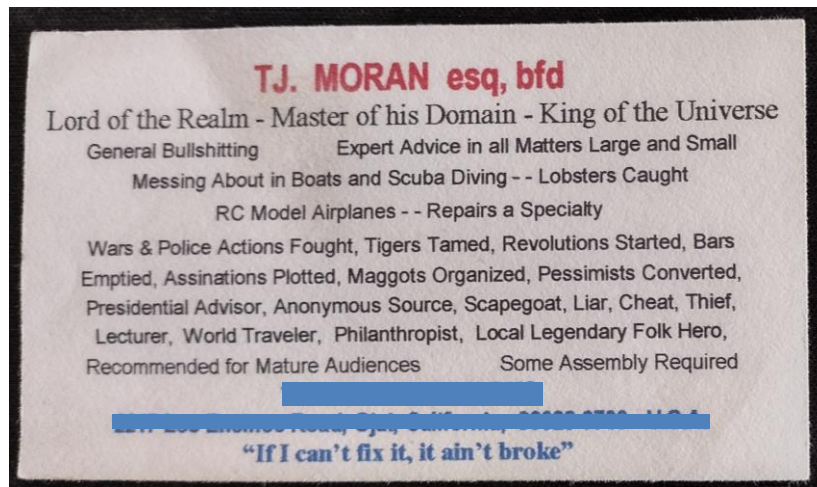
Years later I grew out of my timid attitude and the previous unapproachable guy became a great flying friend. Although each time I approached him, asking for a part or help, I felt that teenager shyness and maybe embarrassment that I didn't know what I was doing and respectfully asked for help/advise.

What I looked forward to each time we got together at the flying field was what a high school friend named an, "Old man saying", which is some throwaway phrase, that for some reason is lost on most, but some of my friends I find extremely funny. I found these with coworkers and college professors and TJ was great at this. A couple examples:

1. Scene: TJ with a bag of battery powered remote ignitors.
Me to TJ: What's going on with all these ignitors?
TJ: Who knows, some don't work and the others are broken
2. Scene: A pilot just plowed a plane it – total destruction
Me to TJ: Whoa that was ugly.
TJ: Coulda been worse.
Me: What? That thing is a thousand pieces.
TJ: Coulda been one of mine.

3. His story from when he worked at Raytheon, I heard this a few times
Scene (with a bit of my embellishment): Status meeting a bunch of high-ranking military mucky mucks and high-ranking Raytheon managers about a drone/target that Raytheon worked on and the drone isn't meeting expectations. People getting settled, cups of coffee and note pads, all a bit distracted, yet staff from both groups are looking for someone to make the opening statement. TJ decides he will do it, "So I hear the drone is NFG (typically this is short for "no f'n good")". All staff is NOW paying attention and focused on him, with the "what did you just say" look.
TJ: You know "Not Flying Good".

The club's success owes a lot to the physical help, planning, knowledge and energy of this guy.



TJ's business card from many years ago

TJ was one of a kind and I will never forget him.

AMF (TJ's, "Adious My Friend") and RIP,
Alastair

Upcoming Events

October 12: EDF and Fun Fly day, with BBQ and swap meet

November 16: Quaker Day, balloon drop and Limbo with BBQ

Comet's Facebook Page: [Comets RC Club and Airfield at Lake Casitas](#)

