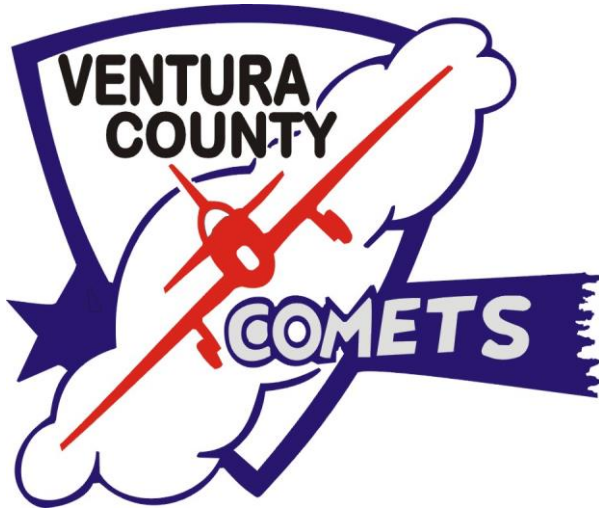


The Comet's Tale



November 2025

President	Jeff Hall	(805)901-8582
Vice President	David Strassman	(323) 316-4552
Secretary	Alastair Brennan	(805) 338-8114
Treasurer	John Green	(805) 755-8691
Field Marshal/Safety	Greg Nowland	(805) 889-8911
Park Liaison	George Boston	(805) 750-0901
Comets Web Site: www.VCComets.com		
Comet's Tale Editor: Alastair Brennan, jet_a@yahoo.com		

Board of Directors:

Jeff Hall, Dave Strassman, John Green, Alastair Brennan

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, November 20, 2025

7:00 dinner, 7:30 Meeting

At the Oak View Community Center

Prez Sez:

It is that time of year again to finish that airplane project in your garage that you put off while the sun was shining on our field at Lake Casitas. As of early Sunday, November 16), I have recorded over 6" of rain in Oak View since the last Thursday.

The AMA Introductory Pilot Program has attracted three more student pilots since our last meeting in September. Please welcome Landon, Mika and Callum to our club as temporary members. I have the Aero Scout we were awarded by the AMA for this program and have it programmed with a buddy box for our student pilots. I asked Dave to rework our "Learn to Fly": poster with Dave and I's contact info

so interested students can make an appointment to fly with any of our instructors. A copy of the poster is at the end of the newsletter for comments at our upcoming meeting.

We hosted an A.C.E High School class, led by Ian McGuire, at our field this month to fly their classroom-built drone at our field. The four students and their instructor all are AMA members and they registered their drone with the FAA. I asked the park ranger to come down and sign their Permit to Fly applications and after reviewing the rotor craft rules, we all had some doughnuts and drinks. They plan to return three more times this year, always on a Wednesday or Friday when there are fewer RC pilots flying.

However, not all drone pilots follow our flight rules and receive permission from Lake Casitas to fly their drone. Last month we had an incident on a Sunday where the pilots assembled their drone at the west end of the field, then proceeded to fly over the east end of the runway while the RC pilots were flying their 3-D planes without asking for permission to fly. They were asked to stop and complied, but their response was, "the attendant at the gate told us we could fly at the field." I will work with George to make sure the employees at the gate have the forms and rules required to fly drones at the field.

We need to have an election at our next meeting to vote for either the current officers to continue for another year, or anyone else who would like to step up and fill one of the board positions. Please attend and make your voice heard and approve any motions we discuss, such as the upcoming Christmas party.

Pizza, Subs and Cookies at our meeting Thursday.

Thanks,

Your Prez,
Jeff

Meeting Minutes:

President Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:22. This was after the usual dinner of pizza and sandwiches.

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of TJ, the club member the field is dedicated to. It has been a year since he passed. There was a moment of silence.

There were 13 members and two guests in attendance.

Membership is at 110 members

The meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Funds are in good standing and the report was approved.

You can pay/renew your club fees on the website starting in October.

Safety Officer: Use restraints and call out your take-offs and landings.

Park Liaison: Good to go for rangers at the Float Fly for inspection.

Field is closed September 20 and Oct 8th

New Business

Due to the lack of participants in the previous couple of events the club is considering having fewer events next year. Let the Officers know your thoughts.

It is a club-election year. President Jeff will get a email out regarding position up for reelection and who plans to stay on.

The big shed has a 50-drawer organizer, plan to move it to the smaller shed so it is more accessible to the membership.

Float fly set up is Thursday Oct. 9. The event is Oct. 10-12

Christmas party: Plan to have Q-time cater again. The party will include prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04

Float Fly Picts from October 10-12

Thanks to George B







In other news...

The club's late member (T.J Moran) told us a story of him crashing a *real* plane in a lake in Pennsylvania as a teenager... Someone dug up the article from May 23rd 1964:



The summary is:

TJ and a buddy crashed a Piper Colt into the lake and was saved by the three pictured above.

The three guys were planning to go fishing and had just launched their boat. The fisherman told authorities they watched the plane make a couple circles above the lake, then "slice" into the water. The assumption is that the pilot (our guy, T.J.) misjudged his altitude.

Everyone escaped the scene relatively unharmed; the plane's passenger had to have stitches on his lip.

The flight started at 9:30pm and came to the unfortunate end at midnight.

Cause Undetermined

No cause has definitely been established for the accident. The plane apparently was not having mechanical trouble when it crashed. The fisherman said it had circled the lake once or twice and seemingly just dipped too close to the water's surface.

It was thought that perhaps the pilot, Moran, misjudged his altitude, as often happens when flying over water.

Tommy Thompson, Century Club resident who was outside at the time, also saw the plane crash and called to his son, who took word to his mother. Mrs. Thompson called the Jamestown Rescue Squad. The unit was waiting on shore when the anglers brought back the two young airmen.

Both men were shivering from cold and shock when they reached shore. Zarecky had wrapped them in a tarpaulin once aboard the small motorboat. The only outward sign of injury was a split lip suffered by Berlin.

Treated at Hospital

After being brought to Greenville Hospital by the Rescue Squad, both men were examined. After Berlin's lip had been stitched, they were released.

The plane went down in about 22 feet of water, apparently with the nose and left wing on the lake bottom and the tail and right wing angled toward the surface.

Both the tail and left wing light were still burning and visible beneath the surface of the water at 1 a. m.

Fire Chief Joseph F. Bruce of Jamestown said the plane was a Piper Colt owned by Southern Airways of Boardman, O.

The two men, both licensed pilots, had taken off at about 9:30 on a pleasure ride and, according to one report, were on their way back from Erie in the four-month-old craft.

It was indicated this forenoon that Southern Airways might try to salvage the plane this afternoon.

Plane Taken From Lake Pymatuning

The airplane which went down in Pymatuning Lake just before midnight Friday was salvaged late Saturday afternoon from about 25 feet of water.

After skindivers had attached ropes to the plane, it was lifted by Cyrus Denmark, Jamestown RD, on a float boat. Assisting were lake patrolmen Ray McCandless, Jamestown RD 2, and John Chuckran, Meadville. They hauled the plane to within about 30 feet of the shore. It was dragged the rest of the way by winches mounted on trucks.

The plane was taken out at McArthur Allotment on the east shore of the lake. Removal was near a summer cottage owned by parents of one of the occupants of the plane, Timothy Moran.

Moran and Larry Berlin, both of Canfield, were rescued after the plane went into the lake by Robert Zarecky. Hempfield Twp.: Carl Rhoades, Greenville, and his father Gordon Rhoades, Jamestown. The trio was fishing at the time the accident occurred.

The plane, owned by Southern Airways, Boardman, was to be dismantled on the spot.



Piper Colt



Lake Pymatuning / Reservoir
Borders Ohio and Pennsylvania

Upcoming Events

November 22: Quaker day balloon drop, w/ BBQ and raffle

December 13 Comet's Christmas party

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



LEARN TO FLY MODEL RC PLANES!



ANY SATURDAY
BY
APPOINTMENT



The Ventura Co Comets RC Club
hosts FREE Flight lessons at
Lake Casitas Rec Area.



ITS FREE! SATURDAYS

By Appointment

9a -12p

Just CALL 805-901-8582



COMETS' AIRFIELD

Lake Casitas Recreation Area
11311 Santa Ana Road
Ventura, CA



SCAN for our Website

Call for directions or any questions!
323-316-4552 or 805-901-8582