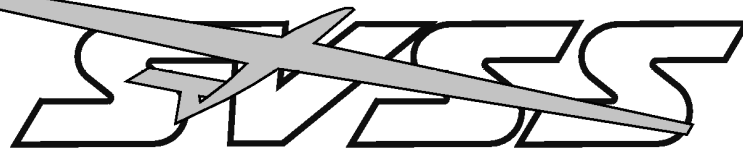


The Eagle's Nest



Sacramento Valley Soaring Society

The Official Newsletter of the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society

April 2009

Volume 19, No. 4

President's Message

By Marty Falarski

My thanks to all of you who participated in the March club meeting. We approved the 2009 club budget that Stan put together and approved the new SVSS Competition Policy that Jim drafted. I want to thank all of you who offered to work on drafting the new safety rules and to Rich for agreeing to be our club Safety Officer. A final thanks to Kipp for taking the minutes which are included in this news letter.

I need to apologize to those members who thought the meeting was going to be after the contest. I decided to have it early to give the weather a chance to calm down. From now on the meetings will be after the contests.

The idea of plaques in the shade structure to honor club members who have passed on was endorsed by everyone. While Ron is getting quotes for the plaques we need to assemble the names and dates for all of those members. Please send what information you have on Ralph Gustafson, Paul Flory, Dick Dillman, Henry Myers, Arnold Molner, Ed Lockhart and Paul Meyers and any other names we have missed to either Dudley or me.

The March contest was very well attended and a bit of a challenge with the slight breeze that day. I have to tip my hat to Mehrdad, JT, Bobby, Kai and Neil for their stellar flying and landing skills during the contest. I can take a little credit for Mehrdad's win since I showed him where the air was for his 9 minute task. Never again buddy!

The recent edition of Silent Flyer has a great article on the last years NAT's and recognizes Bobby McGowan for his win in a much contested event.

Please take a few minutes to look at our upcoming events, the Thermal Safari is scheduled for April 18-19, the CRVC Aero Tow on May 16-17, the Cal Valley XC on May 23-24 and of course the SVSS Summer Soaring Challenge June 27-28. These are all great events, especially if you are a participant.

See all of you at the April Contest.

Mart

The Eagle's Nest

Published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society.

Purpose

Founded in 1989, SVSS is a social organization whose purpose is to promote the safe and skillful operation of radio controlled model sailplanes. SVSS is an AMA chartered club, number 2752. Membership is open to the general public.

President	Marty Falarski 510-547-5144
Secretary	Kipp Geisler 707-693-1771
Treasurer	Stan Scharosch 919-987-1173
V.P. Contests	Jim Rolle 707-762-5447
V.P. Field	Rich Beardsley 707-455-8279 Bill Curry 925-838-1998
V.P. Equipment	Jonathan Heritage 530-756-4931
New Member Mentor	Dave London 916-944-3948
Instructor	Dave London 916-944-3948
Instructor	Cameron Clarke 916-596-0986
Web Master / Newsletter Editor	Dudley Dufort 916-991-1266

Monthly Meetings

SVSS general membership meetings are held at the SVSS field. They follow the nine monthly club contest on alternate months beginning in March. If the club contest is postponed so is the meeting. Our meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Contests

Monthly contests are held on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM. Beginners and spectators are always welcome.

AMA

Membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics is required prior to flying in any SVSS organized event or using and SVSS equipment.

Club Rules

1. Have fun
2. See rule #1

Editor's Corner

By Dudley Dufort



Member Appreciation

I have the utmost respect, appreciation and admiration for those members who devote their time and energy to making SVSS one of the best RC clubs in the country. In the past month, several guys have really hit it hard and they deserve to be recognized. Past President, Rich Beardsley and Bill Curry spent several days at hard labor digging up a damaged sprinkler line in the area of the shade structure. As I write this, more work is yet to be done and I've heard chatter that Marty is going to team up and those guys are going to dedicate a part of their weekend to complete the job.

Jonathan Heritage is another member who has devoted countless hours to the betterment of SVSS. He has done a marvelous job in maintaining and upgrading our equipment. Jonathan also alerted the club to the potential route of a new high voltage transmission line along the eastern edge of the Grasslands Park. Rumor has it that power lines and gliders, especially cross country, don't mix well. A couple of Scotts, (last names withheld) can attest to that. Yolo County liaison, Peter Dannenfeler jumped right in on this power line issue and began a dialogue with the folks at Yolo County about the potential impact of this proposed route. It is our hope that the power line people will listen to our concerns and select an alternate route. You'll be hearing more about this as events unfold.

Dave London, Cameron Clark, John Kozusko and Jeff Yee deserve our appreciation as well. Every month, these guys sacrifice flying in the club contests in order to provide lunch for the group. Their efforts, significantly add to the enjoyment and fun of our club contests.

Bob Kincheloe

Many of the long time SVSS members remember the old park host, Bob Kincheloe. I had the good fortune of running into Bob recently. In the past several months I've needed a couple of houses in Woodland re-keyed. I called a local locksmith and thought "hey this guy looks familiar" but didn't say anything until he handed me his card. "Aren't you the guy that used to" Bob and his wife are quite well and happy in Esparto. Small world, isn't it?

April 2009

SVSS Key Dates
Club Contest 4/11
**Thermal Safari 4/18 &
4/19**

Happy Birthdays
Stan Scharosch 4/6
Jim Thompson 4/10
Jack Suder 4/19
Rick Johnston 4/23
Joan Nolte 4/24

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Club Contest
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Thermal Safari
19 Thermal Safari	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Equipment Review – Jonathan Heritage

The New Year brought the windsock fiasco. I was annoyed that our windsock was tattered and almost useless so I naively set about to rectify the situation. It seemed that the proper procedure was to unbolt the pole base and replace the windsock. Simple? No! Naturally, the bolts were rust-locked to the nuts or the anchors just spun freely in the concrete. Perseverance and the help of some friendly persuasion (i.e., a big hammer) got an anchor out. The new anchor promptly broke the concrete rendering the base useless. About this time I learned that Dave Fineberg solved the replacement problem by shinnying up the pole! There is no way I was going to do that, besides, it was by then too late, as the pole was lying on the ground. About that time a ground swell of opinion arose that opposed any effort on my part to replace the pole in its former position. It seems many folk had had unfortunate inadvertent encounters between the pole and the wing of their favorite sailplane or electric. Fortunately all worked out well. Marty Falarski brought out his electric concrete buster and after a lot of hard work by him the offending concrete block became a pile of rubble. Thanks to Jack George and his grandson for hauling the rubble off site. The Tuesday morning electric and high start crowd stepped forward with the donation of a nice windsock that they acquired from a defunct power club. Thanks guys! The pole, with sock, is now firmly affixed to the east container.

On a more practical note, I replaced all 8 inner tubes on the winch carts as suggested by Dudley. The old ones needed pumping up every week, which is quite annoying. Also, I had one winch motor rebuilt. The motor guy and I had a nice chat about how we made use of the motors. He suggested that we try using softer, 24V sacrificial brushes as way to prolong the life of the commutators. I might try that on the next motor rebuild. The downside is that the equipment manger will have extra work replacing brushes more frequently. Finally, we need to repair the leak in the irrigation system that causes the quagmire just north of the shade structure. Presently the irrigation valve is closed, but we will need to start irrigating the grass soon.

Kipp's Notes

SVSS CLUB MEETING
March 14, 2009

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 by SVSS President Mart Falarski. The unusual start time was due to the weather and an attempt to let the wind die down before we start the contest.

Mike Cox visiting from Cambridge, England

Welcome five members of the Modesto Soaring Club

Financial Report- Stan

Current balance \$8,420

We've received about 70 renewals to date, down a bit from last year.

VP Contest Director-Jim Rolle

Jim reported that he had revised the Competition Policy to make these changes; The Novice and Sportsman class has been combined.

We have discontinued four-minute rounds for the Novice class.

Trophies will be given for places 1-3 in each class.

A motion was made seconded to approve the new competition policy, the motion passed unanimously.

VP Equipment-Jonathan Heritage

All of the inner tubes have been replaced on the Club winch carts.

One motor is in for servicing. The Tuesday group installed a new wind sock.

VP Field-Bill Curry

It is proposed that the storage container screen will be constructed of wood posts with lath material stringers and planting Star Jasmine, which will grow and create a natural block. This work will be down after we move the mower container so the opening faces either north or east and it is aligned closer to the other container. Rich is to provide a cost estimate for the materials to build the fence/screen.

There is still an underground pipe near the northeast corner of the shade structure that has yet to be repaired. Jonathan said he would try to work on it the following weekend.

Secretary-Kipp Geisler

We have the 2009 club charter.

We have the 2009 AMA insurance policy declaration page.

Summer Soaring Challenge

Dudley and JT will be contest directors.

Cash incentives are being proposed.

(continued on page 7)

Lipo Transmitter Batteries

By Kipp Geisler

I'm not sure how many of you have considered going to lipo batteries in your transmitter, but I get real tired of my tired NimHi packs that wouldn't stay charged for a full Saturday. Granted my 2300 mah pack was old, but I still had to charge it once a week before a Saturday of fun flying. When I saw this add on Hobby King's web site I was anxious to try it out. Here is the link:

[http://www.unitedhobbies.com/UNITEDHOBBIES/store/uh_viewItem.asp?idProduct=6955&Product_Name=ZIPPY_Flightmax_2500mAh_Transmitter_Pack_\(Futaba/JR\)](http://www.unitedhobbies.com/UNITEDHOBBIES/store/uh_viewItem.asp?idProduct=6955&Product_Name=ZIPPY_Flightmax_2500mAh_Transmitter_Pack_(Futaba/JR))

It's a 2500mah 3s by Flightmax and comes with 3 connectors: 1) Balancer 2) Standard servo connector and 3) connector that fits Hitec, Futaba and JR (you may have to check polarity for your mfg.) I also worried about 12.5 volts being dangerous for my transmitter. So I called the tech people at Hitec. At first the guy said you can't use it because it will void your warrantee. So what! My warrantee along with \$4.95 buys you a cup of coffee. Then they said my charger won't work on the external charge port, because my transmitter uses a diode. I reminded the tech I've already done the internal "jump" so I can use my Sirius charger which needs information from the battery to detect peak charge. Then he got a little bitter and blurted out "well it's just too much voltage!"



Still not satisfied, I asked around and found that another SVSS member was already using a Lipo 3s in his Tx. So I read the reviews provided by Hobby King, and my eyes went blurry reading blog after blog, raving about how much the consumers loved these batteries in their transmitters of all makes. So I bought one for my Eclipse 7 and after a month of testing I bought another for my 2nd transmitter. It was plug and play. I'm using the external charge port with my Multiplex Lipo charger. When fully charged it registered 12.1 volts on my Tx display, where my old pack would show 11.2 on a full charge. Here's the fun part. I have now used the Tx for 5

straight Saturdays and it is currently at 11.5 volts. I'm going to use it until the low voltage warning goes off at 9.3 volts and see how long this first charge lasts.

They cost \$19.95 and are shipped from Hong Kong. The most I have paid for shipping on any of my prior 7 orders is \$14. I think that was for 4 battery packs. All of my orders arrived in 10-14 days. You can track your order daily on their site. They only have 675 left in stock in case you have any interest. I just thought I'd share this for what it's worth. So far I'm thrilled about the run times. I'm ok being the guinea pig for now in case the thing blows up. What's in your transmitter?

SVSS Preliminary Financial Statement

March 31, 2009

<u>Checking Acc.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Debits</u>
Starting Balance			\$8,233.14
Income;			
	Donations (Paul Myers)	\$17.00	
	March Contest	\$130.00	
	Cross country contest 08	\$100.00	
	Monthly prepaid contest fees	\$256.00	
	Membership Dues 09 (23)	\$1,348.00	
	Total	\$1,851.00	\$10,084.14
Expenditures;			
	January News letter printing		\$87.48
	February News letter printing		\$78.06
	Equipment Maintenance Winch/Motors		\$64.65
	Equipment Maintenance Inner Tubes		\$60.17
	Lawn mower fuel		\$24.00
	March News letter printing		\$73.09
	March News letter Mailing		\$36.09
	Post Office Box		\$108.00
	Club Stationary		\$204.22
	Porta-Potty (2-26 Thru 3-25 Service)		\$140.29
	Total		\$876.05
Ending Balance			\$9,208.09
	Increase/decrease in operating funds		\$974.95

April Club Contest

The second club contest of the year is Saturday 11th. Bruce Moore will be the CD. As a warm-up for the SVSS Soaring Challenge Bruce has decreed that the tasks will be 5,10,10, and 10 with our standard 100 point landing tapes. Dave and Company will be doin' the Q.

Thermal Safari

The following weekend is the greatly anticipated Thermal Safari. On April 18th & 19th, cross country enthusiasts take to the air on a long distance flying excursion. The flight plan parallels I-5 between Red Bluff and Woodland. Teams are forming and you'll hear more about this adventure in the coming weeks.

2009 Club Budget

The 2009 SVSS budget was accepted with a unanimous vote. Special thanks to Marty and Stan.

Honoring Passed Members

A proposal was made to create a plaque to attach to the shade structure, which will contain engravings of the names of former SVSS members who have passed away. It was agreed to include all members the club has lost: Ron Kucera agreed to look into the costs of having a plaque (approximately 6" x 10") made with the members name and year of their birth and death engraved.

Safety Officer

Rich Beardsley has volunteered to serve as Safety Officer, which is required by AMA.

New Business

By Laws Ron K proposed we change to club bylaws to allow board members discretionary spending authority up to \$700 as needed.

During the discussion it was noted we also need to change the item and place of the club meetings to our current practice. A motion was made to make these revisions to the by-laws and tabled for the next meeting. Mart promised to have a new draft of the By Laws out for review several weeks before the next meeting.

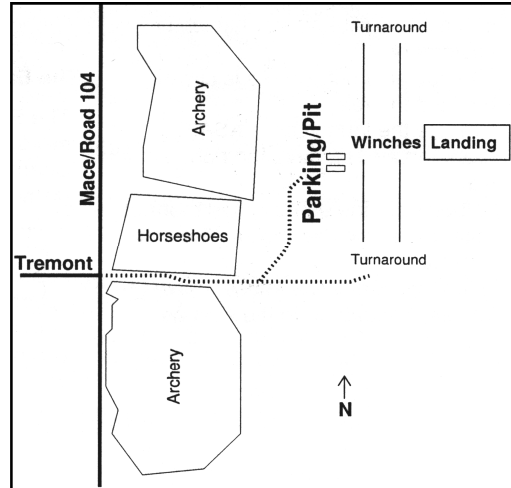
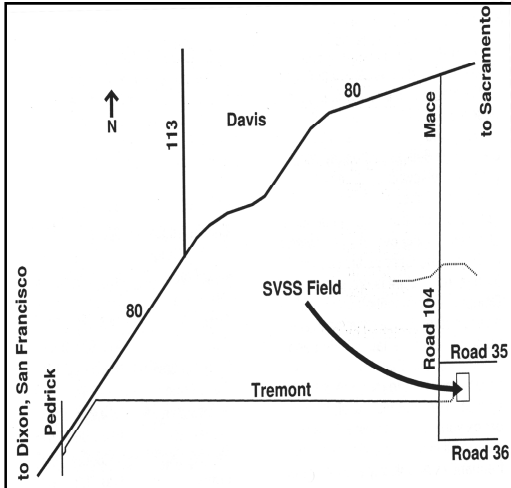
Club Safety A discussion took place regarding the posting of club rules and incorporation into a safety policy. Rich volunteered to....

Next meeting The next SVSS meeting will be immediately following the May 10 contest beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:10

Club Sailplane - Jonathan Heritage

Last year SVSS asked Bill (Weeds) Rinkleib to build a plane for the club. He responded with a nice bagged wing RES sailplane that I am keeping in a safe place at my home. The plane has a 120 inch wingspan, is complete with servos, receiver and transmitter on channel 23. It has been nicely trimmed by Weeds himself. I have flown it several times and find it a nice flyer. This plane is for use of the club members and I encourage you to email or phone me if you want to fly it. Novices are especially encouraged to fly it together with the guidance one of the club instructors or any other willing experienced club flyer. Just call me (530-756-4931) or email (jpherit@pacbell.net) the day before and I'll put the transmitter and receiver on charge. If I am going to the field, I'll bring it the next morning, or, you can come by my house in Davis and pick it up in the morning on your way to the field.



The SVSS Flying Site is located at Yolo County Grasslands Regional Park, south of Davis, CA.

Lat: 38° 29' 49" N, Long: 121° 41' 28" W

Directions: From I-80, take the Mace Blvd. exit. Go south on Mace Blvd. 3.8 miles to the intersection of Tremont Rd. Turn left (east) on the gravel driveway and drive past the horseshoe and archery areas road to the field.

Shortcut from eastbound I-80: From I-80 take the Pedrick Road exit. Follow the frontage road eastbound on the south side of I-80 for 0.8 miles. Turn right on Tremont Rd. Follow Tremont for 5.4 miles. Cross Mace Blvd and enter Grasslands Regional Park.

SVSS Newsletter Editor
 Dudley Dufort
 6120 W. 6th Street
 Rio Linda, CA 95673

