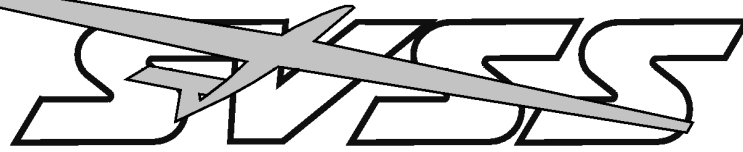


The Eagle's Nest



Sacramento Valley Soaring Society

The Official Newsletter of the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society

August 2009

Volume 19, No. 8

President's Message

By Marty Falarski

I'm sure you have all heard about the parking pass requirement for Grasslands Park. I wanted to give you a little more background info. Yolo County, like most other counties in the state, is being squeezed by the state's budget crisis. It is losing funds and the county supervisors are looking at every line item in their budget to either cut costs or raise revenue. The Parks and Resources Department, our leasor, has been told to find ways to raise revenue. Parking passes are one option. Thanks to Jonathan's attention to the supervisor's meeting minutes and Peter III's ongoing role as our liaison with the parks department we had a good idea what was coming. We meet with the Parks and Resources Department about three weeks ago along with representatives for the Bowmen and Horseshoe Clubs and were advised as to what is going to happen. Don't get me wrong, the county is very appreciative of what we have done to improve our part of their park and live up to the terms of our lease. In preparation for this meeting I asked Stan to look through our expenses over the last five years and give me an estimate of what we have spent on the site. It is no small number. I say this not as an argument against the parking passes but rather to remind myself and everyone else what we have had to do to hold on to this lease. Our lease with the county is the reason we have this field and that lease is coming up for renewal next spring. A lot of good people have put a lot of time and effort into making SVSS and our site one of the best clubs in the country. We need to work with the county and help them solve their problem. They are going to issue annual parking passes to all active members and so far 76 of you have sent your car license number to Dudley. We'll submit that info to the county soon and should have the passes before the Iron Ranger parking pass machine is installed and Yolo starts issuing tickets.

Some better news. Last month's contest was just plain fun. Good tasks, good air and plenty of good pilots at the field. Thanks to Bill for running the event.

There's word of a cross county event is coming to the field soon. What's not to love about cross county flying; you're bouncing down a dirt road in the back of someone's pick up, dust is rolling in, your neck hurts like H.L. form leaning back and squinting into the sun to see a plane that hopefully is too small to see, all the time listening to a loud pitched squealing noise. It just doesn't get any better than that. Sign up for a team and all this fun plus some special treats can be yours.

Don't forget the contest August 8th. The lift will be great, the winches will be working, and all that is needed are planes with tow hooks. Bring yours and hook up a thermal and have some fun!

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

TANC is in the tank - The plan to construct a 600-mile high-voltage power line across Northern California is DOA. Transmission Agency of Northern California is a consortium of 15 power providers. They proposed a high voltage line to carry power from future wind, solar, and geothermal projects in Lassen County, down the Central Valley to urban areas in the southern San Joaquin Valley. So what does that have to do with SVSS you ask? One of the proposed routes was in close proximity to our field and as you know power lines and toy airplanes don't mix. Jonathan Heritage first brought this to our attention and has attended meetings and followed it's progress.

Mars - This has nothing at all to do with soaring but you might be interested anyway. And besides crap like this helps me fill a page. Forwarded to me, recently was a Power Point Presentation that described and explained that during the month of August, the Red Planet will venture closer to Mother Earth than ever again in our lifetime. Something to do with the gravitational tug of Jupiter. Mars rises in the east around 10 PM and (except for the moon) is the brightest object in the night sky. With a decent pair of binoculars, you should be able to see surface details. Watch out for the little green men running around up there.

Bring a new timer - I may have suggested this before but in my never to be humbled opinion, it deserves repeating. How about some of you ardent contestants introducing some of our new members to the enjoyment of our monthly club contests by inviting them to tag along as a timer. This will give them a first hand opportunity to participate in our contests under the tutelage of an experienced pilot.

Minutes from July Meeting - Kudos to Kipp Geisler for the extensive notes from the July Club Meeting. A lot of ground was covered and Kipp provides us with some very comprehensive notes. The next meeting will follow the September club contest. Even if you don't like to participate in the monthly contests you should plan on attending the meetings that follow. A lot of important stuff is discussed that effects the future of your club.

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Club Contest
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

The July Contest

by Bill Curry

SVSS Key Dates Club Contest 8/8

Happy Birthdays

Bill Gore 8/1
Bruce Moore 8/2
Mike Myers 8/4
Dudley Dufort 8/17
R.J. Thomas 8/22
Gene Dias 8/26
Dennis Steir 8/26
Dick Millin 8/31

Well, glider fans if you weren't at the July monthly contest you missed a great day for temperature, winds and lift conditions. If you were there, you know we SVSS members were taken to task by a bunch of out of towners, the McGowans and the Tastos. Bob and son A.J. McGowan took 1st and 2nd place in Masters. Guess who was 1st? When accepting his 2nd place award, A.J. was asked "when are you going to beat your?" His reply "when he goes blind". The Charlie and son Nick Tasto took 1st and 2nd in Expert with Nick in first place.

One thing was very noticeably missed, the great crew of The Road Kill Krew Kafe. Thank you guys for providing this nice service for the past years. You are missed. All of us are wishing Cameron a speedy recovery. Thanks to everyone who helped and participated in making the contest run smooooothly. SVSS always seems to have many members who step up and help. We always need monthly CD's so step up guys, it's easy when you get all the help I did.

Kipp's Notes

SVSS Club Meeting July 11, 1009

The July meeting began at 12:36 pm following the club contest.
There were an excess of 20 members present to constitute a Quorum.

REPORTS

New Members

We welcomed Ian Burnham as a new member. He entered the contest, paid his dues and submitted his membership application on this day. Ian is from Petaluma, Ca. by way of South Africa. He has lived in the United States since 2004.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Stan Scharosch was not present. The balance in the SVSS account is in excess of \$9000.
The Summer Soaring Classic raised in excess of \$2,600 profit for the club.

Equipment

Jonathan Heritage will be working on rebuilding 2 winches/retrievers with bent shafts.
For the future club members need to communicate to the appropriate VP if you are going to volunteer to work on some of the club equipment, in order to coordinate and not duplicate our efforts or do something that causes more trouble:
For winch equipment please contact Jonathan Heritage, for mowing equipment contact Rich Beardsley or Bill Curry.
Our Polaris mower currently needs another new drive belt and Bill and Scott are going to work on delivering the Polaris to a dealer for the repairs. In the future we need to budget for an annual overhaul of the Polaris during the off season.

Secretary

Kipp Geisler will obtain a current list of active club members for the purpose of providing the county with a current list of active members so they can issue our members free annual parking passes. We will soon need license plate numbers for each member.

OLD BUSINESS

Summer Soaring Classic

This year's Summer Soaring Classic was a great success. Special thanks to Dudley and JT for setting it up and to Scott for helping run the contest. Thanks to those with organizational duties who donated their efforts to make the event run so smoothly on the field and in the impound area. Mike Clancey thanked all of his landing judges did an outstanding job as did the winch operators. Our equipment worked very well with few interruptions. The field was well manicured for the contest.

On Behalf of the Road Kill Krew, Dave London presented \$200 to the club for profits on the food sales. The club unanimously voted to return the money to Dave who contributed all the food throughout the year at his own expense.

Cameron Clarke

Dave London gave a report of Cameron Clark's condition following emergency surgeries.

Runway for Electrics

The item of where to build the runway for electric planes was discussed. We are still not sure of the AMA restriction on sitting it are and what the costs would be. Ed volunteered to research the AMA rules and Rich was developing a cost estimate for the material to cover the ground once the site is graded. Jonathan reminded everyone that Scott Lines for Yolo County P&R Dept wants to know about all changes to the site before we do any work.

12:50pm -1:05pm break for the reading of contest scores.

New Member



This month we welcome yet another new member to SVSS. Please allow me to introduce Ian Burnham. Ian was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. He currently resides in Petaluma. Looks like Jim Rolle and Bruce Moore have a new carpool member and cross country team mate. Ian and his wife Sarah have two boys, 2 and 8 years old. Ian's occupation is composites prototyping engineer. Whoa! That deserves some explanation. Ian started flying gliders in South Africa at the age of 12. His first plane was an Olympic II. Ian's other hobbies include photography, and building experimental aircraft. He found out about SVSS through the internet and R/C Groups. Ian writes;

“At the heart of the hobby I have always been an avid builder both from kits and scratch. I have flown aerobatics, Q500 pylon and Scale, but I have always preferred the challenge of flying gliders, both off the slope and thermal. The last two planes I owned before taking almost a twenty year hiatus was an Eisman Camaro f3b glider and a Larry Jolly Comet cross country ship. Since getting back into the hobby about a year ago I have started flying an Allegro Lite, Topaz S and X21, as well as a couple of powered planes. I look forward to making new friends as well as be able to learn from and improve my flying skills by flying with more experienced and skilled pilots than myself. I would just like to thank everyone for the warm welcome and help at July's contest. “

Jim Thomas - The Nats

Just got back from another week at the AMA/LSF Nats or as I like to call it, summer camp for grown children. A great week of flying, catching up with old friends, making new friends, and soaring until the proverbial cows come home. I flew three events (2M, Unl, F3J) aside from running the flight line, and put in 30 competition flights over the 5 days that I actually flew. At an average of 6 flights per day with 10 minute rounds the norm, that's an average of 1 hour of competition flying per competition day. Not too bad!!!

I won't go into much detail about the weeks comings and goings, but will refer you to the NatsNews, written this year by Gordon Buckland. Gordon lives in the greater Orlando area and returned to soaring after a long layoff. He was an F3B pilot out of Australia in his earlier days. Gordon and Jamie (his 23ish year old son) came up for the week and had a great time. They camped at the AMA site, with Gordon writing up the days events in the late hours in his motor home. Gordon, Don Richmond, Rob Glover and I comprised Team Butt Hutt for F3J (see page 9 of the Sun. issue of the News, with me throwing Rob's plane).

The URL for the Nats News is: <http://www.modelaircraft.org/events/nats/natsnews.aspx>. The days of interest are July 20 through July 27. I hope some of you can make it to Muncie for the event. Its something to do at least once in your soaring career.

Triathlon for August

By Mike Clancy

A Triathlon is really three tasks rolled into one. When run exactly according to the rule, 60% of your score is based on flying time up to a 10 minute max, 20% is based on how close you can land on an even minute, and 20% on how close you can get to the landing spot. For a perfect flight, the score would be 600 points for a 10 minute flight scored at a point a second, 200 points for landing on an even minute, and 200 points for landing in the center of a 25 ft radius circle. The 200 point bonus for landing on an even minute decreases steeply to zero if you miss the even minutes by 30 seconds.

Flying Triathlon requires planning ahead by three minutes. On odd minutes, you need to decide if you can fly another three minutes in the air you have found. If not, then set up for a landing in one minute. For example, an 8 minute flight would give you 480 points for duration plus 200 point bonus for landing on an even minute for a total of 680 points whereas a flight of 9:30 would give you a score of 570 for duration with no bonus points for precision. This is what is known as being Triathaloned. :) The landing score is then added to the flight and precision scores.

People who can't land, object to 200 points for the landing and change the landing task. This is the castrated Triathlon since the importance of the landing is removed. Another way of castrating Triathlon is to substitute landing on a string for the L4 landing option. That way, all the pilot has to do is to float down the string and spike the model on the target time. It is much more challenging to trade off missing the target time by a few seconds to get a perfect landing score.

Triathlon is not nearly as challenging event for today's models and winches as it was for the models and winches we were using 30 years ago. It is still a challenging event but too many people max all rounds making it just a landing event without the challenge of deciding whether to land at 6 minutes or go for 8.

Scoring is also a challenge for the score keeper unless they have a computer program for Triathlon. With a program, all that is needed is to enter the flight time and the landing score measured with the standard L4 landing tape. The program then calculated the precision bonus and doubles the landing score and adds it to the flight time in seconds to get the final score.

SVSS Preliminary Financial Statement

July 31, 2009

<u>Checking Acc.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Debits</u>
Starting Balance			\$9,600.17
Income;			
	July Contest	\$147.00	
	Membership Dues 09	\$105.00	
	Total	\$252.00	\$9,852.17
Expenditures;			
	Lawn mower & Generator Gas		\$25.00
	Soaring Challenge Ice		\$66.02
	June News letter printing		\$68.38
	July News letter printing		\$74.40
	July News letter Mailing		\$28.60
	Porta-Potty (5-21 Thru 6-17 Service)		\$141.00
	Total		\$403.40
Ending Balance			\$9,448.77
Increase/decrease in operating funds			(\$151.40)

July Meeting Notes continued

NEW BUSINESS

Safety Rules

President Falarski distributed a copy of the new safety rules proposed in prior club meetings. The following were discussed or amended:

- 1) We need to move the pit or plane staging area away from the winches. A suggestion was made to place a cone behind and to the west of the closest winch cart to the shade structure, and all staging and gilders not in use will remain to the west of the cone during a contest.
- 2) Addition to rule B-6 per AMA Guidelines, pilots shall not drink alcohol during or with 8 hours of a contest.
- 3) Change to rule C-4 no flying over the parking lot or shade structure lower than 100 feet.
- 4) A-2 to remain as is; pilots must be current AMA members to operate model aircraft.
- 5) B-3 Speed limit over the access road to the site will be changed to 10 mph.
- 6) C-2 Escorted guests will also be allowed in the launch and timing areas during a contest.
- 7) C-10 When a glider lands short during a contest, the pilot will exercise utmost caution and retrieve their plane when it is safe to do so using the safest course.
- 8) The members voted on approving the rules as amended and they were approved.

Meeting with Yolo County Parks and Resources

Recently, Marty Falarski, Jonathan Heritage and Peter Dannenfels II. attended a meeting by the Yolo County Parks and Resources staff regarding fees to be charged for the use of Grasslands Park. The P&R Dept is under heavy pressure from their County Board of Supervisors to start raising fees from the local parks. They appreciate the work SVSS and the other two clubs have put into maintaining the park and they want to work with us to find a way to make a proposal back the Board. The county's proposal includes: 1) A fee of \$6.00/day or annual pass for \$70 for all visitors to the park, 2.) a fee of \$20.00/n to park a mobile home. The county will give all SVSS active members an annual parking pass with a number corresponding to license plates, which must be affixed to the vehicle. 3) There will be an "iron ranger" at the entrance gate so guest can buy a one day pass for \$6.00. A "park host" will be stationed at the park part time and will enforce the parking pass and tickets will be issued to violators.

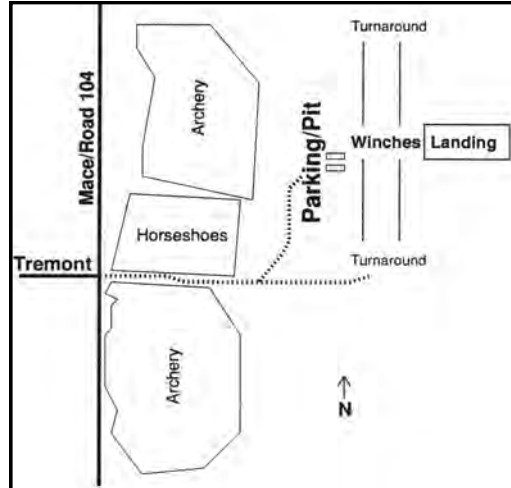
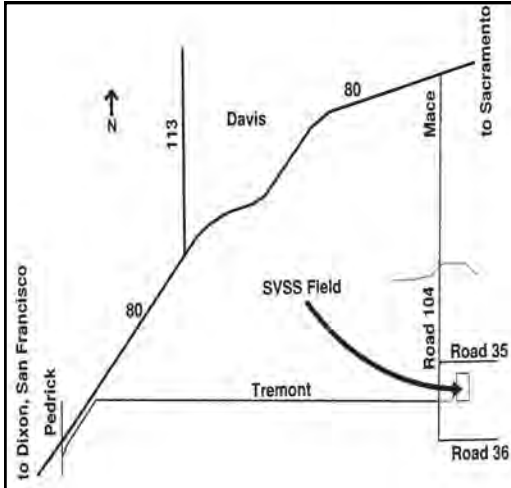
A discussion followed as to SVSS's response to the new fees. A recommendation was presented and a motion made to communicate back to Yolo County, that the club will give it's full support of the plan, and attempt to negotiate a 5 year extension on our lease which will expire next year. The members voted and approved the recommendation.

Working with local Schools

A suggestion was made to reach out to the local high schools to develop interest in RC gliders, like Ron is already doing at Elk Grove. Mike and Bill said to be careful as the publicity could mean other groups will look at the Grasslands Park as a place for their use. .

Our next meeting will follow the September contest.

Mart reminded the Club that the September meeting will mark the start of the club officer election process. The meeting adjourned at 1:55pm



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
 5820 W. 6th Street
 Rio Linda, CA 95673

