

# Servo Chatter

Official newsletter of the SCCMAS "Tomcats"

AMA club charter #110

January 2002 - Issue # 90

Editor: Chris Luvara

<http://www.sccmas.org>



## **NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 30th @ 7:30pm.**

Location: Hayes Elementary School, located off of Poston Dr in San Jose. See page 3 for a meeting map.

**Future dates:** TBA

**Program:** Raffle prizes will include the usual - a radio, an engine, a kit, glues, and lots of other neat stuff! Bring your latest creation for show and tell and receive a free raffle ticket. Coffee and Donuts as usual.

**Cover Photo:** Tony Wilson gets a hand starting his Edge 540 from Damon Parker . (Photo by Mike Luvara)

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# From the Editor

by Chris Luvara



Well, just a few things from me this month. First off, Our annual club survey is included in this issue. It is important for the board members to hear concerns from the members, so please fill it out and send it in.

Secondly, my brother and I finally got a digital camera to fool around with, and besides all of the photos of the officers, they photos inside and on the cover were all taken with the digital camera. I'm happy how they came out, and it looks like it will be a little easier on me to take some pictures for the newsletter.

Thats it from me, happy flying!

-Chris



Paul Steiner's gigantic GeeBee! (Photo by Mike Luvara)

# Flyin Fast..The VP's News

by Michael Luvara



Welcome to another month of Servo Chatter – another year that is! Time sure flies. It seems as if every time I finish writing an article for the newsletter, the next issue is right around the corner. Anyways, lots of good stuff this month...

By now everyone should have received a personalized 2002 renewal form. If you haven't, please call or email me as soon as possible. Renewal forms were mailed on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. I have to thank club member Matt Campi and family who volunteered their time to fold, stuff, and label the some four hundred renewal forms that went out in December. The SCCMAS really appreciates the help in lightening the load. Between the newsletter, renewal forms, and periodic mailings, things do get busy! Flying – what's that?

Recently, our club surpassed the 400 member mark. At the end of 2001, our membership list totaled 410 members - a number that we have not seen for quite some time. In fact, I believe that we may now have the largest club membership in the United States. One of the things about the SCCMAS that is unique compared to most other clubs is the capability to host many types of R/C aircraft. Big, small, fast, slow, etc. Racing, turbines, aerobatic, park flyers, gliders, helicopters, etc. This variety and number of aircraft provides quite a challenge sometimes. Many aircraft sharing a common airspace is poses its own problems. Please understand that we as pilots have to coexist with others. Every paying member has a right to fly just as much as everyone else and there is a certain respect that comes in doing so.

A few simple items to take note of:

- NO hovering over the runway when others are present.
- NO heli aerobatics in the helipads. This area is only for hovering and low flight. All other maneuvers are to be performed from the six flight stations. Mild maneuvers such as figure eights, etc are permitted while hovering.
- T-34's should not race over the runway. Particularly, "mock races" should be performed when no one else is flying.

*(continued on page 6)*

Remember, if you've got any submissions, send them to:



Servo Chatter  
1365 Buchanan Drive  
Santa Clara, CA 95051-3950

Email at: [servochatter@sccmas.org](mailto:servochatter@sccmas.org)

Call voice at: (408) 246-9583

# From the Secretary's Building Board

## March meeting notes:

- 46 members present
- New solos reported:  
Gregg Uhlendorf
- New members present:  
Gregg Uhlendorf  
Thomas Uhlendorf  
Vern Bollesen

by Rich Luvara



## Show and Tell.....

**Lynsel Miller** - Showed a carb adapter that rotates Zenoh Carbs 90 degrees. They are imported from the UK.

**Don Loughridge** - Ultrasport 60, has a 63" wing, uses a OS 91 Surpass and its hasn't been flown yet.

**Bahman Dara** - Kit-bashed electric from parts, uses a Speed 300 for power.

## Dumb Thumb



**Winner: Don Loughridge**

## Raffle

Radio- Ray Frazier - Don't forget the Donuts!

Kit - Jacob Raquet

Fuel Pump - Jim Shadwick

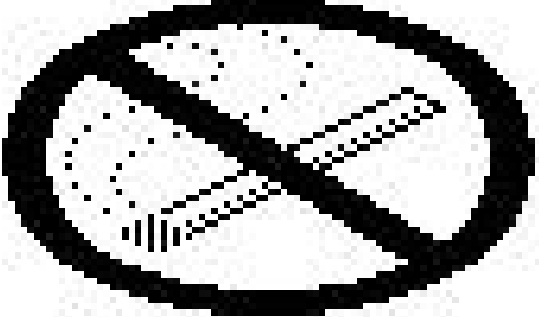
Fuel - Mike French

Fuel - John Ribble

Engine - Carl Reisinger

This month, we have to thank *Sheldon's Hobbies* for their help with our raffle. Without contributions from sources like this, our raffle would in no way be possible. Please support all of our local hobby shops that are listed on the back cover of the newsletter. *Remember, the local shops are the ones that donate to our club. The mailorder ones do not.*

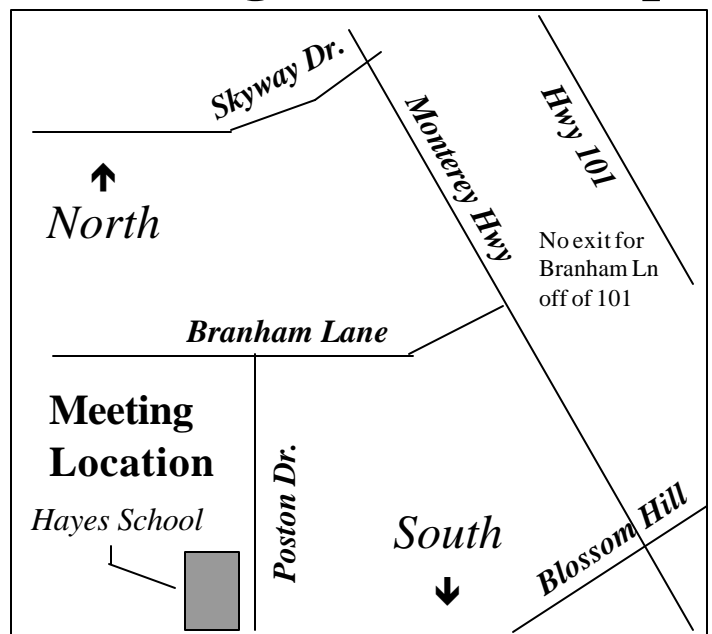
# NOTICE!!!



No Smoking on anywhere on the Hayes school grounds, inside or out.



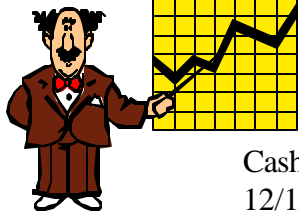
## Meeting Location Map



Drawing not to scale

# Trea\$urer's Report

by Babe Caltabiano



Cash Flow Report  
12/1/01-1/10/01

## INFLOWS

Dues  
Contest Entries

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## TOTAL INFLOWS

## OUTFLOWS

Acme Sanitation  
Bay Alarm  
Donations  
Food expenses  
Office  
Pitney Bowes  
Printing  
Repairs  
Stamps  
Utilities, PGE

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## TOTAL OUTFLOWS

---

## OVERALL TOTAL

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# Safety/Training

by Jim Patrick



We have a great flying facility. However, we are not the only people who use this county park. Because of the bike path and the wildlife area, there are a lot of other people out at the field on any day. We attract a lot of

attention. In our interaction with others, be on your best behavior. Be polite and avoid offensive language. You will have to turn the other cheek when someone complains about the foreign markings on your warbird, or the politically incorrect nose art. Not everyone understands our hobby, but we can live with that.

Because we fly in a park and wildlife area, the county and state fish and game are very sensitive about the activities. Rockets are not allowed at the field. Even if the fire danger is low, a downed rocket can leave chemical debris in the environment. We also have to be aware of this when flying our planes. When you fuel your plane, catch your overflow. Dispose of your empty fuel bottles properly, preferably at home. If you go out to retrieve a crash, bring along a trash bag. **PICK UP ALL THE PIECES.**

### Range checks and gas engines.

Everyone should know that a range check is necessary before flying a new airplane. Some people do not realize how important the range check is when using a gasoline engine with spark ignition. The ignition systems we use are broadband transmitters of RFI, radio frequency interference. Each engine is different, one engine may cause interference and the next may not. It is important that you do a thorough range check and that you know just what to look for. If you do not know, you can overlook possible problems. Get help from someone experienced in this area. Check your range with the engine off. Your ultimate goal is to get the same range with the engine running at all speeds. Do not accept any less range, this indicates a problem.

### ARF's and flutter.

I check out a lot of ARF's before their first flights. Many are now being built without bearings on the aileron torque rods. This causes excessive play. Some of the trainers are getting aileron flutter during straight and level flight. It is not too difficult to install a bearing on the rod. Fixing this problem can save an airplane. You can check with me to find out how I fix this.

Mail or fax your ads to:  
**SERVO CHATTER**  
**1365 Buchanan Dr**  
**Santa Clara, Ca 95051**  
**Voice (408)246-9583**  
**Email: servochatter@sccmas.org**

Classified Ads for our Members"

No ads recieved this month.

### **T-34 staging area.**

With over 400 members now in this club, the field can get crowded. With up to 6 flyers at a time, the runway can get almost impossible to use. All it takes is one person on the runway to make it impossible for others to land or take off. It helps here to have a spotter. Your spotter can let you know if the runway is in use and help you schedule your landing or passes. I get the most complaints about how much the T-34's dominate the runway. When a number of T-34's are going to fly at one time, they should stage along the taxiway, just like they do during a race day. This is how they let other flyers know what will happen within a few minutes. If you see a number of them on the taxiway, be aware what is going to take place. When the T-34s are flying, they should not be flying over the runway.

When you taxi out for takeoff, remember to stop at the end of the taxiway. Here you can clear out your engine while checking for traffic. DO NOT even attempt to taxi out onto the runway until you are sure you are cleared for takeoff. This means you don't see anyone on final approach and you don't see someone trying to make a dead stick landing. Watch the people on the flight line. You may not hear someone yelling out their need to use the runway, but you may see them trying to get your attention. Again, use a spotter to help when it is crowded.

# **IMPORTANT!**



Please do not throw away any fuel containers in the SCCMAS garbage cans. Please take them home and dispose of according to your local regulations.

# **TENTATIVE EVENTS**

### **Events should be finalized by the next meeting....**

March 23 - Inter Club Fun Fly

April 12 - Flea Market

May 18 & 19 Jet Fly-In

June 1 - Electric Fly-In

June 22 & 23 - Giant Scale

July 13 & 14 - Annual Airshow

July OR Aug - Flea Market

August 10 - Warbird Races

August 31 - Sept 1 IMAC/SCAT Aerobatics

October 5-6 - T-34 Championships

November - Pattern contest - 2 days



*(continued from on page 2)*

The underlying comment here is to be considerate to others. Know who is around you and how your actions affect others.

Let's also remember that we are in a public setting. People are watching us fly and work on planes in the pit area – a lot of times with young children around. Pay particular attention to your language and remember that your actions may offend others.

Last month I mentioned that the SCCMAS is getting a fresh look to its website. Well, it's coming. Our new webmaster (Steve Snell) has been working hard on a new design and we should see the benefits soon. Along with this will come a change in where the website is hosted and this may cause some short-term access problems. Our ISP is changing internally and has caused us to make some changes.

In 2001, we initiated the use of the internet to distribute our newsletter. This has provided some cost savings to the club and we do appreciate the members that are taking us up on it. I will be soon purging the email list and starting fresh for 2002. If you have an email address in the roster and have selected to only receive the paper copy, you will still get the notices about the online version. It is much easier to handle the email list this way. We do not send the online version as an attachment - so it won't slow down your email download time. Managing the database and some of this stuff gets complicated. The automatic renewal notices this year drastically cut down renewal processing, along with the fact that I can automatically print out complete club cards rather than having to type each name and AMA number. I can't imagine the work it was 5 years ago when each card was typed on a typewriter!

Some club members have voiced concerns regarding channel numbers on radios. As far as I can tell, the AMA does not require the use of frequency flags. The SCCMAS recommends that you place some sort of identification on your radios to tell others what channel that you are on.

Recently the subject of R/C boats in the pond came up. While we were permitted to use this area at one time in the past, we cannot use the pond for any type of R/C activity anymore. Once the 100 year rains caused Anderson reservoir to overflow, the ponds became part of the Coyote creek system, and thus under the control of Fish and Game. If anyone doubts the validity of this, I have the document stating that we cannot use the pond.

As of January 1, 2002, Kevin Norred has ended his term as Contest Coordinator. Kevin provided many years of great service to the SCCMAS and built up some really great events to enjoy. Thanks Kevin. We have set up an awesome

lineup of events for 2002 as 2001 had with a few changes. (see tentative dates on page 5). We are currently looking for an enthusiastic individual willing to step up to this volunteer position. Basically, the contest coordinator sets up our yearly events and ensures that each one is run with the needed resources. The salary is great along with the benefits. It even includes your choice of vacation time! And the only days you have to be at work are the days of the contests that you are running! All kidding aside, we do provide a free membership for each year served in the position. The only requirement is that you are an AMA Contest Director.

As many of you know, the club pay phone by the field has been a target for vandals and subsequently stolen about 4 times. It gets very hard to convince the phone company to keep replacing the phone, so we have installed a club phone inside the snack shack which can be used for local calls. Any long distance calls require the use of a calling card or credit card. The number for this line is (408) 465-2236 and the phone can be accessed any time that the shack is open. Several members hold keys to the shack and can open it during most days of the week. Also, don't forget that the club has its own weather and information line which is installed at the field. Dial (408) 776-0101 to receive a live report of temperature and prevailing winds at the field.

In the last newsletter, Sheldon's Hobbies was inadvertently listed as the donor to the October raffle. Hobby World was the donor to the raffle and should have received the credit. Please excuse the error.

Also, take note that Hobby World and D&J Hobbies both offer 10% discounts to SCCMAS members. Show your club card at checkout and receive these discounts.

If you get a chance, check out Bay Area Backroads on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm on KRON channel 4. Our club may appear in a short segment that is highlighting bike trail that runs by the field.

Lastly, be sure to fill out and send in the included 2002 member survey. We use this survey to understand what the membership wants and guide our future. Don't forget to send in your 2002 renewal and dues either!

Anyways, I think that's enough for this month. If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to contact myself or any of the other board members. We are here for you.

Michael



## Hayes Elementary School

A California Distinguished School  
5035 Poston Drive, San Jose, CA 95136  
408-227-0424 Fax 408-224-7191  
Laurel Olsen, Principal

Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark  
Mr. Michael S. Luvara, Vice President  
158 Terable Court  
San Jose, CA 95139

November 1, 2001

Dear Mr. Luvara,

On behalf of the students at Hayes School, I would like to thank your organization for your contribution of \$250. It has been placed in our Science Camp scholarship fund and has been utilized to help sponsor several students' attendance.

Thank you for supporting the program at Hayes School in this manner.

Sincerely,

Laurel Olsen  
Principal



# 2002 S.C.C.M.A.S. Member questionnaire

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

AMA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years in R/C? \_\_\_\_\_



What days of the week do you normally fly? (*circle all that apply*)

*Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday*

What frequencies do you currently use? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you expect from the SCCMAS? \_\_\_\_\_

*On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being high), please rate the following questions.*

Does the SCCMAS meet your expectations?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

*Improvements/suggestions:* \_\_\_\_\_

Does the SCCMAS field meet your expectations?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

*Improvements/suggestions:* \_\_\_\_\_

Do the club meetings meet your expectations?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

*Improvements/suggestions:* \_\_\_\_\_

Do you normally read the Newsletter? YES / NO

Does the newsletter meet your expectations?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

*Improvements/suggestions:* \_\_\_\_\_

What field improvements do you wish to see in the future?

*Short term:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Long term:* \_\_\_\_\_

*(Feel free to use additional pieces of paper if needed)*  
Thank you for your time and input, SCCMAS Governing Board



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812 Asbury St  
San Jose, CA 95126-1803

Place  
stamp  
here

2002 SCCMAS SURVEY  
812 Asbury St  
San Jose, CA 95126-1803

# Recent photos from the field

photos by Mike Luvara

