

Servo Chatter

Official newsletter of the SCCMAS "Tomcats"

AMA club charter #110

January 2003 - Issue # 96

Editor: Chris Luvara

<http://www.sccmas.org>



NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 23rd @ 7:30pm.

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

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. Don Loughridge will be our featured speaker.

Cover Photo: Ever want to check if those "radio hits" are real? Not sure if someone is on your frequency? Well the club has a Spectrum Analyzer to make sure you're safe. Just find a club officer with access to the shack, so you can check if your channel is clear.

In this Issue:

From the Editor.....	2
Flyin Fast VP News.....	2
Secretary's Building Board.....	3
Meeting Location Map.....	3
Clamp tip.....	3
Safety.....	4
Treasurer's Report.....	4
In Loving Memory.....	5
Union Middle School Photos.....	6

From the Editor

by Chris Luvara



I hope everyone's New year has started off well, and that will get a ton of flying in this year! This year, as always, is shaping up to be a great for the SCCMAS, thanks to all its members.

I'd like to congratulate Jim Caparelli on a cover shot that was one of the

winners in Model Aviation Magazine's cover submission contest. John Mota's Corsair, along with his own photo-shopped in face should appear sometime soon. So watch the cover of your AMA magazine, and marvel at Jim's Photographic and Photoshop talents. We have been lucky enough to feature some of Jim's work in Servo Chatter and it's great that AMA decided to as well in their magazine.

On that note, I'll just tell you to watch the cover of RC Modeler magazine sometime in the next few months, and look for a pretty girl holding a shiny red airplane. I will be the guilty photographer for that shot!

Do you have something interesting to say? Do you get tired of hearing other people talk so much? Do I ask too many questions? Well at each of our meetings we would like to feature a guest speaker to give us some hints, or a fascinating story about our hobby. If you are interesting in talking, contact VP Mike Luvara, and let him know what you have. This month Don Loughridge will be speaking. Be sure to come and check it out.

Till next time,
Chris

NOTICE: Contrary to many rumors, and written notes that have surfaced, the wetlands situation has posed no changes to normal field operations. Several rumors have stated we are losing our field, or are not holding certain events at the SCCMAS. Please refrain from making such comments that would in any way shape or form create rumors. This accomplishes nothing to further our hobby.

Remember, if you have any submissions, send them to:

Servo Chatter
1365 Buchanan Dr
Santa Clara, Ca 95051-3950
servochatter@sccmas.org
408-246-3857

Flyin Fast..The VP's News

by Michael Luvara



Happy New Year to all SCCMAS Members. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season and are looking forward to another great flying season. With the new year brings the SCCMAS a fresh slate of events, weather, work parties and of course, renewals.

SCCMAS renewals were mailed on 12/30/02. Thanks to Matt Campi and family for stuffing all 400+ envelopes! Please pay attention to the notes and signatures that are required on the forms. Also, don't forget to include a copy of your AMA with your renewal or it will delay getting your card! You will notice in your renewal package that we are highlighting the wetlands/ponds issue. The designation of these ponds will not change and we need to avoid overflight of the area.

The next club meeting on January 23rd will have our helpers drawing for 2003. If you helped at any event (work party, airshow, giant scale, etc) at the SCCMAS in 2002, your name will be put in the drawing for each day volunteered, so be sure to be there to see if you win a prize! Our giveaway will include many prizes, including a radio, engine, 1 year of SCCMAS membership, and much more! This is our way of saying thanks to those that have given time and dedication to the SCCMAS.

On Tuesday Nov 19th, the SCCMAS hosted Middle School Students from Union Middle School in Los Gatos. The students from Union Middle school had a great time learning about radio controlled flight and even getting a little bit of stick time in the air! (See page 6 for photos) Thanks to the following members for their help (in no particular order): Jack Sunzeri, Howard Sosbee, Joel Ledain, Ray Fraser, Bill Gaunt, John Ribble, Don Koelfgen, Dick Gardner, and George Zbriger. Without these individuals' time and aircraft, the day would have not been a success. There is a possibility of having two more visits from the school in the first half of 2003. If interested in helping at these, let us know.

A big thanks goes to Pat Rose for researching and acquiring new signs at the field. You may notice them around the field as they are installed. We are currently in the process of updating the main signs on Monterey Hwy and the back of the radio impound. Pat is also leading the way in expanding the transmitter impound slots to accept the larger-sized transmitters and making a set of cubby-holes below each impound to place those transmitter cases. This will help prevent people or young children from wandering into the pits and help keep those radios safe in their cases.

As of this writing, we have received much feedback via the surveys included with member renewals and are waiting for the rest to filter in. These surveys guide the direction of the SCCMAS and we look

(continued on page 5)

From the Secretary's Building Board

by Rich Luvara

Will return next issue of Servo Chatter!



This month, we have to thank Sheldons 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.

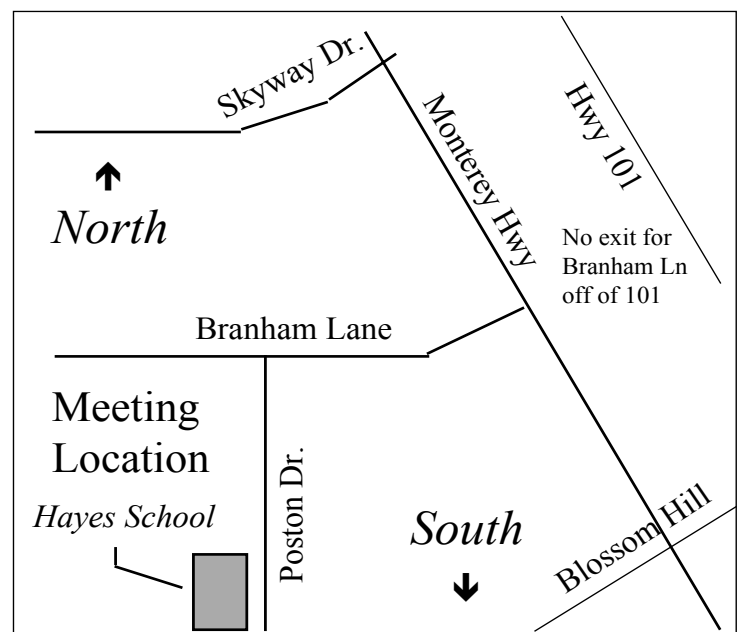


Having trouble finding a good set of clamps? These little beauties can be found at Orchard (22pcs worth of them) for about \$7.00. They are perfect for hobby use.

Got a tip or hint that can help out a fellow modeler? Be sure to send it in for the newsletter.

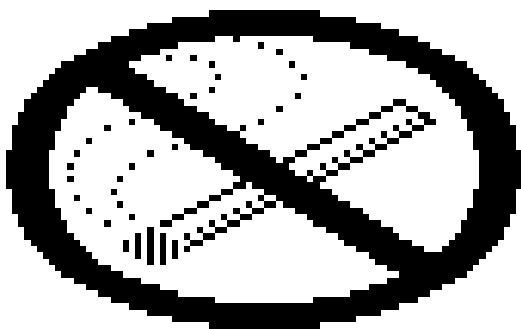
Send submissions by email: servochatter@sccmas.org, or by snail mail. (address on page 2)

Meeting Location Map



Drawing not to scale

NOTICE!!!



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

Trea\$urer's Report

by Babe Caltabiano

Cash Flow Report
11/14/02-1/13/03

INFLOWS

Contest Entries	\$875.00
Dues	\$8,405.00
Vending	\$365.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$9,645.00

OUTFLOWS

Acme Sanitation	\$1,043.89
AMA	\$20.00
Apparel	\$302.50
Bay Alarm	\$270.00
Building Materials	\$578.05
Club Area maint.	\$18.80
Contest Expense	\$77.00
Garbage	\$486.69
Internet/Webcam	\$261.35
Misc.	\$2,184.92
Office	\$39.88
Pest	\$50.00
Pitney Bowes	\$109.59
Printing	\$324.85
Stamps	\$310.00
Tax	\$25.00
Trophies	\$199.25
Utilities, PGE	\$524.34
Utilities, Phone	\$197.60

TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$7,023.71
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OVERALL TOTAL	\$2,621.29
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Safety/Training

by Jim Patrick



We have had some beautiful flying days lately. But we have also seen some very ugly days. This is not the season for a lot of flying and training is slow. But if you are a member and need training, call me, I will set you up with an instructor.

I see that some pilots are having trouble doing approaches during a south wind. If you are having trouble avoiding the wetland area during your approaches, see one of our instructors. We can help you learn a short approach.

When you get your new club card, please check the back of the card to see if it is stamped with wings. This means you are checked off to fly at the field. You do not get this stamp UNTIL you have been checked off. If you do not have the stamp and think you should, call me. I will find out why and get you checked off.

This time of the year we do a lot of building. This is also a good time to do the maintenance on your plane that it surely needs. Because I check them on a regular basis, I still have planes that are years old and have hundreds of flights. One of my planes is on its third battery and second fuel tank. Another is on its third elevator servo, second battery and second fuel tank. I hate fuel tanks. If someone knows how to promise no fuel tank leaks, I want to know.

When you put a new battery into your plane put the date on the pack. Record this information. You can even write it inside the plane. If you can cycle the battery, do this to get its capacity and record this also. When the capacity drops below 80 percent of its original value, get rid of the pack. From my experience, most nicad packs will not last beyond 4 years. Many of us have an ESV with a load. This is not the only way or the best way to check a battery. An ESV does not tell you the capacity of the battery. It tells you that you have charged the pack. You can then cycle the pack if you have the equipment.

Nicads in good condition will maintain a voltage of at least 1.1 volts per cell during long storage. To check this you need a voltmeter WITHOUT a load. You need to check the battery pack voltage with NO load on it. It is good to check a pack that has been sitting around for a few months. If any nicad stored without a load on it drops below 1.1 volts per cell, don't trust it any further, it is most likely going bad. I have found this myself on at least three nicad packs. I then cycled the packs. I found the capacity below 80 percent, in fact 60 to 70 percent. Each of these packs was 4 years old or older. It is a good idea to stop using packs that are over 4 years old. If you just charge a low capacity pack over night then check with an ESV it will look like a good pack. You might only be able to fly a few flights before the pack died. Don't take chances with your batteries. To fly safely, we have to make sure that everything on our planes is operating properly.

forward to seeing how the club is doing in the member's eyes. Several items that we have seen trends on are the newsletter and field improvements. On the newsletter, I would like to say that this newsletter is your newsletter, the member. Articles are welcome and encouraged. Chris, being the editor can't do it all himself and he needs help from you, the member, to provide content. Send in those hints and tips, interesting articles, member spotlights, etc. Now, for the field issues...

On Saturday, February 22nd, we will be having a major work party at the SCCMAS field. During this work party, several areas of the field will be worked on and we need the membership's help at this event. All helpers will receive a free lunch and drinks along with getting their names listed in the SCCMAS year-end event helpers drawing for 2003. Specific areas of improvement will be the overall grass condition (overrun & grass runway strip), installation of sprinkler lines to give better coverage, replace & paint the broken wooden posts (RV and south field area), install mesh over last sun shade, touch up paint, slurry seal in necessary areas, and organize the snack shack workshop/storage bin. What is needed from members is shovels, rakes, wheel barrows, and tools to move dirt. We will be attempting to smooth and fill in all of the rough areas around the grass and re-seed necessary areas to give that ultimate grass condition. With your help, this will be possible. Come out and lend a hand.

We are currently working on our event schedule for 2003. As of this writing, it looks like the events held will be as shown below. The events are based on our previous years' events and from information gathered in the event surveys. The idea is to keep our event schedule down to 1 event per month. This year's schedule removes two days from our contests as compared to last year's. The dates will be confirmed on January 26th at the NCRCS meeting, which aims to ensure clubs don't have overlapping events. We're still looking for an enthusiastic individual willing to step up and volunteer for the contest coordinator position. Must have an AMA CD license. If not, we will help you get one. The AMA requires 3 years AMA membership before allowing one to possess a CD license. Contact me if interested.

March - Inter-Club Fun Fly
April - Flea Market & Warbird or T-34 Race
May - Jet Event (2 day)
June - Electric Fly-In
July - Airshow (2 day) & Flea Market
August - Giant Scale
September - IMAC (2 day)
October - T-34 or Warbird Race
November - Pattern (2 day) & Flea Market

The SCCMAS website has seen some major additions over the past few months. This includes the addition of our live weather cam. The weather information updates live from the field every 10 minutes. While the system has been a little rocky, things are starting to stabilize. We're chartering new ground with this system. The server at the field now has its own phone line so that the updates are more frequent (couldn't get DSL or Cable at the field), and the system handles two cameras and the weather station. So far, things appear to be stabilizing and the cameras are fairing pretty well. The

pit cam, which points at the pits, saturates with direct sunlight in the early morning (8 to 9 am), but works at all other times. Weather operates 24-7 and the cameras take pictures during daylight.

All in all, I think we have one of the finest fields in the country.... I'm certainly proud of it and you should be too.

Until next month,
Michael



In loving memory of Jo Edith Robinson "The Flying Lady" April 2, 1932 - December 3, 2002

Jo Robinson passed away just last month after a long illness of cancer. Jo Robinson was known as the flying lady. She loved to fly and always came to the field with her husband Art.

She was a real good sport and would always help the guys retrieve their airplanes when they crashed. You could always picture Jo running out on any occasion. At times when someone couldn't start their engine, she would bring them a starter to assist them.

She did a good job of watching out for the impound, making sure everyone had the right frequency pin and that the switches were off on the radios. She was like one of the guys to us.

Jo will be missed by all of us.

- Jack Sunzeri

**Work Party
Saturday February 22nd**

Union Middle School students get flying lessons



Thanks to these individuals for making this day possible!

Jack Sunzeri, Howard Sosbee, Joel Ledain, Ray Fraser, Bill Gaunt, John Ribble, Don Koelfgen, Dick Gardner, and George Zbriger.

Current Governing Board Members of the S.C.C.M.A.S. "Tomcats"

General Manager	Brian Nelson	408-463-0604 (Email: nelson711@aol.com)
Vice President:	Mike Luvara	408-292-1212 (Email: mike@sccmas.org)
Contest Coordinator:		
Newsletter Editor:	Chris Luvara	408-246-3857 (Email: chris@luvaraairracing.com)
Treasurer:	Babe Caltabiano	408-578-9014 (Email: babe007cw@aol.com)
Safety/Training	Jim Patrick	408-356-0817 (Email: jpqt7@gte.net)
Secretary:	Richard Luvara	408-246-3857 (Email: rluvara@hotmail.com)
Food Service Mgr:	Pat Luvara	408-246-3857 (Email: pat@luvaraairracing.com)
Webmaster:	Steve Snell	831-438-7624 (Email: steve@bigbopcity.com)

Field Weather & Information (AUTOMATED)	408-776-0101
On site Field Telephone	408-465-2236
SCCMAS Business Office	408-292-1212

SCCMAS WWW address: <http://www.sccmas.org>

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President

NOTE: D&J and Hobby World both give 10% discounts if club members show their club card.

AMA Intro Pilots
(These pilots can fly-non AMA members)
Certain restrictions apply.

Reggie Dell Aquia
Jim Patrick
Jack Sunzeri

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Fax: (408) 379-1652
Email: Roger@dlj hobby.com
Web: www.dljhobby.com

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Looks like John Gaines, who recently moved to Oregon, just can't have enough fun with his T-34's!

The Servo Chatter is published bi-monthly by the SCCMAS "Tomcats" radio control club located in Morgan Hill, CA. For info E-mail: servochatter@sccmas.org. Views expressed in the Servo Chatter are those of the writers. They do not necessarily represent the views of the club, its members, or officers. The SCCMAS is a non profit organization. The Servo Chatter welcomes all letters and comments. Permission is granted to reproduce anything printed in Servo Chatter as long as the source and author are credited.



Servo Chatter c/o SCCMAS
1365 Buchanan Dr.
Santa Clara, CA 95051-3950



This will be your last issue of Servo Chatter if you have not yet renewed!

Next meeting: Thursday, January 23rd @ 7:30pm

Location: Hayes School, Poston Drive

(see page 3 for a map)

Notice: NO SMOKING on Hayes school premises!