

Servo Chatter

July 2004 - Issue # 105

Official newsletter of the SCCMAS "Tomcats"

AMA club charter #110

Editor: Chris Luvara

<http://www.sccmas.org>



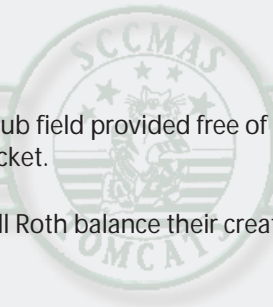
Next Meeting: Saturday, July 24th, 2004 @ 5:30pm

Location: SCCMAS Club Field

Future Meeting dates:

Meeting Program: BBQ at the club field provided free of charge. Bring your latest creation for show and tell get a free raffle ticket.

Cover Photo: Ken Kightly and Bill Roth balance their creation at the SCCMAS Junkyard Wars. (Photo by Chris Luvara)



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From the Editor

by Chris Luvara



We've had some good events since the last newsletter - Electric Flyin, Junkyard Wars was tons of fun, and the Airshow was great too. Once again I will keep my column short. Enjoy the weather while it's good and enjoy the newsletter!

Fly Safe, Chris



photo by chris luvara

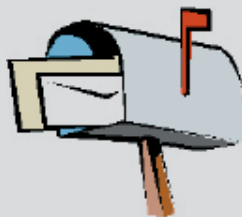


photo by chris luvara

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Servo Chatter

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servochatter@sccmas.org



Flyin Fast - VP News

by Michael Luvara



As I write this column, the 2004 Airshow has just passed and the recuperation begins for many after the long weekend. This year was a great airshow and certainly could not have been put on if not for the small number of extremely hard working volunteers. ... More on this subject later. Many sponsors helped out the SCCMAS, including Sheldon's Hobbies, D&J Hobbies, Aero Micro, Penn International Chemicals, and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Dept. We also owe a great thanks to the motorhome park near our entrance for the use of their field in overflow parking. It was well utilized and needed. Please say thanks to these sponsors next time you see them!

Over Memorial Day weekend, the SCCMAS had the pleasure of being invited to fly at the Watsonville Airshow. This was a great opportunity and we all had fun. Participants were: Shawn Berkheimer, Zak West, the Luvara's, Steve Culp, Tim Jones, Paul Steiner, Paul Hasselbach, and Babe Caltabiano. The looks on many faces when they saw Steiner's 40% Gee Bee was priceless! We even had to find a hangar to store it overnight so that Paul would not have to dismantle it and bring it back on Sunday. It looked right at home in the hangar.

On June 1st, several SCCMAS members turned up at the field to help train students of Union Middle School during their field trip to the SCCMAS. A huge thanks goes out to the following individuals who graciously came out to provide some stick time to the students: Ken Kightly, Dick Gardner, George Zbrudewski, Fred Celsi, & John Ribble.

In preparation for the airshow this year, a work party was held on June 6th. Many turned out to help get the field in top shape and perform a late spring cleaning. Thanks goes to the following: "Wild" Bill Murtha, Reggie Dell Aquila, Jim Patrick, Mike Luvara, Ken Kightly, Dan Petroff, Bill McArthur, Fon Loughridge, Dick Zorker, Alan Anderson, Harvey Thackson, Jim Thompson, John Ribble, Mike West, Bob Pairman, Wayne Wilson, Vernon Bollesen, Rich Luvara, Chris Luvara, and Jim Shadwick.

Please make sure that if you are the first person to enter the field on any given day that you need to lock up and spin the dials on our locks when opening the access gates. In the past year, we have locked ourselves out of the field, because some have opened the gate and not closed the locks back up. The locks then either are stolen (because they are loose), or are lost because they fall off the chain and into the tall grass somewhere. At night, the Rangers will just lock up the gates and we won't be able to get in if there is no lock. We appreciate your cooperation on these issues.

The SCCMAS is a non-profit, volunteer organization whose primary purpose to provide a flying site for R/C enthusiasts

(Continued on VP News page 7, top right column)

From the Secretary's Building Board



by Rich Luvara

Club Meeting Notes May 20th, 2004
Members Present: 48

New Members:

Harvey Saxton

New Solos :

None

Show and Tell

Lynsel Miller - 1/5 scale Consolidated Aircraft P-39 powered by a G-62. Glass fuse and foam core wings, painted with DBU auto paint. All decked out in olive drab complete with panel lines, and his own cast exhaust stacks. Uses Robart retracts. Sadly, this beautiful model was lost at the Castle fly-in.

Matt Campi - Ressurrected a Great Planes Extra 300 from the trash can. Matt claims it cost roughly 48 cents less than a new one, and took longer to build!

Mike Luvara- Showed off his plug for a 42% giant scale racer called Sundowner. 115 inch wingspan. Started by himself and Amir Neshati, the plug and molds have since been completed and the first fuselage made. Mike hopes to have the aircraft finished in time for a race in Ohio in mid August. The first plane will be powered by a Zenoah GT-80.



Bob Zuk lands his Fokker during Airshow 2004
(photo by Chris Luvara)



Dumb Thumb

Winner: Walt Colby & Bob House



Raffle

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Steve Culp | Kit |
| Matt Campi | Radio |
| George Zbrudzewski | Fuel |
| John Ribble | Tailwheel |
| Mike French | Power Panel |
| Merle Culp | Fuel Pump |
| Jack Patteson | Glue |
| George Zbrudzewski | Screws |
| Dick Gardner | Fuel |

This month, we have to thank Sheldons Hobbies, RC Blimp Productions and RCAT Systems 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.



An SVBSS pilot during the glider routine at Airshow 2004 (photo by Chris Luvara)

Treasurer's Report



by Jim Patrick



SCCMAS Profit & Loss 5/9/04-7/8/04

Income

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Apparel Sales | 38.00 |
| Contest Entries | 1,355.00 |
| Donations | 10.00 |
| Food Sales | 788.00 |
| Membership Dues | 1,885.00 |
| Raffle | 572.00 |
| Student Vouchers | 75.00 |
| Vending Machine | 563.00 |
| Total Income | 5,286.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Bay Alarm | 135.00 |
| Food | 771.68 |
| Garbage Services | 333.16 |
| Fire Insurance | 974.19 |
| Licenses and Permits | 440.00 |
| Postage and Delivery | 673.47 |
| Printing and Reproduction | 329.66 |
| Raffle Supplies | 373.82 |
| Field Repairs | 4,141.03 |
| Janitorial Expense | 50.00 |
| Sanitation Service | 362.46 |
| Supplies | 1,008.65 |
| Taxes | 10.00 |
| Telephone | 254.42 |
| Trophies | 208.13 |
| Gas and Electric | 446.49 |
| Total Expenses | 10,512.16 |

Net Ordinary Income -5,226.16

Net Income -5,226.16

Contest Corner

by Rich Groen



Well it has been very busy since the last news letter. As I well know most of us have enjoyed some vacation travel, and along with that a very busy airfield at SCCMAS.

On June 12th, we enjoyed the electric Fly-In CD'd by Bahman Dara. It turned into a great day for electric, amazingly not too windy considering the pattern lately. Shortly there after, we held our first Junk Yard Airplane War. We ended up with 6 teams including one from Bayside, and a mixed team of bayside and SCCMAS. Our first place team was Mike West, Zach West, RD ST.Claire, and Phil Cole. They constructed an airplane that flew 3 flights, with "aerobatics", using approximately 4oz. of fuel for over 28 minutes. Great job guys, the total people entered was 26 people. It was a great day of fun and only tied up the flight for about an hour.

Finally... or should I say "Finale" was our annual Air Show. This year was a busy year with many conflicts from other club schedules, and potential volunteers on vacations etc. Thanks to the people that help put everything together, and fly the airplanes it was another success. Although attendance was down, we found more economical ways to put on the event and made it successful for everyone. Volunteer help was definitely down also, had it not been for the few that endured entire days working the show it could have never been so enjoyable for the many that attended. Special Thanks to all that helped, all you guys (and some of the guys wives) were incredible to stay much longer than should be necessary. Special thanks to those that worked all day both days... Reg Dell-Aquila, Bob Rich, Pat Luvara and the whole family, Tim Jones, Matt Campi, Bahman Dara, Rick Clayton, Jim Patrick, Ken Kightley, Walt Colby, Steve Smith, Lynsel Miller, and the Ribbles. I know I have forgotten some in the whirlwind of events going on those days, especially those that even helped for a few hours as I pleaded, it made a difference... truly Thanks !!!

Upcoming events just to keep you thinking. Sell all your summer projects and extra parts at our 2nd Flea Market this year August 7th. Also following the next weekend is the Giant Scale fly-In, CD'd by Lynsel Miller, that is Saturday August 14th. Then things will be quiet until October 23rd for an Open Fun-Fly.

It is very likely dues will be increasing next year. We have been discussing offering a discount when people volunteer for events. This would allow those that do volunteer constantly a chance to save some money on their dues, and I am hoping maybe some new volunteers will come out of the woodwork.. I am very interested in hearing your ideas and thoughts on ways to increase the variety of volunteers for our events. Please call or e-mail me your thoughts... good or bad. (I can take it) Or stop me at the field and let me hear your ideas and opinions... Thanks.

Junkyard Wars!

by Tim Jones
Photos by Chris Luvara



The fliers are out. There are questions. Will it be fun? What might we have to do? Can we get team together? What's a team? How long will we have? What do we need to bring? The flier generated a lot of questions. As some were eventually answered, a good memorable time developed.

The flier? The flier was part of one of the club newsletters. The flier announced an event for one of the weekends at the field. The event, "Junkyard Wars": Junkyard Wars? Junkyard Wars is most notably known from a popular TV show where a couple of teams are pitted against each other and both teams race the clock to design and build some sort of machine to do something. Typically using major materials from a junkyard.

I've been around this club flying field for about three years now. I've seen a lot of perfectly good balsa and covering turned into junk. A lot of it repairable. So, a "junkpile" was started at the field. This pile

started with a couple of wing and fuselage sections. One of them was my own donation of a previously salvaged and repaired P-51 Mustang that I had brought and showed proudly at the previous club meeting. Note, lesson learned, for any aircraft to remain in the air some combination of air speed and or altitude must be available. The P-51 "requires" a considerable amount of at least one.

Will it be fun? Let's see, a Saturday, outdoors in the Santa Clara Valley, with friends, building and flying a "new" airplane. How could it possibly be anything but fun? I'm in!

What might we have to do? Who knows? The rules are kept secret, but everyone will have to do the same thing. So, let's find out.

Can we get a team together? Well, if there's a we, there's a team started already. What's a team? Let's call it four. What will we have to do? That's in the secret rules. How long will we have? Same secret document. What will we need to bring? What do you have?

So we've got a team together. We hold a small prep meeting the Wednesday before to get a list of tools, parts and assignments together. The fun is already started. New acquaintances are started. The lists and E-mails as reminders are crossing the wires to make sure we're set to have a good time. Radio, engine, control hardware, tape, zip ties, building board, iron, batteries. Good grief, does it really take this much stuff to build a plane?

Show up Saturday, pick a spot to set up and start unloading. Holy crap! We need more space for all this stuff. The announcement is here. We're told how much time we're allowed to build an airplane and what the plane will need to do. We're told we will be given an assortment or glob of balsa and some glue to build with. We're given a coupon to buy something from the "junkpile" to build on or from. We're told that the goal is to build a plane to perform a couple of typical maneuvers and stay in the air for the longest time possible on a limited amount of fuel. Sounds like fun. We have about 15 minutes to work up a plan before the junkyard is open for business.

Wow! We have lots of ideas. We also have four "better" ideas. We work our way through and agree on a plan. The plan will be to build around a wing. Preferably a high mount flat bottom wing. Steve goes off to buy a wing. Bill and Ken start laying out a fuselage. I start sorting tools and hardware. The wing arrives. The fun continues. We built an "airplane" (?), ready to fly, in about three hours. No bandages were needed, go figure.

Who's gonna fly it? We, as a team, thought it would be in the true spirit of the day that every one in the team takes a shot at flying this machine. But, someone had to be first. I took the chance. If it cracks up, we get to fix it and try again, or we're out for



the day. We may even have to work a deal and buy another wing. No pressure. But here goes.

Hey mom, watch this accident! It flies! It flies! Cheers and laughs from behind and in the pits. I hope it floats good, because it doesn't climb well. Did we put the prop on the right way? I survived the test flight. I landed it. It was still usable. Someone else is next. We flew it through the three flights in the event. We placed a respectable (we felt) third, of six teams. And the plane was still usable. High fives all around.

Recap of the day? I think I speak for all participants is saying, we had a great time. We shared ideas. We all had little tricks and new tools to share. We shared laughs, concerns and experiences. We watched other teams do the same. We enjoyed spirited jabs at the other teams. We took ours too. We watched six different airplanes emerge from the rubble. Even the rudder from the Mustang showed up on a plane. We developed new friendships. Yeah, we all had a great time. That's what a club is for. The plane did eventually die. But that was after all of the activities and pictures. There are pictures. There are stories. I'll bet some of the stories become legends.

Bottom line. If you missed participating in the event, you missed a good time. Plan on next year. The suggestions for rules and activities are already in the works.



Above: Misfits ... Frank Goto, Pete Kontorinis, Allen Hardwood, Jorge Salinas, Nick Gould



Above: Lam Research... Harold Klose, Duane Klose, Eric Lenz, Jose Tong, Konstantine Makhrtchev



Above: Venus 40... Tim Jones, Steve Smith, Bill Roth, Ken Kightley

Right: Mike West, Zak West, RD St.Claire, Phil Cole

Below: Lucky Boys... Ali Mutahir, Mike Volkaert, Ruby & Reg

Below Right: Dave and Chris... SCCMAS



Training

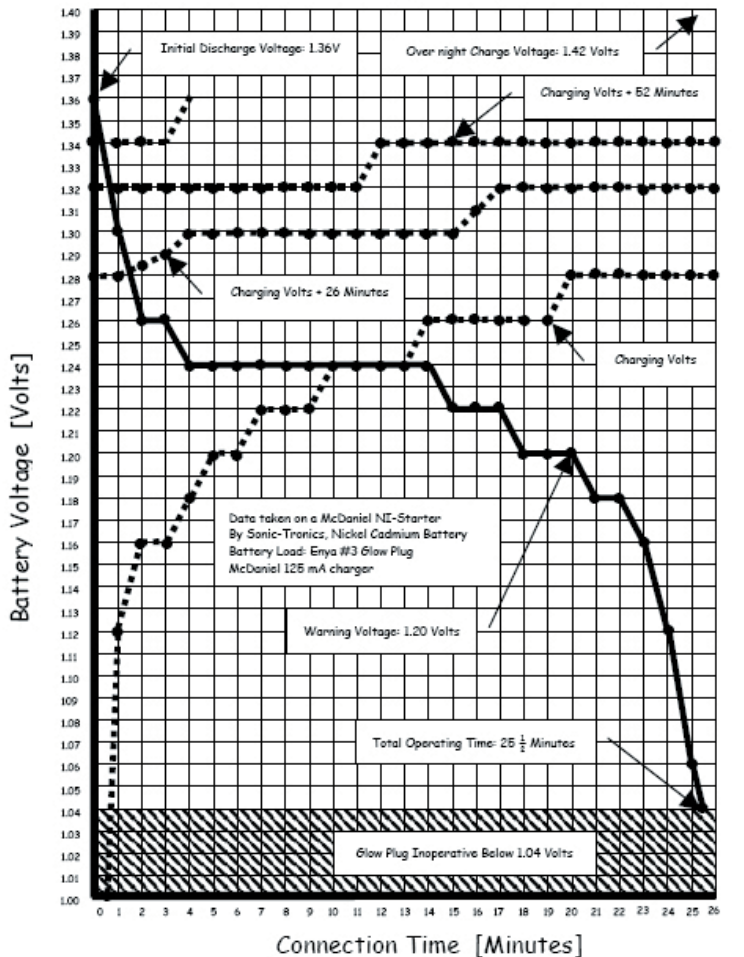
by Mike French



How many times have you tried to start your engine after several flights and suddenly the starting process turns cranky? Doesn't start well, sluggish to catch. The little battery that is driving the glow plug has a very limited life. Here are some quick benchmarks to go by to see how long your glow plug starter battery is still useful. Put a voltmeter from the glow plug battery starter tip to its case. If the voltage is less than 1.20 Volts, your battery is beginning to fade. You have less than 5.5 minutes of connection time left. A good place to be is 1.24 Volts or greater. Total discharge time from a fresh charge is about 25 1/2 minutes. There is no glow on the glow plug with a battery voltage below 1.04 Volts. Charging time from exhaustion to a good 1.34 Volts takes 1 1/4 hours. An all night charge provides 1.42 volts.

Mike French

Nickel Cadmium Glow Plug Battery Characteristics



Prepared by Mike French, 5/26/04

(Continued from VP News page2)

to utilize. I am a firm believer that we have one of the finest model aircraft facilities in the world, built and maintained by volunteer efforts over the past 18 years. The hours that have been placed into the facility are no small number, yet we still need to continue to preserve and maintain the field with the help of our members. It was apparent at this year's airshow that only around 5% of the club was willing to help at an event that the club puts on as a service to the community and as a fundraiser. If we cannot establish sufficient volunteer levels in the near future, the Governing Board may be forced to make changes to the dues structure to offset the needs of maintenance and fundraising. The dues have not been raised for some time and with inflation are in many ways due for a change.

Our next club meeting on Saturday, June 24th is our annual club BBQ, put on by the SCCMAS. We'll be firing up the grill and offering a BBQ on the club to all of our members. Please join us for this great event at the field. Bring a plane, fly in the afternoon, and enjoy the BBQ at 5:30.

Well, that's it for me this month. As some of you know, last year I undertook an effort to build and grow my own electronics (UAV related) company. It is providing to be a time consuming, yet highly rewarding experience. This has of course cut back on some of my available time for flying, building, and the club. I'm hoping that by late August, my schedule returns to some normalcy. In closing, I hope to see everyone at the upcoming field BBQ on the 24th!

Until next issue,
Michael



R/C Flea Market

Presented by the Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark

Morgan Hill, CA

A facility of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Dept.

Saturday, August 7th

8:00am - 1:00pm

By popular demand, we have added another Radio Controlled Hobby Flea Market. Come join us at the SCCMAS field. Buy or sell your R/C related items. **No pre-registration necessary.** Our table space is limited, and is on a first-come, first-served basis, so be prepared to bring your own table. SCCMAS field will remain open for flying during the event and radios being sold must either have their module or battery removed. Our snack shack will be open serving food and refreshments.

Space rental \$10.00

For more info, contact Richard Groen at (408) 832-7432

SCCMAS website: <http://www.sccmas.org>

contests@sccmas.org

From Hwy 101 heading North:

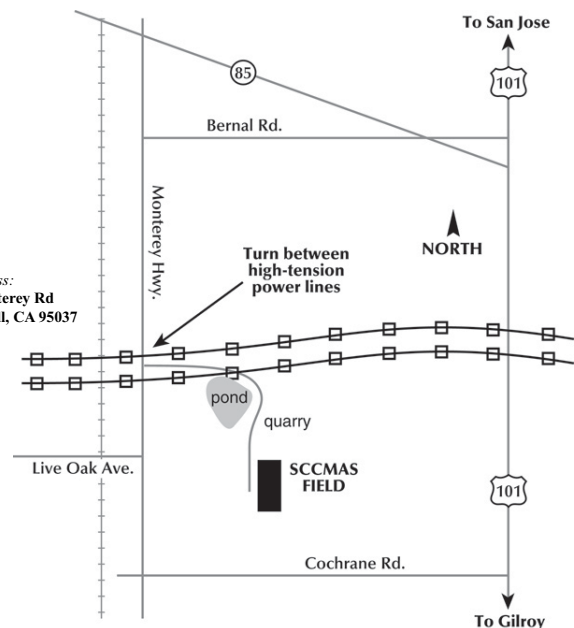
Exit on Cochrane Road heading west. Proceed to Monterey Hwy (approx 0.6 of a mile). Turn right on Monterey Hwy and head north for approximately 2.6 miles. Just after you pass Live Oak, you'll see some high tension power lines and an 8 x 10 sign for the SCCMAS. Turn right at the power lines and proceed straight down the paved, private road to enter the SCCMAS. Speed limit is 15 mph.

From Hwy 101 or 85 heading South:

Exit on Bernal Avenue heading west. Proceed to Monterey Hwy (approx 0.5 of a mile). Turn left on Monterey Hwy heading south. Proceed south for approx 6 miles until you reach Live Oak Avenue. You must make a turnaround on Live Oak Ave. U-turns are not permitted at this intersection on Monterey Hwy. You should be heading North on Monterey Hwy now. Turn right at the high tension power lines where you see an 8 x 10 sign for the SCCMAS. Proceed straight down the paved, private road to enter the SCCMAS. Speed limit is 15 mph.

Please note- While on the private entrance road, use caution and obey the 15 mph speed limit. Stop at all stop signs and yield the right of way when a bicyclist is present! Thanks, the SCCMAS.

Field Address:
10250 Monterey Rd
Morgan Hill, CA 95037



GIANT SCALE

Presented by the Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark
SCCMAS "Tomcats" Field - Morgan Hill, CA

Fly-in

Saturday, August 14th, 2004

Registration Fee: \$15.00

Flying starts @ 9 am

A trophy for "**Best of Show**" will be awarded

SCCMAS Facilities:

Runway 520'x60', paved, with grass overruns.

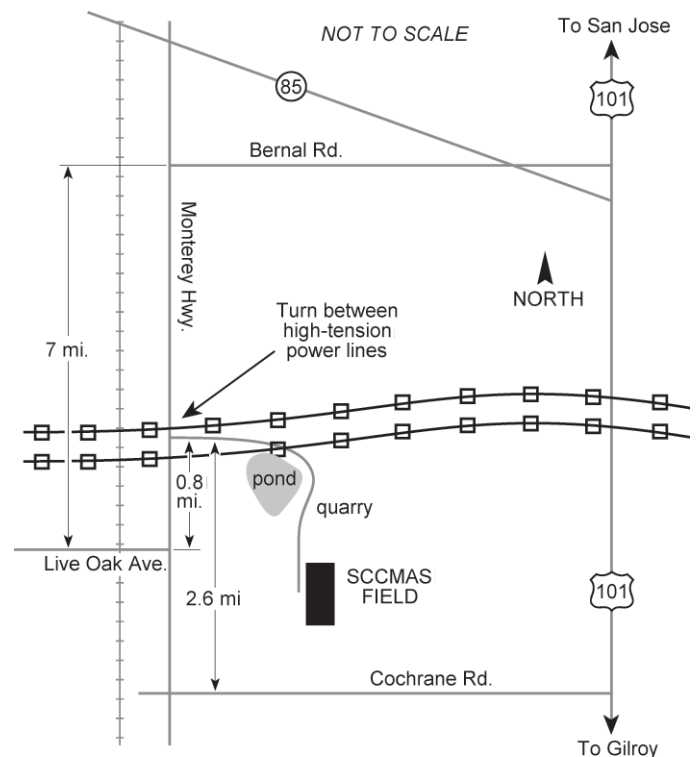
Paved, partially shaded pits, Full-service snack bar. Portable toilets.

Camping/RV's allowed w/ limited hookups. Please call ahead.

For more info contact:

Richard Groen - (408) 832-7432

SCCMAS business line - (408) 292-1212



Web Address - <http://www.sccmas.org>

Northern California Events for the rest of 2004

July

- 24 Open Combat – Mount Diablo Face Off 1 @ EBRC, Livermore, CA.
- 25 Warbird Races @ SAM, Sacramento, CA.
- 31-1 Wings of Victory @ Woodland-Davis, Woodland, CA.

August

- 7 T-34 (Triangle Series) and Dominator 1500's Pylon Races @ FRM, Fresno, CA.
- 7 Flea Market @ SCCMAS, Morgan Hill, CA.**
- 14 Giant Scale Fly-In @ SCCMAS, Morgan Hill, CA.**
- 14-15 Pattern @ SAM, Sacramento, CA.
- 14-15 Pattern @ Whittier, CA.
- 14-15 IMAC @ Woodland-Davis, Woodland, CA.
- 14-15 IMAC @ San Diego, CA.
- 21 President's Fly-In and Flea Market @ Red Barons, Sacramento, CA.
- 28 Warbird Scale Fly-In @ FRM, Fresno, CA.
- 27-28-29 8th Annual Bayside/Century Heli Jamboree @ Bayside R/C, Fremont, CA.

September

- 3-4-5-6 IMAA Mini Festival @ Salinas Area Modelers, Salinas, CA.
- 4-5 IMAC @ Riverside, CA.
- 5 Warbird Races @ Red Barons, Sacramento, CA.
- 11 Flea Market @ Bayside R/C, Fremont, CA.
- 11-12 IMAC @ Oakdale, CA.
- 12 Fun-Fly @ Vaca Valley R/C, Vacaville, CA.
- 16-17-18-19 Full Scale Racing @ Reno, NV.
- 18-19 Pattern @ Wavemasters, Hollister, CA.
- 18-19 Jet Fly-In @ FRM, Fresno, CA.
- 18-19 IMAC @ Whittier, CA.
- 19 Family Fun Day @ Bayside R/C, Fremont, CA.
- 26 Airshow @ EBRC, Livermore, CA.
- 26 Fun-Fly @ Woodland-Davis, Woodland, CA.

October

- 1 Night Fly @ Red Barons, Sacramento, CA.
- 2 .025 and Small Electric Nats Fun Fly @ Red Barons, Sacramento, CA.
- 2-3 IMAC Southwest Championships @ Las Vegas, NV.
- 9 Electric Fun-Fly @ Half Moon Bay, CA.
- 9 Open Combat – Mount Diablo Face Off 2 @ EBRC, Livermore, CA.
- 9-10 Warbird Races @ SAM, Sacramento, CA.
- 9-10 Jet Fly-In @ Woodland-Davis, Woodland, CA.
- 10 Devil Mountain Electric Fun-Fly @ DVRC, Pittsburg, CA.
- 16-17 T-34 Races Championship - Triangle Series @ Madera, CA.
- 21-22-23-24 IMAC – Tucson Shootout @ Tucson, AZ.
- 23 Open Fun Fly @ SCCMAS, Morgan Hill, CA.**
- 30 Annual Auction @ Bayside – Holy Spirit Church, Fremont, CA.

November

- 6 Pattern @ SCCMAS, Morgan Hill, CA.
- 6 Toys-for-Tots @ Woodland-Davis, Woodland, CA.
- 7 Trainer Race and Toys-for-Tots @ Red Barons, Sacramento, CA.
- 13-14 Pattern @ Prado, CA.
- 20 Annual Auction and Club Fundraiser @ DVRC, Pittsburg, CA.
- 21 Toys for Children's Home @ Delta Valley Modelers, Stockton, CA.

December

- 4 Toys-for-Tots @ BARCS, Richmond, CA.
- 4 Flea Market @ SCCMAS, Morgan Hill, CA.**
- 5 Toys-for-Tots @ DVRC, Pittsburg, CA.
- 11 Toys-for-Tots @ EBRC, Livermore, CA.
- 12 Toys-for-Tots @ SCCMAS, Morgan Hill, CA.**

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

| | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Manager | Brian Nelson | 408-463-0604 | <i>nelson711@aol.com</i> |
| Vice President | Michael Luvara | 408-292-1212 | <i>mike@sccmas.org</i> |
| Newsletter Editor | Chris Luvara | 408-246-3857 | <i>servochatter@sccmas.org</i> |
| Treasurer | Jim Patrick | 408-356-0817 | <i>jpqt7@gte.net</i> |
| Contest Coordinator | Richard Groen | 408-593-3735 | <i>richdutch@aol.com</i> |
| Secretary | Richard Luvara | 408-246-3857 | <i>rluvara@hotmail.com</i> |
| Food Service Manager | Pat Luvara | 408-246-3857 | <i>pat@luvaraairracing.com</i> |
| Safety | | | |
| Flight instruction | Mike French | 408-373-5301 | <i>french913@aol.com</i> |
| Webmaster | Steve Snell | 831-438-7624 | <i>webmaster@sccmas.org</i> |
| Field Weather & Information (AUTOMATED) | | 408-776-0101 | |
| On site Field Telephone | | 408-776-6844 | |
| SCCMAS Business Office | | 408-292-1212 | |
| SCCMAS WWW address: | | <i>http://www.sccmas.org</i> | |

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

Reggie Dell Aquila Mike French Jack Sunzeri

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Jim Blum

jimblum@earthlink.net

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



The six teams that competed in the SCCMAS Junkyard Wars (Photo by Chris Luvara)

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



*Next meeting: Saturday, July 24th, 2004 @ 5:30pm
Free BBQ @ the SCCMAS field!*