

# Servo Chatter

March 2009, Issue #134

Official Newsletter of the SCCMAS "Tomcats"

Located in Morgan Hill, CA

[www.sccmas.org](http://www.sccmas.org)

AMA Club Charter #110



Next meeting: Wednesday March 25 at 7 PM.

Location: Hayes Elementary School in San Jose.

Guest speaker Kent Nogy to discuss 2.4 GHz technology.

Cover photo: Lynsel Miller flying a low pass with his Top Flight AT6.

Pat Rose photo.

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<b>SCCMAS WWW address</b>		www.sccmas.org	

**AMA Intro Pilots** (These pilots can fly non-AMA members once, certain restrictions apply.)  
 Reggie Dell- Aquila, Mike French, Jack Sunzeri



Matthew Smith flying R/C simulator in front of AMA executives at AMA show.  
 Michael Luvara photo.

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## Flyin' Fast - President's News By Michael Luvara

As I sit here gazing out the window while writing this

issue's column, rain is coming down pretty good outside. Certainly, California needs the water. Alas, the weather provides for some time inside, of which reflection can be had. I've been pouring over the survey results from last year, along with looking at much of the tasks ahead for the SCCMAS in 2009.

Before I discuss some of the surveys and such, I wanted to mention the next club meeting. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, well known modeler Kent Nogy will be in town to discuss 2.4GHz technologies with us at the meeting. He'll talk about the systems, how they work, and answer any questions that you may have. Be sure not to miss this event! Guests and visitors are more than welcome, so feel free to invite your friends! Also, as instituted last meeting, we will be having pizza and water available, which was well received. Donations are appreciated to offset the cost of the food. Thanks to Matt Campi for heading this up!

Last issue, I highlighted many of the main themes that came out in the annual surveys. Thank you to all who returned them! Obviously, many would like to see more permanent restrooms, better runway overrun, re-sealing of runway, etc. On the bathrooms, we have no current guidance on this issue to report. The county delayed some of the discussions for a later date, meanwhile, our research showed that we may only end up with pretty expensive glorified porta potties, due to a leach system being a potential prob-

lem. All the same, the cost of materials has gone up significantly and we have to weigh the cost/benefit of such. With this, we've been looking at typical improvements that need to be made. The asphalt areas need to be re-sealed. This is a pricey endeavor, given the cost of oil and thankfully, it appears that there is some relief coming in the cost of this lately. However, it will still take a chunk out of our everyday bank account. Membership was slightly down last year (it appears due to the economy), so we are also looking at our expenses carefully as there are some areas that we can tighten the belt on. One of the areas is our airshow.

Our annual airshow is coming up fast, and will be held on July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Some ask why we do this event. Simply put, it is an opportunity for us to open ourselves up to the community and share our hobby with them. This event takes a lot of manpower to put on, and costs us about \$2500 out of pocket (after income/expenses) each year. For 2009, we are looking for more volunteers to help us with this event. Help is needed in many areas. The first week of March we had a kickoff meeting for the airshow, which will continue with monthly status meetings. The airshow simply does not happen. It takes many hundreds of volunteer hours to put on over several months. More details will be included in the next newsletter, in emails, and on the club website regarding the airshow, but we look forward to an increased participation from the membership this year.

Until next issue,

Michael

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## From the Editor

By Pat Rose

### Phone Camera Photos

The day of the mobile phone camera has definitely arrived. Take a look at ***Seen at the Field*** photo of George Mateer on page 10. Lacking my Canon camera and wanting to take a photo, I tried the camera on my new Samsung phone. Not bad—it even holds up to cropping and enlarged viewing on the computer.

I've noticed that I'm not alone in my experience, as I have seen others taking equally good photos. Not only do the new phone cameras take still photos, but they will take short videos to boot.

My first mobile phone with camera required that I email the photo to myself to utilize the photo. Now, this new Sprint Samsung phone has the option of downloading via USB port

or by removal of the SD memory card. It's much easier to download than remove the memory card, but the option is there if you need it. With the memory card, there is the option of direct connection to your printer, assuming the connectors are there.

The bottom line is this: If you see a photo opportunity, whip out the camera phone and take a photo for ***Seen at the Field***. Don't worry if the exposure or color is not perfect. It's easy to use Microsoft Digital Image Pro to correct these factors.

Don't you get tired of the same old Pat Rose pics? So, take things into your own hands and take some good pics for Servo Chatter.

### Members' Meeting Comments

Michael is doing important upgrades for the meetings including videos to entertain and food for the hungry. In addition, Paul Hasselbach, raffle guru, brought the radio up to modern standards with a 2.4 GHz unit. These changes have definitely improved the quality of our meetings—don't miss the next one on March 25.

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## **Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, March 25 at 7 PM.** **Location: Hayes Elementary School.**

The meeting will be held at Hayes Elementary School located at 5035 Poston Dr., San Jose, CA 95136. Future meeting date: Thursday, May 21st at 7 PM.

Raffle prizes will include the usual - a radio (very possibly a 2.4 GHz unit), a kit, adhesives and lots of other stuff. Bring your latest project for show-and-tell and receive a free raffle ticket. Coffee and donuts during the break.



## Message from the Secretary

By Dean Sala

Meeting Date: 01/22/2009

Attendance 50

### New members:

Tim Stahlke  
Frank Narvaez rejoined after 5 years.

### Officer comments:

Mike French mentioned that there is currently 1 new student. Talked briefly about club trainers.

Tim Jones steps down as safety officer. Needs to know solo dates of some of the members. Make sure back of member card has wings stamp. This year there are 262 members so far. Last year we had around 360 members

Jim Patrick mentioned we may possibly get resurfacing and shed repairs done this year. Need to find a surfacing company. Don Coulter to look into it.

Dean Sala talked about moving weather station device to windsock pole.

Steve Smith said the new contest schedule is available. Needs volunteers for contest and event.

Mike Luvara commented about providing food at club meetings. Talked about safety and mentioned hazards about flying planes in the fog. There was an electric plane crash in pits, and a plane throttled up and got

away. Annual surveys were reviewed. Real Flight simulator version 4.5 now has our field in it.

### Member comments:

Frank Narvaez Donating his pressure washer to club.



Bob Ortman wins the radio, a 2.4 GHz Spectrum.

### Dumb Thumb:

Mike Conrardy Wins! "Death Spiral" Mike's very large Ultimate biplane loses the wings during a straight downward roll. It was described that Mike was doing his usual high speed nose down roll. He stopped to straighten out then at the last minute decided to do one more roll. The wings snapped right off and the fuselage went into the deck. The debris field was described as one of the largest ever seen. The engine cracked in two.

### Dumb Thumb Runner Ups:

Harold Warner flies white plane on very foggy day. He lost sight of it and it crashed.  
Kent Collins homemade battery failure.  
Bud Kanemoto ailerons moved in same direction, not opposite.

### Show and Tell:

Michael Radu  
Brought a very nice electric conversion P-51 from Top Flight. 64 1/2" wing span, 9 1/2lbs, 4 blade APC prop flies it, air retracts, modified battery compartment, E-flight 60 motor, 5000mah 6 cell 18.4v lipo battery.

He also brought a nice Balsa USA, framed up 1/4 scale Sopwith Camel. Michael has done much research on Sopwith Camels and has created some very good documentation. Talk to him if you are going to be building a Sopwith Camel in the future.

Matt Campi rebuilt this plane from a previous crash. He said that the previous owner used to fly it with video goggles and crashed it. Matt became the new owner and repaired it for conventional RC flight. He mentioned that the plane was not very damaged and basically it fell apart from the poor quality glue used to manufacture it.

### Raffle:

Bob Ortman	Radio
James Gale	Iron, Epoxy
Chris Attebery	Filling Station



Paul Hasselbach hard at work with the raffle.

Bervin Britt	Aerostar .40 kit, xacto, syringes
Kevin Walsh	Heat Shrink
Alan Mey	Power Panel
George Black	Epoxy
Vernon Bollesen	Syringes
Jerry Bruce	Xacto
Kevin Norad	Xacto
Mike Eaton	Servo Setter, Glow igniter plug, syringes
Chris Tryhorn	?
Pat Rose	Mixing cups
Frank Narvaez	Syringes

### Club Event Helpers Raffle:

Don Coulter	Spectrum Radio
?	Motor
Jerry Bruce	Corsair
Steve Smith	Fuel
Mathew Smith	Radio Case
Babe	Tachometer
Jim Patrick	Starter
Mike Craft	P-51
Jacob Baracca	Dremel tool, glue
Paul Hasselbach	Servo adjuster, Spitfire
Matt Campi	Tools driver set
Paul G	Beaver

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## Members' Meeting



Mike Conrardy with Dumb Thumb award. James Gale photo.



Steve Smith giving his Contest Report.



Michael Radu with his electric P-51D.

## Show and Tell



Matt Campi and his rescued 4 Star 60. (Plane has since met its demise-Ed.)



## Training

By Mike French

### Electric and Gas Trainers

Today, the majority of calls I receive regarding flight training start with the premise that the student will be learning to fly on an electric foamy trainer. The low cost easily fixed planes that are being offered, provide a high incentive sex appeal plane to new members of our club. I support their choices for the most part and use their planes if possible. Although I realize that battery operated planes have a place in our future, they, in my judgment, still fall short of the performance needed to recreate the challenges of realistic flight.

The requirements I currently recommend on trainers are twofold. First, the planes must have ailerons and not just rudder and elevator. Secondly, their transmitter must have the provision for a buddy box. Many don't.

I have several criticisms of the electrics that I see and I realize that we are shortchanging our students when flying the foamies.

The first comment is that in comparison to gas power trainers, each flight time of electrics is probably less than half of a gas trainer. Battery exhaustion times of the electric trainers is typically 12 to 15 minutes. Gas planes will usually do twice that. I recommend all the electric flyers possess at least three [expensive] batteries when they come for a training session. Where the recharge time for batteries are in excess of an hour, you can refill the gas tank of your OS Max in a few minutes and be able to fly until you run

your gas supply dry.

Secondly, most of the electric trainers I have flown are underpowered compared to comparable gas trainers. Granted the electric planes are considerably lighter but they are not necessarily more powerful.

The third and probably biggest personal objection I have is that the foam trainers frequently respond in an unrealistic fashion. I have literally rotated an electric trainer about its pitch axis. Flipping the plane is a close description. Interesting but unrealistic.

Lastly, foam trainers are very light. In any wind conditions they can become very difficult to control precisely. They are designed for still air which our field is not noted for.

Where this leads me is that, yes, I will teach anyone if they bring their foamy trainer to the field for initial instruction. I will, however, recommend to them that the experience of a heavier plane more closely replicates actual aircraft performance and that they plan to advance themselves to flying gas until such time as electrics weigh 6 or more pounds and fly more than 15 minutes.

I have included a picture of the same popular ARF trainer offered both as a gas and as an electric. The size and shape are the same. The performance of the gas in my estimate is substantially greater. MF

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*Training continued from page 8.*



## SEEN AT THE FIELD



Left: George Mateer ready to start his plane's engine. Pat Rose photos using Samsung mobile phone camera.



Right: William Murtha getting in a flight between rainy days.



Left: Jay Brehm prepping his Extra 260 for flight..



## Contest News

By Steve Smith

As we enter the Spring months of the year, the rain usually subsides, the sun sets later and the days get warmer. More and more pilots and spectators flock to the field as they come out of winter hibernation. On the West Coast we consider the recent rains unbearable. I imagine the folks on the East Coast are dreaming about this 50-60 degree weather about now. The SCCMAS will kick off the 2009 season with the annual Fun-Fly on Saturday March 21. Don Coulter will CD the Fun-Fly this year. I'm sure he will have a set of wacky flying drills that will be enjoyed by all. All pilot skill levels and all types of R/C Aircraft are welcome, from trainers to 3D planes. In fact last year we even had an EDF jet entered. Both the pilot and jet did really well. Ever see a jet air bowl? Well it happened. Lots of fun for all. Come out and try something new with other fellow club members. More information is available at [www.sccmas.org](http://www.sccmas.org).

Following the Fun-Fly the SCCMAS will host the spring swap meet on Saturday April 25th. The April swap meet is usually a popular one with lots of sellers and buyers wheelin' and dealin' for bargains. 10'x10' spaces are \$10 per seller, on a first-come-first-serve basis. More information is available at [www.sccmas.org](http://www.sccmas.org).

This year the SCCMAS and Tam Jets will sponsor the first Annual Electric Jet Fly-In on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. That's right, an all Electric Jet event. This event is open to all skill levels

with any type of R/C electric jets from the simple park flyer to the high end composite jets. Engine types - EDF and propeller. There will be a noon time BBQ. Entry fee is \$15. Come out and join in on the fun.

On Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> the SCCMAS will host a one day Warbird Fly-in. This event will be open to all pilots of any skill level with any R/C Warbird aircraft from any era; any size with any engine; electric, glow, gas or turbine. There will be a noon time BBQ. Entry fee is \$15. Trophies will be awarded for several categories. Visit our web site at [www.sccmas.org](http://www.sccmas.org) for more information.

The SCCMAS will be participating in several public events this year promoting the R/C hobby and the SCCMAS, with static aircraft displays and flying demonstrations. The first will be at the South County Airport Day on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Dan Petroff is in the process of finalizing the details with the organizers. The Annual Watsonville Airshow will be on Memorial Day Weekend. Every year the SCCMAS has a spectacular booth on the flight line with static displays and a flying demonstration. Towards the fall time the SCCMAS will have a booth at the Reid Hillview Airport day. If you would like to help at these public events contact Mike Luvara or Steve Smith at [contests@sccmas.org](mailto:contests@sccmas.org).

**Contest News continued on page 12.**

**Contest News continued  
from page 11.**

### **The 2009 Events calendar**

March 21	Fun Fly
April 25	Swap Meet
May 02	Electric Jet Fly-In
May 16	South County Airport Day
May 23-24	Watsonville Airshow
June 06	Warbird Fly-In
June 27	SCCMAS Work Party
July 11-12	Annual Airshow
August 15	Electric Fly-In
August 29	Warbird Sport Pylon Race
September 05	Swap Meet
September 19	Reid-Hillview Airport Day
October 03	Triangle Series T-34 Race Finals
November 07	Swap Meet - Indoor

Preparations for the Annual Airshow are underway. This is the premier event for the SCCMAS. As usual we want to put on a spectacular show for the public. This is only possible with support from the members of the SCCMAS. Several Airshow planning meetings will happen over the next couple of months. Dates and times to be announced. Meetings are open to all members wishing to volunteer and help plan this premier event. Contact Mike Luvara or Steve Smith at [contests@sccmas.org](mailto:contests@sccmas.org) for more information.

Helpers are needed throughout the year for shack assistance, field and event preparation (especially at the Annual Airshow), registration, teardown, BBQ help, pylon judges and lap counters, As of now there are no Shack Manager positions available. I would like to thank all of the Shack Manager volunteers

this year. If you are interested in helping at any of the events contact Steve Smith at [contests@sccmas.org](mailto:contests@sccmas.org).

See you at the field,

Steve





## Treasurer's Report

By Jim Patrick

### SCCMAS Profit & Loss January through February 2009

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Membership dues	27,992.00
Total Income	27,992.00
Expense	
Bay Alarm	135.00
Computer supplies	22.74
Equipment Rental	75.00
Food	190.06
Garbage service	387.82
Insurance	140.00
Licenses and Permits	45.00
Office Supplies	220.78
Postage and Delivery	155.47
Printing and Reproduction	170.49
Professional Fees	
Legal Fees	625.00
Total Professional Fees	625.00
Raffle supplies	475.55
Repairs and Maintenance	
Equipment Repairs	78.23
Total Repairs and Maintenance	78.23
Sanitation service	1,070.10
Supplies	177.14
Telephone	
Internet	139.90
Telephone - Other	132.44
Total Telephone	272.34
Utilities	
Gas and Electric	71.35
Water	1,443.75
Total Utilities	1,515.10
Total Expense	5,755.82
Net Ordinary Income	22,236.18
Net Income	22,236.18



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2



3

Don Coulter's P-47 (1) inverted fly-by , (2) flaps and gear down, (3) dead-stick landing and (4) almost made the runway. Pat Rose photos.

4



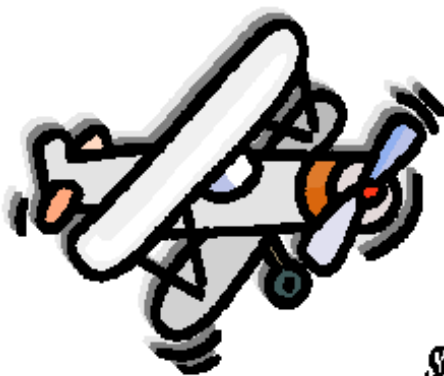
# The Annual R/C Fun-Fly

**Presented by the Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark  
Morgan Hill, Ca.  
A Facility of the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Dept.**

Come out and try your hand at some of the wacky flying drills we have in store for you. Any AMA insured pilot can participate with any type of R/C aircraft; trainers, sport planes, aerobatic/3D planes, warbirds, tail draggers, gas, glow and electrics, All events will be chosen the morning of the Fun-Fly and scoring is setup so all skill levels have a chance to bring home one of five trophies.

## Saturday - March 21st

Registration: 8:00am – Flying starts at 9:00am  
Entry Fee: \$10 per pilot  
Contest Director: Don Coulter  
(408) 690-3830 [contests@sccmas.org](mailto:contests@sccmas.org)  
Also see our website for directions [www.sccmas.org](http://www.sccmas.org)



*Some events we've seen in the past...  
and a few that may show this year!  
Spot landing, Limbo, Timed events, Airplane Bowling  
Mirror Taxi, Drag Strip, I Can't Fly 55, Balloon Bust  
Dead-Stick Landi*

# R/C Swap Meet

**Presented by the Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark  
Morgan Hill, Ca.**

**A Facility of the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Dept.**

## Saturday - April 25th

**8:00am - 1:00pm**

Come join us at the SCCMAS field for our Spring Swap Meet. Buy or sell your R/C related items.

**No Pre-registration needed.** 10'x10' spaces, table space is limited, and available on a first come, first serve basis, bring your own table to be safe.

**SCCMAS field is open for flying,** all transmitters must be impounded or battery/module removed to prevent accidents.

**Mark your calendar for the year end Swap Meet on 11/1**

**10'x10' Space Rental \$10.00  
(No Booth Sharing or "Partners")**

**Commercial Sales, Hobby Shops, Store Fronts  
are NOT allowed.**

Maps and additional club info available at our website

<http://www.sccmas.org>



★ Salinas Area Modelers Present . . .  
**ANNUAL IMAA GIANT SCALE FLY-IN**  
In Honor of Bob Francis, Master Modeler



### Event Information

IMAA Rules Apply, AMA and IMAA Membership Required

- Landing Fee – \$10
- Field Open Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>
- RV's and Campers Welcome (no hookups)
- Lunch Saturday and Sunday – \$5/plate
- BBQ on Saturday Evening
- Raffle
- 400' X 60' Paved Runway
- Sound Ordinance is 85 dB @ 50'

For Field Directions see  
SAM Club Website:  
[www.salinasareamodelers.org](http://www.salinasareamodelers.org)

### Contact Information

Joe Francis, CD  
831.768.8056  
[cdjf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdjf@sbcglobal.net)

Rick Maida, CD  
408.778.6885  
[mrcorsair@usa.net](mailto:mrcorsair@usa.net)

Jim "Crash" St. John, President  
831.442.5050  
[Tigger999@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Tigger999@sbcglobal.net)

★ Fun, Fellowship, Flying, and Food! ★

April 24–26, 2009

Big is Beautiful

Midgraphics 1/26/09

# ***Electric Jet Fly-In***



**Saturday May 2nd 2009**

**Sponsored by TamJets and the  
Santa Clara County Model Aircraft Skypark**

**Entry Fee \$15.00**

**Registration opens at 8:30AM**



**Location: The SCCMAS "Tomcats" Morgan Hill CA.**

**Contact: Tam Nguyen (408) 224-7600**

**CD: Steve Smith (408) 234-0095**

**Open to all AMA insured pilots with any size Electric R/C jet from  
Park Flyers to high end composite models, EDF or propeller.**

**Additional information is available at [www.sccmas.org](http://www.sccmas.org)**

# Fresno Radio Modelers

## Memorial Day



## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 21-24 2009

LANDING FEES WILL BE \$20.00 PER PILOT. (AS MANY PLANES AS YOU WANT)

IMAA GIANT SCALE RULES APPLY-IMAA MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED

AMA SANCTIONED EVENT-AMA CARD REQUIRED

We have a 650 ft by 75 ft runway with a very large pit area.

Free parking ,RV parking (without hookups) and camping is welcome!!

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SITE.  
SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER AVAILABLE-THE BEST BBQ AROUND.

ALL VENDORS WELCOME WITHOUT CHARGE!!

Email ahead for space availability!

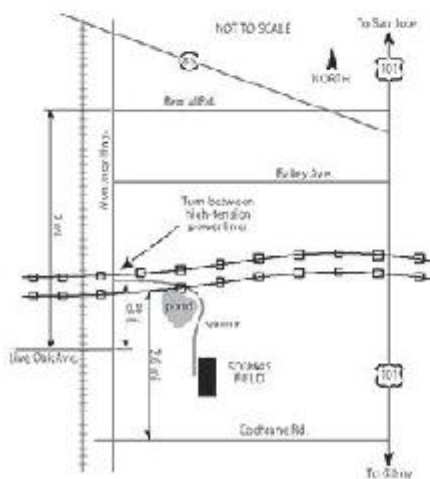
For answers to your questions email John Lockwood at [imaavp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:imaavp@sbcglobal.net) or call him at  
(559)298-1606

Or go to [frcm.org](http://frcm.org) for more info.

# Warbird Fly-In 2009

Saturday June 6th

Tomcats field Morgan Hill



**Open to all AMA members with any size of R/C Warbird aircraft; prop or jet from any era; any engine type; gas, glow, electric, turbine.**

**Awards for best in class WWI, WWII, Modern, Electric and best of show.**

**Registration: 9:00AM**

**Entry Fee: \$15**

**Noon time BBQ**

**Awards: 3:00PM**

**More information is available at [www.sccmas.org](http://www.sccmas.org)**

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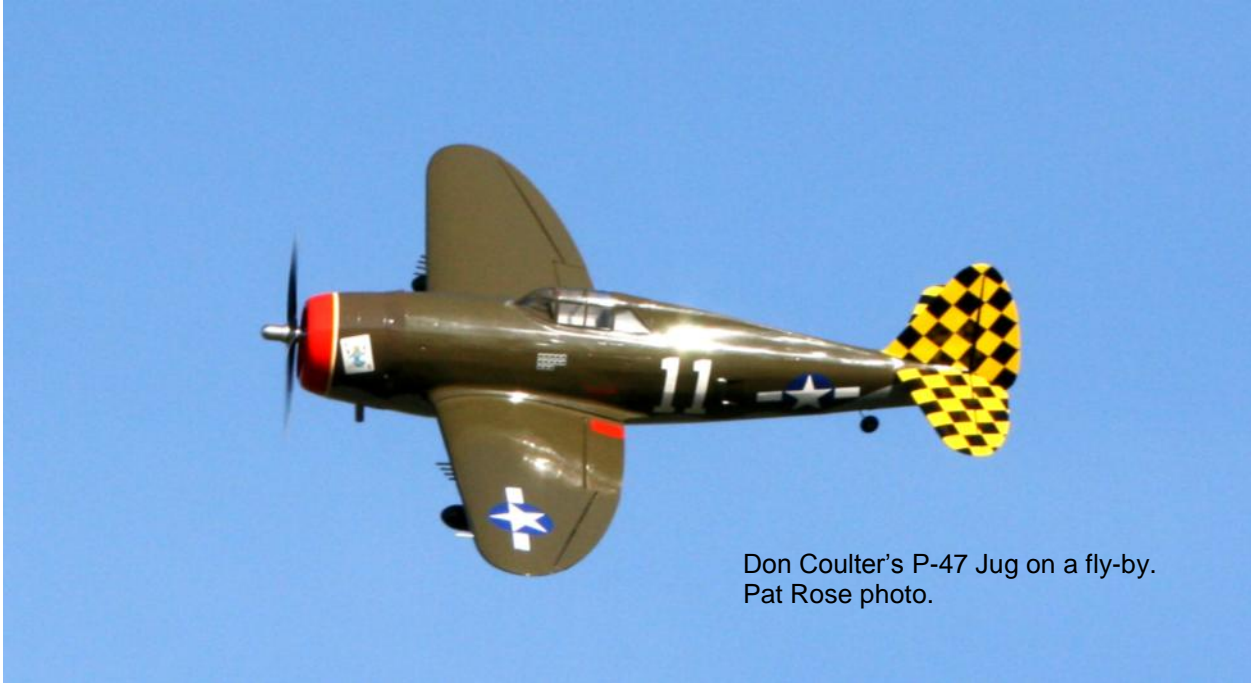
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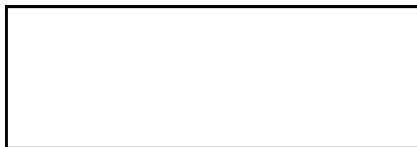


Don Coulter's P-47 Jug on a fly-by.  
Pat Rose photo.

Servo Chatter is published bi-monthly by the SCCMAS "Tomcats" radio control club located in Morgan Hill, CA. Views expressed in Servo Chatter are those of the writers. They do not necessarily represent the views of the club, its members, or officers. Mention of any product, material, or service shall not, nor is it intended to, imply approval, disapproval, or fitness for any particular use. The SCCMAS is a non-profit organization. Permission is granted to reproduce anything printed in Servo Chatter as long as the source and author are credited.



Servo Chatter c/o SCCMAS  
16345 W. La Chiquita Ave.  
Los Gatos, CA 95032-4610



Next meeting: Wednesday, March 25 at 7 PM. Location: Hayes  
Elementary School at 5035 Poston Drive, San Jose, 95136.  
Guest speaker Kent Nogy to discuss 2.4 GHz technology.