



Servo Chatter



September 2023 Issue

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President's Message

By Steve Smith



Hello Tomcats,

As summer comes to close, reflecting back over the year, the SCCMAS and the entrance road survived the extreme weather event we experienced earlier this year. We hosted the annual field maintenance day in June followed by a very successful Warbird Fly-In in July, the first event at our field since 2016. Forward looking, we will be adding one or two club flying events to the calendar for next year. Our contest coordinator will be reaching out to the membership for volunteers to CD these events.

As many have read in recent emails from the AMA, the FAA decided to extend the Remote ID deadline to March 16, 2024. The decision to extend the date is due to many factors, one being the availability of Remote ID modules for non-FRIA sites. To date, roughly 700 AMA sites have been approved with FRIA status and upwards of 800 FRIA applications await processing, including the SCCMAS FRIA application. For the SCCMAS, there is no change, enjoy your day at the field.

As our membership continues to grow, we are experiencing large number of members that are new to the hobby with a desire to learn to fly R/C aircraft. Over the year, our flight instructors, led by Dave Neves, have soloed 10+ pilots, including youth and father son duos. I'm really pleased to see the enthusiasm from our instructors and student pilots. This is what the SCCMAS is about, promoting the hobby.

As a reminder to all current SCCMAS members, the annual renewal process will begin in October. This is a good time to check your AMA card expiration date and confirm that it will cover the January 1st 2024 through December 31st 2024 period. For those who need to renew their AMA membership, the AMA offers online renewals at:

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/membership/enroll>

For new members a SCCMAS membership application is available for download at:

www.sccmas.org

Steve

From the Editor's Desk

Newsletter Editor - Liam O'Connor

Greetings Tomcats -

Welcome to the September 2023 issue of Servo Chatter!

As I write this column, it is hard to believe that summer is quickly coming to an end. Time really does fly when you're having fun. While the weather has been hot lately, we have otherwise had excellent flying conditions for the majority of the summer, and the field has been buzzing with activity. Of course, we will all welcome some cooler temperatures in the months to come, as we approach the beautiful Fall flying season at SCCMAS.

This issue of Servo Chatter is jam-packed with information and photographs from the many exciting events we have had at the flying field over the past few months, including our May 21, 2023 Club Meeting, June 10, 2023 Work Party, and July 22, 2023 Warbird Fly-In. Of course, this issue also includes key information from SCCMAS leadership and volunteers, a summary of upcoming events, plenty of photos of our recent activities at the flying field, and a construction article by SCCMAS member Andy Keates (Building Tips for Terminating braided steel control cables).



I would also like to remind our members that if you have anything you would like to share in our newsletter, please send it to me at the email address below. We are always on the lookout for stories, articles, building tips, photos, etc. that we can include in Servo Chatter.

Until our next issue, I wish all of you a fantastic fall season full of flying, fun, and happy landings.

See you at the field!

Liam

servochatter@sccmas.org

Tomcats Reminder:

—All Tomcats Members must lock the main entrance gate behind them each time they enter and leave the SCCMAS Flying Field.

Cover Photo: courtesy of Steve Smith. Dave Neves provides Ryan Nguyen with certification of completion of his solo test flight.

SCCMAS Officers and Volunteers



President
Steve Smith
steve@sccmas.org



Secretary
Mike Leggett
secretary@sccmas.org



Treasurer
Jim Patrick
treasurer@sccmas.org



Board Member at Large
Michael Luvara
mike@sccmas.org



Board Member at Large
Tim Jones
renewals@sccmas.org



Fixed Wing, Drones and Helicopter Flight Instruction Coordinator
Dave Neves
rcheliguy7@gmail.com



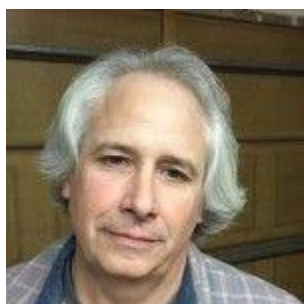
Newsletter Editor
Liam O'Connor
servochatter@sccmas.org



Field Safety Chairman
Tim Stahlke
Timothy.stahlke@gmail.com



Field Maintenance
Jon Mattson
fieldmaintenance@sccmas.org



Contest Coordinator
Eric Sander
contests@sccmas.org



Webmaster
Chris Luvara
webmaster@sccmas.org



Flight Instructor
Mike West
iflyi16@comcast.net



Flight Instructor
Karl Allmendinger
karl.allmend@sbcglobal.net



Flight Instructor
Dean Sala
deansala@suntactics.com



Fixed Wing, Drones, and Helicopter Flight Instruction

Coordinator

Dave Neves

Congratulations New Pilots!

Congratulations to Ryan Nguyen (below) on completing his flight training and soloing on Saturday, 8-5-2023. Ryan was trained by Dave Neves and soloed by Steve Smith.



Congratulations to Doug Evans (below) on completing his flight training and soloing on Sunday, 7-30-2023. Doug was trained by, and soloed by, Dave Neves.



For anyone who is interested in flying a model airplane, but does not have a plane yet, please contact me and I would be happy to take you up on a buddy box flight on my club trainer (pictured below left). Just give me a call or email at: (510) 673-4467 or rcheligu7@gmail.com

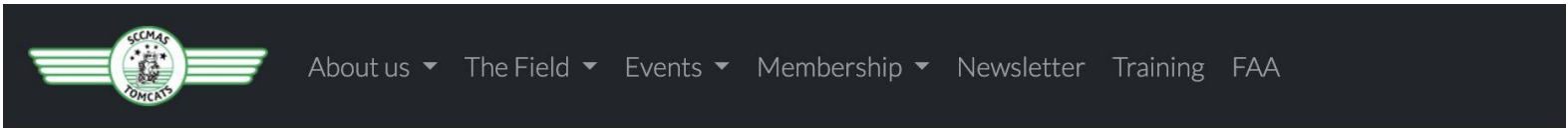


We now have a number of additional instructors who are available to help with flight instruction. If you are a new member who needs help, please check with them for their availability. You can find their names and contact information on our website in the training section.

Thanks,
Dave Neves

SCCMAS Field Upgrades - Weather Trends!

Our Webmaster, Chris Luvara, has made some updates to the weather page(s) on the SCCMAS website. Chris added a weather trends page that is accessible from the normal weather page. Visit our website (www.sccmas.org) to see for yourself!



Current Weather

Weather updates approximately every 10 minutes during daylight hours. You can also view the [weather trends here](#).

Wind Direction

Wind Speed

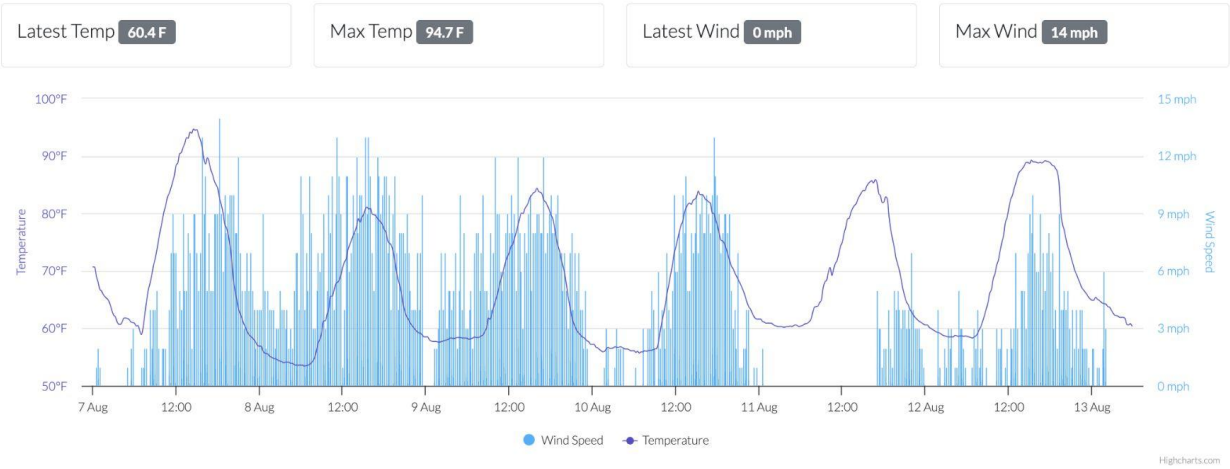
Outside Temp (F)

Chris' updates allow you to see the temperature and wind trends at the field over different time periods:



Weather History (BETA)

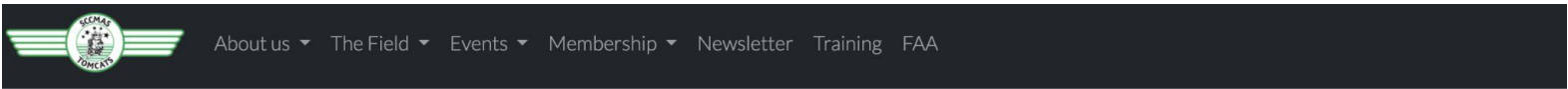
This week



Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Speed (mph)	Barometer (inHg)
August 13, 2023 at 05:45:01 AM	60.4	0	29.94
August 13, 2023 at 05:30:02 AM	60.8	0	29.94
August 13, 2023 at 05:15:02 AM	60.6	0	29.95
August 13, 2023 at 05:00:02 AM	60.7	0	29.95

SCCMAS Field Upgrades - Timelapse Feature for Webcams!

Webmaster Chris Luvara has also added 3 and 6 hour timelapse view options for each of our webcams, as highlighted below. Visit our website (www.sccmas.org) to see for yourself! A big thanks to Chris for making these tremendous updates to our website!



Webcams

Cameras update every ~10 minutes during daylight hours. Click Photos for larger view.

Pit Cam



Last Updated: August 13 2023 06:00 am PDT

Runway Cam



Last Updated: August 13 2023 06:00 am PDT

North Runway Cam



Last Updated: August 13 2023 06:00 am PDT

[View Pit Cam Timelapse | 3 hrs | 6 hrs](#)

[View Runway Cam Timelapse | 3 hrs | 6 hrs](#)

[View North Runway Cam Timelapse | 3 hrs | 6 hrs](#)

Tomcats Reminder:

—All Tomcats Members must lock the main entrance gate behind them each time they enter and leave the SCCMAS Flying Field.



Fixed Wing Flight Instruction Coordinator Mike Leggett

Hey Tomcats,

A few months ago a Santa Clara University Engineering group tested their weather balloon data recovery system at our field as part of their senior project. They designed and built a 36 inch fixed wing RC aircraft, added some telemetry of their own design and planned to drop it from weather balloon from a few hundred feet. Our first meeting was productive, but I pointed out several problems with the model which would prevent me from piloting it to a safe landing for them. Their second visit to the field just a week later with the corrections resulted in a successful flight and landing which is documented in the report linked here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AD2EO7UT1IS87Y5q_eg3pEeghujBluY_/view

Keep 'em Flying,
Mike

Did You Know?

–The speed limit on the SCCMAS Vehicle Access Road is 15 MPH.





Construction Article

By SCCMAS Member, Andy Keates

Building Tips – Terminating braided steel control cables

To terminate a braided steel cable, get a piece of electrical “chocolate block”. Remove the metal connector inside and solder a wire on top of it. Just lightly sand the short length of piano wire and the block to remove oxide and normal electrical solder should work. Now you can thread the cable through a tube and screw on a termination to connect to your servos. This solves the issue of using stiff piano wire that creates a lot of friction if you try to slide it in a bent tube. You may need some acidic flux to solder directly to the steel cable if you want to solder a clevis on the other end, or if you want to add some solder to stop this end of the cable from fraying. The photo below shows the finished product. Happy Building!





SCCMAS Work Party

By SCCMAS Member, Liam O'Connor

On June 10, 2023, a number of Tomcats modelers (who are listed below) participated in a work party at our field. The work party was a success, with many members completing several long overdue projects. Among other things, the work included mowing, weed whacking, painting of all of our picnic benches, painting of handicapped parking blocks, and the construction and painting of new work tables in the designated helicopter area.

It was excellent to see a core group of our members contribute to making our flying field even better than it already was. The SCCMAS is truly blessed to have some of the most committed and hard working members of any club in the area.

The contributions of our membership help to make our flying field one of the best in the nation. If you were unable to make our last work party, please try to make the next one, and be sure to reach out to our club leaders if you would like to contribute in any other way.



A HUGE thank you to the following members that participated at the work party:

- Steve Smith
- Jon Mattson
- Mike Leggett
- Andreas Olbring
- Roger Pellor
- Dave Neves
- Steve Kunze
- Karl Allmendinger
- Rich Luvara
- Joe Alves
- Liam O'Connor

SCCMAS Work Party, Con't.



SCCMAS Work Party, Con't.



SCCMAS Work Party, Con't.





SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In

By SCCMAS Newsletter Editor, Liam O'Connor

On July 22, 2023, the SCCMAS held the first event at our field in several years: the 2023 Warbird Fly-In. Sharam Shirazi organized the event, and served as the CD. Numerous other Tomcats members (who are listed below) volunteered in various ways to coordinate the event.

The Warbird Fly-In was a spectacular success, with a total of 31 registered pilots from the SCCMAS, as well as from other bay area clubs, including SACRATS, Livermore Flying Electronics, Hollister Wavemasters, and Woodland Davis. A full day of flying, camaraderie, and fun were enjoyed by all. A catered lunch from Togo's for all of our pilots was the icing on the cake.

Notably, John Costas reported that he spoke with a couple visiting California from Guernsey, in the Channel Islands. The couple worked in the aviation industry, heard about our event, and extended their vacation a few extra days so that they could attend (entering via the bike path from Anderson Lake Visitor's Center). The couple were very impressed and thoroughly entertained by our event.

Sharam Shirazi and Lynsel Miller organized the event and both served as co-CD. Special thanks to John Costas for picking up the sandwiches, Cyndi Cougoule for keeping the registration organized and flowing smoothly, Liam and Eric for treacherous long-hours gate duties, and Steve Smith for getting the park commission approval for the event.

Many thanks to all of the following members that volunteered to make the Warbird Fly-In a success:

- Sharam Shirazi
- Steve Smith
- Lynsel Miller
- Mike Leggett
- Chris Luvara
- Dave Neves
- Cyndi Cougoule
- John Costas
- Bahman Dara
- Sia Vossough
- Keyon Vossough
- Nate Cougoule
- Roger Borovoy
- Scott Yow
- Michael Radu
- Mike Luvara
- Liam O'Connor



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In, Con't.



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In, Con't.



Additional photos of the Warbird Fly-In are included later in this newsletter.

AMA/FAA News

The following is an excerpt from the FAA's Website:

FAA Extends Remote ID Enforcement Date Six Months

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Drone pilots who are unable to comply with the broadcast requirement of the [Remote ID Rule](#) will [now have until March 16, 2024](#), to equip their aircraft. After that date, operators could face fines and suspension or revocation of pilot certificates.

In making this decision, the FAA recognizes the unanticipated issues that some operators are experiencing finding some remote identification broadcast modules.

Drone pilots can meet this deadline by purchasing a standard Remote ID equipped drone from a manufacturer or purchasing a Remote ID broadcast module which can be affixed to existing drones that do not have Remote ID equipment.

Remote ID acts like a digital license plate and will help the FAA, law enforcement, and other federal agencies find the control station when a drone appears to be flying in an unsafe manner or where it is not allowed to fly.

Learn more at:

<https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/faa-extends-remote-id-enforcement-date-six-months>

AMA/FAA News (Con't)

Please note that some of this may be new to you...

In addition to your SCCMAS Membership, you need:

- A current AMA membership
- An FAA Small UAS Certificate of Registration
- Place FAA registration number on your aircraft
- Complete the AMA TRUST test

The Recreational UAS safety Test (TRUST)

<https://trust.modelaircraft.org/>

FAA Drone Zone Website for Small UAS registration

<https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/>

<https://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2021/05/11/update-to-faa-drone-zone-registration-and-renewal-process/>

FAA Recreational Rules: https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/

[Advisory Circular AC 91-57B](#)

[AMA Safety Code](#)

AMA Know Before You Fly <https://www.modelaircraft.org/know-you-fly>

Mark Your Drone



All drones must be marked on the outside with a registration number.

You can mark all drones that you own and fly exclusively under [The Exception for Recreational Flyers](#) with the same registration number.

Example FAA Small UAS Certificate of Registration



Federal Aviation
Administration

Small UAS Certificate of Registration

REGISTERED OWNER: YOUR NAME HERE

REGISTRATION NUMBER: XXXXXXXX

ISSUED: 01/14/2016

EXPIRES: 12/12/2023

This Small UAS Certificate of Registration is **not an authorization to conduct flight operations** with an unmanned aircraft. Operators of unmanned aircraft must ensure they comply with the appropriate safety authority from the FAA. To operate as a recreational flyer, a person must meet all of the statutory conditions of the exception for limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft (49 U.S.C. 44809). Persons who do not meet all of the statutory conditions may not operate under the statutory exception for limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft.

To fly under the exception for recreational flyers you must:

- Have a current registration
- Fly only for recreational purposes
- Follow the safety guidelines of a community based organization
- Keep your drone within your visual line of sight
- Give Way and do not interfere with any manned aircraft
- Fly at or below 400' in controlled airspace and only with prior authorization
- Fly at or below 400' in uncontrolled airspace
- Comply with all airspace restrictions
- Pass The Recreational UAS Safety Test (Coming Soon)

This Small UAS Certificate of Registration **is not an authorization to conduct flight operations** with an unmanned aircraft. Operators of unmanned aircraft must ensure they comply with the appropriate safety authority from the FAA. To operate as a recreational flyer, a person must meet all of the statutory conditions of the exception for limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft (49 U.S.C. 44809). Persons who do not meet all of the statutory conditions may not operate under the statutory exception for limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft.

For U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and certain non-citizen U.S. corporations, this document constitutes a Certificate of Registration. For all others, this document represents a recognition of ownership.

To fly under the exception for recreational flyers you must:

- Have a current registration
- Fly only for recreational purposes
- Follow the safety guidelines of a community based organization
- Keep your drone within your visual line of sight
- Give Way and do not interfere with any manned aircraft
- Fly at or below 400' in controlled airspace and only with prior authorization
- Fly at or below 400' in uncontrolled airspace
- Comply with all airspace restrictions
- Pass The Recreational UAS Safety Test (Coming Soon)

SCCMAS Members Meeting May 21, 2023



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In, July 22, 2023



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In (con't)



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In (con't)



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In (con't)



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In (con't)



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In (con't)



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SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In (con't)



SCCMAS Warbird Fly-In (con't)



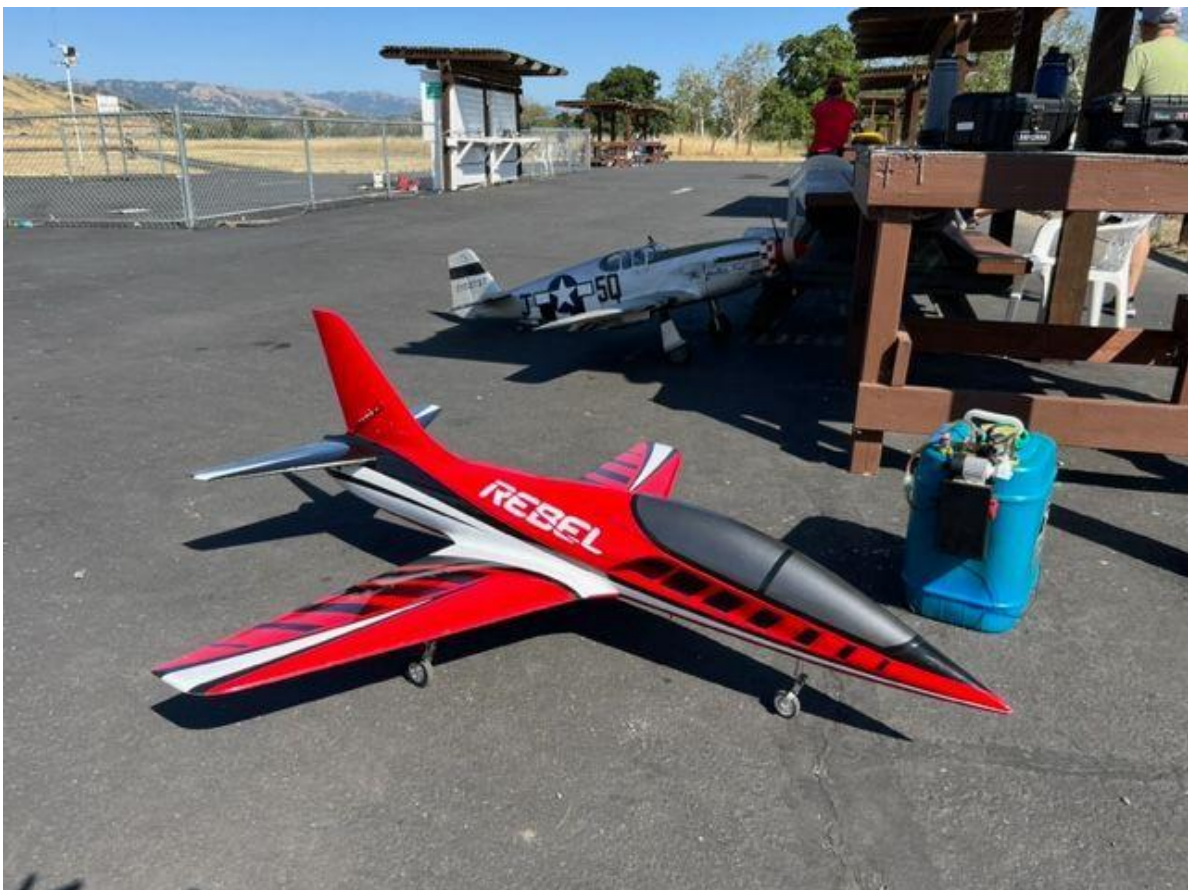
SCCMAS: Scenes from the Field



SCCMAS: Scenes from the Field (con't)



SCCMAS: Scenes from the Field (con't)



SCCMAS: Scenes from the Field (con't)



Photos by Oscar Rico. Above: Lynsel's Spitfire. Below: Sia's CARF Rebel Max.



SCCMAS: Scenes from the Field (con't)



SCCMAS: Scenes from the Field (con't)



SCCMAS: Scenes from the Field (con't)



SCCMAS: Scenes from the Field (con't)





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SCCMAS
163475 W La Chiquita Ave
Los Gatos, CA 95032

