

# Thousand Oaks



# Soaring Society

## February 2008

TOSS is a Distric X member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics Charter Club #1493

### OFFICERS

President.....Gary Filice  
Vice President.....Mike Stern  
Secretary.....Lex Mierop  
Treasurer.....Jim Pendergrass  
Newsletter.....Chuck Auerbach  
Web Master.....Martin Usher

Soaring every Sunday at Redwood School  
October SC-2 Contest at Poway Re-  
scheduled for November 18th

### Schedule of Events

Meetings Last Wednesday of every Month.  
See our Web site for more  
information, maps and directions.  
<http://tossfreeservers.com>

Art McMamee is mailing out the newsletter  
to members who require a hard copy.  
If you need one call Art.

### TOSS MEETING FOR 1-30-08

In attendance: Gary Filice, Paul Verderosa, Bill Bertram, Steve Miele, Don Northern, Martin Usher, Jim Pendergrass, Chuck Auerbach, Bob Swet, and Mike Reagan, Bob Van Landingham, Bill Bertram, Don McNamee, Mike Stern, Jim Pendergrass, Richard Mason.

Current Treasury Balance is \$752.58.

-Welcome to the first TOSS meeting of 2008. Yes, it's that time of the year again where we don't fly for some weekends in a row. One year, it was 7 weekends in a row due to either wind or rain. We are supposed to have a dry one on the coming weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup>!

-On the agenda, we covered:

- Our club charter renewal with Redwood Middle School, Paramount Ranch, and AMA. These are all due up in March.
- Flight site activity.
- The status of Charles Babcock
- Election of TOSS officers that must be completed for our AMA Charter Renewal.

-Club charter renewals with the Redwood Middle School and with Paramount Ranch may be problematical. Bill Bertram gave a summary of the interaction with the Paramount Ranch and with the new people in charge. According to Mike Wilson, the new person in charge, Paramount Ranch is a place where anyone can fly. This

means electrics and gliders, but not gas engine powered planes. We have or normal \$60 insurance rider with the AMA for the site in general, but an additional \$175 is needed to go along with the Application for "commercial purposes". By this, it is meant that if we were to put on a major event that involved parking of vehicles beyond the normal membership of TOSS, the use of facilities at the park and monitoring by Ranch personnel is necessary.

According to Bill Bertram, Mike Wilson said that the documents from our past arrangement with the Park have been lost when the new folks came in. The paper trail needs to be re-established if we want to continue to fly there! The area we want to fly in is still dirt, and the question of improvements came up. It is an overflow parking area and they mow it, but they don't normally drag it. Our intentions during usage would go no more farther than filling in some of the large and deep holes with loose soil so that flyers won't trip and break a leg or ankle! The Park folks seemed to be OK with this part of our usage and what we would call minor improvements. Safety is therefore a concern, and if we use the site, we must be able to protect ourselves! Bill indicated that there may be some further potential for improvements in the future. Bill will work on setting up a meeting day with those in charge of the park, and some TOSS members may be asked to attend, and/or give a demo for the park folks.

-As for Redwood, we have kept the self-imposed flight

restrictions, and no major incidents have taken place over the area of interest behind the launch area. The Principal still must be approached for final signature once the school district approves of our activities on the field. It remains to be seen if the Principal will sign the papers, given what he was put through by the angry neighbor, the police, the fire, and school risk assessment folks. His last visit to the school yard on a Sunday seemed to be all business, and he wasn't saying much in the way of positive things. The quick action taken by members immediately after the incident this last summer saved the day for TOSS. That quick action has shown our commitment to safety, and to being a good neighbor to those who live around the school. We have been so for over 15 years!

-Bill Bertram has also given a status on Smith Hill: It is open to, and will remain open to all who want to drive up and or fly. This is good in that we have a hill on which to fly in T.O. It is also bad in that this means that the dumping, vandalism, weapons, and other things will be present on the hill! It is too bad that there has not been much in the way of a plan to put some kind of controls on the access to the hill. This is related to the fact that no one really wants to get involved with formal ownership and control of vehicular traffic on this special piece of land. It is deemed an open space that is stuck between the auspices of the city, county, and residences that live around it.

-The search for another main flight site goes on, and Bill Bertram is keeping this in mind most every time he contracts outside interests on possible land areas. It is a tough job to find a place to fly. Bill is the leader on this effort, and he is running the gambit of possibilities throughout the T.O. and Santa Monica Mountains area. Our thanks for Bill's intense efforts and research into this challenging task. We will have further follow-ups on what Bill is able to find out.

-Further discussion on club officers for 2008. Suggestions were made to mail out a form with the job descriptions for each official position, and include spaces for readers to either write-in a nominee for a position or write in themselves for the position. We did that, and to the disappointment of the members in attendance, the response was less than enthusiastic! Therefore we did not hold a vote and ratification of club officers at this month's meeting. We need more input from the membership on this item, and will therefore move the election to the February meeting. Again, the appeal goes out to the membership to please write in your choices for officers as described in the last monthly TOSS UP paper and send them into Jim Pendergrass along with your yearly membership dues. We will go over the tallies at the February meeting and make

the choices. The list of officers will go to AMA along with our Charter Renewal.

-Charles Babcock status - - Charles is back! Literally, his back is back! Charles had a fairly extensive procedure done on his lower back that constituted a spinal fusion and laminectomy (forgive the spelling). Charles is doing just great and is looking forward to getting back on the hill to fly! The painful back has been turned off!

As a kind gesture and offer of assistance to Charles and his wife Almeda during his recovery period, Steve Miele organized a "meals on wheels" program to the Babcock residence. Steve arranged the meal delivery schedule and some of the TOSS members brought a hot meal to the Babcock residence this last week. Thanks goes out to Steve Miele, and Don Northern for getting the ball rolling on this effort!

-So far we have Mike Reagan, Mike Stern, Gary Filice, Dave Butkovich, Jim Pendergrass, Lex Mierop, and Ben Wright signed up for the Southwest Classic in Phoenix coming up on the weekend of February 15, and 16<sup>th</sup>. It's not too late to sign up!

The meeting was adjourned, and we were able to review a hand launch glider brought in by Mike Reagan, and a molded slope plane that was brought in by Bob Swet. Bob's is a DS'able model with a really strong wing structure, and it is built for extreme speed! Mike's plane is the Blaster II from Kennedy Composites that has the latest configurations for pylon, pod, wing and stabs. It looks like a really clean ship! We also shared some time looking at another Radio Carbon Art Video on giant scale flying in the Alps. Sooooo Coool!

Gary

"Last month I decided to take my new camera to the field on every weekend and just take pictures. Well as you all know we had all of the Sunday's in January and the start February with our grateful joy in having RAIN!. Now we all know that it is only supposed to rain during the night, nobody mentioned this to the man/woman upstairs.

I am told that we are to suffer for our joy's in life. Well no photos this issue but I promise you that will change next month.



