

**Thousand Oaks
February**



**Soaring Society
2013**

TOSS is a District X Member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, CharterClub # 1493

<http://www.tosoaring.com/>

Minutes of the TOSS Meeting Held 2/27/13

In attendance were: Jim Pendergrass, Steve Miele, Bob VanLandingham, Craig Borstelman, Charles Babcock, Art Chmielewski, Bill Bertram, Richard Mason, Gary Filice, Don Northern, Mike Stern, Bob Swet, Martin Usher, and Mike Reagan.

Treasury balance as of 2/1/13 is 1,078.57.

Pilots Training Manual presented by *Craig Borstelman* to establish a system for training beginner flyers, track their progress, and provide trainers with continuity from one week to the next; even if there is a different trainer. The manual will be in a bound format and given to the pilots for tracking their learning tasks. The manual includes flight control goals such as turning, keeping the craft level, fly to and away under control, etc. The flights are logged as successful and then the pilot moves on to the next goal. The instructor signs off on the accomplished goals. This manual can help with accelerating the learning tasks and help

to save time at the field when another instructor needs to know where a particular pilot is in his progress so he can up from where he left off.

Certificate of insurance from AMA received via Terry Koplan. Still need to get the Conejo Valley School District forms completed for the field. Mike Stern will take on this task to get t completed.

Winch/Retriever status: We will have 7 winches, two of which need retrievers. We will investigate availability and cost for two additional retrievers and batteries. Five members are currently in the rotation to bring setups to the field.

New TOSS hats came in from Graphics on the Fly.

Lang Ranch Park flying site: A meeting was recently held on a Tuesday night to go over the grand plan of the park. The homeowners near the park were there along with their lawyer.

Their law suit involves old objections over the original master plan concept that goes back some years and is no longer a viable plan. The lawsuit is not over the newer concept plan issues. CRPD wants to go ahead with the environmental impact report. If the report comes in positive for the park, we should be good to go as a group. However, we will not give up our current field for a period of two years in case of a reversal allowing flying in the park. When we get close to a date for setting up a flying site at the park we will: 1. Apply to AMA for some funding 2. Get the District X AMA person to come out and sanction the field. Keep in mind, our relationship with CRPD is as a partner in the park and we will contribute resources to this end.

There was a discussion of having an updated phone list given to TOSS members. Members can OPT OUT of

having their phone numbers available to the membership.

NOTE:
IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR PHONE NUMBER ON A LIST AVAILABLE TO CLUB MEMBERS, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO STEVE AT [sjmiele\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:sjmiele(at)gmail.com) WITH YOUR INTENT TO OPT OUT.

We also discussed and will have a wallet sized card with club officer phone numbers and winch holders with their phone numbers on the back side. All club officers are requested to send their cell numbers to Bill Bertram so that he can compile them.

TOSS Shirts are now available....

— “Golf” shirt style

Sm — XL ... \$18

2XL, 3XL ... \$20

— Pocket Tee style

Sm — XL ... \$13

2XL, 2XL ... \$15

No Contest Results this Month - Contest was abandoned due to unsatisfactory flying conditions (NE wind).

Test Driving the Proposed New Flying Site

To All,

Gary wrote this after flying the Lang Ranch Park with Mike, Don, and Bill. He also sent a gracious "thank you" note to Matt Kouba from CRPD. Bill also took some pictures that I've attached.

Thanks,
Steve

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Filice [mailto:garysoaring@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 11:55 AM

To: Steve Miele

Subject: New flight site

Hi Steve,

I must say that the trial day at the proposed flight site at the Lang Ranch Regional Park went off well. The day was what I consider a typical coastal day for the area-low clouds and fog in the morning followed by clearing with gentle west/southwest breezes. The TOSS members present for the test included Bill Bertram, Don Northern, Mike Reagan, and Gary Filice. As promised, CRPD Park Superintendent Matt Kouba had the gates open for us a bit before 10 am. Mike had an AVA and small hand launch. We set up his hi-start facing the southwest breeze. Takeoff was actually right where the cars were parked as opposed to further out toward the proposed area. This was because that area was just too overgrown with tall weeds, etc. Mike proceeded to launch and go around the area a bit out front with exploratory turns. It looked easy for him to find areas of light lift in most every part of the sky out front. After a few launches, Mike punched out and hooked up with a hawk. The ballet in the air was under way, and Mike proceeded to wrap up a nice thermal that drifted rearward. Once at a good altitude, Mike again punched out further over the valley below. Mike wasn't fifty yards out from the circling hawk when it too broke off and promptly followed Mike's plane. What a neat thing to see when Mike hooked into another thermal way out front with bird circling along in the same area of lift. I believe it sent a message to anyone observing that the birds really like soaring with us. After taking the sticks myself, I found the air in the site full of lift and fairly predictable as to how the thermals progress. I did notice that we are a bit more wind exposed up on the Mesa, but nothing that would present any more of a challenge than our current site--especially with the lower degree of restrictions on where we can fly. I believe there is ample room to wander the sky without ever having to wander back over Westlake Blvd. and houses to the left of the proposed launch area. I can't speak for Mike, but I would call this new flight site a winner!

Gary

