

**Thousand Oaks  
May**



**Soaring Society  
2012**

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

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

### **Minutes of the TOSS Meeting Held 5/30/2012**

#### **In Attendance:**

<TBD>

#### **Treasury report:**

Balance as of 5/30/12: \$1,123.52

#### **Old business:**

Flying site update and status included an agenda paper from the Conejo Recreation and Park District. According to Bill Bertram, we were advised by Matt Kouba that we would be the first entity to be using the park!

We will have a preliminary planning meeting this Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM at Steve Miele's house to go over details of the park planning. Please attend if you have ANY special issues to have aired.

At some point, based upon our needs, there will likely be costs associated with improvements to the site. It is at this point that we will get AMA involved

so that we might apply for some funding from to help out with the development of the flying field. Bill will arrange the day we will be meeting at the site (probably on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday or Monday).

TOSS received a letter from Ed Jones (our CRPD advocate) indicating that he is running for City Council. Due to our dissolved relationship, he is free to be more proactive in our favor dealing with the county or city, etc. and has indicated this to us.

#### **New Business:**

*Membership* – There are quite a few new members that joined recently, and we would like to supply new tee shirts to them. In conjunction we will also make a large purchase of tee shirts (it's been a few years) and many member's shirts are becoming threadbare. We may also include the purchase of hats if there is some interest. This will also be discussed at the Monday meeting at Steve Miele's house. There

are about 7 regular members that still have not paid their dues! One member will approach the non-paying members requesting that they pay their dues; the consequence of not paying is that they will not be able to fly at Redwood field.

*Fun Fly* at the Conejo Silent Flyers field – The format for the morning was simple. In repeated one hour cycles, WW1, WW2, Korean War, Modern Aircraft and finally full contact flying wings. The combat was the most fun as there were about a dozen planes in the air trying to cut each other to ribbons. There were a dozen people watching the event. Is there something we at TOSS could learn from this event in order to have a similar event at our field?

*Contest format at the club field.* - Do we want to have another Easy Glider contest this year? Our CD indicated that he will include an Easy Glider

event so find 'em and dust them off!. Other contests coming up are the Fresno Soaring Society Bent Wing Summer Festival held at Visalia on June 9 and 10, The summer Soaring Challenge at Davis (2 day contest) June 23-24th, and the Man-On-Man SC-2 contest at the field of dreams in El Segundo on June 9 and 10.

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Anticipating a formal presentation to the CRPD, we are looking to put together a multi-media program with pictures, video and possibly music that can be shown in an auditorium format. Anyone with the talents needed to put together such a program from existing pictures, videos and DVD's, please contact Bill Bertram at 818-314-6122.

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## **Putting the Genie Back Into the Bottle**

There's been a lot of discussion at and around the AMA about UAVs — Drones — recently, the general consensus being that Drones Are A Bad Thing. While looking for a picture of a commercial drone that I saw in the paper — something that looked suspiciously like an electric Easy Glider — I came across this:-

<http://www.sparkfun.com/products/8785>

This is a circuit board sold by Sparkfun for \$24.95 that is designed to run the ArduinoPilot, an open source programming project. This board is designed to run with the EasyStar plane but can be easily adapted to the Easy Glider. It requires some peripherals — all available mail order, of course — to provide infra-red horizon sensing, GPS and the like but the result is that for a minimal outlay you can make your very own UAV.

It appears that both the FAA and the AMA are a bit behind the technology....