

The Eagle's Nest



The Official Newsletter of the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society

April 2008

Volume 18, No. 4

President's Message

By Rich Beardsley

March is drawing to a close, only a couple of months to the Spring Fling. Those members that wish to volunteer to help with the various committees, contact Dudley to get in touch with the committee chairpersons.

Those of you that missed the meeting this month missed a great presentation (on F3J) by Bob McGowan, and how the team selections went. It was quite a story, following his son A.J. on the road to making the U.S. team.

Bob and A.J. will leave for Turkey June 28th to participate in the World finals. Bob has to pay is own way, and it will not be cheap. You can help Bob with expenses by giving donations directly to him: Bob McGowan 43051 Peachwood St., Fremont, CA. 94538.

We had a raffle again, with a few items donated by RC Country, as well as two \$25. gift certificates to RC Country. The raffle went so well that next month there will be a \$25 and a \$50 gift certificate.

Scott Meader is looking for C.D.s for the last few monthly contests. Contact him if you would like to run one of the open contests.

Ron McElliot was kind of roped into keeping the field mowed and clean. I would be most appreciative if some of you could help. Ron will send out an e-mail when he plans to work on the field.

There was some bad news just before the cancelled Thermal Safari. Dean Gradwell's hangar in Montague was broken into and most of his RC equipment was stolen. Fortunately there was no damage to his full size aircraft. We all hope the thieves are caught and that he gets his equipment back.

We now have a dedicated contact at RC Country—Dennis Steir is now the lead guy running the glider and electric counter. He would like us to e-mail him with the things we would like him to stock. E-mail Dennis at: dennis@rccountryhobbies.com. Dennis is an SVSS club member, so between he and Weeds, we have great contacts at RC Country. **Make sure to shop at RC Country for your RC needs, we must support our local hobby shop.**

That's it for now. See you at the field!

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Published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society.

Purpose

Founded in 1989, SVSS is a social organization whose purpose is to promote the safe and skillful operation of radio controlled model sailplanes. SVSS is an AMA chartered club, number 2752. Membership is open to the general public.

President	Rich Beardsley 707-455-8279
Secretary	Kipp Geisler 707-693-1771
Treasurer	Stan Scharosch 919-987-1173
V.P. Contests	Scott Meader 916-660-9080
V.P. Field	Manuel McLure 916-359-2444
V.P. Equipment	Jonathan Heritage 530-756-4931
New Member Mentor	Dave London 916-944-3948
Instructor	Dave London 916-944-3948
Instructor	Cameron Clarke 916-596-0986
Web Master / Newsletter Editor	Dudley Dufort 916-991-1266

Monthly Meetings

SVSS general membership meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 7 PM in the meeting room at SMUD, 6201 S Street, Sacramento, California. Our meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Contests

Monthly contests are held on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM. Beginners and spectators are always welcome.

AMA

Membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics is required prior to flying in any SVSS organized event or using and SVSS equipment.

Club Rules

1. Have fun
2. See rule #1

Editor's Corner

By Dudley Dufort



Associate Member

At the March club meeting a motion was made and overwhelming passed, to add a new membership category. An Associate Member is a non-flying member of the club. They are not required to join or maintain membership in AMA. Annual dues are the same as a general membership, \$45.

We've long suspected that some people belong to SVSS because they believe in what we do and want to support the club with their dues but they don't fly. Since the club's inception, AMA membership has been a prerequisite to joining SVSS. Well, that's no longer the case. We will be contacting past members by mail to see if they are interested in rejoining SVSS as an Associate Member without incurring the cost of joining AMA.

Contest Director

So ya wanna be a CD eh? Anyone can and everyone is encouraged to be a contest director. There isn't much to it and there are no special requirements. Pick the format in advance so we can announce it at the club meeting and publish it in the newsletter. The day of the contest, arrive a little early and recruit some help to make sure that the equipment gets set up. 15 minutes before start time, conduct a brief "plots meeting" to review the contest format, answer questions and see if there are any announcements. As an aid, we have a printed guide for general rules of the contest. If you're lucky, every once in awhile you'll get to break up a fight. (continued pg 6)

April 2008

SVSS Key Dates

Fresno Classic 4/5 & 4/6
Club Contest 4/12
Club Meeting 4/17

Happy Birthdays

Stan Scharosch 4/6
 Clay walker 4/7
 Jim Thompson 4/10
 Jack Suder 4/19
 Rick Johnston 4/23
 Joan Nolte 4/24

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Fresno Classic
6 Fresno Classic	7	8	9	10	11	12 SVSS Club Contest
13	14	15	16	17 SVSS Club Meeting	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SVSS Preliminary Financial Statement

March, 31 2008

<u>Checking Acc.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Debits</u>
Starting Balance			\$5,918.91
Income;			
	Monthly meeting raffle	\$46.00	
	Monthly contest	\$198.00	
	Contest Passes (2)	\$128.00	
	Membership fees (24)	\$1,121.00	
	Total	\$1,493.00	\$7,411.91
Expenditures;			
	January Newsletter		\$49.03
	January Newsletter mailing		\$7.11
	February Newsletter		\$29.90
	February Newsletter mailing		\$8.19
	Equipment repairs		\$80.06
	Renewal reminders postage		\$16.40
	March Newsletter		\$50.10
	March Newsletter mailing		\$6.77
	SVSS Flyers		\$52.80
	Donation Bob McGowan		\$300.00
	Equipment fuel		\$30.56
	Battery charging remodel		\$335.17
	Winch line		\$138.46
	Porta-Potty (Monthly Service)		\$120.00
	Total	\$1,224.55	\$6,187.36
Ending Balance			
Increase/decrease in operating funds			\$268.45

Kipp's Notes

The March meeting was called to order at 9:10 p.m. There were 21 members present with one guest, Bob McGowan.

Old Business

Our contest CD, Scott Meader, needs volunteers for monthly contests. Please call Scott if you can volunteer. Our old porta potty was found and hauled off to the dump. Ron Kucera has provided new score cards for our club contests. This week our President Rich Beardsley, along with Dudley Dufort and Peter Dannenfeler II met with County officials, Mariko Yamada and Christine Alford, along with representatives from local dog groups, The Archery Club and the Bowman's Club to review the future master plan for Yolo Grasslands Regional Park. The old plan called for moving our equipment containers and providing potable drinking water and permanent restrooms. Christine Alford spoke up on behalf of our club and effectively removed these requirements and provided favorable support regarding SVSS's stewardship. The County is concerned about burrowing owls and their population is low. It is believed that the dog clubs are the main concern. The park is considering an entry fee at some point in the distant future as a way of covering maintenance costs.

New Business

Dennis Steir, a new SVSS member of two years, is an employee of RC Country. He will be an advocate for our club and wants to know what inventory items SVSS club members need most. He has asked us to contact him to provide information regarding our needs. We will put a link on our website and possibly provide Dennis' contact information in our newsletter. Associate Memberships. A vote was taken and passed unanimously to provide an associate membership for non-flying SVSS members. This is allowed by AMA such that these members will not have to maintain a AMA membership annually for the providing of AMA insurance. A suggestion was made to replace our club advertisement flyers in a more visible location at RC Country. Dennis Steir will help with this. A motion was filed with a unanimous vote for SVSS to contribute \$300 for the sponsorship of AJ McGowan for the 2008 F3J World Championship contest starting June 23 in Turkey.

Program

Bay area soaring pilot, Bob McGowan, presented a program on F3J man-on-man competitions. Bob and his son, AJ, went to Chicago recently for World F3J team tryouts. Bob and AJ went with Charlie and Nick Tasto who have attended several SVSS contests in the past, along with Mike Lee, Casey Adamcek and Jim Ludwigson. F3J was developed in England and was developed with a focus on thermal duration. There are no winches involved; all planes are launched using hand tow. Most rounds are 10 minutes long. Scoring is man-on-man. You are simply trying to beat those in your flight group. All pilots launch at the same time and must land within a 10 minute flight window. Therefore, 9 minutes 50 seconds is typically a good score, taking the launch time into account. Pilots are allowed a restart in the event of midair collisions and pilots can resort to backup planes when needed. Competitive teams hire professional runners for towing (in excess of \$100 per day). Three timers are often used to record launch countdown, official time, and window time. AJ McGowan qualified for the USA F3J World Competition Team.

Show and Tell

Kipp Geisler presented a recently completed 40-inch Pylon Racer (flash pylon) from Soaring USA.

New Members

We welcome **Bob Foster** to the ranks of SVSS. Bob was born in Gooding Idaho in August of 1940. Bob grew up, just north of us, in Colusa California. He lives and practices law in Stockton. He has three children. Bob first started flying at the age of 13 when he was living in Colusa. His first plane was a Thermic 50. His other interests include classical guitar and ham radio. Joined 2008 Found out about SVSS while shopping at R/C Country. Bob writes; “My driving force right now is a kit I put together from House of Balsa. I bought the kit at the RC flea market maybe two years ago. I think I paid \$20 for it. The plane is called a Two Tee, a two-meter glider with a Tee tail. I put a nice Axi motor in it, a 7717, I think. It will put out almost 200 watts. The plane weighs in at right at two pounds, so the motor is plenty for the plane. It had its maiden flight two weeks ago at the club field. It flew great! Not exactly a contest legal plane, so I am building a second fuselage, sans motor! That is almost done. It will feature a full flying and removable stab, like some of the ones I saw at the field. I hope to fly it in the Spring Fling.” His interests in RC include design, building, contests, fun flying, electrics and socializing with fellow enthusiasts.



We also extend a warm welcome to **Chuck Farruggia**. Chuck is a California native, born in San Jose in 1947. He grew up in San Jose and Morgan Hill. Home is now in San Ramon. Chuck retired after 31 years as a deputy sheriff with Alameda County. He has 2 children and 5 grandchildren. He found out about us through the internet. While he’s been flying RC for almost 40 years, he’s new to soaring. Bob adds; “I’ve been flying radio controlled airplanes off and on since 1969. I thought soaring would present a different aspect of the hobby. I enjoy anything and everything that has to do with airplanes.” Chuck’s interest in RC include design, electrics, slope and fun flying. Chuck’s other hobbies are model railroading and astronomy.

April Contest is scheduled for Saturday April 12th
CD is Scott Meader
Tasks are 3, 6, 9, & 12
CD’s are needed to fill out the rest of the contest season.
Contact Scott if you’re interested in CDing a contest
916-660-9080



R/C Country

Dennis Steir has been a member of of SVSS since 2006. He now works full time at R/C Country and is a strong supporter of our club. R/C Country has always been very kind to SVSS. For several years we held our monthly meetings there. They finally had to kick us out 'cause we drink too much. The truth is that they ran out of space for their ever expanding inventory and had to sacrifice our meeting area in the loft. Chet and Teri had a choice to make, either give us the boot or buy a bigger building. They like us but not that much..

Several other SVSS members have also worked at R/C Country. Yeah from time to time you can better deals on the internet. But you can't get the loyalty and the support that your local hobby store has given you. R/C Country deserves our support.

At the March meeting, Dennis expressed a strong desire to serve as a liaison between SVSS and R/C Country and provide us with insight into new products and special offers . We welcome and thank Dennis for his concern and efforts on our behalf. Following is the first of what we hope will be many contributions to this humble publication. You can reach Dennis at 916-731-5868. (ed.)

Dennis writes;
JR and Spectrum Radio systems are now offering a great deal on 2.4g receivers! If you purchase any JR 2.4g or Spectrum 2.4g radio system and purchase an extra receiver, JR or Spectrum will send you one free receiver of equal capacity! If you purchase 2 extra receivers with a radio system, they will send 2 free receivers of equal capacity!

This offer expires on April 30, 2008.

R/C Country has most radio systems in stock, so come by and check them out!

Thanks Dennis!!

Dudley's Corner (cont'd from pg. 2)

Following the contest, announce the winners and oversee the cleanup. See . . . nothin' to it. Just be kind to your scorekeeper. If you want to try something new give me a call to make sure that I have a scoring program written to accommodate your imagination. Call Scott Meader to volunteer. 916-660-9080

Changing of the Guard

Manuel McLure will be taking over as Vice President of Field operations from Ron McElliott. It seems as though there was a mix up on the ballot last year. Manuel offered to be the field guy but Ron's name was placed on the ballot in error. McLure, McElliott, Scotsmen, Irishmen, who can tell 'em apart? Anyway, the mistake has been corrected. We appreciate both of these hard working members for all they've done and will continue to do. Please pay heed to their calls for help.

April Contest

Scott Meader will, again CD the next club contest. On April 12th the tasks will be 3, 6, 9, & 12 minutes.

Dunnigan

Well that's it for this edition. Tomorrow's the long anticipated 2008 Thermal Safari. Watch for a report in the May edition of The Eagle's Nest. Goodbye cruel world. I'm off to Dunnigan!

Dudley

SVSS and Yolo County 2008

In early March the Yolo County Parks Department held a meeting in Davis with the establish Grassland Park user groups and interested citizens to discuss the current and future development of the park.

Representing the County were Supervisor Mariko Yamada, Park Director Warren Westrup, Principal Park Planner Scott Lines and Natural Resources Planner Christine Alford. Members from each of the existing user groups, the Yolo Bowmen, the Horseshoe club, dog club(s) and SVSS were in attendance along with a botanist from UCD and the Oak Tree planting group. During the course of the meeting we discovered that there are four groups of “dog people” interested in using Grasslands Park.

Three of these groups are pleased that the county is fencing in the southwest corner of the park for a leash-free dog area. One group, that has used the park to train dogs in tracking by placing scented spots scattered throughout the park, were discouraged to hear that the only leash-free area of the park is (will be) the fenced area specifically designated for dogs. The botanist in attendance stated that there are plants in the park that are extremely rare and need to be protected (not walked on). There will be a new Park Host living on site soon and the county would like to rotate hosts between several parks to prevent the feeling of “ownership”.

We were all notified that at some point in the future we can expect some kind of user fee to help off-set the cost of maintaining the park in these difficult budgetary times.

That notion was not well received as the user groups are the ones spending money to improve the park in the first place.

The Bowmen explained that are planning to build an indoor archery range, at a cost exceeding \$100,000, and want a 20 year lease before they commit to such expenditure. The county’s current policy is to limit leases to 5 years. Those discussions are continuing.

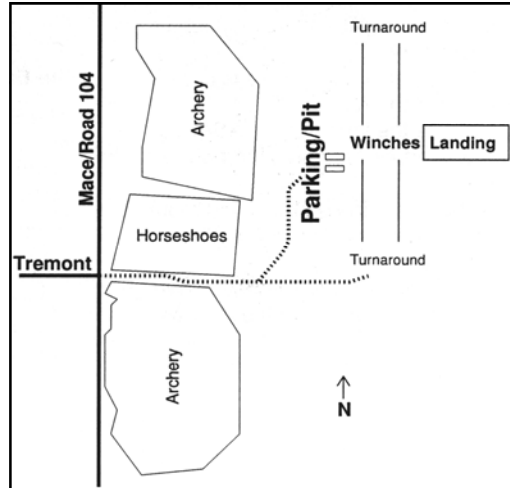
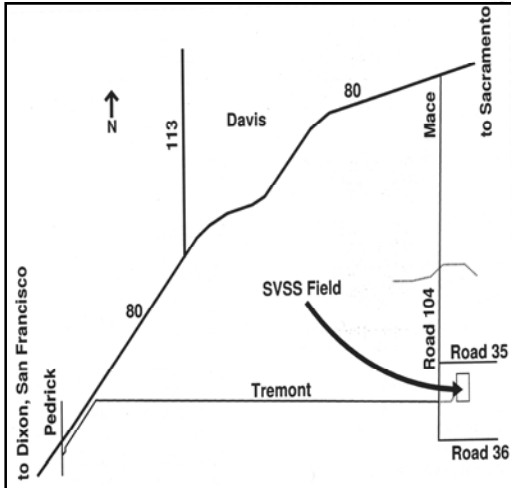
According to the new master plan, the main entry to the park will be relocated to the south and a driveway will be created connecting to our existing drive way and parking area. No time table on this yet as there are currently no funds for such improvements.

This original master plan called for SVSS to move our two storage container to the “corporation yard” area of the park and install permanent restrooms with potable water drinking fountains. Due to the wonderful public relations work with Christine Alford by past-president Dudley Dufort and current president Rich Beardsley, Christine has removed these conditions as being unrealistic! Our only current requirement is to build a fence around the containers to help shield them from view.

All-in-all, the meeting was very positive for SVSS. The county and other park users are happy with our site development, its cleanliness and our general attitude.

Let’s continue to be courteous to others who want to enjoy this wonderful County and club asset.

Peter Dannenfels II



The SVSS Flying Site is located at Yolo County Grasslands Regional Park, south of Davis, CA.

Lat: 38° 29' 49" N, Long: 121° 41' 28" W

Directions: From I-80, take the Mace Blvd. exit. Go south on Mace Blvd. 3.8 miles to the intersection of Tremont Rd. Turn left (east) on the gravel driveway and drive past the horseshoe and archery areas road to the field.

Shortcut from eastbound I-80: From I-80 take the Pedrick Road exit. Follow the frontage road eastbound on the south side of I-80 for 0.8 miles. Turn right on Tremont Rd. Follow Tremont for 5.4 miles. Cross Mace Blvd and enter Grasslands Regional Park.

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