

# *The Eagle's Nest*



The Official Newsletter of the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society

August 2007

Volume 17, No. 8

## **President's Message**

By Rich Beardsley

Hi Everybody:

Another month has sailed by and we did have a great month. First, I would like to thank those folks who brought side dishes to the July meeting/barbecue. The meeting was great—brief—and we had great weather and some good flying in the afternoon. It is my hope that we can continue the summer time barbecue meetings. It brings a lot of folks out that wouldn't normally attend the regular meetings. We have the opportunity to meet some of the wives and friends of our club members.

The monthly contest was an interesting affair. Not as simple as it seemed at first glance. Ed Grainger CD'd the contest—an all or nothing event. Many pilots that you would not expect to get zeroes found themselves with a zero. Even with a “throw out” round, there were some zeroes left on score sheets. (Yours truly included.) Be sure to check the results elsewhere in the newsletter.

I hope you all will pay particular attention to the Treasurer's report. We did very well at this year's Spring Fling. We realized twice the income as compared to last year. Hopefully this is a sign that attendance will be increasing as we continue through the years. Once again a big “THANK YOU!!!!” to everyone who volunteered their time and made this possible. And, don't forget to shop from the vendors who so generously supported our raffle, especially our local hobby shop, RC Country. We owe all the vendors another “THANKS” for all the donations and support they have given us not only this year, but in the past as well.

The August meeting will be returning to the SMUD offices. If you haven't made a previous meeting, come out and join us for pit racing and other tall stories, as well as our regular business meeting. I hope to see some new faces and guests at the meeting.

Thanks again for everyone's help in making the barbecue a success!!!

See you at the next contest and meeting.

Rich B.

## The Eagle's Nest

Published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society.

### Purpose

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.

### SVSS Officers - 2007

<b>President</b>	Rich Beardsley 707-455-8279
<b>Secretary</b>	Neil Nolte 916-966-0857
<b>Treasurer</b>	Stan Scharosch 919-987-1173
<b>V.P. Contests</b>	Kipp Geisler 707-693-1771
<b>V.P. Field</b>	Bob Mosher 916-487-7139
<b>V.P. Equipment</b>	Dave Finberg 919-525-1316
<b>New Member Mentor</b>	Dave London 916-944-3948
<b>Instructor</b>	Dave London 916-944-3948
<b>Instructor</b>	Cameron Clark 916-296-8771
<b>Web Master &amp; Newsletter Editor</b>	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

Let's start off by welcoming Rick Johnston as the newest member to SVSS. Rick's profile can be found in this edition.

Poor ol' Ed Granger is still getting pummeled by a few whiners from the last club contest. Speaking as one who failed to get their time (even WITH the mulligan); it's not Eds fault that I'm a crappy pilot. To those who believe that winning is everything I offer "It's not the destination, it's the journey." Winning isn't everything. Lest we forget, this is supposed to be fun, remember?

Club president, Rich Beardsley really does a GREAT barbecue! The members and guests who attended the July club meeting were treated to some fine vittles. Rich, do that at every meeting and watch the attendance soar!

Mike Clancy is the contest director for August. Mike's format is the perennial favorite, the Triathlon. Four rounds with an in/out, five foot diameter, landing circle. Landings are worth 50 points. In a triathlon the time is scored on what looks like an elevated saw tooth. The peaks are even minutes. The valleys are odd minutes. While your objective is to fly for 10 minutes, if you can't make your 10, you don't want to land on an odd minute. For instance; let's say that you've flown for 5:30 and you're just getting' by, if you land on 6:00 your score is 560 points. On the other hand, if you think you can squeak out 8 minutes but land at 7 minutes, your score is only 420 points. You're rewarded by a loss of 140 points for your effort. 8 minutes would have given you 680 points. Bottom line; the pilot must constantly reevaluate how much longer he thinks he can stay aloft to avoid landing on or near odd minutes.

Peter Dannelfelser reports that our Yolo County Parks liaison, Chris Alford, is working on revisions to the Master Plan for The Grasslands Regional Park. Those revisions will give greater consideration to those long time park users.

# August 2007

**SVSS Key Dates**  
**Club Contest 8/11**  
**Club Meeting 8/16**

**Happy Birthdays**

Bill Gore 8/1  
 Bruce Moore 8/2  
 Dudley Dufort 8/17  
 R.J. Thomas 8/22  
 Gene Dias 8/26  
 Dennis Steir 8/26

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## The Slot - Mowin' and Blowin'

A couple of months ago, fellow SVSS members Marty Falarski and Scott Woodward asked if I would do some volunteer work for another club to which they belong. The Northern California Slope Soarers have a killer slope racing site they call "The Slot". It's located on the west side of I-680 about 5 miles south of the Cordelia intersection with I-80. The old land mark was a huge PG&E wind generator that's long since been removed. It's a private flying site on old ranch land that's now owned by a land trust conservancy. A dozen locks on the gate, bar en-

trance to the 2 mile road that winds its way to the top. To get in, you're either an NCSS member or invited guest. The, once two-lane, road was so overgrown with star thistle that at some points it was tough for a single car to pass through. The NCSS club needed some mowing and I need some slope time. Scott Woodward and I met up at the Park n Ride in West Sacramento on a Friday morning and whiled away the hour drive talkin' about cross country, politics and loose women. Not necessarily in that order. (Laurie, just kiddin about the women.) (see page 4)

# Nolte's Notes

## Minutes (Literally) of the Meeting, SVSS, JULY 19, 2007

President Rich Beardsley called the gathering to order at 6:50 PM at our Davis flying site. Twenty two members and 10 guests made short work of the tri-tip, beans, salads, drinks and desserts, just as easily as was done last month. The minutes of the last meeting were approved by acclaim and the Treasurer reported that this year's Spring Fling netted the club \$2350, the raffle producing about \$500 and the Road Kill Crew clearing \$200 on the eats.

### Old Business:

None discussed.

### New Business:

Joan Nolte broached the subject of future monthly pre-contest review/oversight to attempt avoiding the degree of negative impact on many contestants which resulted from this month's contest scoring regimen. No one else picked up the thread for continuing a discussion on the topic, so the meeting progressed onto the next item. Dave Finberg inquired about anyone having info concerning the club's audio system. Evidently, he's found only one of the two system speakers.

### Show & Tell:

No items were presented this month.

### Program:

No program was scheduled this month.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

(The Slot continued)

Scott fumbled with the locks for awhile until he found the right lock for his secret combination.

The top of the hill stands 600 above the surrounding terrain. It was graded flat for the windmill site to about ½ the size of a football field. Now 600 feet may not sound like much but the view is spectacular. That alone is worth the trip. One can look all the way back to see the high rise buildings in downtown Sacramento. An eagle's eye view is afforded of the Amtrak train as it makes its way through the Suisun Marsh with the mothballed fleet of WW II ships at anchor in the distance. If you visit The Slot take your binoculars and your camera! Does the wind blow, you ask? I wish I had a picture of the porta potty that's located on the top. Never before have I seen a situation where a porta potty had to be roped to the ground to keep it from blowing away. It's strapped so aggressively that the roof is partially caved in. Yes, the wind does blow at The Slot

Scott and I took turns at mowing. Two passes were necessary on each side of the road to cut back the star thistle enough to restore the road to two lanes. Scott flew while I made the first pass down and then back up the road. It was slow going with the mower as the road is a bit precarious in parts. When I returned to the top it was Scott's turn on the mower and my turn to fly. What a treat! I first learned to fly on a slope. When I started flying gliders, I didn't have a bungee and even if I did it wouldn't have done me much good. I knew that thermals existed but didn't the first thing about how to stay in one. Wind, blowing up the face of a slope was my only salvation. At The Slot you can savor any kind of flying that you like. Obviously there is slope flying. Gently cruising along the brow of the hill top with your plane passing within a few feet of where you stand. You can climb up in the rising air to some remarkable altitudes and then come screaming back down. Or you can push your plane out into the wind as far as your eyes will allow. Flying into the wind may take you awhile but man that bugger hauls on the way back. And there are some HUGH thermals out there. Flying in the combination of thermal and slope lift is really cool. There's a lot of fun flying there. No matter how we squandered altitude or blazed the sky, the entire time Scott and I were there, neither of us ever got close to landing out of necessity. Ah yes landings, that's where some more fun comes in. You set up your final approach directly overhead. If you get behind the hill you're screwed. That's the only thing ya gotta worry about. Don't get on the lee side of the hill. There is a very clean laminar flow across the top of the hill. (see page 7).

# Welcome Rick Johnston to SVSS!



**Name; Rick Johnston**

**City; Los Osos - San Luis Obispo county**

**B/D & where born; 4/23/43 Santa Monica, CA**

**Raised; Pacific Palisades, CA**

**Spouse or S/O; Wife: Michael Mary ( goes by Mike)**

**Children/Grandchildren; One daughter: Erica Stepson Chip Cunningham and his son Conner.**

**Occupation; General Building Contractor: custom houses, remodel, commercial buildings (ready to retire)**

**Other Hobbies or Interests; Horses**

**Started flying gliders;**

**When 1986**

**Where Montana de Oro State Park San Luis Obispo County**

**What Slope Gentle Lady, Ridge Rat, bought a Sensor 118 but never built it. Long break in flying activities**

**Current Planes: RnR Millennium, RnR Spice T SBXC, RnR MXC Spirit**

**100, 48" Tom Mays and George Hollidge composite sloper**

**Current activities: XC, Aerotow, Slope fun**

**Year joined SVSS; 2007**

**Interests; (check all that apply)**

**Design\_\_ , Electrics\_\_ , Slope\_x\_ , TD contests\_x\_ , XC\_x\_ , Scale\_x\_ , Building\_x\_ , Fun Flying\_x\_ , Social\_x\_ , Technical\_x\_ , Other\_\_**

**Other comments; I have enjoyed my association with other pilots both in cross country and aerotow activities. I am a member of SLO FLYERS, a local club. I recently applied for membership in LSF, so I want to pursue related activities. (i.e. thermal duration)**

# July Fun Fly, Barbecue & Meeting



On July 19th, about 30 SVSS members turned out for an afternoon of fun flying. A delicious tri tip barbecue and a brief club meeting. The weather was perfect. For some strange reason, the flying seems better when your “playing hooky” from the rigors of a work day.



President Rich Beardsley, in the Chef's hat, can be seen carving some of the tastiest Tri-Tip ever served in Yolo County. Rich went to a lot of work prepping and cooking for the club. Man was it good!! Tom Ball lends a hand at the chow line. Tom brought side dishes and deserts. You're quite a baked, Mr. Ball. Tom, there was one thing wrong with your chili beans, there weren't enough! Joan Nolte and Bob Mosher make their way down the line.



DARN!! Well, it would appear that not everyone had a perfect day of fun flying.

## SVSS Preliminary Financial Statement

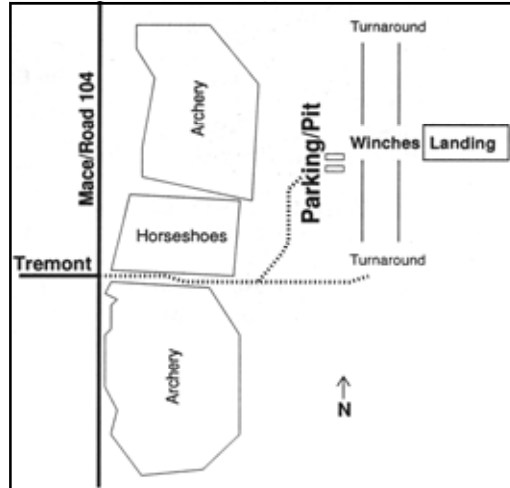
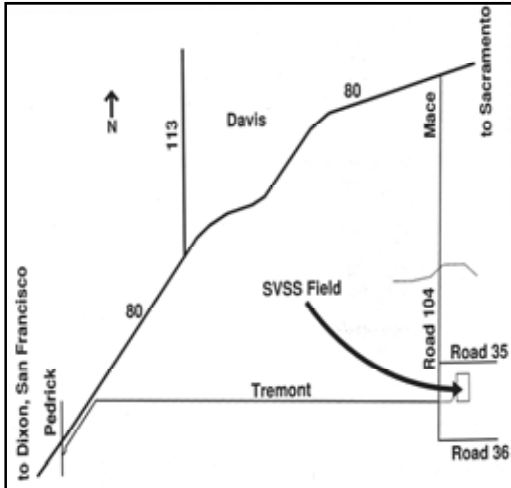
July, 31 2007

<u>Checking Acc.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Debits</u>
<b>Starting Balance</b>			\$4,077.85
<b>Income;</b>			
	July Contest	\$140.00	
	Spring Fling newspaper refund	\$118.00	
	Spring Fling Food Concession	\$200.00	
	Spring Fling Entries (3)	\$160.00	
	Membership fees (1)	\$40.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$658.00</b>	
			\$4,735.85
<b>Expenditures;</b>			
	June newsletter		\$69.41
	July meeting Food (BBQ)		\$144.00
	Field Maintenance		\$161.43
	Spring Fling paper supplies		\$39.84
	Spring Fling newspaper add		\$236.00
	July News letter		\$139.85
	News Letter Mailing (May & June)		\$32.40
	Porta-Potty (Monthly Service)		\$230.62
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,053.55</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$3,682.30</b>
<b>Increase/decrease in operating funds</b>			<b>(\$395.55)</b>

(The Slot continued)

You'd think that it would be as rough as a cob but it's as smooth as silk. A little bit of flap and your plane just settles to the ground with no forward motion. It looks like your landing a helicopter. I'd love to go back. Although they use it for racing, we really need to cajole the NCSS guys into letting a bunch of us spend an afternoon fun flying The Slot.

As if the great flying weren't enough, Scott and I stopped at Dave's Heimbürgers in Fairfield for a late lunch on our way home. What's Dave's Heimbürgers you ask? Ah that's another story. Hint; I ate two.



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

**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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