

# TRI-VALLEY RC NEWS

JULY 2008

Club Mailing Address: TRI VALLEY R/C MODELERS, P. O. Box 1402, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Web Site: <http://www.trivalleyrcmodelers.com>

## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ken Van Corbach . . . . . 934-1834

Secretary: Jerry Miller . . . . . 934-1396

Vice President: Frank George . . . . . 929-2045

Treasurer: Cornel Kraintz . . . . . 938-5507

Safety Officer: Mark Serio . . . . . 934-1967

Web Master: Al Montalbano

## Flight instructors

Jay Dangourian . . . . . 349-0210

Larry Schlagel . . . . . 937-8611

Jim Oberst . . . . . 349-0285

Newsletter Editor: Frank L. George

Santa Maria Airport automated weather report: 928-0384 or 121.15 MHz.

**NOTICE**

***NEXT MEETING IS JULY 2, 7:00 PM***

**NOTICE**

***Veterans Memorial Community Center, Santa Maria***

**EDITOR'S COMMENTS:** The newsletter is now being distributed only to 2008 current members. If you change your e-mail, or any other pertinent information, it is your responsibility to inform the club in order to continue receiving the newsletter and other communications. Contact the editor if you have a newsletter item that you think will be of interest to the club members. Please use the following e-mail address for club newsletter comments and correspondence to the editor: [tvrcm@att.net](mailto:tvrcm@att.net) .

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:** As this is being written Wednesday evening June 25, it has been a long couple of days. I have been dealing with the FAA most of the last couple of days in regards to the situation with the SM Tower Operator and the Elks flying site. I am waiting on a phone call from the tower manager's boss who is in Tennessee. I discussed our situation with him and he said he needed to discuss this with his boss and the Santa Barbara flight service office. He promised to check on the regulations (of which there are none). These folks are true bureaucrats

and very difficult to get along with. As far as the law goes, if we stay around the 400 foot height the FAA does not recognize us. The real issue is with the Elks as they do not need to abide with anything the tower operator says, but convincing them is going to be tough. Stay tuned and attend the meeting. This is far from over but is not real promising at this time. We are actively researching other sites so if anyone has any contacts that may have access to a field, let us know.

Ken

**ANNOUNCEMENT: Elks Field Rules.** We are currently operating under an agreement with the Santa Maria Airport tower operator that requires us to call them prior to flying. The tower phone number is 925-5380. We must wait for visual flight rules (VFR) weather status to fly. You can check the automated airport weather status at 347-9136 before driving to the field

**June 4, 2008 MEETING MINUTES:**

The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by President Ken Van Corbach

Other officers present: Frank George, Vice President; Cornel Krainz, Treasurer

**Visitors:** None

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the May meeting as reported in the newsletter were read & approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

**WebMaster Report:** Jay Dangourian stated that our website license is coming up for renewal and perhaps we should investigate a cheaper source. Several alternatives were mentioned and it was recommended to have the webmaster follow up.

**Safety Committee Report:** no report.

**Contest Director Report:** No report.

**Field Committee Report:** Bob Allington reported that we are now in the last month of our 4 month trial arrangement. Negotiations for a long term arrangement are expected to start in 2 weeks. If we get a long term lease agreement, it may be a good gesture to offer to pay one year's rent in advance to help the Elks' cash flow for a tree planting project on the property.

**Old Business:**

1. President Van Corbach reported he has discussed getting the new E-Flite T-34 trainer as the raffle plane with Matt Pack at Big Boys. Matt said he will investigate using advertising credits with Horizon Hobby, or at least sell us the plane at cost. A sample flyer advertising the raffle will be given to Matt for his discussions with Horizon Hobby.

2. Sunday October 5, 2008 was selected as a tentative date for a club open house. Bob Allington will check with the Elks club about using that date. Vice

President Frank George agreed to head the open house planning with help from others, including CD Wheeler.

**New Business:**

1. Larry Schlager was asked to investigate dates for a Christmas party at the Veterans' Hall. He will also check on the future status of our meeting room reservations.

2. Bob Allington moved that Ron Johnson of the Elks be made an honorary associate member of our club. The motion was seconded and approved. This non-flying membership will help give us some visibility with the Elks.

**Crash-of-the-month:** Dick Washbish totaled his blue and yellow plane at the ranch.

**50-50 Drawing:** Cornel Kraintz won – again!!

Sam Mossin has some building materials and a couple airplanes he wants to get rid of. Contact him if interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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Several club members have reported interference and loss of signal with Spektrum 2.4 GHz radio systems. One club member sent his radio in for service and was told there was nothing wrong with it. However, low battery voltage can create serious problems with these radios. Note the following excerpt from the Spektrum Radio web site, [www.spektrumrc.com](http://www.spektrumrc.com).

**QuickConnect Voltage Recovery System for DSM2 Air receivers:** Spektrum systems are designed with an operating threshold of 3.5 volts, and lower voltages cause the system to shut down. When adequate power is regained (usually the drop is momentary), earlier Spektrum systems re-boot and rescan for two previous channels before control is restored – a process usually requiring two to five seconds.

The new QuickConnect feature, however, eliminates the scanning delay and restores control almost instantly. We have been integrating this upgrade into receivers in a running change.

Here's how to identify if your receiver has QuickConnect: *With the system operating normally, simply switch the airborne power off, then on. If your system shows virtually no delay in regaining control, your receiver includes the QuickConnect feature.*

There is also this note: **Ni-Mh Battery Charging Bulletin:** The latest generation of Nickel Metal Hydride batteries incorporates a new chemistry mandated to be more environmentally friendly. These batteries, when charged with peak detection fast chargers, have tendencies to repeatedly false peak (not fully charge). These include all brands of NiMh batteries. If using NiMh packs be especially cautious when charging making absolutely sure that the battery is fully charged. It is recommended to use a charger that can display total charge current, and note the number of mAh put into a discharged pack.

Finally, keep your batteries charged as with any radio, and always turn your Spektrum transmitter on first and off last to be sure the receiver is not on alone to possibly try to bind with another operating transmitter. All this is not to imply the Spektrum radio is not a good radio, just that some precautions are in order.