

The Windsock

Canyon
Crosswinds
September 8, 2017



Happy Labor Day,

FLOAT FLY UPDATE: The second Float Fly has been re-scheduled for Saturday September 30th, 2017. Mark your calendars for the new date. This change will allow the event to be held on the North Swim Beach as it has in the past. We still need a few more volunteers to help out. Please let Bob know if you can help even if only for a few hours. Thanks to Bob for getting this changed. The Landing Fee for this event is \$25.00 and includes lunch for all flyers and the Park entrance fee is \$11.00.

We have some new members that are still in the learning stages and sometimes they don't make the best choices while flying so keep an eye out for them and share your knowledge with them.

At the August Meeting events for the club were brought up. One ideal was to hold a 426 Class Pylon Race. They have been held in the past and I understand they were successful. Another event was a Fun Fly Event for the club with events like spot landings, timed take off, fly a course, and landing. Quickest time wins. Bomb drop, spot landing, and maybe a limbo event. Lowest pass wins. There was talk of maybe tying this in with Toys for Tots/Spark of Love after Thanksgiving with the entrance fee being one unwrapped toy. A day with a Family BBQ with games for all. What do you think?

Being at the field most days early in the morning gives Vice President Bill and I time to notice things around the field. We notice things like the cracks and raised places in the runway, pits, and taxiways. This asphalt was

laid almost 30 years ago and has reached the point that all the oils have dried up causing the material to lose its elasticity and forming the cracks. We have tried to keep up with crack filling and seal coats to extend its life but the asphalt is coming to the end of its life. We also have had numerous requests that the Club put in shade structures over the pit area. Both of these are items that need to be addressed. Now comes the problem, the lack of funds. The last time we had work done on the runway the money came from the filming rental of the field. We lucked out on that because the Club did not have the money.

At our current dues rate, \$75.00 for open, \$60.00 for seniors, we can pay our lease, Andy Gump, electric bill, gas and materials for weed abatement, and events. What's left is about \$3000.00 which is half of the cost to seal coat the runway two years ago. The other problem with this dues structure is the membership is getting older which means less Club income.

The other day I spent two hours looking at other clubs in Southern California. This range was from just south of San Francisco to San Diego. I look at pictures of their fields, if they controlled them, and not like the basin open to the public, and their dues compared to ours. What I found was most places for \$75 a year you got a dirt field, or maybe like the Ventura County Comets the dues are \$50.00 a year, the runway could stand some work, and Lake Casitas wants \$10 a day to enter the park or \$120 for an annual pass. Guess what, that makes their dues \$170 a year and they don't get the benefit of the funds.

By far the two nicest fields I found were Trubuco Flyers in

Trubuco Canyon Ca. and Woodland Davis Aero Modelers in Woodland Ca. Take a look on line at these Clubs and their fields. Trubuco Flyers was founded in 1991 so they have been around about as long as we have been at Castaic. They have pictures on their site of events where you can see the improvements as they were made.

The only difference between them and us is that their Board increased their dues over the years to stay current with inflation to be able to update and maintain their fields. Their Boards and Members must have thought about the future of their fields whether they able to remained where they are or had to move and set up a new site. They did this by raising the club dues! Currently Trubuco Flyers dues are \$300 for new members and \$250 for renewals. Woodland Davis dues are open membership \$240 and senior \$234, they also have a points system that can reduce a members dues by 50%.

I believe that the past Board of Directors didn't think about sun shades or that the runway may need replacing sometime in the future so dues increases were not thought of. In fact when the Club raised the dues by \$10 a year for dues year 2013 one of the most outspoken critics was a past president, vice president, secretary. I heard people won't renew, any money to be made by the increase will be lost to membership now renewing. Didn't happen! I've also heard the statement over the years "I hate to invest money at the field because the Park could kick us out any day". While this is true we have been at our current site, with the small break when we went down to the base of the dam, for 30 years in October of this year. I don't want to place all the blame on past Boards though. As I said the last Dues increase was in 2013, The Board at that time should also been more proactive

about dues increases. Had we keep up with the \$10 dollar a year increase our dues would now be \$115 for open and \$100 for seniors. Still a ways from where they should be but closer. Also in the last 30 years just our field lease went from \$1000 a year to the current \$2400 a year and our dues were never adjusted to keep up with this increase.

Just a side line to this, the Club Constitution Article II Section 3 states:
 "The Club shall acquire and maintain an appropriate location for the activity of flying model aircraft. Such location shall be referred to as the field."

With the proper dues increase Bill and I can see a shade structure the length of the pit area, a new runway/pit area, the infield area between the pits and runway covered with artificial turf at the level of the runway. Along with this looking good it will save a lot of landing gear on missed approaches. And the final improvement will to get water back to the field. With the right dues increase this should be a four year project. The only thing stopping it is approval of the membership. Also with an increase there would be money for the needed improvements at a new site if we had to move.

We will have further discussion on this item at the September 27th Meeting. There will be more information and a proposal on what we think the dues should be. I encourage all members to attend the September 27th Meeting to voice any concerns and ideals.

Just some food for thought to put this in prospective the cheapest membership at LA Fitness is \$30 per month, a gym with full access to training class run from \$99 to \$140 per month. A round of golf at Balboa Golf Course is \$32 plus a cart. And of course the planes we buy would more than

take care of any dues.

When you get this and feel the need to respond please send your emails to me and NOT hit the reply button. Our Newsletter Editor Jim Schwagle doesn't need all the mail; he has other matters that need his time.

Thanks to Vice President Bill Ardizzone for giving me a hand with mowing the weeds at the field. Yes it was stinking hot.

CLUB FUEL UPDATE, at the time of this writing, August 26th, the Club has placed an order for 36 gallons of fuel. When it comes in we will let you know. Thanks Bob for setting this up.

The next Board-General Meeting will be at Mimi's Café, 24201 W Magic Mountain Parkway on Wednesday September 27 , 2017 at 7:00 PM. Come join us for dinner or a piece of cake or muffin and visiting. We meet at 6:00 P.M. for dinner. All members are invited. Hope to see you there.

That's it for now.
 Take care and stay safe,
 Jim Desautels
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