

Hot Air



Message from the President

May 2015

Thanks to VP Jerry Lake for covering the April meeting, while I was tied up with a family issue. I may have to impose and have Jerry cover again this month, due to a similar conflict. Since I may not be at the meeting, I will try and pass on as much detail as I can regarding my discussions about Entradero Park with the City of Torrance.

I told the parent I would work this with the City and get back to him. Over a couple of weeks of e-mail discussions and one long conversation with the head of Park and Recreation, I've collected the following summary of city policy regarding RC flight, sump renovation status, a new City ordinance regarding "drones", and plans for the Babe Ruth field.

Over the past six to eight weeks, Jerry and I have both received e-mails from the father of a West Torrance Little League player. The e-mails came while the parent was watching his son's team play and a group of guys were flying fixed wing planes from our field over the heads of the spectators and players.

Next Meeting

**Wednesday,
May 6th**

**La Romeria Park
7:30pm**

Bottom line, there is currently no city policy or ordinance covering RC aircraft (electric or gliders) in the City of Torrance. So, nothing has changed since we first discussed using the field with the city ten years ago. There is a city ordinance that prohibits doing anything

that is hazardous to others. Hazardous is left to interpretation. The head of Parks did not encourage us to have the baseball parents call the police. Rather, he asked that I tell them to call him directly. I have passed that information along to the Little League parents.

The parent may be a flyer because he knows AMA policy regarding flying over people's heads. He stated such and asked what we were going to do about it. I was on the computer when the e-mail popped up, so I headed over to the field. Sure enough, there were three guys flying RC from the Babe Ruth field. They were not PSF club members.

Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately based on your perspective, PSF members have no way to help control who flies at Entradero Park except to invite flyers to join the club. I was also told that the City has a legal team drafting a new City ordinance regarding flying drones.

One of the guys flying was a 40+ fellow I had encountered before on two separate occasions. His name is Ty and he drives a teal mid-size pickup truck. Ty is something special. He doesn't care about our club, or our flying rules. He doesn't care about the safety of the players. He doesn't care about the City and basically challenges us to do something about his flying. I am using much nicer language than he does. The other guys were willing to listen. However, they all continue to fly at the park, from our field, during games. Jerry has subsequently had a similar encounters with these guys.

Upcoming Fun-Flys

**Del Cerro
Entradero** **May 9th
May 22nd**

The reason for this new ordinance appears to be linked to news organizations flying camera-equipped multi-rotor RC aircraft (drones) over police activity, the police station and the court house. I was asked to provide our club rules for flying at Entradero so that they could be passed along to the legal team. I obviously had questions about how this ordinance would impact our flying. However, the ordinance is being drafted and no details are available. I offered to meet with anyone



at the City to discuss this issue if it would be beneficial. I was thanked for making the offer and was told that the offer would be passed along.

I also mentioned that since the sump renovation has been taking place, the main park gates have been left open and the gates to our field have been opened and or damaged. I was told that the main gates will be locked once the sump work is complete. I was also told that the field gates will be repaired so that we can lock them again. No timetable was given.

Regarding the sump status, the main goal of all of the work at the park was to provide rain water run-off filtration by percolating the water into the ground rather than pumping it into the ocean. One of the requirements of this approach is that all the water collected in the sump must be drained in 72 hours to prevent mosquito's and other pests from breeding. We have had standing water in the sump since the last rain. Obviously, it isn't working. The City is working with the contractor to fix this. No schedule is known at this time since they don't know how to fix it.

The City is also working with the contractor regarding the outfield of the field we fly from. The weeds are coming back. The new sod is turning brown and the sprinklers are not tied into the original controllers. We have been told to not do any work on the outfield cutting the grass since the contractor is on the hook for it until the City buys off on it. We have been told that we can work on the infield and the clay.

The City is also preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the lease for the field we use. There are

three baseball organizations vying for use of the field. All claim to have the required \$100,000 for field improvements required by the RFP. The City has changed their policy and will allow sub-leases for the fields. This means that the City will not guarantee our use of the field once the lease is signed with the new baseball organization. The City did say that they will facilitate our discussions with the baseball organization and wants us to be able to continue using the field.

Needless to say, it has been a busy month dealing with the City, Little League and the guys flying at the field during games. On a positive note, the head of Parks stated that we (PSF) have always been team players and he appreciates our positive approach in working with Little League and the City.

In other matters, the [RCX Radio Control Expo](http://www.rcx.com/) is scheduled for May 16th and 17th in Costa Mesa. This show is more car-centric, but there are often good deals on batteries and planes to be had. I imagine there will be a lot of multi-rotor stuff as well. The link for RCX is:<http://www.rcx.com/>

This month's Del Cerro Fun Fly will be Saturday, May 9th. Charge up a glider or two and head up to the hill between 12:00 and 1:00. The Entradero Fun-Fly will be Friday, May 22th. Flying can start as early as 8:00 AM.

I hope to see you at one of the fields or the meeting. I am sure Jerry will have a good selection of stuff for the raffle. The meeting is at La Romeria Park, Wednesday May 6th at 7:30.

- Jeff



Notes from the Vice President...

A few pictures I took at Prado last weekend. They were hosting a Scale Fun-Fly.

-Jerry





The Completion of the Tri-Cub - by Alan Templin

The Tri-Cub has been finished and has survived the maiden flights, in spite of the poorly-trained and inexperienced pilot. Actually, it flew quite well, but did require some initial trimming. Down thrust was really needed, and the first takeoff only took 5 feet before the plane went straight up and into a loop. A quick cut of the power and lots of down elevator trim saved the first flight attempt.

very much like a cub, with slow roll rates and rudder needed to coordinate turns. However, with all the power available, loops are a breeze - make 'em as large as you like.

If you are brave enough to roll the Tri-Cub, start high, then go higher and start the roll. Make sure you use lots of down elevator half way through the roll, so you don't go into a death spiral, and about 200 yards later (the whole length of the field) you will be up right again and breathing easier. One roll and one half Cuban per flight is all my heart could stand.

-Alan



The plane came in at 2.4 lbs. - quite a bit under the stock 3.2 lb. target - and had over 325 watts of power with a fresh battery, so getting into the air was no problem. After the exciting first flight, all three motors were shimmed down with washers, and 5% down elevator was mixed with the throttle to gain level flight at all throttle settings. Flying is





**Club Officers and Volunteers
for 2015**

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