Minutes of the TOSS Meeting Held 2/28/2012

- Attendees: Gary Filice, Steve Miele, Martin Usher, Bob Swet, Bob Vanlandingham, Don Northern
- Treasury report: Balance is $2010.44 after expenses.

Old business:

- Don Northern would like to buy 12 rolls of #30 (290# test) and three rolls of retriever #9 gage at 80# test.
- Our treasurer submitted a list of 20 members that haven't paid their 2010 dues! Technically these folks should not be allowed to fly this Sunday because technically these members are not covered under the AMA insurance program (if something should happen). You know who you are! Please step up and help the club and pay your membership. Thanks to all.

New business:

- Lange Ranch issue. TOSS has a chance to voice their needs as a flying club when the Conejo Park and Recreation District (CRPD) meets to go over what folks within the community might want to use the Lange Ranch land for. There will be a meeting at the old civic center building (old City Hall) in the Community Room from 7PM to 9PM.
- Web site issues were discussed with Martin, including possible format changes to make the site easier to use and access information.
- Steve attended his first SC-2 contest at the SWSA field at Fish Canyon. Steve had a good time and there were some 40 other contestants there as well. Steve came back with his airplane (in one piece), and he did not come in at last place either!

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 PM

Club Contest Results.

Sunday March 11 was a great day for soaring, and the contest was enjoyed by all participence, especially the winners, because it was a winner take all contest. Each task had a pool of between 14 and 17 dollars in it depending on how many entrants there were in each task. Some of the contestants chose to enter more then one time for each task, making the pool larger then than the number of actual pilots. The contest format was to fly each task that was between two times, i.e. between 5 and 10 minutes, it was the pilots task to fly any time between 5 and 10 or what ever each task was and hope that he was as close if not right on to an undisclosed time that was sealed in an envelope.

 The winners for each task are as follows.
Task one, Mike Stern with a time of 5 minutes and 59 seconds the task was to fly between 5 and 10 minutes. Mike took home $16.00 dollars

Task two Mike Reagan and Jay Harland with a time of 12 minutes and 5 seconds. The task was to fly between 10 and 16 minutes, with the winning time of 12 minutes and 8 seconds. They spit a pool of $16.00 dollars

Task three went to Art Chmielewski with a time of 3minutes and 17 seconds. The task was to fly between 2 and 4 minutes. The winning time was 3 minutes and 18 seconds. Art won $16.00

Task four winner was Art Chmielewski AGAIN with a time of 6 minutes and 17 seconds. The task being between 3 and 9 minutes with a winning time of 6 minutes and 9 seconds. Art won $14.00

Task five was won by, Jay Harland, with a time of 7 minutes and 3 seconds. The task was 7 minutes and 3 seconds. Jay won $14.00. Way to go Jay, flying a perfect time. No extra winnings for that.

 All winnings will be reported to the IRS and 1099 form will be sent to each winner.

A Note About Website Design

TOSS has had about five different websites over the years and I've been involved with four of them since 1995, some 17 years. Most of you will not be familar with the earlyest sites because computers didn't really become mainstream till after 2000, the ones before that being a bit clunky, rather expensive and generally only connected to the Internet using relatively slow dial-up links.

Early websites were mostly what are known as 'static' — their content was mostly text with embedded graphics and pictures that didn't change much. This type of website was easy to set up and maintain using simple tools and is still largely the backbone of many individual websites. Over the years the tools have become more systemized — instead of editing the website text directly you'd use a "WHSIWYG" *("What you see is what you get")* editor that allowed you to grab areas of text and pictures and move them around rather than the person creating the site having to figure out the relative position of components and insert the numbers themselves. The result still looked the same, something like the TOSS website before the current one with a title bar, a strip of navigation buttons, content pages and maybe some static contact or other information at the bottom of the page.

This is a pratical but rather bland way of making a website. Obviously people are used to using more interactive sites and so the question arose as to why we couldn't have a site like that. The answer is that "you can", but as ever there's a catch.

These kinds of sites are called "Dynamic" because there is no web pages in the classic sense, the pages are generated using programs that are run on the website's computer when you ask for a page. The result is that a simple website for — for example — a thing like a home router is not actually a website, its a bunch of software simulating a website. (One such site I wrote for a commercial product has just three recognizable elements in it, a company logo and a couple of colored bars. The rest is program code.) This technology is quite complex and fairly timeconsuming to set up so there are a lot of different ways to systemize it. Obviously there are tools to try to simplify things but these tools are themselves quite expensive to buy and quite complex to learn. Since there's a huge pent up demand for versatile sites people try to get around this by 'canning' a complete site in the form of a piece of software that comes with 'themes' or 'skins' — canned looks — and 'plugins' — canned capabilities. This is what you get with packages like Wordpress. These packages trade off flexibility for versatility (and occasionally simplicity although the more capable ones are themselves complex, but in a different way). This is what the latest TOSS website built from. Its not the best format — IMHO — and its nowhere as easy to use as it looks but it will serve us while we find a replacement.

Searching for alternatives is a matter of looking around till you find a site you like the look of. I encourage everyone to provide suggestions. Bear in mind, though, that we're a small club that flies sailplanes; maintaining a website has to be a (very) part-time job unless someone really wants to learn how to do it so the maxim is *KISS — Keep it Simple!*