



Harbor Soaring Society

Charter #128 Costa Mesa, California

AMA's Oldest Radio Controlled Soaring Club

Silver Leader Club Since 2009

Gold Leader Club Since 2011



HSS is now incorporated as a non-profit Public Charity under IRS section 501(c)(3)

HSS is the oldest AMA chartered R/C Soaring Club in the USA. Founded in 1964.

November 2025

HSS IS NOW 61 YEARS OLD!

Volume 94

HSS PLANE RAP NEWSLETTER

Fairview Park flying field is open!

RC gliders can fly 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 8am-2pm, weather permitting.
Hand launched & rubber powered free flight models are allowed any day.

Plane Rap Index

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Coming Events November 2025

- **NEW MEETING LOCATION!! FIRST TEAM REAL ESTATE OFFICE**
- Costa Mesa Parks and Community Services Commission meeting Thur Oct 30 6pm. This is presenting the new Fairview Park Master Plan. Please email, Zoom, or attend in person
- Our next meeting will be November 11, 7:00 – 9:00
- CM City Council meeting Tue Nov 18 6pm
- Fairview Park flying days! Nov 1 & 15, weather permitting.



Meeting Location

We hold our meetings at First Team Real Estate, 10072 Adams (at Brookhurst), Huntington Beach, in the Stater Bros shopping center. I will arrive with pizzas & Coors Light; I ask for \$5 for pizza and \$5 for beer. There's lots of room, so c'mon down!

Club Officer Elections

Please come to the November meeting and cast your vote for our 2026 club officers. Nominations are:

President	Mat Garcia ____
Vice President	Dan Vozenilek ____
Secretary-Treasurer	Joni Whitsitt ____
Director	Mike Costello ____

2025 OCMA Events

Event: **Uncontest:** Come on out and fly a scale routine and have some fun.

Date: November 8 - Saturday

Event: **OCMA Annual Toy Drive**

Date: December 6 - Saturday Hand delivered 2026 renewals and applications will be accepted BBQ

T-Shirts

Erv Szego has made inquiries about getting new T-shirts made up with the club logo on the back. We need to get commitments for at least 50; cost will be \$12. The logo will be in three colors on the back of the shirt. Please let Mat or Mike know how many you'd like!

Christmas Party

Save the date: Tuesday, Dec 9, 6:00 at Pasta Connection, 1969 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa. Same as last year.

KitCutters

Good news! After exchanging emails, KitCutters will be able to make laser-cut Wanderer short kits available in the near future! As a club, we have put many hours on numerous Wanderers. The kits will include all the formed parts: ribs, bulkheads, etc but you'll need to source the sheet & strip stock. The kits will be priced at \$108. Check their website: <https://kitcutters.com/> for more information. I think we should make up a list of members who want a kit, and I'll see if I can work out a deal for a bulk buy.



Fairview Park Master Plan Update

HSS Members, Flying-Field Supporters, and Friends of Fairview Park,

This **Thursday, October 30 at 6:00 PM**, the **Costa Mesa Parks & Community Services Commission (PACS)** will meet at City Hall for a single agenda item — the **Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update**.

Meeting Agenda: <https://costamesa.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=1348667&GUID=054B5BA2-A4D9-492A-A794-472ADB2144DB>

The City's current draft reduces or relocates long-standing community uses. We need your **polite, positive, and consistent support** to show the value of the **Fairview Park Flying Field** and the many ways HSS benefits Costa Mesa families, students, and the community.

How to Help

1. Send an email today

Public comment closes soon and all written comments are part of the official record.

Send to:

Fvpmp@costamesaca.gov, cityclerk@costamesaca.gov

cc: citycouncil@costamesaca.gov

Subject: Keep the Flying Field and Community Uses at Fairview Park

Message (you may copy and personalize):

Mayor, City Council Members, PACS Commissioners, and City Staff,

I do not support the current Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update. Please make fundamental changes to the Plan in order to ensure long-standing community uses at Fairview Park, including the model glider flying field in its current location, Concerts in the Park, bicycle and dog-walking trail access, the Goat Hill Junction Railroad and other community uses continue into the future.

I support a plan that keeps existing operations in place and directs staff to work with Resource Agencies and community stakeholders to provide a balanced solution that does not remove park amenities.

The current Fairview Park flying field has operated safely and cooperatively for 27 months since it re-opened in July of 2023. This community resource has been in this location for 61 years. Please help us keep it!

Please include this comment in the record for the Draft 2025 Fairview Park Master Plan Update and the October 30, 2025, PACS meeting.

Thank you,

[Your Name]

[Optional City or Neighborhood]

[Optional Phone]

2. Attend the meeting Thursday, October 30 at 6:00 PM

Costa Mesa City Hall, 77 Fair Drive

The Fairview Park Master Plan Update Draft is the only item on the agenda. You may speak in person or on Zoom. Arrive early and keep comments to three minutes, factual, and respectful. Even 10–15 consistent voices can make a big difference. Please show up!

Talking points (choose a few):

- Use your opportunity to speak to tell a personal, positive story related to the flying field or something HSS has done for the community.
- HSS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, AMA-chartered club since 1964, with 61 years at Fairview Park.
- HSS flyers have followed the flying field rules diligently for 27 months of cooperative operations.
- Over 780 free public flight lessons given in the past 27 months.
- Federal USFWS letters (2014 and 2019) support coexistence, not relocation.
- Current location is safest and most accessible, with existing power, parking, and ADA access.



- Measure AA and the 2008 Master Plan recognize glider flying as a compatible passive use.
- HSS promotes STEAM education and environmental stewardship for the community.

Tone:

Please remain professional and courteous to staff, commissioners, and all members of the public. Respectful, fact-based comments are always the most effective.

Questions:

info@1hss.org, 949-264-2624

Let's continue 61 years of safe soaring and community service at Fairview Park.

Background Reading:

<https://goathillrodeo.com/2025/10/20/what-does-the-draft-master-plan-mean-for-the-future-of-fairview-park/>

<https://goathillrodeo.com/2025/10/27/this-week-at-the-fall-midpoint-the-the-pc-goes-to-the-dogs-and-the-fairview-park-master-plan-update-goes-to-pacs/>

Timeline Overview:

- The Costa Mesa Parks and Community Services Commission will review the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update on Thursday, October 30 at 6 PM at City Hall.
- The City Council is expected to take up the item on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.
- HSS encourages all members to stay engaged, send respectful written comments, and, if possible, attend these meetings to show continued support for the flying field and community uses at Fairview Park.

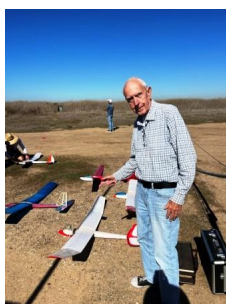


October Flying Days

We enjoyed flying at Fairview Park on October 11 and 18. The weather both days was the new standard: somewhat windy, with a crosswind component early, gradually shifting to right down the runway later in the day. We had numerous students flying, and we enticed several passers-by into giving it a go. Great flying! Please come join us.







Costa Mesa Scarecrow Festival

On Saturday Oct 18, HSS again displayed at the annual Scarecrow Festival. We made several hundred Flying Pumpkins to entertain the kids. We usually show up with one big Costco bag of candy and take home about 1/3, but this year we had two bags. Both bags were gone before 5pm, so John Rittenhouse asked the city folks if they had any extra – they brought over a huge bag of plastic Easter eggs with candy inside, and we gave away all of those by end time of 6pm. Members participating were Mat Garcia, Mel Hitchcock, Johns Anderson & Rittenhouse, Jesse Calleros, Henry Smith III, Scott Smith, and Mike Costello.



The TRUST Test and FAA Registration

TRUST is The Recreational UAS Safety Test. It provides education and testing for recreational flyers on important safety and regulatory information. If you fly your drone recreationally under the [Exception for Recreational Flyers](#) you must pass the test before you fly. To take the test, go to <http://trust.modelaircraft.org>. This is the AMA Site. Take the test (Don't worry, it is fail proof) then obtain your "Completion Certificate."

All recreational flyers must pass this aeronautical knowledge and safety test and provide proof of test passage (the TRUST completion certificate) to the FAA or law enforcement upon request.

Go to <http://faadronezone.faa.gov> and create an account for your FAA Registration. Apply for "I fly under The Exception For Recreational Flyers". They will issue you an FAA registration number that must be affixed to the outside of all of your radio control model aircraft. The charge is \$3 for three years, for all of your R/C aircraft.

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HSS Membership

Our 2024 HSS membership enrollment season is running full speed. Note that annual membership dues is now reduced to \$15. The latest membership application is included in the last pages of this newsletter. This can be mailed to our post office box shown on the last page, or given to a club officer. Alternately, HSS and AMA membership applications can be obtained from any club officer, or available on our club web site at www.harborsoaringsociety.org. Applicants must be members of the AMA prior to joining HSS. AMA Membership applications can also be obtained at the AMA web site www.modelaircraft.org, download document No. 902 from the publications page. Or you can apply on line. If you renew your AMA membership online, be sure to print the receipt that they provide as proof that you joined. And, don't forget your City of Costa Mesa Flying Permit.

HSS Club Decals

We now have decals / vinyl stickers with the HSS logo available. There are 3" diameter and would look great on your planes or in the back window of your car. Come to the meeting to get one or several. These cost the club \$1.20 each, so please donate to the treasury if you want more than one.

Social Media Links

Here's how to find HSS on various social media. Check them out!

HSS FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/harborsoaringsociety>

HSS Website: <https://www.harborsoaringsociety.org/> (New Vendor Page)

HSS YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@HSS-RC-Glider-Club>



HSS Planned Activities and Events

Thanks to John Rittenhouse for the preparation of the following Calendar of Events.

Some of the activities have not been cancelled yet, but are subject to cancellation at a moment's notice.

Repeating activities include:

- Monthly General Meetings - 7 to 9 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. These are now in person.
- Monthly Steering Committee Meetings - 6 to 7 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. These are now in person. Additional meetings to be planned as required.
- Flying field maintenance on an as-needed basis.
- Quarterly meetings with the Orange County Parks Department. .

Annual Events:

- 2.10.2023 Wix, website management payment due.
- 3.23.2024 Wix, harborsoaringsociety.org domain name re-registration payment due.
- 7.2023 Network Solutions, website domain name re-registration payment due.
- March AMA charter and "Gold Leader Club" renewal.
- March Club must purchase "Certificate of Liability Insurance" from AMA.
- April Imaginology - This is a public service event held at the Orange County Fairgrounds. HSS provides booths containing static displays of model aircraft, build and fly paper gliders, and model flight simulators.
- June Lions Club Fish Fry. HSS has a booth at this annual event
- July Concerts at the Park - Three evenings on Tuesday nights in July at Fairview Park. Music is sponsored by the City of Costa Mesa. HSS supports this public service event with a pop-up sunshade, and static display of model aircraft.
- July Bent Wing Glider Competition. This event is open to all club members and guests.*
- August National Model Aviation Day. Open house, demonstrations, free flying lessons, and acquiring donations for charity.*
- August Dollar Foam Design/Build/Fly competition. Tentative schedule. Aircraft are original designs, electric powered RC models made from a single sheet of paper backed 1/4" foam. Performance criteria to be determined.
- September Electric Fun Fly Competition. Tentative schedule. Multiple events are planned for club members and guests.
- September Club Secretary shall submit annual 501(c)(3) report to IRS (include \$25 payment).
- October Pumpkin Festival/Scarecrow Competition. This is a public service activity for HSS. It is planned by the city, to be held at the Lions Park
- October Nominations made for new club officers.
- November New club officer election. General Meeting.
- December Christmas party and new club officer installation. Location to be determined.
- TBD Letter of Agreement with John Wayne control tower. Renew every two years.



Next Meeting

Our normal schedule is to meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 PM at the First Team Real Estate office located at 10072 Adams Ave (at Brookhurst), Huntington Beach, in the Stater Bros shopping center. Phone is 714-875-7994. Bring your favorite plane for show-and-tell. Bring your family and friends. There may be a raffle. The new location map is shown at right. The monthly HSS Steering Committee meeting is held from 6 to 7 PM just prior to the General Meeting.



Free Plane Rap Copies

Rob Askegaard has free near new color copies of HSS Plane Rap newsletters from 2005 through 2017 that he would like to give away. Contact Rob at the monthly meetings or 714-873-7710. rmaskgrd@gmail.com.

Invitation To Members For Contributions To The Plane Rap Newsletter

Your editor would love to hear from club members. If there is anything you would like to share with the rest of us, I would like you to send it to me. I will add it to the next newsletter. My favorite things to publish are items sent in by members!! These can be anything like reviews of your plane or equipment, links to good videos, links to articles, and things you have built or created. Bad spelling and/or grammar gladly accepted. Anything from a picture with a caption to a full blown build/review article is good. Letters-to-the-Editor are always welcome as well. Tell us what you think. Please help make the newsletter and website more interesting with your submissions. Embarrassing pictures/videos are the best. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Costello - Plane Rap Editor - mikeftre@gmail.com.

Photos of Your Planes

John Rittenhouse has become the club photographer, with Mike Costello as a backup. This is your newsletter, so if you want to see your models featured, or photos of something that interests you, please send to the newsletter editor.

2026 Membership

It's time to renew your membership for next year!





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2024

Harbor Soaring Society

AMA Chartered Club #128 - AMA's Oldest Chartered Soaring Club

P.O. Box 1673 Costa Mesa, CA 92628

Revised October 3, 2022



I understand that by applying for membership in the Harbor Soaring Society I must be a current member of the AMA (Proof of status required, may be photocopy of membership card or AMA receipt of fees paid). In addition, I will take the AMA TRUST test and show my Completion Certificate. When I acquire or already have acquired any Unmanned Radio-Controlled Aircraft, I will apply for an FAA Registration Number and affix that number to all my aircraft.

Name _____ AMA # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ Email _____

AMA TRUST Completion Certificate Date _____

FAA Registration Number _____ Date of Registration _____

- ☐ New Applicants (Without Name Tag) (19 years and older): \$15.00
- ☐ Adult Member (Renewal Without Name Tag) (19 years and older): \$15.00
- ☐ Junior Member (Without Name Tag) (19 years and under): \$0.00
- ☐ Family Member (Without Name Tag) (At Same Address): \$5.00.
- ☐ Supporting Member Is non-flying member, includes newsletter. No voting, no AMA, no City permit. \$0.00.
- ☐ Optional or Extra HSS Name Tag: \$15.00
- ☐ I hereby give my permission to publish my [Name], [Address], [Phone], [Email Address] in the monthly Newsletter. **Strike out those not to be published.** Note that the Newsletter is published on the club website (<http://www.harborsoaringsociety.org>).
- ☐ I request Email delivery of the monthly Newsletter in place of U.S. Mail delivery of hardcopy
- ☐ I request a printed copy of the monthly Newsletter by U.S. Mail. Printing and Mailing: \$20.00/year

Only glider aircraft are allowed to fly at Fairview Park. Check all your interests.

Duration Gliders _____	Slope Soaring Gliders _____	RES Gliders _____
Large Scale Gliders _____	Hand Launched Gliders _____	Electric Motor Gliders _____
Indoor Electric Planes _____	Electric Helicopters _____	Free Flight _____

In accordance with the Federal Equal Opportunity Act, this organization prohibits discrimination against anyone based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, individuals with disabilities or veterans. New applicants making application between November 1st and December 31st will pay the annual rate indicated above and such dues will make the new member paid in full for the following year. Applications for adult members submitted between July 1st and October 31st will pay a reduced rate of \$15.00 (name tags extra). A signature is required from all Harbor Soaring Society members, agreeing to comply with the current AMA Safety Code, the current HSS and Costa Mesa City General Field Rules, and FAA rules and regulations applicable to the flying of RC model Aircraft.

The undersigned attests that: I will operate my model using only radio frequencies for the control of fixed wing or multi-rotor aircraft, and/or data transmission, on equipment certified and approved for such use by the AMA, FAA or FCC as applicable. I understand that my failure to comply with the above restrictions will result in nullification of liability coverage for damages caused or claimed.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Total Dues Owed and Attached: \$ _____

SIGNATURE OF CLUB OFFICER RECEIVING APPLICATION: _____



HARBOR SOARING SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 2022

President	Mat Garcia	949-264-2624	mat.garcia@live.com
Vice President	John Rittenhouse	714-222-8660	johnritt@yahoo.com
Director	Mike Costello	714-875-7994	mikefre@gmail.com
Treasurer, Membership	Joni Whitsitt	657-730-9121	whitsittjo@gmail.com
Secretary	Joni Whitsitt	657-730-9121	whitsittjo@gmail.com
Contest Coordinator	Randy Wilbur	949-683-9662	rwilbur@videotecheng.com
Safety Coordinator	Kevin Koch	714-847-7887	kev380@yahoo.com
Grounds Keeper	Sid Hood	714-963-4964	sidlhood@yahoo.com
Editor, Publisher	Mike Costello	714-875-7994	mikefre@gmail.com
Club Photographer	John Rittenhouse	714-222-8660	johnritt@yahoo.com
Social Media Manager	John Rittenhouse	714-222-8660	johnritt@yahoo.com
Lead Flight Instructor	Henry Smith III	714-322-6537	henry.smith.3@earthlink.net
Flight Instructor	Jerome Mezzasalma	714-887-7913	sdgusa1@msn.com

Web site at www.harborsoaringsociety.org, **our YouTube site at** <http://www.youtube.com/user/hssletsfly>,
Facebook at www.facebook.com/harborsoaringsociety **and E-mail at** harborsoaringsociety@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT First Team Real Estate, 10072 Adams (at Brookhurst), Huntington Beach, in Stater Bros shopping center.

SEE DETAILS INSIDE

Harbor Soaring Society
P.O. Box 1673
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

