



**\* You need to know:** During the Yosemite “Rim Fire” in 2013 the US Forest Service began Very Large Air Tanker System (VLATS) DC-10 operations (see photo) from Castle Airport’s North Ramp (essentially the historical location of the annual IMAA West Coast Festival and now, Annual Castle ~ Giant Scale Fly-In). Subsequently, the area has been leased to the US Forest Service for future operations, which may include the creation of a permanent base. They have informed me that they have not in over 26 years activated the area fire bases before June 1<sup>st</sup>. However, as California has suffered a drought over the last several years, there is the possibility of an earlier activation of the “Castle Air Tanker Base.”

The Central California Model Flyers (CCMF) ~ AMA Club 4021 is still intending on organizing and holding the 21<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Castle 2018 ~ Giant Scale Fly-In at Castle Airport. However, there is the slight possibility that the site could get activated before or during the event. Should we receive the activation call, we will disseminate it to you as quickly as possible. Additionally, should we have to cancel the event prior to the start - to any time during - up to as late as 5:00 pm Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> (which could result in us having to clear the field), we will provide you a full refund of your camping and flying fees paid to CCMF - within 30 days.

*I wish I could adequately convey my feelings to you, but I cannot...short of saying,  
“Thank you for understanding.”*

*Scotty*

\*\* For more information:

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