

S.M.A.C. Newsletter January 2009

Hi again every one,I hope your Christmas was everything you hoped for,and that the New Year brings you health,happiness,and prosperity.

It's been a funny start to summer,with temperamental weather,and lots of wind.It sure has curtailed my flying,and I'm sure yours too,but I hope you have managed at least a little enjoyment.

The club field,as usual,is suffering from lack of rain,and even when the rest of SA was getting some,the club site got none.But I must say that the expert way the strip has been maintained by Trevor Heading has seen the grass,even though dried off,still providing some cover,unlike other years of just being dust.

The club continues to attract new members,and we have many now from other clubs swelling the ranks.All makes for a stronger membership,with interesting and enthusiastic involvement.

Now,what's been happening?

An article that missed the deadline of the last newsletter,was of the impromptu get-together,back in Nov. to preview the latest James Bond movie at the Mt Barker cinema. An evening meal beforehand saw eighteen 007 fans arriving at the café ALTO to be confronted by the most delicious selection of Italian meats,cheeses,and dips.This delight was followed by a choice of fine mediterranean pizzas.(John,your seafood pizza is to die for!).

Then off to the movie,lotsa popcorn,ice cream,and a 'full on'exciting screening. Everyone agreeing that it was all good fun,and will definitely be done again. Pity about the Aston Martin though!!!!

The Xmas BBQ and Twilight Fly was a resounding success,and is now a permanent calendar date.It sure was heartwarming to see all the members with their wives and children arriving to enjoy the night.

Once again the bbq,salads,and sweets were excellent,and our thanks again go to Graham,Jenny,and Noel for their much appreciated efforts with the cooking and serving.I believe they originally catered for around twenty,but more than twice that number turned up.So,off to Woolie's for more supplies.

A number of the newer members had never seen a twilight fly,and were amazed at these brightly lit- up 'UFO's' scooting silently around the dark sky.They wondered what the passing motorists must have thought.

A good time was had by all.

The club has just purchased a new wiz bang BBQ.Should keep Noel and Graham busy for a while.

On the 17th Jan. the club organized a bus tour of our neighbour,the Terramin lead and zinc mine.We had twenty one starters,and all agreed it was an eye opener.It was good to

see all the EPA measures taken to ensure a safe and ecologically sound operation. There sure is much more to mining than meets the eye.

Thanks go to Bruce Donhardt for suggesting this tour, and his part in the organizing. The tour was conducted by Cynthia Longbottom of 'Tours of Strathalbyn'.

Congratulations go to Michael Quain on achieving his Bronze Wings. Well done Michael!

The 'I Thought I've Seen Everything' file.

The other day, when flying at the field, we were amazed to see Darren Norman's 3D fun flyer lose its complete fin, rudder, and one elevator. These were trailing along behind like the tail of a kite by their push rod connections. Darren showed considerable skill in pulling off a very respectable, and no further damage, landing.

Good show Ginger, what!

Who spectacularly flew the wings clean off his bi-plane the other day???? No names, no pack drill. That's right Darren, isn't it?

Oops! now I've done it!

SEEN 'ON THE STRIP'

Alexis Scott and his unusual looking 'Bert Rutan' futuristic bi-plane.

(apparently it doesn't like flat inverted spins), oh dear!!

Phil Birt's stand off scale US Navy Corsair, (love them warbirds!).

John Watters looks to have resurrected his nice flying Taylorcraft

Julie Garrett's little red and white clipped wing Cub

We held the 'FLY-IN HOBBIES' and 'café ALTO' fun fly event on the 18th January, and although what started to look like a fizzer at 9am turned out to be a great day. We had eleven pilots register, and all who participated agreed it was a great event.

The event was a slalom taxi test around five witches hats and then through two that formed a gate, take off, do one circuit, and land. Timing was taken from start to completions of landing. Some interesting taxi maneuvers were to be seen, but all had a great time, and with no serious mishaps. Though at one stage a certain pilot with a black ten gallon hat was seen marching off into the far distance to retrieve his model from a HUGE overshoot. Good job it wasn't a spot landing event, hey John?

The place getters were as follows:

1st place..... Michael Quain

Joint 2nd place getters were..... Darren Smith and Joe Neble.

3rd place..... Graeme Hunter

S.M.A.C. member, Graeme Hunter gets the 'Longest Journey Award' when he and his co-pilot came all the way from Ceduna on the West Coast to, amongst other things, have a seriously good fly with his fellow club members. Graeme bought with him the neatest kit built, scale Spitfire we have seen at the field in a long

time.His attention to detail when building her was excellent.As they say,"if it looks good,it will fly good",and this Spitty flew superbly.(I tried to steal it when he wasn't looking,but he was keeping too good an eye on her).

A huge vote of thanks must go to our sponsors,without whom these events could not take place.Prizes for this event supplied by FLY-IN HOBBIES and café ALTO of Mount Barker.Please make sure you support the people who support us!

The builders forum continues to excel and grow.We enjoyed an excellent Christmas BBQ and final get together for 2008.All who attended had a great festive time over a few glasses of ale and wine.

It was expertly cooked by the BBQ chef,(chef Alain LeTurner),who afterwards went on to dismantle a new engine, discuss the various aspects of manufacture and maintenance,and then put it back together.I might add it has not been run yet,so the quality of the re-assembly has not yet been tested!!!

WARNING!!

We know the club oldtimers are Li-Po battery savvy,but for the newcomers to our sport it can sometimes all be a bit of a mystery.Remember to charge and discharge these batteries as per the manufacturer's instructions.If you can,charge them in some type of fire proof container,or even just on the ground.

A couple of club members recently had potentially very serious incidences happen when charging these types.One member,after noticing a pack 'puffing up' placed a bucket with a brick on top over it.The ensuing explosion blew the bucket and brick clean off.

The other member was charging his Li-Po at the front of his car's engine bay when an apparent short circuit caused it to burst into flames,setting the front of the car on fire.Quick thinking by others present prevented the fire from spreading,but not before some considerable monetary damage was caused.

I can't finish this newsletter without a big reminder of the up coming S.M.A.C. Scale Day, to be held on the 22nd March.The format will be the same as other scale days.There will be judges circulating throughout the flight line looking for the best take off, the best landing, the most realistic scale flying,and the big one,the most comprehensive combination of all three.Prizes will be awarded for the best of each category.It is open to all SMAC members,other clubs,and association members.

If you have any type of scale model,scratch built,kit built,or ARF glider or scale helicopter, you are welcome to enter.The strip will be closed until the start of competitive flying and open again for general flying by 12.30pm.These days have been lauded as great events,so don't miss out.You have to be in it to win it.The prizes have been

excellent in the past, and will continue to reflect the support we get. So dust 'em off, and put the date on your calendar.

Some house work items of note

You will see new signs at the Club regarding the retrieval of lost models over the Terramin Mine security fence. Please read and obey the notices. This is a serious warning, and not to be disregarded.

Well, that's all for now,
Happy Landings,
Alan Turner,
Publicity Officer S.M.A.C.