

News from the desk of SMAC Oct. 2008

Wow! flyers, we've had some ripa weather for flying, and much has been happening at your Club. As well as the usual Sunday roll up, the 'week day warriors' are out there in force. As soon as the day is pronounced flyable, they come out of the wood work, all bragging about being retired and at leisure!!!!

With daylight saving upon us, the topic of midweek after work flying is being increasingly discussed, and with Wednesdays seemingly the preferred day. You may have to twist my little finger a little to get me to go!!

Thanks go to Trev Heading for his care of our field throughout the winter. It's never looked better. But sadly, as soon as the hotter temps arrive, it will all turn brown and go away.

Still, looking on the brighter side, that's better for small wheels.

We enjoyed a fantastic social evening at the Greenman Inn, Ashbourne, on the evening of Sat. 18th Oct. The place was packed, so many members came we had to add extra chairs and tables. I'm sure all who went were as pleased with the night as I was. The food was amazing, with every plate a work of art and delicious. I recommend it to anyone passing that way. The President said during his welcome address that this was the biggest roll up ever, and he passed on the club's thanks to all attendees.

The builder's forum is becoming more popular with new faces and models turning up. By the time this goes to press the Oct. forum will be behind us, and the members that came along should have a much better understanding now of the workings of modern transmitters. Sometimes it can be all 'mumbo jumbo' to us old farts, so let's hope we have become wiser because of this topic. Thanks to Alexis Scott for his explanations, and guidance on understanding this 'noo fangled wireless' thingy.

There have been quite a lot of new members swelling the ranks, and the club has now reached a new high in numbers. We must be doing something right.

Congratulations to Alexis and Hamish Scott on receiving their Gold Helicopter Wings. Also a big 'goodonya' to John Doodewaad, 'café ALTO' at Mt. Barker, on his Bronze Helicopter Wings achievement. Well done fellas.

'SEEN ON THE STRIP'

Phil Birt's delightfully different 30's style racer "Miss Ruby"

Darren Garrett's Christen Eagle with a big two stroke petrol

Michael Quain's Spacewalker EP

Mike Treglown and David Lynden's Pilatus Porters, (a very popular model indeed!).

Jeremy, Michael, and Melvin with their very impressive collection of heli's.

And I'm sure more aircraft will be seen as the weather improves.

A little birdy told me of an unfortunate 'coming together' during the week.
Our condolences to Julie and Nick,(although I was also told it made for a speccy sight!!)

Perfect opportunity now for some retail therapy guys!
Certainly helps me get over a loss.

A special vote of thanks to the tireless members who turn up at working bees,continually giving their time,and equipment,to improve the facilities at the field. The most recent effort has seen the starting benches re-leveled,and now hopefully,if it ever rains again,we won't be standing in puddles of water to crank up the old engines.Thanks again boys.

ONE OF OUR OWN

SMAC club member Hamish Scott,'FLY IN HOBBIES',did us proud with his recent entry into a Queensland helicopter 3D,(extreme aerobatics),competition.This was Hamish's first foray into this type of competeing,and an opportunity for his sponsor,BROOKNET to introduce Hamish to the heli community.

Flying his RAPTOR 50,Hamish finished with a very respectable third place,and behind a couple of pilots from Brisbane who are seasoned competitors.So as a debut,it was a brilliant start.

During the weekend,and when not competing,Hamish spent a lot of time making new friends in the heli world,and even got the chance to fly a few different models belonging to other pilots.This surely shows their confidence in his skills.

Another highlight of the weekend was Hamish's demonstration flight of the new BEAM electric heli that Brooknet are importing,and which made him the talk of the town.Positive comments as to his reflexes and skills were heard from most pilots watching.

SMAC members are very proud of his achievements,and his sponsor is very happy with his choice to make Hamish his sponsored pilot.Hamish has quite an extensive itinery planned for the coming year,and we wish him all the best.

You'll be hearing more about this young man,(15years),in the future,and we'll keep you posted as things progress.

The Scale day event is drawing closer,so don't forget the invitation is open to all MAAA members flying scale fixed wing,rotary wing,and gliders.The rules are simple,and shouldn't daunt anyone interested in scale modelling.

The format is as follows.....

Pilot briefing 9.30am sharp

Flying begins at 10.00am,and will continue until 12.30pm

During that time the flight Marshalls will control the number of pilots on the flight line, and pilots will be judged on the best take off of the day, the best landing of the day, and the best scale realism in flight. The imperative will be to fly your scale model in the manner of the prototype, so it will be no use bringing a Piper Cub, doing blenders and hovers as the judges will adjudge that as not in keeping with the flying characteristics of the prototype. You get the idea.

As you can see there is no reason for anyone who has a scale model of an actual plane, ARF or kit or scratch built to not have a go. No documentation is required, only your current MAAA membership card. All rules of the MAAA will be strictly adhered to, and the safety officers will, if need be, noise test any model they deem too loud in accordance with club noise rules. We haven't secured a major sponsor as yet, but you can rest assured the prizes are usually substantial, and worth the entry fee of ten dollars, (which includes BBQ lunch and soft drink). We will also hold the usual raffle which I'm sure will be worth winning.

So don't be shy, come on over to SMAC on the 23rd November for a fun day. See you there.

Happy landings,
Alan Turner,
Publicity officer SMAC.