

S.M.A.C. Newsletter June 2008

Hi all.

I am compiling this portion of the newsletter before the AGM, and will finish it after. As this may be my last offering I would like to say what a thrill and pleasure it has been this past year to have been your Publicity Officer. I feel we as a Club have moved forward to establishing a Club with purpose. A place not just for the Sunday flyer, but a place to enjoy every aspect of our fantastic hobby.

There have been many highlights during the year, and I recall the first Fun Fly with pride. It was entered into with enthusiasm and purpose. All who took part had a great day. But the 'highlight' of the year must be the Scale days we have enjoyed.

The feed back and interest shown for both types of events surely must indicate the desire for modelers to display their models, and flying skills, at this sort of forum.

The area around our flying field continues to pose restrictions as it develops beyond the small back water it once was. The emergence of the huge hill,(Terramin Mountain), (that's the tailings dam wall of the new mine), so far has not proven to be a problem, although none the less it is imposing on the landscape.

I can say that the single biggest thing that has loomed this past year, as an area of concern, is the complaints regarding the noise levels of some models, and the subsequent need for noise testing, with the restricting of some models. Unfortunate for sure, but a small price to pay to ensure the future of our club at this site.

It is a testament to the wonderful nature of our site, in both its proximity to most town centres, and it's geography, that many members from other clubs have expressed the desire to be come associated with us.

So to the future. I see the Club continuing to build on the reputation we have gained from the running of organised events. Those being whatever the Club determines.

I would desperately like to see the builders forum expand to more members. It is not an exclusive club, and is a place to gain lots of knowledge and to expand ones ideas of modeling. Not just the building, we are all builders after all, but even if it's a box full of pre built bits that one assembles (ARF). So put aside your prejudices, and be a part of yet another great Club activity.

It is now just days after the AGM, and what a thrill to see so many members turn up. The meeting went with amazing smoothness in the hands of our able President. Elections brought some new faces to the committee. John Watters was returned for another term as President, and Phil Birt was elected Secretary and safety officer. I was re-elected for another year, and Darren Garrett was elected safety officer.

Brian Lockett raised his hand once again to continue to be the Club Chief Pilot, and Bronze/Gold Wings examiner. A very valuable and handy asset to the club. Trev Heading and Bruce Donhardt will go on making sure the field, and the areas around it, are manicured to perfection, and that our machinery is kept in tip top condition. Trev Woolfitt has volunteered to once again be our representative at the MASA meetings, and will keep us all up to date on what's happening in our sport.

The high points of the AGM were the Life Membership awarded to Graham Willis, and Honorary membership to Jenny Willis. These guys have for years given up their time and money to make sure everyone at the club enjoys themselves at the club's events and social do's. This is what being in a club is all about. The Noel Wenzel 'Most Improved Pilot/Member' perpetual trophy was presented to Julie Garratt. Well done Julie. An excellent choice. It's a pleasure to see the ladies lining up for trophies.

There was much discussion as to what further events we can enjoy, and an 'events' sub committee was formed to manage this. In my opinion this is a great step forward. Remember, this is about you, the members, and what you would find fun to do. So if there is any event that you would like to see the club hold, please tell us.

The committee has approved in principle the building of new starting benches. I will present a design and costing for approval. It will certainly improve safety, and reduce the need for kneeling down in the mud with our bigger models.

FROM THE PREZ.

A truly successful year for sure. Our lease has been renewed. More infrastructure improvements, and we now have our own web site up and running, (www.strathmac.info). The membership numbers are rapidly increasing, with quite a few future members waiting for the new financial year to join.

We also have our own 'real time' weather station now. So to see exactly what the weather situation is at the field, just log onto the Strath web site.

A pat on the back, and a high five goes to Alan Turner for his thoughts, ideas, and the organizing of new and exciting club events. He certainly has injected fresh enthusiasm into the club.

The committee will start soon to organize the coming year's social events, and these will be listed on the calendar page of the web site.

Bruce Donhardt has been in contact with the operators of a 'Terramin Mine Tour', and is asking if any members, (and their families), would like to take part in this tour. A very interesting experience, I'm sure. He will be placing a 'booking list' on the club's notice board, and when sufficient numbers are reached he will begin the arrangements.

The club's trainer plane, and buddy box system is now operating. So if any of your friends would like to have a trial flight, just contact Phil Birt, (safety officer), and he'll set it up.

The club sponsored sausage sizzles we have had during the year were well received, and more will be organized as the year progresses.

Sponsorship is on the increase, and we would like to say how much we appreciate their generous contributions. It certainly helps making the club's activities more enjoyable. Remember, they support us, so we must support them. A list of the Club sponsors can be seen on our web site.

If you happen to see young Hamish Scott flying his heli's, then stop and watch. This pilot has improved hand over fist with his '3D' skills, and is certain to become a chopper champion one day.

Marv Kuss takes the 'Most Spectacular Rekitting of a Model' award with the low pass that didn't quite make it. The Pilatus PC9 looked a bit secondhand afterwards, but Marv seemed to think she may be salvaged.

Congratulations must go to Julie Garratt and Andrew Grafton on attaining their Bronze Wings. Well done guys!

Cheers also to the winners and gridders at the 25th May scale day.

James Nolan.....Best takeoff & best overall model.

Joe Nebl.....Best scale realism.

Darren Garratt.....Best landing.

Nick Braithwaite.....Ladies' choice.

Seen 'ON THE STRIP'!

Nick Braithwaite and his new Cap 10

Phil Birt's lovely blue and white Gee Bee Y

Brian Lockett's HUGE e- powered glider, (don't let the size fool you. This baby really 'moves'!).

Alexis Scott and John Watters with their Gee Bee Y's (I think these GBY's are breeding overnight!).

Darren Norman's beautiful F-8F Bearcat warbird. (a pleasure to watch flying).

And..... CHOPPERS GALORE!!!!!!!!!!

That's all from me,

Safe flying.

John Watters.

President S.M.A.C.

Well, we are off and running with a new committee, and the enthusiastic atmosphere at the AGM can only mean another great year for all at SMAC.

Thank you, and happy flying.

Alan Turner,

Publicity Officer S.M.A.C.