

POSITIVE INCIDENCE

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REVISED 19TH JULY

A monthly Newsletter to club members of the Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club
From Paul Mitchell : President

I haven't been able to get out to the flying field for several weeks now...I've either been as crook as a dog or the weather was way too fowl.

I find I'm much more motivated to do some building when my shed is clean, so I spent a bit of time organizing things out there in preparation for the next big build. I think I must be collecting way too much 'stuff', because the available work space seems to be getting smaller and smaller each time I clean up....time for some radical changes!

My next big scale model build is under way...well I've done the sketches and plans...and begun to make & assemble all the bits for the dummy Bristol Jupiter 6 radial motor....hours of fun in front of the telly on these cold nights. The model I'm building is a 1.9 meter Gloster Gamecock....a 1920s fighter (they never actually fought) that was well known for it's aerobatic ability at air displays, in the hands of such famous pilots as Douglas Bader. I'll include photos of the build in forthcoming newsletters.



Here are two photos I took recently....just to prove that there was clear blue skies not long ago....and to show that even good flying weather doesn't stop Bob from spending time on his earth-bound machine keeping our field in tip top shape.....



.....and that try as he might....he just can't get it up to flying speed....the damn thing has too high a wing-loading.....

Hey Bob...try taking off into wind!

The field is looking terrific Bob – thanks again from all of us.

I had a quick go on the 'Lambo' and it is certainly performs well....the twin stick steering is interesting.

GENERAL MEETING VENUE

Nick Braithwaite and I went looking for suitable venues for our monthly general meetings...around Mt Barker as suggested at the AGM.

Our decision was that the Great Eastern Hotel – Littlehampton was the most appropriate, and we later held a sub-committee meeting with the other guys to try it out.

So gentlemen, the next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 30th July** starting at **7.00**. (the last Tuesday in every month) It's not hard to find....it's at the round-about in the middle of the town, on the main road out to Nairne.

If you would like to join some of us for a meal or a drink before hand, get there at around 6.00 to 6-15.

We have booked the private room that seats about 20 around a long table.

Chris (Crash) Carpenter has kindly agreed to be our **guest speaker** for the night – talking and showing us photos and videos of Golden Era Racing and Scale Glider Aerotow events.

I'll 'try' and keep the formal part of the evening to a minimum so we can enjoy the presentation by Chris.

See you all there.

By the way...if any of you has a suggestion for future guest speakers....let me know.

INDOOR FLYING

I was all packed up and in the car ready to head off to indoor flying on the 6th when the call went out that it had been called off....what a let-down! The hall had been double-booked by the college and according to Phil Birt, who turned up early to set things up, there was a youth camp going on - the place was filled with sleeping gear, tables and chairs....not to mention a rock band in full swing.

You've probably seen the advert for our indoor nights in the MASA newsletter and in the window down at Model Flight, so let's hope we get a real good roll up next month. If you've never tried it, come along and see for yourself....there's bound to be a trainer type to have a go with. Ok Ok so the walls come up very regularly... you just have to keep making 90 degree turns all the time....simple.....

**The undeniable fact is that indoor flying will make you a better flyerthat's a big call you say....
.....well then let me explain....**

When you first have a go, usually on a high-winged trainer, using dihedral and rudder for directional control, you very quickly start to generate a little space in your brain that deals with '*the walls*'...which takes most new-comers to indoor flying one or two flight to achieve. After a few more sessions, this little space in the brain takes over the 'fear factor' and allows you to relax... so now your outdoor flying skills come back into play again. If you are the type of flyer who likes to do simple circuits, explore slow flying, the smoothest take offs and landings imaginable, spot landings, touch and goes, wing-tip scrapes, ceiling bounces etc.... ...then you are set to go. There are heaps of small indoor foam models available now, so it has never been easier.

For those wishing to take the next step and go for an aerobatic indoor model, things are not as difficult as might first appear. The indoor aerobatic model is usually a mid-wing foam and carbon fiber affair, with no dihedral and has huge control surfaces.....which at first glance looks a bit daunting to say the least. However....assuming you have mastered those initial training flights, and that little bit of the brain which deals with walls is operating correctly now, then you are in for a real surprise. The wing-loading on these things is so low that they are off and flying long before the motor is anywhere near full power. Assuming the model is in good trim, the wings stay level without much assistance and the model seems to be just floating around on well under half power....actually flying much slower and more docile than the trainer type was!

The first time a wall comes into view you can do a "yank and bank" turn, using ailerons and elevation as normal.....or better still.... you simply apply about half rudder and the thing just turns dead flat and heads

off in another direction....simple...no fuss...no coordinated turns required.....just apply rudder and leave everything else alone! Now you are ready for some mild aerobatic maneuvers. Start with a roll, and just like outdoors, a little more power never hurts. Bang on full aileron as soon as you have made a turn, giving yourself as much room as possible before the next wall come up..... but don't be tempted to open her up all the way...or those walls will come up very fast! That's the next thing you discover...the acceleration and speed when you apply full power is surprising. You only use full power to do vertical maneuvers or hovering – and this constant use of the 'throttle' is a steep learning curve for most of use at first. The roll rate is very fast, but things are predictable and the concept of a stall just doesn't come into the equation! Loops, Cubans, Snaps, Wing Overs, Stalled Turns, Knife Edge and other basic maneuvers are easily achieved once you have mastered the skill of gentle power application. At about this stage you suddenly realize that you have jumped up a notch or two in confidence.....you are achieving maneuvers that require multiple stick inputs without thinking twice about it.....and that's why I say that indoor flying makes you a better flyer. Come and have a try – you'll be surprised how easy and addictive it can be.

CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR

Darren and I have been discussing the coming year's events with a view to soon putting dates down on paper. Below is a list of the types of events we envisage holding - with a short explanation. At the next general meeting we will be asking for input from the members wishing to contribute – email before-hand if you want to.

- **The John Watters Memorial Scale Fun Fly** – pretty much like last year's event, but held on one day, and open to any model that has a full-size counterpart – many categories – evening dinner at pub – no lunch break in flying – staggered meals - keep things going!
- **Fun Fly Contest Days** – probably every two months - open to all comers – emphasis on **fun** – easy tasks - several different task events during the day – pilots not told the task until just before each contest starts!! – SMAC club members' cumulative points going to overall yearly contest winner (the more you enter the better chance you have of 'winning') – the intension is to eliminate the 'purpose-built' model....a trainer could win! An element of chance rather than skill or equipment level.
- **Aerotow Day** – buddy-box training flights for club members.
- **IMAC** – attempt to have them give 'buddy-boxed' flights to club members – you never know...you might get hooked yourself! I've always wanted to have a go at a 100cc monster....how about you?
- **Pattern (F3A)** – as above – possibly share the field with two flight lines at once – club members to use electric models during IMAC event time at other end of field... to keep the distraction to a minimum for them, without restricting club flying time – this needs ratification, but worth a try!
- **Working Bees** – sausage sizzle & drinks for lunch – possibly hold these on dates when IMAC and F3A are using the field – we might as well do some work around the field while they are using it.
- **Charity Event & Public Display** – a '**new-member recruiting exercise**' held at our field with as much media coverage and public involvement as we can generate – a first rate display team – massed flying like at our recent 'come and try' day – not something to be done in a hurry...needs very careful and well-organised preparation...something worth doing really well...or not at all.
- **Twilight/Night Fly** – held on a Saturday evening – camping at the field – BBQ meal.
- **Club Dinners** – lets have two of these during the year...rather than just the Christmas one!

Have a good read of the above and we'll have a short discussion about them at the meeting. Once I have a 12 month calendar from MASA we can start to put dates to events.....trying very hard to avoid public holidays and dates when other major events are on elsewhere!

The sub-committee meeting got a lot done – thanks guys for your input.

CLUB WEB SITE – Nick Parson showed us the basic site mapping and we went through it all in detail – looking good Nick – we should be up and running very soon – more on this at the next meeting. These newsletters will be published on the web site rather than sent out individually by email to you all.

INDOOR FLYING – The advert in the MASA Newsletter pretty much says it all – we intend to make a real go of this – please try and support it if you can.

JOHN WATTERS MEMORIAL SCALE FUN FLY – again the MASA advert covers most of it – there will be more detail at the next general meeting on the 30th. We intend to have a celebratory dinner in the evening at a local Strathalbyn pub.

By the way...the food at the Great Eastern was good....although Nick B complained his sweets were frozen....Darren left his for half an hour to thaw out!!!

On other fronts.....

- Andrew Grafton and Jim Bowie are looking after the new steel starter benches – design done – materials in hand (donation from Jim – many thanks) - frame members cut – bench top and lower shelf folded and ready – welding imminent.
- Bob Smart is talking with the council about the road/track/parking area grading
- I'm getting the Noel Wenzel Field sign under way
- I'm talking with the council about adding solid roofs to the pit benches
- New member 'starter packs' are under discussion

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Here was last month's photo again – Bob, doing something we all do with our transmitters when we run out of hands!



I have decided that I will publish the captions I receive, but not the names of the entrants at this stage. This is because I want to do something special at a future meeting next yearand that is to present all the photos in hard copy form laid out on a table, with a list of the caption entries (without entrants names) below each one. Members present will be asked to pick their favourite caption. The identity of the winning entrant will then be announced, and awarded a suitably silly award.

You can have as many goes as you like for each photo...come on...have a go guys.

Here are the entries to last month's photonot in any particular order....

"The transmitter whisperer "

"I'll kiss you now...in case I never see you again!!"

"Er...could someone please help me...I've got the throttle stick stuck up my nose.....!"

"Struth....Lemon Flavoured Sticks....who'd of thought?"

But my personal favourite was.....wait for it.....

"You've heard of the nose-up landing....well, this is the up-nose take-off"

The entrant who supplied this one....NOSE who he is.....sorry....!

Here's the July **'Caption Competition'** photo.....



This one was snapped by Andrew Grafton just after the first "flight" of my Bonzo.....after it "arrived" amongst those rocks.

I suppose the big question is....what was I - or Darren saying?...but then again, you might have a better idea for the caption....The good news was that she was air-born again in several weeks...this time with the CG shifted forward a bit. The lesson here is that "close enough is not good enough!"

Well that's it for this month....unless I feel the need to do another Captain's Log Supplemental.

I'll leave you with are a few more of John's fabulous photos so you can't say I don't have any colour in my work!



Darren's Vampire on a fast low run – what a terrific picture



Brian about to launch Adrian's rocket



Andrew's Yak on finals

See you all on the 30th at the Great Eastern Hotel
Cheers for now
Paul