

POSITIVE INCIDENCE NO: 1 29th MAY 2013

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

Ok, so the name *Positive Incidence* is a play on words....what else did you expect from me...!

Firstly I would like to say thanks to all those who have given Phil and me their personal pledge of support, it is heartening to see the amount of good will and encouragement from you guys.....the right stuff!

With the upcoming Balloon Regatta and Demonstration Day only a couple of weeks away, things are running hot around here...but all is in hand, and with your help, and a bit of good weather, it will all go well.

As soon as possible after the AGM we will be putting the yearly events calendar in place – thanks to those who have already given input – get in touch with me if you have any suggestions...after the Regatta.

I'm going to keep this first PI (Positive Incidence) short and sweet (OK OK keep the laughing down back there...!!).... so here goes.....straight on with the Balloon Regatta and Come and Try Day information.

Nick, Phil, Noel and Jan have been doing a terrific job getting things in place, and Nick has handed the BR to Phil to carry on with, and the CTD to me, as he is away with work (in Tassie) till next week.

1: The Balloon Regatta Day – 8th June.

Nick, Phil, Noel, Jan and I are going to another meeting with the Regatta Steering Committee next week for a final briefing, and if there are any changes to the overall plan I'll let you all know....better not be any..! This is a good opportunity to put ourselves before the public and hopefully generate some interest and maybe new members. Let's get as many people out to the Sunday 'Come and Try Day' as possible. The organizers have promised us promotional time over their PA system. I'll have copy ready for that. The posters and hand-outs are done, and we'll look at the Club banner this weekend. Phil and I will be at the Trotting Grounds from around 10.00 on the 9th to get things in place...thanks to those who have promised to be there with their models....see you there.

2: The 'Come and Try' Day – 9th June.

I was hoping to have told you all about the following at the EGM, but the time was not right....so I'm putting it all down here.....and it will take longer that I would like....sorry about that....bear with me here.

If we are going to invite the public to come and see us fly, we should give them something to see that is more than just a bunch of fellers having a good time.....so I have come up with a plan and have had discussions with several members, who are in general agreement.

I am planning a series of short Demonstration Flight Sessions, each lasting 20 minutes...one every hour, from say 11.00 till 3.00. ...that's 5 sessions.

Each session will be made up of several groups of similar model types....as one groups lands the next goes up. Each group will have 4minutes from start to finish.

The planes in each group will take-off, fly circuits and fly-bys for the prescribed time and land. If you want to fly formation with a mate...set it up between yourselves and don't do anything stupid.

Nick Braithwaite has agreed to be the 'conductor' (who else!!) - calling out when things will happen during the period over the PA...probably counting down the last minute in 15 second intervals.

There is no need for anyone to do anything fancy, and anyone varying from the standard circuit to, say, do some Loops, Cubans or such like in the center of the field will need to make sure there is no-one coming along behind him - call it out loud and clearly before-hand, so the others can give you room. This is not any different to Sunday flying when there are several plans in the air at the same time. The difference is that we will have to do it on cue. Anyone not confident about doing this should probably sit out the first one or two sessions and maybe join in later. Once you land you will have to taxi off the field, or retrieve **asap**.

It's not hard to do this.....it just takes good timing and good clear instructions from one person.

This sort of demonstration is actually not about the flying, it's about the timing...but the public don't know that!

The groups will be:

1. LARGER GAS 3D and NITRO SPORTS MODELS
2. ELECTRIC POWERED FOAM GLIDERS AND SPORTS MODELS
3. DUCTED FAN SPORTS MODELS...(The noisier and faster the better!!)
4. SCALE TYPE MODELS...any size, any power, twins, biplanes, EDF, foam, ARF, scratch, whatever!!
5. F3A and ELECTRIC POWERED ARF
6. HELICOPTERS

There's a place for just about everyone in there somewhere, if not, tell me about it and I'll fit you in!

Now if we get so many planes in each session that it is inappropriate to have all the groups up during the session, I will reduce the number of groups in that session, and the others can fly in a later *sortie*.

Hey this is starting to feel like Biggin Hill during the Battle of Briton!!

The time between the 'sessions' will be for general flying and 'come and try' flights for the public. If you are interested in giving a 'come and try' flight with a buddy box - please let me know and I'll start a list. Nick is going to be organizing these on the day. The club trainer is up and running and Darren Garratt is bringing his blue and white Cub - a couple of foamie electric slow flyers would be good too.

Also during these 'in-between' times I'm going to ask one of the big 3D Gasser guys to go up and fly specific maneuvers that will be requested over the PA by members of the public, choosing from a pre-prepared list. Should be a hoot eh! Shades of the Hendon Flying Shows in the 30's in the UK. I'm bringing my 240v PA/mike/mixer system and Adrian is bringing a small generator.

Hey Adrian, can you bring it this Sunday and I'll try out my system to make sure they work properly together? - if you're not able to come this week I'll get down to you.

Glider tugs and aero tows can go on during the in-between times too.

It's going to be tight action...not fancy flying that is the main objective.get up.....do your thing.....and get down again.....all in the allowed time.....on cue.....safely.....not rushed.....just well planned.

Each group is going to have about 3-4 minutes to do their thing.....so my advise to those involved is to look at your watch (all right - smart phone) for 4 minutes and go through in your mind the start-up, taxi-out, take-off, circuits, turn-arounds, fly-bys, approach and landing, and get a feel for how long that is, and how much you can do....where will you be at the 2 minute mark?...What type of approach will you make?

4 minutes is not very long, but long enough to have fun keeping out of each other's way! The public will be kept abreast of what is happening over the PA.

For those doing some more serious aerobatics, say with the big 3D gassers and F3A models, I will probably get them to either start or finish the sessions, so they can have the sky to themselves for a short time. Adrian's super fast powered glider thigy (s**t it's fast!) will be good to see on it's own after a session (as a closer maybe) from time to time too.

Now I can already hear the 'doomers' howling that if no one turns up it will have been a waste of time...to which I say..."Bull**t"..... this sort of flying is great fun to do, great learning experience and good for club moral, so even if only a few of the public turn up...we will still put on a damn good show and have a ball doing it.

This is not a competition guys.....it's for the sheer fun of it..... but let's do it as well as we can.

If it's a windy or wet day...I'll simply modify things as needs be.

OK here comes the "*control freak*" bit...are you ready?.....this can only work if there is one person setting the agenda....it's a case of too many cooks.....you know the rest!

Pat and I were professional stage performers for many years in our not-so-younger days, and I can tell you (Back me up here Nick) that performance planning is not best served by democracy.....that's right, it has to be one person's job to plan and control the play, otherwise it can all dissolve into a farce very quickly. Think of a footy coach! The director has to have a free hand to garner advice and talent and apply it as he sees fit – if anyone has a beef with that see me privately....form an orderly line please ☺
I have arranged shows and performed on stages all over the country, and overseas, and I have orchestrated demonstrations like this with models before.it is a lot of fun and is well worth the effort put in by everyone.

OK so now it's up to you.....let me know in a phone call or email if you are interested in being part of the show

- **what model/models you will be flying**
- **what group/groups you are in.**

Please get back to me soon – not on the day!!! – I want to put things in place early. Depending on the response from you guys, I will plan out the schedule and circulate it to those pilots concerned in the demo. If there are only a few interested, then I'll just scale it all down.

There's no pressure on anyone to be in the Demo sessions – but if you feel confident – join in. We will have a pilot's briefing early on the day.

I'll be at the field this Sunday afternoon, so if you have something to contribute and want to discuss it, grab me and talk.

Don't forget that on the 9th we will be parking our models on the main part of the field, outside the pits area, and flying 30 metres away. Pilots will stand on the matting, so that they are far enough away from the engine starting behind them. We will re-locate the starter restraints just outside the fence and Bob is going to mark out the 30 metre line so we keep the prescribed distance from the public, who will be in the pits area.

If there is a cross wind on the day, we'll make a judgment about the alternative strip then.

Pray to Orville for good weather.

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