



From the Matamata-Piako warbirds Day – Frazer and Mike preparing their Mosquito for flight. Very impressive with twin 60cc motors.

2020 Auction

After 4 months delay from COVID uncertainty, we finally were able to hold our annual auction. This was again a successful affair although numbers were down a little on previous years, presumably related to reluctance to travel. Nevertheless, the auction attracted buyers/sellers from as far afield as Wellington, Whangerei and Gisborne. Tony Christiansen gave a spirited and unflagging performance as auctioneer, keeping the auction in full swing from 10am to past 2pm.

As always there were both bargains and some good prices. There were several deceased estates which yielded a plethora of models and support equipment.

Some of the more interesting items included a covered trailer, a flight in the Classic Flyers' Harvard, and a very old vintage radio set (see below).

The fixed price (low value) table was a busy scene. The gold coin and free tables were popular.

Nominations for club recognition include:-

- **Stamina of the day** – Auctioneer Tony Christiansen .
- **Hero of the day** – IT Guru Mike Wilson., for fixing a computer fault the previous night which could have seriously disrupted proceedings.
- **Chief Haggler** – Bruce Clarke for driving bargains on the unpriced table.
- **Wally of the day** – this one deserves a full description, see below.

Thanks to all those who assisted – setup, registration, model movements, data processing, table sales, refreshments, security, pack up..



Merlin, the Classic Flyers hangar cat, keeping an eye on bargains at the auction.



← It sold for how much?

Data Entry Team



And the Wally of the month award goes to:-

- whoever it was who put three lipos in a plastic bag and left it on the gold coin table at our auction. It didn't have a lot number or a vendor number. It didn't sell. After the auction all the uncollected items were put in a bin and taken off site. While driving home, there was a horrible burning smell. It turned out that the balance plug had been chopped off one of the



batteries which had then shorted out. The insulation was melted, the battery swelled almost to bursting and a hole melted through the plastic bag. This was potentially a very serious incident as it could have resulted in a car fire, or worse a house fire. Always remember that Lipos store a lot of energy and if damaged can cause a serious napalm like incendiary fire. This was a near miss and whoever was responsible should carefully think about their actions.

Coming events

- **Aerobatics days** – a series of aerobatics days are being organised by Frazer Briggs. Now postponed to **Nov 21st**, and 23rd Jan.
- **Field maintenance work party** – **7th/8th November**. Details to be emailed to members
- **Control Line combat day**. TECT Park **15 November**. Fast, noisy and scary! See Rob Morgan for details.
- **Aerotow Weekend -28-29 November**. This coincides with the TECT Park anniversary.
- **TECT Park 10th anniversary birthday party** – **November 28th**. This is a general open day for members of the public so we can expect some visitors. Bring your biggest and best to show off.
- **Hamilton MAC floatplane day**. This will be held at Lake Kainui on **22nd November**. 9am to 4pm. (subject to gaining consent)
- **Wings over Wairarapa** – **26th-28th February**
- **Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition (AIRSHOW 2021)**. This has now been deferred to **26-28 November 2021**. This is the 100th anniversary of the Aussie airforce and is bound to attract some heavy machinery. Put a note in your diary and trust that the world comes back into balance before then. If you are interested contact Dave Marriott and we'll see if we can arrange a group.

Interesting links

- Next time you complain about the price of model engines, have a think about the number of operations to make one. This video covers making a piston/cylinder set on a home lathe/mill. Commercially made engines are even more precise – this video does not allow for honing/grinding of cylinder, piston and has some eyeball alignment which would not be tolerated in a commercial product.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjlVgBYeh0c&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2WnaewpTWXbJdTz9syJNCDICun5xj99CLeoKmWnORKX3X_79Q1t7CTYs0
- Miniature drone used to film swarm of monarch butterflies. <https://youtu.be/Hq3X60H7aBo>
- A visit to Progress Aero Works. They have been making PAW diesels for some 60 years. Well respected in control line circles (pun !). Beautifully made engines but the workshop looks like it needs a spruce up.
<https://youtu.be/akPsZdK490s>
- DuBro factory tour. Lots of repetitive manual operations -https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Klg6HKVC-A&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2c0CW1f215uDm13D8JE87kC5pY9c_QyzaYA-prSC6Nh6d1d5wfhNSop8c
- Can you cover like this? Makes it look simple. All you need is a household iron, a heat gun and a sharp craft knife. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtMbYxEqgiw&feature=youtu.be>. Make sure to test the heat gun temperature on your arm!

Quadriplex radio

One of the more interesting items handed in to the free table at the auction was a Dee Bee Engineering (Don Brown) "Quadriplex 21" radio.

Mrs Google says that this was released in 1964. It is a 4-channel system using pulse proportional valve technology. It was a considerable advance on the previous "galloping ghost", or reed systems. The single control stick operates aileron, elevator, and rudder (by twisting the knob). Throttle control is by way of buttons on the top of the case which can be used to increase or decrease the motor speed. The "21" refers to the weight of the onboard receiver and servos – 21 ounces or 600 grams (excluding flight batteries)

For more details see -

<http://www.rchalloffame.org/Manufacturer/Quadriplex/history/index.html>



TECT Park stuff

Preparations for the 10th Birthday Event are ramping up. These include a Mud Dog Run (11am) and a Laser light Show at night. More details at links below.

1. Day time event (10am-3pm), see <https://www.facebook.com/events/2695999423974405>
2. Night time event (7pm-10pm), see <https://www.facebook.com/events/732697040649487>
3. Mud Dog Run (11am), see <https://www.facebook.com/events/790568481738494/>

This event coincides with a planned TMAC aerotow meet. Club members will be able to fly other planes between glider events, so please bring your biggest and best and show off our hobby to the public.

Club Stuff

- **And a big thanks to – Resene Paints**
Your secretary got a big surprise when a delivery truck pulled up unannounced at his house and offloaded a pallet containing 6 x 10 litre pails of acrylic paint. This was in response to an application to Resene for waste paint to be used for field line marking. Resene have a system where they collect unwanted acrylic paint and re-distribute it free of charge to clubs and social entities. Resene is a NZ company and they have a strong reputation for customer service and for the quality of their products. Much appreciated.
- **Methanol Sales**
Now that we are coming into the summer flying season its time to think about mixing up your preferred brew for your glow motors. The club has bulk methanol available at \$50 for a 20l container. (container included). Contact Dave Marriott to secure your requirements.
- **Club night** - Dean Hill showed his new motor. It's a Kolm 135 cc, 4 stroke twin. It's a quality piece of work – no castings, everything machined from billet. Dean describes it as:- *"it's a bucket list motor. Never thought I'd end up with something like that. Be careful what you wish for. You just might get it"*. Currently Dean does not have a plane in mind to put the Kolm in, so it just sits on a shelf where he can look at it and touch it occasionally.



Photos from the past

You will recall a request by TECT for photos of our site development, for them to screen during the coming 10th anniversary. John Dolphin, (who is still a TMAC member but has run away to the West Island), has sent some photos of the early days. I'll load some up to our website.



Full Noise – “Yakinabox”



A small number of TMAC members braved a miserable evening to listen to a presentation by Graeme Frew, on his exploits building and flying “Full Noise” at the 2017 and 2018 Reno races. The evening was hosted by Engineering NZ and the invitation was extended to members of TMAC.

Graeme bought the Yak 3 as a wreck and restored it. He raced in the unlimited “gold” class in the 2017 and 2018 races. This class is dominated by highly modified warbirds such as P51Ds and Sea Furies. These have engines producing 4000HP or more. Graeme scored a respectable 6th using a standard Allison 1600HP engine. In comparison with the competition the Yak was slower but was able to turn tighter, meaning that its lap time was comparable to the larger machines. Unfortunately, COVID-19 prevented the race being held in 2020. Graeme had planned to use a sponsored water/methanol injected engine for this race, which would have lifted his engine power from 1600 to over 2000HP – still much less than the competition, but enough to give a serious performance boost. Book your tickets now to see him compete again in 2021. Scary flying at 600km/hr at 20 m off the deck.

Matamata-Piako Model Aircraft Club Warbirds rally



A contingent of TMAC members attended the recent Warbirds day. This event attracted many large-scale models which put on impressive flying displays. Lots of multi cylinder radial and inline multi cylinder motors. Amazing detail and workmanship.



The Jungle gives up its secrets

Geoff, Isaac and Caleb went for an afternoon stroll in the jungle, towards the Southern end of the airstrip.. (No -one is owning up to any specific reason for this stroll). However – they seem to have stumbled upon a Bermuda Triangle type of time vortex which has snatched models from the sky over several years. One of their discoveries was Mark Sibley's Harvard which was lost on its maiden flight some 6 years ago. This plane has been the subject of many searches at the time and more recently, and had eluded finding.



They found remnants of several more planes – one with a punja growing through it.



The pigs are back



Roger, Rob and Dave had an unpleasant surprise last week when they found that pigs had invaded the site overnight and had caused significant damage to both runways, taxiways, the control line circle, and generally across the site. Fortunately, this had only just happened the previous night and most of the damage could be repaired by replacing the turf and rolling it back into place. Needless to say, this took up a large portion of their flying time. The pigs have learned how to bypass the electric fence. The Committee has agreed to a project to extend the electric fence to completely encircle the site. This will require a work party to clear vegetation, install some 100 fence stakes, and string an electric fence cable. The photo shows the damage to the main taxiway. Multiply this by a factor of 20 across the whole site.

Massey University Survey on use of RPAS/UAV – (“Drones”)



You will all be aware of the current concerns in the community over irresponsible flying of “drones” and that Civil Aviation are planning to increase regulation of these activities. Currently Civil Aviation regard all unmanned aircraft as a single class. This means that any tightening of the regulations on “drones” will impact on our activities. Potential changes include – registration of each model, requirement to file a flight plan, requirement to have collision detection capability, models to be fitted with GPS location devices and more.

The rules established by MFNZ, supplemented by individual club rules, have proven effective with a very low incident rate since radio control model flying was established some 75 years ago. We would like our operations to be recognised by CAA, as a separate class, so that we can continue to operate without any major changes to our safety management processes.

Massey University are conducting a survey of operators of unmanned aircraft. Unfortunately, this has been titled “drones” which means that many of our members will ignore it, but it is important that you respond as a flyer of model aircraft. The survey will establish the numbers of recreational flyers potentially impacted by any changes to CAA rules. You can access this survey at:-

https://massey.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a8XpQezBUDW6P0p?fbclid=IwAR2DWZEAfiECCCu5HIXZKuXfrjQ-UI4aiJGeLBbXcVOgRfK40vUJFehAVEQ

Workshop techniques - contributed by Conrad Conrad¹



How to remove a broken steel bolt from an aluminium housing. Who would have thought of this? Perhaps a reader can explain the chemistry.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHN0v2wYjXQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0gMDxEthbpaZFDGOE25h60Xgo_YbZKK4AJolGyqmZ1Dhe-n_djizOkrGY

Learning to Fly?



That's all for this month – lets go flying!



Dave Marriott
Editor

¹ Conrad has returned from an extended holiday. Conrad is a technical assistant to Prof Flapbracket and maintains the laboratory flux capacitor. He is definitely old school and has an affinity for things which makes lots of noise, smoke and which spew oil in all directions.