

Work Party



16 stalwart members turned out for a work party to fix our pig problem. It was overcast and threatening to rain – ideal conditions for work and not so good for flying. The main aim was to repair pig and rabbit damage and to extend the electric fence to completely encircle the site.



Gary's little digger was invaluable for clearing vegetation to provide a fence corridor.

I'll just cut a track though here! →

Overall, around 100 electric fence palings, and 1km of electric fence wire were installed. The electric fence is solar powered but will require frequent maintenance to ensure that grass doesn't grow around it, making it ineffective.

Many wilding pines were cut down by Fraser Brodie, Dean Hill, Ben Giles and Jon Blunn. Mike Rice installed some sponsorship signage and many other general site tidy up tasks were completed. It was a good day for social interaction and building friends.

Roger and Dave also had a play with the little digger. Its like using an 8 channel radio system with the boom functions assigned to a joystick for each hand, and then foot controls for travel, more controls for blade raising and for track width adjustment. Forget mode 1 or mode 2 – this is mode 7. As with RC, steering and direction controls



may be reversed depending on which way the superstructure is facing compared to the tracks. All very confusing and taking some hours to build that reflexive muscle memory.



Afterwards, Isaac test flew his new "Bushmaster". Very stable, no trim adjustment required. He went home very happy.

Safety Moment

Recently the Committee was advised, albeit third hand and a long time after the event, of an incident which occurred a few months ago. It was reported that a pilot reached across his propellor while the motor was running, to make an adjustment and suffered several deep lacerations from the prop, to his forearm. Another member was able to apply a compression bandage and he eventually received a few stitches at the hospital.

There are several key messages from this incident:

- The obvious one – **never reach across the propellor while the model is running**. This applies to both IC and electric models. Ensure your model is restrained during starting.
- **Always treat electric models as "live"**. Any inadvertent movement of the transmitter throttle could be dangerous.
- **It is not advisable to fly alone**. In an incident like this it is very hard to apply first aid to yourself if you only have one functional arm. Its also hard to drive if you are incapacitated. It's a long walk to the Ranger station.
- **Always advise a committee member of any safety incident**. It does not matter if it results in injury or is a near miss. The Committee needs to know of the incident so that it can consider if changes to our safety systems are required.
- **Never distract someone while they are setting up**, or more importantly, when starting their model. At the trivial end you may miss tightening a wing bolt, resulting in a crash – at the other end of the scale it could result in serious injury.

Control line Day (contributed by Rob Morgan)



As expected, this was fast, noisy and spectacular.

Sunday 15th November dawned bright and breezy. Five hardy combatants turned up plus Andrew Robinson as centre marshal.

As the entry was a bit small it was decided to fly a 'round robin' so all flyers flew each other and flew 4 times each.

Several good bouts ensued with a high rate of carnage as the wind picked up during the day! The final was decided upon between Graham Christie and Kevin Barnes (who have both represented NZ in other C/L disciplines), Kevin coming out on top.

Thanks to all for turning up and to Tauranga MAC for the use of the field



RC Aerobatics Day



Frazer Briggs organised an aerobatics day on behalf of RC Aerobatics NZ, which attracted flyers from Auckland, Tuakau, Hamilton and Te Awamutu as well as Kim and Dom Clarke from TMAC. It was overcast and with a robust Southerly wind causing lumpy air above the runway and severe turbulence on landing approach. Quite challenging conditions. (Frazer described it as “superb weather”!). The day covered IMAC, Sportsman and Pattern, and models ranged from a vintage Junior 60 to Frazer’s 200 cc monster Extra.



Congratulations to Junior Ricky Maitland who flew Clubman at his first contest ever.

He was awarded the Mike Johnson Memorial trophy for his efforts.

Kim and Frazer manned the BBQ at lunchtime and produced magnificent full balanced diet burgers for everyone.



Donated models

We have been given some models by Dave Neilson. Both of these could use a little TLC but are fully capable of being restored to flight These are :-

- 2.0m and 2.5m sailplanes. These have Futaba servos but no radios. The blue one is a "Gentle Lady" and the red one is a "Spirit".
- Glider launch system , hand winch, return pulley, and launch pulley.

If you are interested please contact the Secretary,



Aerotow Weekend

This coincided with the TECT Park 10th anniversary. Crystal clear weather but an annoying and fickle Southerly wind. Lots of very large gliders, supported by a Pawnee and Cub tow planes. Many of the attendees were from out of town and built a tent and motorhome village in the pits. The TECT Anniversary brought many visitors from the public with shuttle vans coming and going all day.



Coming Events

- **Next Newsletter.** We typically do not do a newsletter for January as Andy Avgas and the editorial team are normally at the beach, airing their speedos. The next newsletter will be the February edition.
- **December Club night – December 2nd.** The weather is looking promising so we will have an evening fly-in at TECT park. Bring some protein to burn on the BBQ and to share with your mates.
- **Introduction to Scale flying - 5th December,** Highbrook Aero Modellers
- **73rd MFNZ Nationals, Wairarapa. - 3rd to 8th January 2021.**
- **TMAC 75th anniversary event – provisionally 27th/28th March 2021.** Details still being worked on.
- **Wings over Wairarapa – 26th-28th February 2021**
- **TMAC AGM – April 7th (to be confirmed).** Now is the time to start thinking about standing for committee.
- **TMAC Annual Auction – June 13th 2021**
- **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.

Andy's Column



• Reportedly discussed at Civil Aviation recently was the statistic that between 2010 and 2015, there were no collisions in the US, between model aircraft and full-size aircraft. In the same period, it is reported that by comparison full size aircraft in the US have collided with 112 **turtles**.¹

• And the **Andy Avgas critical thinking award of the month** goes to – Bruce Clarke. Isaac was doing a range test on his new model and paced out 100m Northwards to do the test. This was successful so he then moved in a circle around to a position 100m away to the East. Bruce then came up with the suggestion – *why not just turn the model?* Hmmmm! No prizes for Isaac other than a successful test flight.

- **Do a range test.** Pilot A had an event which ended in a lost model in the jungle. A few days later he was setting up another model and fortunately decided to do a range test. He only had control for a range of about 20m. Further investigation revealed a broken coax in the feed to the transmitter aerial. This was on a Spektrum radio – one of the older style where the aerial can be folded for storage. The aerial lead was broken at the hinge, probably from heavy handling.

Lesson - It is always good practice to store your Tx in a robust case between flying sessions, and to do a range check before each days flying.



ClubStuff

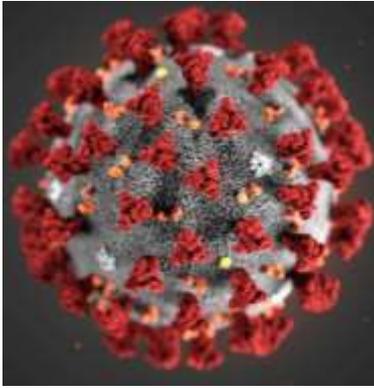
- Two additional fold up **trestle tables** have been bought for the clubhouse. These can be used for setting up your model and for BBQs etc.
- There is an **electric fence tester** in the club house. Our field is now completely surrounded by the fence but we rely on the integrity of the fence to keep the pigs out. If you suspect that the fence is not working, use the tester to check the voltage. When installed, we recorded 5000V at the energiser and 4000V at the gate. If the voltage falls substantially below these levels, please walk or drive the fence line to check for the wire touching the ground or for grass growing into the fence and shorting it out.
- **Club Night November** - This primarily covered planning for the work party and was followed by a paper dart championship. Distance was won by Rob Morgan and duration by Bill de Renzy.
- Wanted for new member – **electric high wing foamie trainer**. Something like a Cub, Trojan, Tundra or similar. Contact taurangamodelfly@gmail.com
- Wanted for another new member – a **'40' size electric motor**, suitable for a trainer. He has an airframe. Just needs a motor.
- **Christmas trees** – looking for a Christmas tree? – bring a saw and take one of the wilding pines. They are free and there are lots to choose from. Get one for your neighbour, and as presents for your friends.
- TECT Park management advise that they will be installing **new security gates** at the main entrance of the park. This is planned for mid-December. The gates will close automatically at night. If you are locked in, there will be a provision to allow vehicles out. There will be a system to enable after hours access for legitimate reasons – details are yet to be advised.

¹ Turtles are not currently required to file a flight plan – AA..

Interesting Links

- How strong are your control linkages? – Clevis vs ball joint?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2keX7bj9jM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3U9Jdl1fCpZDZ-0btXF5H_BDZHk5Gqf59vzEH7O4KYrxTUJNsxwKtaITU
- This is what a helicopter blade looks like in slow motion <https://youtu.be/Pu48f7s5Ru8>

Covid reminder



Life in NZ has largely returned to normal – a new normal in which we are protected by 2000km of ocean and a thin border line. Meanwhile the disease is still growing at an exponential rate overseas. We live in expectation that a vaccine will save the day, but in reality this is still many months away. In the meantime, there is always a risk of random outbreaks and local lockdowns.

In this environment it is easy to become complacent and to ignore the basic safety advice of: – **social distancing, frequent sanitation and contact tracing.** The latter is most important as in the event that a virus gets through our thin defence line, it is essential that it can be contained as soon as possible. There is a contact tracing QR code on the clubhouse. Please continue to use this and also to sign the attendance register whenever you are at TECT Park.

It's a minor inconvenience, but could prevent a serious situation.

Looking for a project?

Dean Hill has a Sabre F86 looking for a new home. 90mm ducted fan, fibreglass fuselage, foam core wings. Needs some TLC. Call Dean on 021 1763628.



That's all for this month. Your committee wishes you all a great Xmas and hopes that your Xmas parcels don't get delayed in transit.

Enjoy your flying over the summer break and fly safe.



Dave Marriott
Editor