



BALLARAT RADIO MODEL FLYING CLUB Inc.

Web site: www.brmfc.org.au

Inc. No. A0001288M

NEWSLETTER – December, 2010

Committee 2010/2011

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The next meeting of BRMFC is to be held out at the flying field on **Wednesday January 26th 2011** commencing at 7.30PM. Please come along to the meetings and support your club and be part of the decision making process. Don't forget to bring a plate for supper.

Agenda Items for the next meeting

1. Wind Farm
2. Field Maintenance
3. Club History Compilation for Web Site
4. 2011 Avalon Airshow
5. Annual Display Day

Xmas Party 16th December

This year we are holding the Christmas party on Thursday 16th December at **Barclays Restaurant** on the corner of Main Road and Barclay Street.



Kickoff is around 6:45PM, I guess it doesn't matter if you're a bit early.

Max needs to know by Wednesday how many are going so the restaurant can be advised of the numbers.

Please give Max a ring on 0409 011 160 or send an email to maintenance@brmfc.org.au.

We are going to raffle a Christmas hamper amongst ourselves on the night for a bit of fun.

President's Christmas Message

Due to technical problems the president's Christmas message was unable to be included. On behalf of Matt the club extends warm Christmas greetings to all our members and wishes them a safe and prosperous new year.

Stop Press! It's just come through on the wire.

My apologies to you all for such a lack lustre effort at a final President's report for the year, but I'm sure you don't want to hear me waffle on with mindless dribble anyway. From all accounts it seems to me that we have had yet another successful year in the club. Memberships are still strong, the field is looking good and better still we have not had any serious injuries if any at all. As always I just want to thank all of you who put your time and effort into making the club what it is, without members like you we would not have such a great place to go every Sunday. I hope you all have a prosperous Christmas and don't get too blotto on New Year's Eve.

Matt Porter President.



Points of interest from the last meeting

Extract of newsworthy items from the minutes of the last meeting. Note: Some events/activities may have concluded or been modified as circumstances change.

1. **Wind Farm**
No further developments since last meeting. Last update of WestWind website was May 2010.
2. **Field Maintenance**
 - a) Mowing a major task. Special mention of Len Astbury, who did a major clean up of the strips;

- b) Max spoke to Geoff Fiskin, who agreed to grade the access track;
- c) Max spoke to an officer of the City of Ballarat, who is also looking for a site for Golden Plains. He has offered a site, but is located 35 minutes west of Ballarat.

After some discussion, it was agreed that a Working Party of Matt Porter, Max Rowan and Noel Findlay would investigate an alternative site.

- d) Max noted that the club has run out of synthetic oil and nitro methane for sale to members. In that the club re-stock.
- e) Max noted that a pressure spray pump is needed: Murri Anstis offered to donate a no longer used pump to the Club. Accepted with thanks.

3. Club History Compilation for Web Site

Murri Anstis has collected the old minutes (in journals) and is trawling through them.

4. Xmas Breakup and Raffle

Max Rowan has spoken to the Barclay restaurant for the 16th December, and provided a sample Xmas menu. It was agreed that the Barclay is a better venue.

Action: Matt Porter to cancel the Western.

Some discussion took place on the form of the Xmas Raffle. Glen White will organise a hamper for a standard raffle, and Max Rowan will purchase approximately 10 items which will be drawn on the night from allocated tickets.

5. 2011 Avalon Airshow (6th March)

Roger Carrigg asked if members were interested in attending the Show. Members agreed that it would again be a good event to attend. A bus will be organised, with Max Rowan volunteering to be the designated driver.

6. Annual Display Day

Roger Carrigg noted that an VMAA permit application for the 2011 BRMFC Display Day should be made.

Action: Secretary to check past correspondence for previous VMAA applications, and obtain Council permits for banners.

It was agreed that a Working Party consisting of Matt Porter, Dick Turner, Mat Werner and Jeff Dowsley, along with Nick Katsikaros when available should manage the Display Day organization.

7. Indoor Flying Club Proposal

Members recalled that the Haddon club had in the past had flown small r/c aircraft indoors and suggested that they may be of interest.

It was agreed that members preferred to continue with larger scale aircraft, and that Jason Nitz could contact the Haddon group or even form his own club.

Action: Secretary to advise the club wishes not to be involved.

8. VPA Request for Change of Date

Due to a conflict with Easter in 2011, the VPA has requested that the event be moved to 16/17 April 2011. Members agreed, but were of the opinion that if less than 20 entries in the competition, it was not viable to hold the event over two days.

Action: Secretary to advise VPA of BRMFC approval to change the event date.



VMAA News

- **VMAA Grants Policy** – Following the P&DARCS registering their disapproval over aspects of the grants policy, the wording has been changed slightly while retaining the original thrust of the policy.
- The United Deniliquin Club has advised the VMAA that the Club will not be re-registering due to the rural economic decline and drought.
- **State Fields** – MASA (South Australia) moves that in line with the recommendation put forward by the MAAA lands bureau, that the State Associations approve the expenditure of MAAA field purchase funds for the purchase of Lot 282 Gilbert Siding Road Currency Creek, South Australia as a State Flying Field. VMAA has advised the MAAA of the VMAA acceptance of the motion.
- Golden Planes MFC has sent in the application to register their new airfield at Burrumbeet racecourse. 400ft height limit applies until CASA has approved the height exemption.
- **Education Officer's report** – Dave Nichols has sent both Delta Darts and Spitfire chuck gliders to a primary school in Sebastopol and also one near Cobram. He has received thanks from both with reports and photos covering their activities. Their sessions were very well received by their pupils, which is very encouraging.
- Invitation to Visit the Police Air Wing – The Committee has been invited to use the police Air wing boardroom at Essendon Airport for a meeting and an opportunity to be able to have a look over the police Air Wing facilities. It was decided that the February meeting would suit the Executive.



Fire Safety Awareness at the Field

When the crop starts drying out combined with the onset of the fire season we must exercise extreme caution whilst at the field.

All members are reminded to double check their models to raise the bar on airworthiness and reduce the risk of models landing in the crop.

Most transmitters these days have timers which you can set to give you an audible warning after the preset time is reached. That way you are alerted to land before running out of fuel/batteries – a feature you should use in any case. This can work for both IC and electric models.

Of all the model types we fly, I would think the least risk is from the conventional two stroke methanol engines. Electrics, four strokes & petrol powered all pose a greater hazard and we must manage that risk responsibly.

The club has fire extinguishers in the shed which as far as I know were checked recently.

Also if there is any long grass do not park your car over it.

Our web site displays the CFA RSS feed on the home and weather pages during the fire danger period.



Field Maintenance

As we all know grass is growing rapidly at the moment particularly with all the rain and sunshine. The field is no different and has required constant mowing so we can go out of a Sunday morning and fly.



Max pointed out last Sunday that Dick Turner has taken up the cudgel and been the mower

jockey of late. On behalf of the club, many thanks for your time and effort, it is much appreciated.

PS. That's not Dick in the photo!!! If it was he'd be getting lots o' help.



New Models seen at field

Although not entirely new it was the first time Wayne flew his Great Planes PT17 Stearman. Sunday 5th December was perfect weather for flying and no doubt contributed to the good rollup of members.

I (Roger) remember test flying this model probably 12-18 months ago and recall that it flew quite nicely although quite slow on ailerons compared to my Super Stearman. Since then Wayne has upgraded his radio to a Hitec Aurora 9 2.4GHz set so this was its first flight with a new radio setup.

Model is powered by a Magnum 120 FS which I didn't think was putting out full power when Wayne was about

to take off for the first flight. To be safe the Stearman was taken back to the pits and Wayne took the cowl off to make sure the throttle was opening fully with the new radio setup. It turned out that it was so back on with the cowl and the motor was restarted ready for flight. Rick's tachometer showed that it was putting out okay so that was reassuring.



Wayne is cleaning down the PT17 Stearman after three very successful flights. Looks and sounds great.

Wayne taxied the Stearman back out to the runway and took off into the easterly breeze. The Stearman was off in no time and climbing out fairly steeply all by itself. Wayne needed most of the down elevator trim to come back to level flight. Once it was trimmed the Stearman was cruising around looking really good in the air.

Fortunately the Great Planes Stearman comes with a 24oz tank so you have plenty of flight time with little danger of running dry. After a good ten minutes or so in the air Wayne brought the Stearman in for a nice smooth landing.

I saw Wayne have another couple of flights with the Stearman both with nice takeoffs and landings.

Len Astbury has been seen at the field with an ARF trainer. Yes Len, someone we never thought would let an ARF grace his realm of aerospace.

It's also rumoured that another long standing opponent of ARF's is about to lash out into ARF land. Who could that be I wonder!



Crash Report

We heard a rumour that our secretary's Boomerang had an altercation with the corner of the fence surrounding the compound a couple of Saturdays ago. It is also rumoured that the fence was the winner. Bad luck Jeff! No doubt you'll be back in the saddle again shortly.

Max forwarded me this photo of Glenn's Extra after it ploughed into the crop on takeoff recently (Reported in last newsletter).

Damage report: Bent wing tube, minor damage to fuselage sides and bruised ego.



Fuel Supplies

The club maintains a small supply of fuel ingredients to enable members to mix their own fuel and keep down the cost of flying.

Max has just organized new supplies of nitro & Coolpower synthetic oil to supplement the methanol supply.

Please note: These prices are for members only and prices may vary according to our buy prices.

- Methanol: \$1.50 per Litre
- Nitro: \$18 per Litre
- Coolpower: \$70 per 5 Litres or \$18 per Litre

Although there may be some containers at the field it is better if you remember to bring your own.



Club Web Site

Does anyone have any suggestions for extra modelling or club information that should be made available on our web site? On the FAQ page we don't have any suggestions on what you need to get started with electric models – maybe one of our electric model enthusiasts would like to contribute.

As a matter of interest our site had 5410 visits over the three month period 1/9/2010 to 30/11/2010. That equates to 1803 visits per month. (A visit is defined as the first time a user opens our web site in their current browser session. There may well be dozens of hits per visit.)



Shenanigans at the Field

Here's a picturesque photo of Mount Buninyong. Hang on is that someone retrieving their model from the crop! Who can that be? Is that Noel?



It's all in fun. Noel said he was chasing Thermals; taking the LA up high and cutting the motor (stopped), then gliding down. It would seem there was just a modicum of misjudgement which caused the LA to come down in the crop just short of the field.

For good measure here's another photo taken on 30th December 2007. Same plane, same pilot, same cap, same spot!



Tips & Tricks

Len Astbury has suggested tying a streamer to your model so if it lands in the crop it will be easier to locate. (We don't want models in the crop particularly when it dries out.)



Events

Hamilton Fun fly and Swap meet – by Glenn

We know we must be getting towards the end of the year when the Hamilton Fun fly is on as it is usually our last trip away before Christmas. It's always held on the last weekend in November and this year it was 27th/28th.

The weather forecast was anything but promising when we left on the Friday afternoon there were some ominous dark clouds about. I suspect the forecast put a few off going to the event.



OMG – What else can you say!

Several members from our club were there Mat, Rick & Pam, Graham & June, Murri & Anita, Graeme, Roger and myself (Glenn). With the exception of Mat who camped out at the field we all stayed in the same motel which makes it a social weekend.

Overnight the weather turned against us; a front came through bringing wind and rain.

Out at the field it was wet and cold, most of us spent most of the day in the “swap” shed buying and selling. That was my main reason for going this year as I still had quite a lot of Hugh’s modelling gear to sell.

The rain did let up for a little and there was some flying.



Sea Fury belonging to John Hoy from Warrnambool was an impressive performer. Looks like some sort of deal going down in the background!!!

Hamilton usually attracts some nice models and this year was no exception. There was a nice 1/5th scale Sea Fury, a large De Havilland Hornet with two 80cc petrol motors and a large Spitfire.

Sunday the weather was a little kinder, the rain stayed away but the wind kept the pilots on their toes. Roger flew his CAP231, Mat had all his models, Graeme his RV8, Murri his electric Trainer, Rick his new electric Nemesis. Nick came down for the Sunday as did Wayne and Karen. Wayne had just purchased a new GPS from Hong Kong; they arrived late as they got lost!!



This Spitfire was an outstanding performer. The pilot put on some pretty impressive displays over the weekend. The photo inset was taken just on touch down while the main photo was taken as it rolled to a stop.

It was nice to see Terry and Lauraine Weatherson at the field I’m sure we all wish him a speedy recovery after his stroke.



De Havilland Hornet with two DA 80cc petrol motors. Model didn’t fly to my knowledge. There seemed to be some trouble getting the engines started.

With the weather being the way it was the numbers were well down on last year, which was a shame as the Hamilton club members had put in a lot of time and effort to get the field in such great condition.

Presentations were made mid afternoon I never remember to note down who won what, Ballarat got two trophies, Rick with his Nemesis for President’s Choice and Graeme “Most Experienced Pilot”.



Our club members nice and cosy under Murri’s gazebo.

This year there was an optional \$5.00 entry fee for pilots wanting to go into a draw at the end of the meet. This was drawn straight after the trophies were awarded. The

first name out was Roger, his prize a nice 90 ASP four stroke motor. Second name out was Rick, prize 5L fuel. Third name out was Graeme another 5L fuel, so Ballarat sure cleaned up in the pilots draw.



Graeme (aka A1 & the most experienced pilot) making some adjustments to the undercarriage on his RV8 assisted by Rick – maybe a landing was a little heavier than expected.

All in all it was a good weekend; we can only make the best of the weather. Let's hope it is better next year when I am sure we will all be back.

Just capping off Glenn's article we must thank the Hamilton club for putting on this weekend. Our club has been going down there for many years now so we obviously enjoy it – they have a great field as well. Seeing as BRMFC members came home with so many prizes and I the recipient of the main prize we must thank those who sponsored/donated to the event.

- ASP91 four stroke - Hamilton club.
- 2 x 5L Methanol Fuel - Tates Toy kingdom – Geelong.
- Accessories and tools - Degandis Sport Store – W'bool
- Epoxies and zap - Rod Stone – Naracoorte

Oops we almost forgot. On the way down to Hamilton on Friday night Murri's nuts came loose and he lost the left side wheel off his trailer, from memory somewhere near Lake Bolac. Last seen heading into a paddock! Murri and Anita were unable to find the wheel so had to resort to the spare and took a couple of nuts off the other wheel to hold it on. Murri was able to get a handful of nuts further along the way to hold the wheels on securely.

Fortunately there wasn't too much damage to the underside of the trailer – the hub rolled along the road partially supporting its weight. It must have been pretty scary at the time but luckily all ended well.

Here's a few more photos from Hamilton; still frames from footage taken by Glenn's movie camera.



Mat Werner doing knife edge flight across the strip.



John Hoy's Sea Fury on landing approach.



Graeme and Pam taking the RV8 to the start up box for another flight.



Rick and his electric powered Nemesi. It is quite impressive and the Hamilton President liked it too.



Coming Events

Xmas Party

Please advise Max by the Wednesday 15th December if you are going!!! See main article on page one.



Event Calendar

- Dec 16th (Thu) Xmas Party – Barclay's Restaurant.
- Dec 28th – Jan 7th 64th MAAA Nationals – Dalby, QLD.
- Jan 16th 2011 VFSAA Scale Rally – Werribee.

- Jan 29th (Sat) VFSAA Sport Scale – State Field
- Feb 6th** **VFSAA Sport Scale – Yendon.**
- Feb 13th VFSAA Sport Scale – Lilydale
- Feb 27th Monty Tyrell Scale Rally – P&DARCS.
- Feb 27th Display Day – Camperdown.
- March 4th – 6th Annual Fun Fly – Warrnambool.
- Mar 5th (Sat) VFSAA Sport Scale – State Field
- Mar 1st – 6th *Airshows Downunder 2011 – Avalon.*
- Mar 20th Twins and More – State Field
- Mar 20th Public Display – Keilor
- Mar 25th – 27th *F1 Grand Prix Melbourne*
- April 3rd** **Annual Display – Yendon.**
- April 9th/10th VMAA Trophy – State Field.
- April 9th/10th Bowlyie Large Scale Rally – Gundaroo.
- April 15th/16th Victorian State Champs Scale – P&DARCS.
(Friday & Saturday)
- April 16th/17th VPA Model Engines Trophy – Yendon.
- May 7th (Sat) VFSAA Sport Scale – State Field
- May 21st – 22nd MAAA Council Conference – Canberra
- June 11th – 12th Golden Era Air Races – Cobram

That’s all for now. Good flying.
G.W & R.C.

Time for some Frivolity!!!

Note: If easily offended please skip this item. It contains adult themes, but no crude language or nudity.

Seeing as it’s Christmas some Santa cartoons came across my desk.

