



HOLDFAST BUZZ

Inside this issue:

From the President	2
HMAC now on Facebook	2
The Times They Are a-Changin'	3
Golden Era Air Races	4
Easter Weekend Schedule	4
Instructor Roster	4
Upcoming Events	4

BUILDING NIGHTS

The next Building Night will be held on Thursday March 12. Start time is 5:00 pm. Come along and see what is happening.

SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS (WELL, ALMOST)



On Mondays, a group of long-standing members get together at the Clubhouse for morning tea and chat about everything from aeromodelling to fixing the country's political problems. There's more to being a Club member than just flying, so drop in on a Monday mid-morning and join the gang. And it isn't for men only - Kathy Paterson is a regular attendee too.

The HMAC newsletter is your vehicle for sharing information, experiences, building projects, etc with your fellow members. If you have photos of your latest model, a construction in progress or handy tip you'd like to share, please send it to Geoff at buzz@itapps.com.au for inclusion in a future edition of BUZZ.



Kingsley Neumann

".. Club T shirts and caps are available once more. They are quite a good product and we should all try and wear some form of our own gear, especially when visiting other Clubs. ..."

From the President

I guess a comment on the weather is appropriate. This would have to be the worst summer for model flying in a long time. Certainly from Sunday Training point of view, anyway. I do feel sorry for those keen new Members who are just itching to get stuck into learning to fly only to find that it is too windy or too hot. Of course we have managed a few flights. Those Apprentice trainers with the SAFE system have proved their worth, managing to fly in 15+ knots of wind. All we can do is hope for an improvement as the season turns to autumn.

The Committee has pushed on with the much anticipated shelter shed for the flight line. Council building approval has been obtained and DEWNR agrees in principle. The contractor is just about ready to swing into action. There will be a flurry of activity as soon as we have a start date because the Club has to remove the old shade structure and cut off the legs right down to the buried concrete foundations. The old shade cloth and steel poles will be dumped.

The Committee has formed a small group to investigate all avenues for funding the next part of our development project. There are a number of state government and similar grants available annually. We don't want to miss out so we are learning exactly how to make our submissions. The MAAA is also pushing hard to have our activities officially recognised as a Sport. This will open up further funding opportunities.

We were visited by our local Marion councillor Janet Bynam at the last Committee meeting. She is very interested in assisting our Club.

Janet explained that she sees the Majors Road precinct in the O'Halloran Hill Park to be ideal for development with recreational activities. We took pains to explain the nature of our activities and that we would have to choose our neighbours carefully. I believe that we should be able to work in with Janet.

The HMAAC Club will once again be supporting the Constellation Club's Golden Era Classic air races by manning Pylon Three. John Anthony is the coordinator and he can always find a job for any volunteers throughout the big event which is to be held from the 17th to 19th April at Connie Field.

Club T shirts and caps are available once more. They are quite a good product and we should all try and wear some form of our own gear, especially when visiting other Clubs. In fact I think it is great to wear whenever we are enjoying our planes at the field. If there is a big demand we can organise more supplies. The design has varied little over the years. Perhaps it is time to come up with something different. If anyone has an idea please let us know.

The Club launched its Facebook page on the 19th of February. I am responsible for it but I would like any Club Members to participate. If you are already on FB you can post photos and make comments on the wall immediately. I am informed that it is what many of the younger people expect these days. There are plenty of older people interested too. The FB page will complement our Web site

Kingsley Neumann



We're Now on Facebook!

For up to date news and general gossip about what's happening at our Club, visit our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/holdfastmodelaeroclub. If you have a Facebook account you can also comment on the posts and submit your own items and photos.



The Times They Are a-Changin' - by John Jefferson



Apologies to Bob Dylan; those of us of a certain vintage will remember his song from the nineteen sixties. So what's a folk/rock song got to do with flying models? Nothing really; but the title gives you a clue.

When I started learning to fly radio control models, the typical trainer was built from balsa and ply, configured with a high wing and tricycle undercarriage, powered by a 46 glow engine and (in my case) a six channel computerised 36 MHz transmitter. For those of you not familiar with the 36 MHz system, we had to insert a key in the frequency board before turning on the transmitter so that anyone else with the same frequency knew they could not turn on their transmitter until the frequency was available. Two transmitters operating on the same frequency would more than likely result in one or both models becoming matchwood. I was fortunate that there were only three or four club members who had the same frequency as my unit (36.190 MHz), and we were rarely at the field at the same time. On those occasions when we were, we simply took it in turns to fly. You also had to remember to extend the transmitter's one metre antenna as well as making sure the receiver's one metre antenna was also extended. One thing I did miss when I changed to a 2.4 GHz transmitter was the ability to tie a small ribbon on the tip of the antenna to act as a wind sock, but it was not an issue of consequence.



"... individuals who choose to go it alone may not be aware of their obligations to comply with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations; and probably don't have proper insurance cover ..."



Then a quiet revolution gained momentum. Transmitters changed to 2.4 GHz (no more frequency clashes to worry about). Different trainer models became available; tail-dragger warbirds set up to fly relatively slowly to assist learners. Electric motors driven by lithium polymer batteries gave alternative power systems. On-board telemetry systems which provide information such as airspeed and altitude made their debut. Lightweight trainers made from foam became prevalent. Three axis gyros were installed in the foamies to help stabilise flight. Lately we have foam models with SAFE mode (Sensor Assisted Flight Envelope) where the pilot selects a mode that limits the control surface output regardless of the stick input; and a "panic" function which returns the model to normal flight if orientation or control is lost.

This technological advance has been implemented by model manufacturers to give newcomers the ability to teach themselves whilst minimising the potential to crash and destroy the model. However, individuals who choose to go it alone may not be aware of their obligations to comply with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations; and probably don't have proper insurance cover. Hence the benefit of joining a club where these issues are addressed and a structured training program is offered.

In the last few months here at HMAc we have seen a number of students arrive with these new SAFE mode models. From an instructor's viewpoint, we have had to learn how these systems work and how to connect a buddy box. In the past the connection between master and slave transmitter was by way of a cable. Some of the newer transmitters have scope for wireless connection; yet more to learn. As always, such things will become second nature, and we'll be well placed to get students in the air quickly without having to spend time reading manuals.



What does the future hold? The only thing I can be sure of is the fact that technology will continue to be an important part of our hobby. How much we embrace it is up to the individual.

In the meantime I'll make sure I understand the new systems and keep up to date with developments. After all, it's our job as instructors to teach students how to fly their preferred model aircraft using their particular transmitter.





HOLDFAST MODEL AERO CLUB

P.O. Box 94
O'Halloran Hill
S.A. 5158

Club Phone: 08 8377 2708
Web: www.holdfastmac.com.au

Newsletter Editor
buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au

Newcomers to R/C modelling are catered for by setting aside every Sunday morning from 10 am when qualified instructors will teach all aspects required for the safe operation of the model. During the training period no other models are allowed to fly, ensuring the least possible distractions to the student.

Pylon & Combat Competition Results - February 2015

Due to high winds and showers, the Pylon and Combat events for February were cancelled.



Important Note About Upcoming HMAc Events

Due to the Easter holiday weekend, there will be no General Meeting on Friday April 3rd, nor will there be any Pylon & Combat events on Sunday April 5th.



Golden Era Air Races

The annual Golden Era Air Races will be held at the Constellation Model Flying Club on April 17-19. HMAc provides volunteer staff to man pylon #3 at this event. If you are available to help, please contact John Anthony on 8322 3171.



SA Aviation Museum - 29th March 2015 WW1 Themed Engine run day

The Museum will be having one of their "Engine Run" days at Port Adelaide on 29th March and SA Aeromodellers have been asked to help with the static display of model aircraft.

Col Reedman of the SA Scale Society has asked for assistance from any Club Members who might happen to have WW1 scale planes in their shed. If you can supply a suitable model for the day, free admission to the museum is available. Larger models are preferable, but smaller ones such as our WW1 Combat models would also be acceptable.

If you can help please contact Col Reedman direct on 82895637

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Sun Mar 1 - Pylon & Combat
- Wed Mar 4 - MASA Meeting
- Fri Mar 6 - General Meeting
- Thu Mar 12 - Building Night
- Wed Mar 18 - Committee Meeting
- Thu Mar 26 - Building Night
- Sun Mar 29 - Aircraft Museum
Engine run-up and static war model display



Advertise What you Want to Buy or Sell on our Web Site
Send details & photos to
Geoff Haynes –
buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au

Instructor Roster (March-April)

Date	Instructor	Instructor	Assistant
MAR 1	Kingsley Neumann	(Open)	Trevor Baudinette
MAR 8	John Jefferson	(Open)	Max Thomas
MAR 15	Graham Paterson	Ross Lloyd	Ted Carter
MAR 22	Peter Robertson	Kingsley Neumann	Trevor Baudinette
MAR 29	Graham Paterson	(Open)	Max Thomas
APR 5	John Jefferson	(Open)	Ted Carter
APR 12	Ross Lloyd	Kingsley Neumann	Trevor Baudinette
APR 19	Peter Robertson	(Open)	Max Thomas
APR 26	Graham Paterson	Ross Lloyd	Ted Carter

Our thanks go to those keen instructors who offer their assistance to train new pilots. Some even turn up even when they are not rostered on. Advanced Flying Training is available on request, so if you want to brush up your flying for a Wings test, please arrange a session with one of the Instructors. There are still a number of "Solo Only" flyers out there who could easily qualify for the Bronze Wings.