



# HOLDFAST BUZZ

HMAC proudly sponsored by  
**modelflight** RC

We made it through 2020 and we presented trophies too!



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## Left to Right:

Geoff Haynes, Mal Dyer, Trevor Pearce (CMFC),  
Terry Gold (Club President), John  
Jefferson, Merv Harris, Tony Clifford, Bryan  
Christie, Tom Jacobsen (NMAA) and Graham  
Paterson. Absent was Ian Faulkner

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 The Editor at [buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au](mailto:buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au) for inclusion in a future edition of BUZZ.



Terry Gold

Thanks to Geoff Haynes, we now have a weather station right on the field and you can access it via an app or the web, ...

## From the President

Happy New Year's everyone – let's hope this year brings fewer bushfires, less COVID and a lot more flying!

Perhaps you are right now wondering if the wind has dropped down enough to get off your computer, drive to the field and fly. You can get an idea of what's happening by just looking out your window or checking your favourite weather app, but I've often gone to the field to discover the weather to be very different from the nearest weather reporting station. Thanks to Geoff Haynes, we now have a weather station right on the field and you can access it via an app or the web, and soon to be the HMAC website. Geoff found a reasonably priced weather station, figured out how to make it work with our marginal internet connection at the club, found a donation of the equipment (as in free to the club) and then recruited fellow committee member Dave Whitten to help install the sensors on top of the tractor shed. You will find more details on how to access the current weather later on in this newsletter. Thanks Geoff and Dave!

One of the projects that has been on the long list of maintenance projects has been to fix the water leak and damage in the old shed storage annexe. I was on the committee for a year before becoming President and I am sorry to say that that we still have not got this resolved. It's not that we haven't noticed. We sometimes get stuck between hoping we can get work done by a volunteer for free

and the other option of spending member's dues on what could be expensive repairs. The result in this case is it has just gotten more difficult to fix. At the upcoming committee meeting we will come up with a plan.

Speaking of plans, the club's current COVID SAFE plan, which we are required to operate under, will allow a maximum of 15 people (excluding staff) in the clubroom at any one time. That's not enough to allow us to restart our monthly meetings indoors but I would like to try something that might work to bring us closer together (but not too close) and allow us to get together in smaller groups. The idea is to hold smaller meetings about a particular topic rather than full-membership general meetings. Geoff ran a Spektrum programming class that worked well last year, so it would be something like that. Look for an email about that very soon as I would like to start with our first regularly scheduled meeting time of Friday 5 February at 7:30 PM.

Also look for a short bit on an experience I had this week where my receiver failsafe drove the throttle to full power when I navigated to System Setup on my transmitter. Luckily no one was too close and the tail restraint held, but it was an exciting few moments while I quickly backed out of the menu and saw the prop finally stop. Can you guess what happened? Once again we are reminded to never stand in front of, or to the side of a prop when a battery has been connected or the engine is running. Stay safe!





Terry Gold

"But this model always passes the range check so I don't need to do it anymore."

## Is Your Failsafe Really Safe?

The following questions assume a Spektrum transmitter and receiver, but can apply to other brands.

**Question 1:** How many times should I bind a new model to my transmitter?

a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) every time you fly

**Question 2:** It doesn't matter if I bind my radio by powering up with the bind button pressed on the transmitter or if I navigate the menus to the bind option.

a) True b) False

**Question 3:** If I set up a Throttle Cut switch on my Transmitter it will always stop an electric motor from starting up.

a) True b) False

**Question 4:** I should always do a range check and test of the failsafe before the first flight of the day of every model that I fly, always, without exception, even if I haven't made any changes since the last time I flew it.

a) True b) False

**Question 5:** If I turn off my transmitter before I unplug the battery on an electric model, or if I just navigate to the system settings, the motor could go to full throttle unexpectedly.

a) True b) False

*Here are the answers.*

**Question 1:** Bind at least two times according to Spektrum. "After a model is bound to a transmitter and the model is set up in the transmitter, always bind the model to the transmitter again to establish failsafe settings."

**Question 2:** FALSE

According to Andy Kunz, who is a Senior Software Engineer at Spektrum, and is credited with writing much of the software, "The power-on bind is for simple models, simple receivers. Once you start adding things like flaps and retracts, you need to use the menu so that all the positions of the servo

channels have been calculated properly. I only use the power-on bind when testing things on my desk. All my planes are bound from the menu."

**Question 3:** FALSE There are multiple scenarios where the Throttle Cut switch is ineffective with an electric model. Such as when the transmitter is turned off, or you go into System Setup and RF is turned off. You should assume that the motor could start any time, especially if you are making changes on your transmitter. Best to remove the prop. I know this from experience.

**Question 4:** TRUE "But this model always passes the range check so I don't need to do it anymore." Receivers can pass for months on end and then one day fail, even if you "didn't change anything." According to Spektrum when you rebind, the failsafe gets reset. Hopefully to something sane, but it's not guaranteed, you have to test it. I also know this from experience.

**Question 5:** TRUE I almost had an incident because (I believe) I had not bound the new Spektrum receiver the second time, and I had not tested the failsafe yet. I navigated to System Setup, said OK to the warning about turning off RF and my model went to full throttle until I backed out of System Setup and RF was restored. Once RF was restored the throttle operated properly and was not reversed.

For more information, [see my blog post](#) on why I decided to write this column.

Terry







The end of year Christmas event was a bit different this year. We had planned a picnic and Fun Fly event but the weather was not suitable. However the weather gods were more generous on Saturday December 19th and the Annual Trophy Day went ahead. President Terry Gold did the honours with a small crowd in attendance. A full list of Award Winners is on page 7





John Jefferson

**Editor's Note:** We wish John all the best for recovery from his ongoing medical issues. John will resume his popular building reports as soon as he is able.

Our Fund Raiser Raffle in November was well subscribed

## Pylon Racing 2020

Notwithstanding the field being closed for three months because of COVID, our intrepid group of pylon racers were eager to continue competing once the restrictions were eased. Open class and electric class are the two disciplines which are fast and furious and attract the most competitors. Standard class is not as intense but two or three flyers still manage to compete. It's pleasing to note that competitors come from Noarlunga and Constellation clubs as well as HMAc. This means our competition is well accepted and augers well for the future.

2020 winners were:

Open class – Tom Jacobsen from Noarlunga

Electric class – Trevor Pearce from Constellation

Standard class – John Jefferson from HMAc



## Fundraiser Raffle Winners

Our Fund Raiser Raffle in November was well-subscribed, bringing in more than \$500 from ticket sales. The grand prize, a \$500 Modelflight gift voucher, was won by Mike Maloney. Mike is indeed a worthy winner, being a regular helper during Sunday Training and assisting at the Bunnings sausage sizzle events. Congratulations Mike! Consolation prizes of \$20 Modelflight gift vouchers were won by John Jefferson and Trevor Smith. Thanks to all who supported the fund raiser, and to Modelflight for generously donating the prizes.

**Mike Maloney (L), receives his \$500 Modelflight gift voucher from Geoff Haynes (Treasurer)**





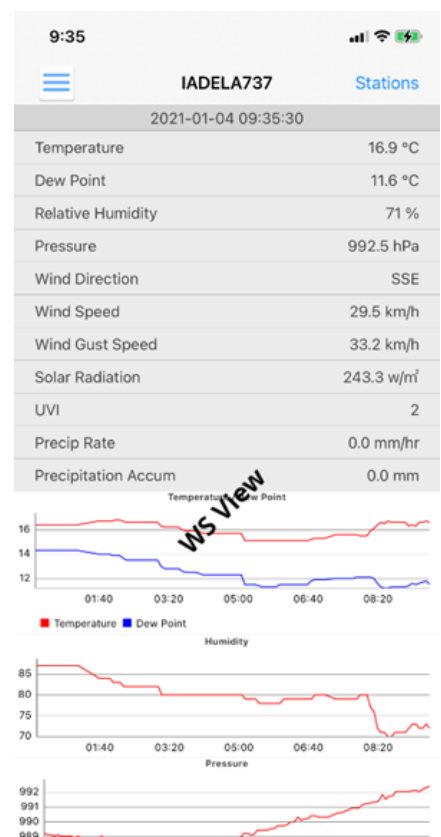
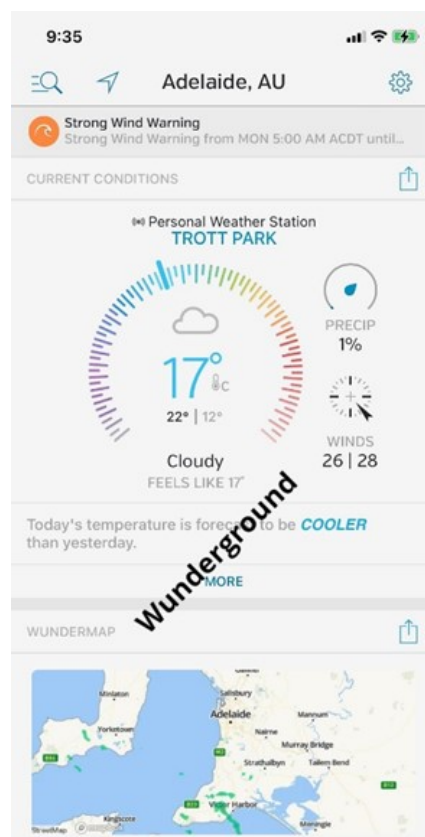
You can download the app on your mobile device

## HMAC Weather Station and Webcam

The club recently purchased a weather station and webcam to provide members with more accurate information about weather conditions at the flying field. The equipment has been installed and commissioned and you can view the data on the weather page of our website. The weather information is also sent to Weather Underground, so you can download their app on your mobile device and view weather information from our station by searching for station ID 'IADELA737'. Additionally you can download and install the app 'WS View' and view live weather conditions for the same station ID. With more accurate weather conditions available for the flying field, members will be able to make an informed decision about flying conditions before leaving home.



Webcam



## First Mini Meeting of 2021

Our first mini-meeting will be held on Friday 5th February at 7:30 PM. The idea is to hold smaller COVID-Safe-Compliant meetings on a particular topic each month. This month's meeting will be for the newest members, whether you are still in training or have recently received your Bronze Wings and are wondering "what do I do now?"

We'll share tips for newer fliers and answer questions that maybe you didn't have until you walked up to the flight line without an instructor for the first time. Feel free to bring a plane and fly it before the meeting or bring it to the meeting if you have questions about it. So that we can track the number of people planning to attend, please email [terry.gold@holdfastmac.asn.au](mailto:terry.gold@holdfastmac.asn.au) or if you have questions about the meeting.



## HMAC Annual Trophy Winners

In the Pylon Racing Competition the winners were:

Open Class: Tom Jacobsen (NMAS)

Standard Class: John Jefferson

Electric: Trevor Pearce CMFC)

The President's Appreciation Award for Dedication to the Art of Aeromodelling went to:

Merv Harris

Mal Dyer

Tony Clifford

The President's Award for Services to the Club and Dedication to the Art of Aeromodelling went to:

Bryan Christie

Graham Paterson

Ross Lloyd Memorial Award for Outstanding Service to the Club:

Ian Faulkner

Geoff Haynes





## From the Chief Flying Instructor

### I LOST ORIENTATION

This usually doesn't end well! I just destroyed one of my favourite planes this way. I was wearing sunnies in low light (early morning) conditions. The sunnies reduce the amount of light reaching your eyes, which effectively makes the model harder to see. So only wear sunnies when it's really bright. Can you see properly? An annual eye check can reveal a sight issue that's been slowly getting worse (unnoticed) and corrective glasses can usually fix any problem. The colour scheme of your model is important. Grey or camouflage schemes are harder to see (no surprise!) so consider flying these models in close. The South East corner of our field has

taken many models. Bright colours help, but a white plane against a white sky is hard to see. I like asymmetric schemes eg a white wing with a substantial red tip and the underside of one wing red, the other wing white. Never take your eyes off the model and concentrate 100% on flying. If someone comes to the flight line and starts talking to you, climb to gain height, then tell them you'll chat once you've landed. If you completely lose sight of your model, don't let it keep flying as it may end up on a road and cause an accident. Throttle off and full up elevator is your best option.

Andy Hollitt



### HMAC SUMMER BUSH STRIP

In summer, early mornings are often great for flying, with calm conditions and cool air before the heat of the day. The problem is sun glare, which can result in a crashed model. So, I've built a bush strip on the East side of the field. When flying there the sun is behind you, so you don't see it at all. Operation is only from Sunrise to 9AM. Access is by driving along the fence line and parking by the white triangular fence brace. The strip is rough and soft, but there are no holes. I'm working on making it smoother!

It's ideal for light weight tail draggers like the

Turbo Timber, eFlight Maule, HK Tundra, Arrows Big Foot, Cubs, Volantex Trainstar, Valiant, FMS SuperEZ, FMS Kingfisher etc. The Apprentice works great (landing gently on the mains). To minimise the risk of flying over Lonsdale Rd, we're restricted the strip to sub 2Kg models, so you'll fly close in.

When flying Right hand circuits, follow the fence line on base leg and turn on to final approach in front of the mast (not before). When flying left hand circuits, the turn point from base leg to final approach is in front of the furthest high tension power pole in the distance. The strip is operating on a trial basis to see how it goes, have fun,





## Have you seen the new HMAC BLOG?

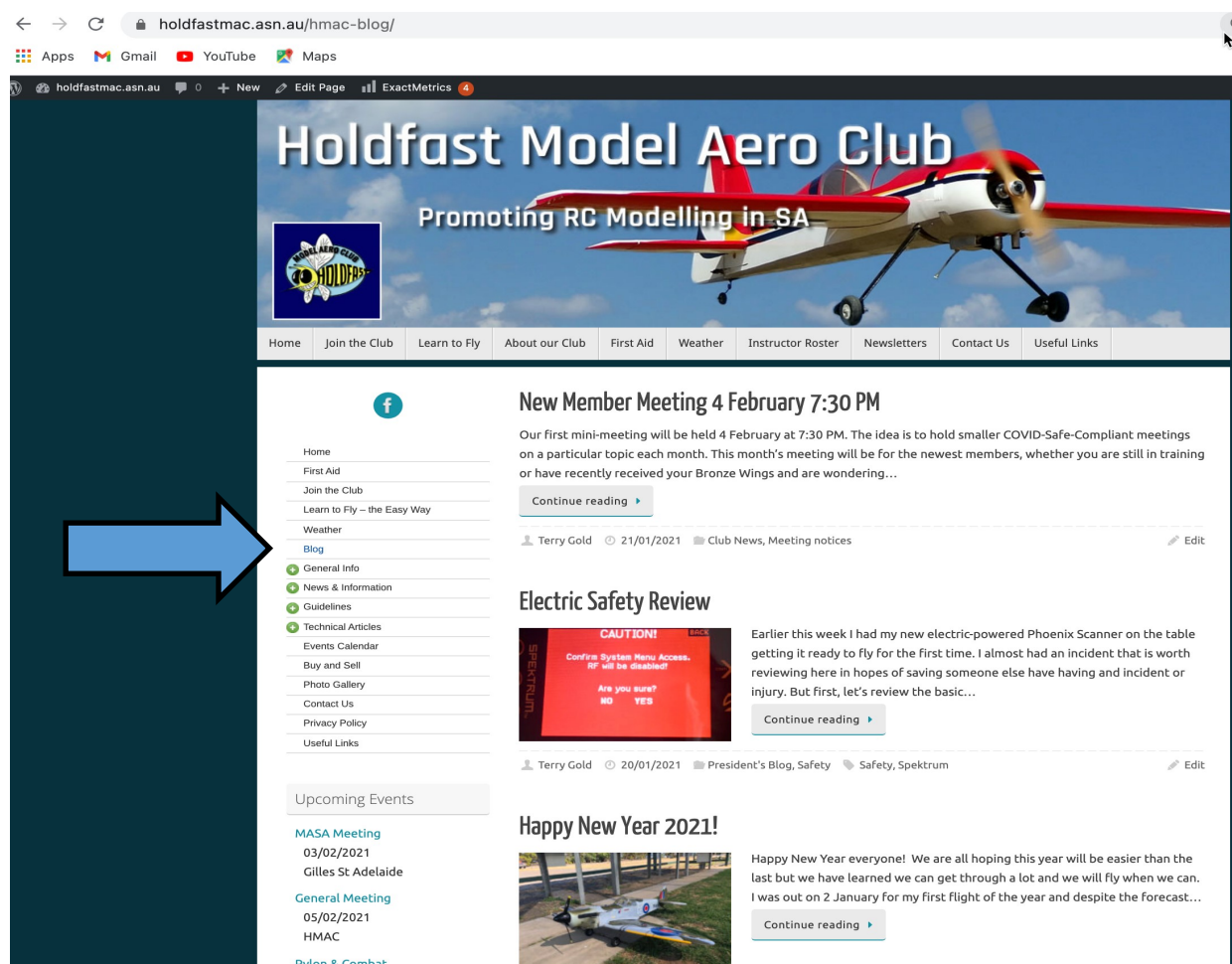
### What is it and where do you find it?

With the COVID restrictions keeping us from getting together for regular club meetings the committee has been talking about how we can improve communications. You might have noticed more paper notices at the field, more emails, updates via Facebook and now we have a place on the website for notices and other news.

If you go to the Holdfastmac.asn.au website and [click on Blog on the left hand menu](#), you will see the beginnings of our blog. Don't worry, this blog isn't about what we had for lunch today, it's all about flying. Really it is just a feature of our website that makes it easy for us to post quick information. For now it is mostly news and flying tips, but others can contribute as well. Maybe you want to contribute your thoughts on building or aerobatic flying? Let the committee know if you are interested. This doesn't replace BUZZ but is meant to add to the quality of communications with members.

We'll also be going to be doing "mini meetings" that are about a specific topic that might not be of interest to the entire membership so we will be able to keep attendance below the COVID Safe numbers we are required to maintain in the clubroom. The first will be Friday 5 February at 7:30 PM at the clubhouse and will be for newer members. Look for the notice elsewhere in this issue of Buzz, and on the new blog.

### On the webpage....



The screenshot shows the website [holdfastmac.asn.au/hmac-blog/](http://holdfastmac.asn.au/hmac-blog/). The header features the club's name "Holdfast Model Aero Club" and the tagline "Promoting RC Modelling in SA" with a background image of a red and white RC airplane. A navigation menu includes links like Home, Join the Club, Learn to Fly, About our Club, First Aid, Weather, Instructor Roster, Newsletters, Contact Us, and Useful Links. On the left, a sidebar menu lists various site sections, with a blue arrow pointing to the "Blog" link. The main content area displays three blog posts: "New Member Meeting 4 February 7:30 PM", "Electric Safety Review", and "Happy New Year 2021!". Each post includes a brief description, a "Continue reading" button, and metadata such as the author and date.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed Feb 3– MASA Meeting  
 Fri Feb 5– Mini Meeting  
 Sun Feb 7– Pylon & Combat  
 Wed Feb 17 Committee

### Welcome!

We have some new members! Welcome to HMAAC  
**Clint Young**  
**Robert Harvey**  
 We hope you find being part of our club enjoyable and rewarding.

### HOLDFAST MODEL AERO CLUB

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Newsletter Editor  
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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.

**There was no Competition flying in December or January**  
**The next Pylon and Combat event is scheduled for Sunday the 7th of February. BBQ if COVID permits**

### Shortage of Instructors and Assistants

Members please note that we have a shortage of Sunday Instructors at the moment. Andy is doing his best to keep the LIFT system going and we can call on a few volunteers from the list below. The summer holiday season has caused some vacancies. Midweek instruction by arrangement continues. If you have Instructor qualifications and can help even on casual short notice please let Andy know. The roster below is tentative only.

### Instructor Roster (Feb-Mar)\*

Date	Instructor	Instructor	Instructor	Assistant
<b>JAN 31</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA (GH)		Karl Heberle
<b>FEB 7</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA (GH)		Garry Williams
<b>FEB 14</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA (GH)		Karl Heberle
<b>FEB 21</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA (GH)		Garry Williams
<b>FEB 28</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA (GH)		Karl Heberle
<b>MAR 7</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA		Garry Williams
<b>MAR 14</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA		Karl Heberle
<b>MAR 21</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA		Garry Williams
<b>MAR 28</b>	Andy Hollitt	TBA		Karl Heberle

The following instructors are often available and are invited to assist when they can:

Ashley West, Kingsley Neumann and Dave Whitten, The Club is fortunate to have a dedicated band of Instructors and Assistants who offer their services to learners almost every Sunday. We would like to have more people on the Roster to ease the workload. If you can help, please speak up and we can arrange the necessary Instructor Course. Gold Wings standard is a prerequisite for all Instructors.

\*Subject to change due to COVID restrictions







**Ultra Power UP6+ AC/DC  
Dual Output 600W charger**  
2x 300W  
\$279.99



**Ultra Power 60AC 60w AC Charger**  
with Deans Charge Lead  
\$79.99

NEW



**Spektrum NX6 DSM-X**  
Transmitter Only  
\$449.99

The NX6 is an evolution in Spektrum air radios that for the first time builds the connectivity and telemetry advantages of Smart Technology into a 6-channel transmitter. It's perfect for any pilot who wants easy programming plus advanced features.

- High-resolution, backlit, 3.2" color display screen
- Wi-Fi connectivity for easy product registration, model downloads and firmware updates
- Smart Technology compatibility out-of-the-box
- 3.7V 2000 mAh 1S Lithium Ion transmitter battery (included)
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- Dual diversity antenna

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