

NSMAC Newsletter - 27 August 2010

Hi All.

You're right.....it's Winter!!! Bummer! Not been a lot to report about over the last 3 weeks due to rain, wind, rain, wind and a bit more rain to boot – gumboot that is.

The track into the field has been impossible for less than 4x4s and they shouldn't be using it either in its present condition.

The good news is that the farmer has opted to run sheep rather than moo-moos in our area and you may have noticed the electric ribbon has been lowered proportionally. Sadly, it got over-run recently and there's baa-baa doo-dooos all over the strip now to make landings and take-offs more exciting and a rake a brilliant idea.

Please ensure the switch is left in the "ON" position when you leave. May not be the reason on this occasion, but could well be. Could be confusion here. The fence is live when the switch is pulled outwards and it's "OFF" when it's pushed in. Obviously, we need to remember to clip the red wire to the ribbon and it is always best to check the fence before you leave by touching it with a blade of grass, moving the blade in, so it gets shorter and shorter until you feel a slight tingle. Beats sticking your tongue on the ribbon.

The heli guys were out having a great time on a better Saturday – must be 2 or 3 weeks ago (lost count) and they let me have a go on a buddy box. That was really cool, but I think I might be better sticking to my planes!! It was HARD!



Ben enjoying the day.

Simon and Merv preparing for a banquet of chopped rotors and a sprinkling of canopies on the side, garnished with TX sauce.



HAMILTON CLUB – Float plane event



To keep the mind alive, last Sunday three of us zoomed off down to Lake D near Ngaruawahia, where the Hamilton club was having one of its Float Plane days. Simon Hudson took his AT40 trainer, now converted to a seaplane with the addition of floats – (which he finds quite useful in the water!).

A great day was had by all and it was an excellent experience meeting up with our Waikato colleagues, enjoying a totally different type of flying – wetter! Lake D is a peat lake and actually named Kainui Lake. It was amazingly accessible with a road

right down to it, the grass running smoothly into the water (Waikato grass is very fit ☺), picnic tables and even a toilet!! Hard for us to imagine having one of those. Pretty flash (if not flush). Anyway, the lake is used almost exclusively by the water ski club over Summer and they allow the model aero club to borrow the key over winter. I snapped a huge number of pictures – so many that it's a hopeless task to show them all here. I'll saturate the newsletter with as many as I can reasonably fit on, hopefully without collapsing the internet.

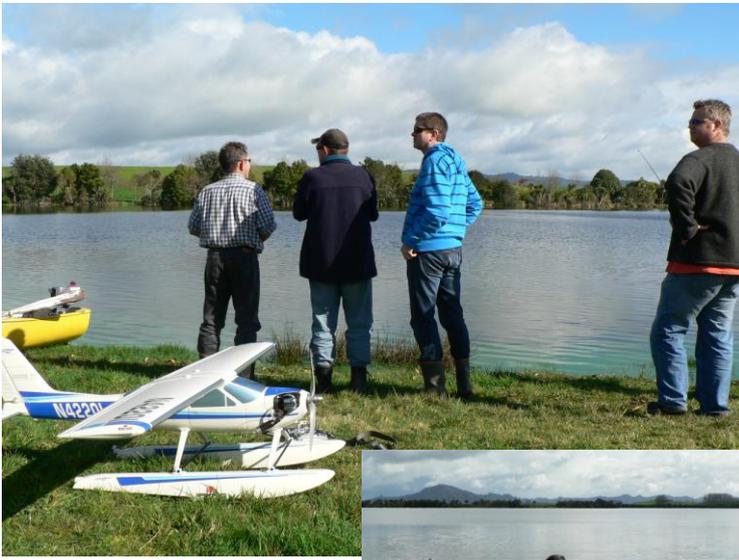


We had an outstanding bit of weather slotted in between the utter rubbish. It was sunny and calm at first. We put up with a brief shower and then it cleared with an increasing but still flight-friendly breeze.

Right - Piper Cub hiding from the rain. Already got its feet wet earlier in the big scary lake.

Below – 60 size Cessna with 90 4stroke. Really impressive on the water and aloft. Random photos thereafter:-







Left –

About to spin the wheel in the Mainland Cheese raffle.

Below –

Simon and his AT40



Right – Flying Aces Stick (unStuck)



Below – Rounding the Isolated Danger Marker



Idyllic or idyllic?



Left – Taking the outboard for a tranquil spin



Below – Seawind electric seaplane sunning itself



Left – Unknown but interesting and slick, evil plane

Below – Bit more carnage

What – no wings?!



Man, the mosies in this area were huge! And not all of the planes sat well in the water - gulp.



Left – typical stepped hull float design. NB Step is more or less on the CG and in this case quite high. I understand that steps help the hull to lift out of the water by creating air voids to disrupt surface tension and also by creating an up-thrusting wave behind the step. Theories abound!

OK folks – that's the end of the slide show. Hope you have all had a good week. Look forward to catching up at the club – dreaded climate permitting. It's a brave person that even looks at the weather reports these days. Don't worry – it has to come right eventually. Dropped by to see John Laker recently and his Dart Kitten project is getting very advanced. I'm busy designing an electric seaplane and hope to get started on building it very soon. Will it work??

So, it has been mainly an H2O newsletter this time. We are intent on visiting there again in October. The Hamilton guys are super friendly and welcoming. Love the idea of mixing more. Who else has floatplanes or seaplanes? I'll make sure to circulate a note about it, but check their website.

Cheers, Stan

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