

NSMAC NEWSLETTER - 20 January 2011



BBQ and FLY DAY -

(Wed. - 12 Jan 2011)

What an incredibly successful, fun event this was! So many people out to enjoy themselves with friends, partners & children - in perfect weather.

Certainly time to be grateful for such a scenic, rural environment to meet and fly in and for all the members who make this a great club to be a part of.

Huge thanks go to:- our Club Captain, Simon Hudson for initiating the event and pulling it all together; to Bruce Liddle & Jim Baird for setting up and running the flying competitions; to Tony Vinton for scheduling/recording + ground prep; to Mal Forsyth for the BBQ; and to all others who contributed in one way or another. A very special "thank you" to Hobby City (Simon Lambert) and Gill & Tony for their generous donations of prize monies for this event.

The afternoon kicked off around 4pm with casual flying as folk arrived and mingled. We had a large turn-out and a lively atmosphere.

There were three basic competitions. The first was an aircraft carrier landing challenge with lines painted across the central part of the strip. We each had 3 attempts. 20 points were gained for touching down on the double lines, reducing to 10 points within a band width either side and 5 points in the next band width further distant. Top scorer was Alex Felgate with 50 points, which meant he hit the double lines twice and the adjoining zone once. Putting down on a spot is a tough thing to manage at the best of times and the quite strong and gusty wind made it no easier.

The second competition involved popping balloons. These were at ground level, making it a very difficult and risky challenge in turbulent conditions. It became quite exciting due to the number of planes involved and their repeated attacks on the balloons with planes often

coming in together. Simon was the outright winner in this one. Congrats to all who participated. That was a hard one!

The third competition was something of a demonstration. This was a full-on spectacle of helicopter drag racing. Had to be seen to be believed, how fast a couple of helicopters can rocket up off the ground and rip down to the other end of the strip. Absolutely amazing to experience this for the first time. Club Heli Captain, Jason Greenwood was a clear winner with his Trex 700. The two other competitors were Simon Lambert (Compass Knight 600e) and Fernando Elias (also Trex 700). Thanks for an *awesome* show, gentlemen! You rocked!

The barbecue was a total success, as usual and flying continued on until about 7pm as the wind started to abate.

These sorts of events are obviously popular and I hope we can have more of them. [The next, of course, is the big one, the annual **Electric Day - Feb 13th** (see Chris's recent email), so please mark your diaries for that one.]

I was having so much fun flying that I didn't take a single photo. However, Steve Engle kindly sent in all of the following shots. Cool record – thanks a heap, Steve – wonderful help.

Simon Lambert preparing his electric powered Compass Knight 600E heli



Andy Banks with an armfull of planes, followed by Graham Potts and the day's catch of Trojans



Gliders were also out enjoying the thermals and the breeze

Right - Fernando bounding his heli off the ground in the drag racing



Simon in full control



Jason and Simon heading to the strip for the drag race



Awesome young man joining in the fun – future club member?

(Great shot of you, mate. Sorry, I didn't know your name, so couldn't put it in here. Email me some pics with your plane(s) if you like. - Stan)



One of the drainpipe wonders in uncharacteristic pose, being mocked by an impertinent balloon bouncing in the breeze – “he he he, can't catch me!”



Darned elusive and annoying little thing! Did it have to keep smiling like that all the time?

Got 'im - Simon's plane showing the balloon who's boss. [Exit smile- stage right]



Mal stiking out from the pit area



That's it for now. For those who attended this event and those who took part in the flying or were simply there sharing, hope you all had a blast and will be hankering for a repeat some time.

Cheers, Stan