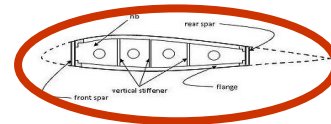


The Spare Rib News



The monthly newsletter of the
Kapiti Aeromodellers Club

March 2024

www.kapitiaeromodellersclub.org.nz



Kapiti Aeromodellers Club group

Notes from the Scribler



Well, we can't complain about the rain, but we can certainly can about the wind. We have been lucky if we have had one flying day a week of late. Flying weather has also suffered a lot in recent time with the Southy Easterly. Can be calm as anything at home, but the S.E. really hammers across the strip. It's disappointing as this time of year is usually good flying weather.

I remember some years we have been worried about water quantities in the tank, but with so little flying and the odd shower of rain the tanks are about full.

Good to see members have been putting a fire extinguisher on the flight line on these dry hot days (although not many of them). Anything we can do to lessen any risk is worthwhile. Last week we had the first of the Silver Fox Squadron BBQs for the year, The first time the day has coincided with flyable weather for a very long time. The car park looked full and the sky busy, but numbers were somewhat disappointing.

Our strip has seemed to be the target of Canadian Geese in recent times. Last year when they visited, they stayed around the old water troughs at either end, but one day recently they invaded the strip and car park areas. Their calling cards were everywhere along with lots of feathers. It was impossible to avoid standing in the muck. Since that time, although they have been back, they don't seem to have soiled the strip again. Fingers crossed they won't. (as we go to print, the bloody things are back!).

Rally preparations are well underway and this year the Saturday coincides with a treasure hunt in the park that GWRC is running. So hopefully well draw some of those people to come have a look.

Have a great month.

Steve

Presidential thoughts

John is still away as we go to print. Been doing lots of cycling in the Waikato area and visiting new grandchild in Auckland.

Fly safe!

John Pfahlert
0211509763

Those bloody geese



Hopefully they will disappear again shortly, as they did last year



Rally 2024

16/17 March 2024.
Put it in your diary now!!

A promotional poster for the Kapiti Aeromodellers' Rally. The poster has a blue background and features several images of model aircraft. The text on the poster includes:
Kapiti Aeromodellers' Rally
Sat 16th and Sun 17th March 2024
Queen Elizabeth Park
Mackay's Crossing
Paekakariki
No landing fees
MFNZ wings badge required
Come fly with us
[www. Kapitiaeromodellersclub.org.nz](http://www.Kapitiaeromodellersclub.org.nz)
The poster also includes a small photo of a crowd of people gathered around a field of model aircraft.

This date avoids clashes with other rally's and the Tokoroa jet met.

The aerotow event scheduled for that weekend has been cancelled so a number of those participants can attend our rally.

GWRC have mown and bailed the surrounding area and public parking area.
We're all good to go!!
Just need the weather to be kind.

Club warbirds day

This day was postponed from the weekend prior and the day before, eventually being held on Sunday 4th Feb. Conditions weren't that great, but the larger warbirds handled the wind without issue. Unfortunately, the change of dates and weekend meant a number intending to be there couldn't.

A great day was had by those that did make it as participants and as onlookers.



The event was highly successful and a good shake down for the likes of the Farrow's who were attending Warbirds over Awatoto the following weekend. It had been Ross Monk's intention to maiden his Stuka at this event, but due to the change in dates, he was away.

Silver Fox BBQ



Although turnout was small for such a great day, conviviality, as always, ruled the roost.

The world's problems sorted!



Next Levin Vintage Event

Gareth Newton Memorial Vintage Event

Saturday 2 March

Wind date Sunday 3 March

Levin MAC flying site, Tararua Road.

9.00am start. Any RC Vintage or Classical Classes may be flown. Precision is normally the most popular event. We can help you if unsure of the basic rules – just sing out as this is all about having fun. Sport flying of Vintage models and small field Vintage Free Flight also welcome.

No entry fees or prizes. This is a low key fun get together of like-minded Vintage fliers.

BBQ – The Levin MAC normally runs a sausage sizzle at lunchtime at purely nominal cost so bring a few coins.

Postponements – Any postponement decisions will be advised on the Levin Club website [Levin Model Aeroplane Club - Home \(sporty.co.nz\)](http://Levin Model Aeroplane Club - Home (sporty.co.nz)) and via the Vintage Email List which Stew Cox uses to provide reminders and updates concerning these events. If you aren't on the Vintage Email List and want to be added, send Stew your email address Flierstew@gmail.com

Weather – If unsure on the day, consult the Levin MAC weather station at <https://holfuy.com/en/weather/1073> rather than making a call based on your local weather as Levin has a much better microclimate for model flying than anywhere else in the lower North Island west of the main divide. Feel free to ring Stew if unsure.

For any further details please contact joint organiser Stew Cox– 027 548 1894, Flierstew@gmail.com

Hope to see you there.

Next Levin Glider Event

Open Invitation to attend Levin Glider Fun Fly

Saturday 9 March 2024 - 9.30am start (Wind date Sunday 10 March)

This is the second Levin Glider Fun Fly for this summer and the last until next summer.

Format: Fun fly for soarers. Dig out those gliders or electric soarers that may have been tucked away for months or years! Bring along your electric, winch, bungee or hand launched glider and go soaring. All welcome. The day is about having fun flying soarers together no matter what your ability or sophistication of model. We anticipate Radians/Gentle Ladies right through to F3B soarers. Help available on the day, don't hesitate to ask the organisers.

Location: Levin flying strip, Tararua Road. Coming from the south, having turned right over the railway line opposite the Allied fuel pump and then immediate right at the T intersection, continue along Tararua Road past JB's on the right and Trayla on the left. The field turnoff is on the right about 50 metres past the 80km speed sign – you can see the clubhouse and the hay barn from the road.

BBQ: The Levin MAC normally runs a sausage sizzle at lunchtime at purely nominal cost so bring a few coins.

Cancellation notification: The lower NI Glider Email List will be notified of any postponement on the Friday afternoon (if you want to be added to this Glider Email List please advise Stew at Flierstew@gmail.com). This will also be advised on the Levin Club website [Levin Model Aeroplane Club - Home \(sporty.co.nz\)](http://Levin Model Aeroplane Club - Home (sporty.co.nz))

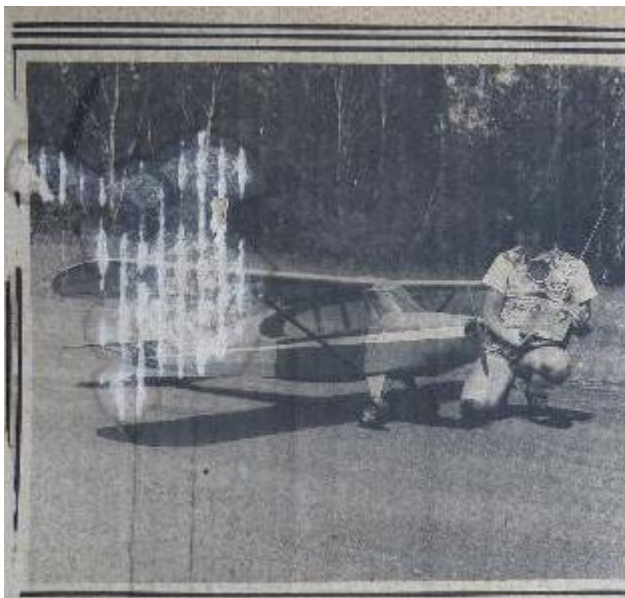
If uncertain on the day, feel free to ring Stew Cox on 027 548 1894 or Kevin Daly 027 446 3822

You can also check out the Levin Club weather station for conditions on the day at <https://holfuy.com/en/weather/1073>

Hope to see you there!
Thermals
Stew Cox & Kevin Daly

For Sale:

Vintage Bud Nosen 1/4 scale Aeronca Champ Kit. (105 1/2" wingspan).
Purchased from Bill Shannon's 436 Model Shop in New Plymouth over 40 years ago.
Have too many smaller planes taking up all my workshop space, and realistically, will never get around to building it.
Needs to go to someone who has the space to build it!
I see that there is one of these kits currently for sale on ebay for US\$750
Probably not worth as much as that, but I will consider offers of \$450 or so.



**9' SPAN 1/4 SIZE AERONCA "CHA IP"
SUPER SIZE STANDOFF SCALE**

- Super Fast Assembly
- .60 Engines and Up
- 3 or 4 Channel Radio
- Rolled Plans
- Hardware
- 105 1/2" Span
- 10 lb. All Upweight
- 1500 sq. in. Wing
- All Wood Construction
- Machine Cut Parts
- Designed and Produced by BUD NOSEN

Above prototype proved easy to fly, ground handling exceptional and takeoffs are a breeze.
Touch and goes are something else.

BUD NOSEN MODELS

Contact Tony Leatherbarrow 0276091216

Stuka

Seagull have been selling their giant scale Stuka for some years now. Its no small model with a wing span of 2.28m (90 inch) and a length of 63 inches.

If you have a chat to Ross Monk about why he wanted one, you will hear of the captivation of a young kid reading modelling magazines and seeing a Stuka.

'I always wanted one', he'll say.
So when one came up for sale Xmas 2022, Ross was determined to add it to his Hanger. The problem



was, the model was way up North. No probs. Ryan was up there with a trailer and brought it back for him.

Ross's ambition was to get it flying and be able to take it to warbirds this year, but a number of things conspired against that and his wishes were not granted. However, the model has now been 'put to rights' to meet Ross's standards and is ready for its maiden. Ross hopes James will do that for him. The model is powered by a DLE55 RA.



The model is powered by a DLE55 RA.

I've seen the model up close at Ross' place and he brought it to club night to show it off.

It's an awesome looking beast.

Cant wait to see it in the air.

Ross brought it to club night and it was certainly the centre of attention.



Other events coming up.

Russ Johnson memorial Fly in.

Palmerston North Aeroneers.

Colyton.

March 23rd and 24th.



These guys always support us, so we should support them.

February Club night

For February club night, we had 2 presenters as well as the usual "what have I been up to" slots.

Stew Cox gave us a break down of his 'Pink Pig' he flew in Aggy at the Nats. We published an article last newsletter, but this time we were able to see the beast in the flesh and enjoyed a short video of its maiden flight (which was also its first competition flight). It was pretty interesting.

Gordon McArthur then spoke to us about batteries. Types, care and disposal of. Covered everything from NiCad, NiMh to large Lipos. The presentation was timely as there has been some discussion on batteries, expected life and disposal of.

At the end of the day, much of it is common sense, but he used numerous resources to support what he was presenting.

Just prior to announcing what this club night topic might be, John Miller got in touch with an article from Hobby King about disposal of old Lipos. (Salt water method is not recommended). A couple of others were asked for opinions and those guys supported the Hobby King article. Both suggestion using car light bulbs to ensure a lipo is completely discharged before disposal.

What also was mentioned by Gordon is that a number of Libraries now hold battery recycle containers and such batteries, when fully discharged and safe, can be disposed of through this method.

There's too much data to reprint everything he covered, but the following resources should be read to give you a really good idea of best practice.

From the Hobby King website.

Saltwater Bath *There is a great myth that shares more in common with Terminator than the RC industry because this myth just won't die. Do not attempt to dispose of your LIPO battery by placing it in a saltwater bath. This dissolves the aluminium tabs within the battery but does nothing else. It appears to be flat because when you run a multimeter over the main discharge leads there is no reading. This is because the internals of the battery have been corroded leaving each cell with a charge. **Responsible Battery Disposal.** We all have a responsibility to make sure that batteries are disposed of in a responsible manner. Many local governments have hazardous waste drop-off centres that accept batteries, some at no cost to you. Batteries are hazardous to you and the environment so do the right thing drop your old batteries off for recycling. Also, be sure that your batteries are completely flat prior to disposal as a charged battery can be quite volatile. If your battery starts a fire as a result of its charge state you may be held liable so be sure you discharge the battery before disposal. Most LiPo chargers have a special discharge function that can be used to discharge your LiPo battery. Generally, the charger will discharge the pack into an internal resistor producing heat so 50w or less is the usual max setting. Whilst discharging smaller currents is fine you need to remember that it may take many hours. If you are trying to completely discharge packs for disposal a light bulb may be more effective as it's a set and forget method. Some dischargers have a cut-off voltage and will not discharge beyond a safe voltage of 3V. If this is the case, you will need to finish the job with a bulb anyhow. **Light Bulb Method** The Lightbulb method is a tried and tested and quite a popular tool for discharging LiPo batteries. The method is cheap, fast, reliable, easy to make, and can be cobbled together from parts you have in your workshop. A 3S LiPo can be connected directly to a 12V light bulb and a 6s can be connected to two 12v globes in series. You can also use a resistive load like those found in hair dryers.*

Go to the 4Max website

<https://www.4-max.co.uk/usefulinfo.htm>

And as a side note. No battery lasts forever, so whether it's an NIMH being used as a flight battery or a large Lipo driving that beautiful model across the sky, it will fail at some point. Keep an eye on the battery health and change out at the first sign that all is not well.

And that's it from me.

As Don would say, 'Fly hard, land soft'.

Steve