

VALLEY RADIO CONTROL MODEL CLUB

APRIL 2010 NEWS LETTER

Words from the Chairman:

I would like to start this month's News letter by extending a big thank you to all those who contributed to this month's news letter. Last month's news letter was widely circulated and the copy pasted on the AvCom model aircraft forum had almost two hundred hits.

Unfortunately the relocation of the Durban International airport to new King Shaka airport has had an affect on our VRCMC web sites' "Weather page". The wind recorder situated at the old Durban airport that kept us updated on our weather page no longer sends out wind speeds. Our industrious Webmaster is, like always, working very hard at trying to resolve the problem by finding a new source.

With regular contributions and report backs our club news letter can only go from strength to strength. If you have any interesting articles, hints or airplane stuff that relates to our RC hobby that you would like to share with fellow modelers by publication in our monthly News Letter, please forward them to Andre our webmaster at webmaster@vrcmc.co.za.

David Charls - Chairman

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE ON THE RUNWAY

New Members :

VRCMC welcomes 6 new members to Durban's legendary Quarry RC club. Leon, Ian, Colin, Peter, Andre and Louis, VRCMC are very pleased to have you as members and wish you many happy hours of flying at VRCMC.

Rudie Coetzee has pulled the pin and the 2010 Membership Cards are now ready for collection from Rudie at the club. It is going to be interesting to see if the mug shots compare to last years one's. Thanks Rudie.

Proficiency Levels:

Progress with members doing their "SAMAA Proficiency level" tests has been slow.

Proficiency level testing is great fun and members are encouraged to please contact Rudie to make the necessary arrangements to achieve a rating be it Solo or higher and also to improve on their proficiency's already obtained.

At the club:

VRCMC takes safety very seriously and we are once again pleased to report that there have been no safety incidents or near misses to report on. Well done all of you let's keep this up and have an accident free 2010.

You may have noticed some gazebo structures up in the pits on very hot days. One was very kindly donated by Eric, and the club purchased another two at a very reasonable cost, at least now we can provide shade for those hot days. Thanks Eric your donation it is much appreciated.

Finally please let's all strive to be courteous operators and consider our neighbors and fellow members by abiding to the no-fly areas, sound restrictions and height flight restrictions.

Grounds:

If you have been down to the club in the last few weeks you will have noticed that the runway and surrounding area is very dry and the grass is looking a little sad. We have had a little rain this past week which will have helped a bit but we are concerned that without water during the coming winter months our beautiful grass runway will take a major strain.

So with the assistance of Kevin, aka Poolman, we are currently re-looking at the option of fitting the sprinklers to the existing water pipes and getting the petrol engine water pump working. It is our intention to be able pump water from the quarry to irrigate the runway and parking area and keep these two areas in tip top condition during the winter months.

To fund this project we will be holding a raffle... Leon has kindly arranged a 46 - 52 size ARF kit at a very reasonable price. Tickets will be sold at R 50.00 each and you are encouraged to purchase more than one.



Barry has already got his eye on this kit.....hmmmm! I wonder how many tickets will be left!!

Please support this cause so we can give our runway the TLC it will require during the coming winter months which are also some of the best months of the year for flying.

Tickets can be purchased at the field or by simply sending your proof of payment into the VRCMC bank account via email to webmaster@vrcmc.co.za.



The draw will be held at our next informative workshop towards the end of May 2010. Please watch our web page for details.

The quarry is once again covered with plants, fortunately this time it is not the normal Water Hyacinth, but a plant commonly known as Water Lettuce. The committee have approached the local municipality to assist with the problem and we will keep you informed.

On a more scientific note the proper latin name for VRCMC's problematic water lettuce is "*Pistia stratiotes*", which is a floating plant that commonly forms large infestations very rapidly.

Boating and fishing at the club will be very restricted for the next few months.

The water lettuce has formed large dense mats on the water that move around with the prevailing wind. **If the**

needs arises that you are compelled to enter the water to retrieve your plane, please make sure you have a watcher and helper and take every safety precaution when entering the water.



The water lettuce mats are a major problem because they create a whole diversity of biological problems. The water quality is degraded by blocking the air-water interface and greatly reducing oxygen levels in the water, which affects all forms of marine life in the quarry. The lettuce mats eliminate native submersed plants by blocking sunlight, altering immersed plant communities by pushing them away and crushing them. They also alter animal communities by blocking access to the water and/or eliminating plants that the animals depend on for shelter and nesting.

Hopefully our resident Fish Eagles, Egyptian geese, ducks and other bird life will not be negatively affected.

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE ON THE RUNWAY

Looking at the year ahead:

We are still asking for the historical information and pictures leading up to and the establishment of the Valley Radio Control Model club so that we have something to put in the history annuls for future generations of "Quarry Rats".

The topic for the next informative workshop is **"Tune Your Engine - Secrets for finding your engine's 'Sweet Spot'".**

The preliminary plan is to hold the workshop at the end of May 2010. Watch our web page for further announcement in this regard.

Anyone willing to be involved with this presentation please contact one of the Club committee members. Involvement can be big or small. The main criteria is that knowledge is passed from the more experienced modelers to the new people entering the hobby so their transition and the fun that they get from the hobby can be enhanced.

There is a wealth of hard won experience and information out there amongst the older members in the hobby that needs sharing through the ranks to sustain and improve the hobby and ultimately the enjoyment thereof.

So come on guys step up to the plate...

Here is a tongue in the cheek article submitted by “Doc” Christo:

According to the Hitchhiker's guide through the universe, the definition of flying is to throw yourself (or an object) to the earth and keep on missing! So, flight has 2 components – height and forward motion, which means us as modelers must be able to propel our beloved toys high and fast.

If your favorite toy flies in the same direction as the earth is spinning, the relative groundspeed will be OK, but flying against the direction of earth spin, will mean that the groundspeed will decrease and the toy will lose height. Therefore runways must be in the direction of earth's spin and **not** to be determined by prevailing winds.

To overcome the gradual loss of ground speed when flying against the spin, one should look for “anti-gravitational pockets”. They are found directly under holes in the ozone (so remember your hat and sun block). Gravity does not suck in these pockets, and by closing of the throttle it allows the pilot to hover his plane and do a helicopter landing.

By placing the runway perpendicular to the spinning axis, poses its own problem. By using the principle of vectors, it will mean that you will fly at an angle of 45°. So your rudder input must be good and accurate. This can be overcome with VETA (variable engine thrust angle) and so spare your rudder servo.

So in planning a landing strip, all these parameters should be taken into consideration.

Happy missing!
Christo

Boys and their toys:

Some new toys seen at the club since our last news letter...



TOP LEFT: Rudie with his new CopterX 500 heli.

ABOVE: Christo with his new 50cc Yak 54 plane.

LEFT: André with his new 50cc Yak 55 plane.

Club Instructors:

A big thank you to Andre and Rudie for the manner in which they have made themselves available to assist the other members at the club and especially new members starting out in the RC hobby.

Well done Guy's it is much appreciated and we are confident that it will not be long before your first students obtain their "Solo Rating's".

Scratch build report part 2: - Barry Mann

DE HAVILLAND DH98 MOSQUITO 1/9 SCALE ELECTRIC SCRATCH BUILD

Here we are at the end of April already and after cutting a zillion new parts I have the left hand (Port side?) engine nacelle almost complete with the outer wing section covered waiting for the flaps and ailerons. The right hand engine nacelle is about 50% complete and all the hardware has been fitted including the main retracts to both nacelles. The retracts are standard mechanical type with 2 per wheel, each set driven by a standard servo.



To stop them just slamming up and down in the normal fashion I purchased a little gizmo which is plugged into the retract channel on the receiver. This gives me 3 separate outputs and allows me to set both the retract and extend times without sacrificing any of the torque generated by the servo. As I was getting organised to cut the R/H nacelle parts one of our members Ian Gordge purchased a Laser cutting machine and kindly offered to cut out my last set of parts. I had one piece of lite ply left and had already stolen a bit from it, nevertheless I took my wood and files to Ian's place one Saturday night and after his wife Jo had been working feverously on the computer for about 3 hours we at last had the better of the machine. All that was left to do was for me to return home with the file, clean it up and then return later



and we could cut the ply. Easy, except the wood was too long for the machine and I had to figure out where to cut it and still squeeze all the parts out of it, after measuring twice and cutting once I got it wrong. The only thing to do? Cut it by hand, remember always measure three times and cut once!!

The picture on right shows the fuse, wings and nacelle sections fitted together, 5 months in and still a lot of work to do!



Braai Build: - Andre "Webmaster" Kotze



In the past few years having a braai and eating a few worsrolls has become a tradition at VRCMC. What started out as a once a month occasional get together is now a regular happening during weekends. There has been lots of humor around the eating of worsrolls at the club. At one stage it was believed to be bad luck if you took off without having a worsroll first, and that something might (and in a few cases did) go wrong. Believe it or not the talk about building a proper braai has been going on since the early days when the club was started.

What started as 3 big rocks on the ground with a grill on top is now a lovely cement braai with a grill area of 1.2m x 60cm, 2 grills, 2 side tables and space for your Coke or beverage of choice...

The building project took us two days to complete. With the donated blocks, one cubic meter of sand, one bag of cement and a lot of man power we started mixing the cement and laying the blocks early one Saturday morning. With Dave carrying the cement, Christo carrying the blocks and myself laying them we were up to the slab level just before noon...

The following morning we completed the braai by using 8 window lintels to form a slab, we cemented the final row of blocks on and then we did the tiling on the side tables. To give it that extra special look we then mixed some cement with water and gave it a few coats of bag wash...



Special thanks to Dave, Christo, Quinton and everybody else who lend a hand that weekend, I'm sure we will be enjoying the braai at the club for many more years to come...



R.I.P. Arthur Pienaar: - Les "Blender" Ward:

Arthur Pienaar a member of VRCMC for many years lost his brave battle with cancer and was taken from us peacefully while at home during early April 2010.



Arthur was always available to assist and guide fellow modelers and for those who are unaware, Arthur's squadron included flying scratch built models of every modern day type operated by the SAAF including the Rooivalk and A109.

Arthur was both "old school" and an embracer of "new tech", he would often test fly a new airframe with the tail-gyro switched off (when

he started flying rc helis, the notion of a gyro was but wishful thinking), he recently embraced E-power and despite his advanced years he quickly grasped the intricacies of specifying powertrains for his often one-of-a-kind projects.



Arthur was a real gentleman who unselfishly helped many others within the aero modeling community. It is doubtful that there is anyone who has conducted more public displays of his models and some of his creations were even displayed internationally at very high profile aviation expos. Hamba Khale Arthur and we take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathy to Dot and the family.

Below are some of the comments posted on the "AvCom" aero modeling forum once the RC Community learnt of Arthur's passing :-

By [clivem](#) » Thu Apr 01, 2010 2:02 pm :-

Arthur,

There are few true aeromodellers around, you were certainly one of them - may you continue to build and fly on the other side. He who dies with the most toys wins. When I die, please don't let my wife sell all my planes for what I told her I paid for them.

By [Dobo](#) » Thu Apr 01, 2010 6:03 pm

Arthur was a special guy, a true gentleman, and will be sorely missed by the modeling fraternity and friends. I hope that his helicopter master pieces are preserved somewhere special, as they are true master pieces.

Rest in peace my friend.

By [Go Vert](#) » Thu Apr 01, 2010 6:24 pm

In memory of Arthur...

I flew with him many times while I was a member of the La Lucia Park Flyers and he was a true gentleman and always willing to help. He did his SAMAA Solo rating in 2008 at SMFC and impressed everyone! I hope when I am 84 I will still be able to fly my helicopters like he was able to. Condolences to his wife and family! He is now with the heli gods... Sad as Arthur's passing is, my heart smiles every time I recollect some of the humorous stories featuring uncle Art.

By [crazyerick](#) » Thu Apr 01, 2010 8:15 pm

I know... he had many and was never boring, even the second time round... I only knew him for a few years, but he always treated you as a friend even if he could be your grandfather.

By [Dobo](#) » Thu Apr 01, 2010 9:10 pm

Les, you can correct me if I am wrong, but I understand that he did not only scratch built his scale heli bodies, but he machined many of the mechanicals parts as well. He also had a special relationship with the SAAF, where he was allowed to photograph and measure up the full size helis, and when he built a military heli, he built one for the SAAF as well.

By [Zoobiek](#) » Thu Apr 01, 2010 10:44 pm

Yep, he machined a lot of the SAAF heli heads from scratch. He was a true gentleman and a great ambassador to the rc fraternity. I will miss my Sunday afternoon flights with him and all his weird aviation gadgets and inventions.

Thank you and we look forward to see you at the club over the next few weeks...