



PROP TORQUE

Official Newsletter of the
LAUNCESTON MODEL AERO CLUB Inc.
www.lmacrc.com

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**SEE YOU AT THE
AGM ON 5 JUNE!**



This is a FULL-SIZE electric powered self-launching glider. While it is a prototype, production is to start soon. See more information inside.

Volume 21

MAY 2006

EDITORIAL:

Welcome to the May issue of Prop Torque, the penultimate issue for the current Club year, which ends on 30 June.

Following the editorial in last month's issue, we are pleased to report a good member response to the questions posed there.

Many responded positively to receiving future issues of the newsletter electronically. We also received enthusiastic support in favour of continuing the present "booklet" format, and most want a photo section. However, in spite of the encouraging responses, the issue of the magazine's format remains on the agenda of the AGM, so all those who attend will be able to have their say on the matter. We hope that you enjoy this issue.

Gerry and Virginia de Groot.

Editors

Seen on the Bumpy Green Model Aerodrome website. (How many of us have done this?):

"When you have finished sheeting a wing with balsa, you will hear a rattling noise as if something is loose inside. You will not be able to see it, or get whatever it is out and it will drive you insane every time you pick up the model until in desperation you strip the covering, remove some of the sheeting, shake the model vigorously....and a small screw falls out of the fuselage hatch....."

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CAPTAIN'S REPORT

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Hello Everyone

This report marks the end of another club year, and the end of my two-year term as President of LMAC, a term that seems to have passed very quickly, possibly because there has been a lot going on at the club during this time. The time has been enjoyable, but not without its challenges. We have had to deal with a number of issues that did not offer easy solutions, but the Executive/Committee persevered in good faith to resolve them.

The new flying strip:

Lately the Committee has received yet more adverse comments about the new flight line. It is now very evident that as more flyers use the new strip, more are unhappy with the new arrangements. Generally the complaints have been along these lines:

- The flight line is too far from the pits area;
- The new strip lies across the prevailing wind direction, causing unnecessary cross-wind landings;
- The new strip intersects a large, low-lying wet area which will render a sizeable portion unusable during winter;
- The new strip is just plain uncomfortable to use.

The fact that so many members have let the Committee know of their dissatisfaction is a sign to me that something is amiss which needs to be addressed.

I can certainly identify with some of these points; moreover, I have experienced the last one myself, most recently while flying circuits with my J-3 Cub. It seems that my central vision was watching *how* the model was flying, but my peripheral vision was watching *where* the model was flying. I suspect that my peripheral vision was getting its cues from the fence on the far side of the strip and that is how I sensed if the circuit was correct or not. Furthermore, because the strip and the direction of flight are angled to the fence, my visual cues on the model's flight path became somewhat confused. This may not be a problem for an experienced flyer, but my confusion seemed real enough.

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I wonder whether we have inadvertently have introduced more risks by angling the strip than the risks we were attempting to overcome. Maybe the present operation needs a review in the light of these sorts of experiences and complaints. If this issue is of concern to you, or has created problems with your flying, please let a member of the Committee know.

Annual General Meeting:

The forthcoming AGM seems to be a topic of vigorous discussion around the Clubhouse and promises to be an interesting time. Personally, I am hoping for a good roll-up at the AGM; come and cast your vote and have your say – it is, after all, ***your*** club. In his Secretary's column, Geoff has noted the positions (with present occupants) that need to be filled.

I would like to say that I have really enjoyed my term as President; so much so that I will accept nomination, and will look forward to serving the club again as president, if I am re-elected.

Finally, I want to thank all those club members who have supported me during the past two years. Be assured that your words of encouragement are appreciated and make the job that much more enjoyable.

In particular I also want to thank the Executive/Committee for their loyalty and hard work. Most of the hard yards done by the Committee are never seen by the general membership, but it is true to say that if that work were not done, things would soon "fall in heap".

I also want to thank our Canteen Coordinator, Robin McEntyre, for her dedication and her keen interest in keeping us well fed through the year. This is one of the more difficult roles in the club and is made harder by uncertain weather and unpredictable numbers.

I look forward to seeing you all at the flying field.

Gerry

NEW MEMBERS

- Debbie Walters has been accepted as a Senior Member so that she can learn to fly. Debbie was previously a Social Member.
- Chris Klimeck has applied for membership after a long absence. Chris was previously a long-standing member of the club and was a Bronze wing.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Geoff Hays

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Hi Everyone

Well here we are again, another month has gone and the cold days are with us for a while.

I suppose this month the main thing to remind you all of is our Annual General Meeting, scheduled for Monday 5th of June at 7.30 PM at the Kings Meadows Health centre in McHugh Street. (First turn left up Opossum road behind McDonalds at Kings Meadows.)

Please make the effort to attend, as the Committee is aware of some members thinking they are not up with what is going on at present. And this is the place to get the facts and air any grievances that you feel that you may have with the way the club is going.

I did mention last month for example that there are 3 positions that will need to be filled, due to their date of expiry. They are:

- President (Gerry de Groot)
- Two committee positions, held by Andrew McEntyre and Kevin Hay.

The matter of the production of the club Newsletter was again discussed and will be brought to the members at the AGM for their thoughts and wishes as to where we go from here.

By the time you receive this edition of Prop Torque I will have moved from my home to a temporary address until I find a more permanent location. I will be able to be contacted by a phone number as found at the head of this report or on my mobile and E-mail that will not change.

In closing could I ask that members return their subscription forms promptly when you receive them as this does make for easier administration and the fact that to continue to fly after 30th June your insurance will need to be renewed.

Well that's my lot for another month so as always

Happy landings all (*I have not had a take off let alone a landing for 5 weeks now*)

Geoff.

Photo Roundup 2005 - 2006

No competitions held this month, so here's a selection from the Editors' archives, taken during the club year!

Merv Cameron in a reflective mood →



(Above) Merv's very nice Jabberwock biplane.

Visitor Phil Rayner with Astro Hog at a Pattern Competition →



← Pete Kidson with heli

Pete Kidson's Citabria at a Scale Competition →



More from Photo Roundup

Andrew McEntyre's lolly dropper, "Fat Albert" →



← Peter Steer heading to the strip for another sortie

Greg Robertson and own design 7-cell electric glider. Great performer (the plane, that is) →



← CD McEntyre, ably assisted by Daniel Walters, officiating at a contest.



CONTEST DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Hello Everyone

Well, we are coming to the close of another year with our last formal competition, the 7-Cell Electric Glider competition held, and aborted (due to only two competitors turning up), on May 20th.

With the introduction of the new contest calendar the Committee has reduced the number of contests for the next club year to one per month. The committee has also decided not to put our hand up at the TMAA AGM for any State Championships this year. This reflects what the Committee understood to be the wishes of the majority of members and means much more general flying time throughout the year for all.

This year has been very successful with regard to introducing three new members to the club with Nara and Chez receiving their bronze wings under my instruction and Craig not far away. I'm looking forward to helping Nara's wife Marina and Daniel also to becoming full flying members in the near future.

As I am up for re-election this year it is uncertain whether I will be the CD in the New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all that have been a tower of strength, to make my job as CD easier during the past year. I know that we have had to make many changes at the field this year and some of us may not agree with some of these changes, but we all must try to accept the new rules as they have been set down.

I look forward to catching up with everyone at the field

Andrew...

RCM&E Magazine

Highbury Leisure, the publishers of *Radio Control Models and Electronics* magazine (RCM&E) went into receivership in January 2006, which meant, sadly, that RCM&E was no more. (Readers of Prop Torque may have noticed that the magazine's website at www.modelflying.co.uk has not worked for some time.) RCM&E was a well-regarded magazine, noted for its free plans and interesting construction articles.

Now a UK media company, Encanta Media Ltd, has purchased RCM&E and the April 2006 issue has been spotted on sale in a local outlet.

Snippets From the Past by "Sleuth"

This time I thought we might take a peek at the early days of our club.

For those of you who have the means to look at our club web site you will find there an interesting article by our esteemed senior member Dave Jacobs about the formation of LMAC back in 1945. If you have not accessed this yet I would urge you to read it; it is very interesting.

Seeing as we are coming up to our AGM shortly it occurred to me to go back and take a look at some happenings back then as they are written in the record books of the club.

If you have not seen the article on the web site, you might like to know that club meetings were held weekly on a Friday night, and a weekly charge was paid by all who attended.

The AGM for 1949 was held on Friday the 3rd of February 1950, and 14 ordinary members were present. An election was held for office bearers resulting in our very own Mr D Jacobs as chairman, Mr C Hughes Vice-chairman and Mr C Jones Secretary.

The Committee elections were to be held the next week, but in looking further into the books it did not happen for another two weeks.

There is no mention of who the Treasurer was but he did read a financial report to the meeting that showed a balance of 1 pound 9 shillings and 11 pence, and a bank balance of £2 (two pounds) or \$4.00.

The turnover for 1949 was almost £60 (no exact figure available).

Looking further on to 16th March 1951 the club had a debit balance of £5 or \$10.00 by our reckoning today.

It certainly is a bit different today, as is everything else. Last year our senior membership was \$165.00 per member, and the club paid out in excess of \$3,000 for the year's insurance and affiliation fees for our members, just so that we can enjoy the Hobby/Sport that we find ourselves in and be protected by ample insurance cover.

It was interesting to read in the minutes that it all was very polite in the way it was written in the addressing of persons. Such as Mr So-and-So moved this or seconded that, another snippet revealed that swearing was becoming rife in the meetings and had to stop.

Well that about does it for now; I thought you might be interested.

More snippets next time.

Sleuth!

L.M.A.C. CONTEST CALENDAR 2006 - 2007

The Contest Calendar for next year was published was in the February newsletter, but here it is again, just in case you missed it.

Date	Event	Club	Location
Sat 22 July	Free Flight & Old Timer Day 1	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 19 Aug	Scale Day 1	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 16 Sept	Free Flight & Old Timer Day 2	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 21 Oct	7 Cell Electric Glider 1	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 11 Nov	Pattern Day 1	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 16 Dec	Fun Fly & Christmas Party	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 20 Jan	Pattern Day 2	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 17Feb	7 Cell Electric Glider 2	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 24 Mar	<i>Reserved State Event TBA</i>	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 21 April	Scale Day 2	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 19 May	<i>Reserved State Event TBA</i>	LMAC	Symmons Plains
Sat 23 June	Fun Fly Event	LMAC	Symmons Plains



This photo, taken during an LMAC working bee, reminds us of how things are achieved in our club – with cooperation, patience and good will between members.

The APIS E Electric Powered Self-Launching Glider

The following information is taken, with acknowledgement, from the AMS Flight web site <http://www.ams-flight.si>. *Of great interest to modellers using electric power is the notion that limiting the depth of discharge increases battery life - Ed*

Elegance, silence, environment friendly, clean, future of the gliding

Climbing to 1400 m / 4600 ft, accumulated energy for safe soaring as self-sustainer, landing and still available energy for taxiing! First manufactured Apis E prototype completely satisfies its design expectations.

Apis E is a self-launch glider which can take off with an electric motor and climb up to 1500 m / 4920 ft or even up to 2000 m / 6560 ft or to reach maximum distance of 100 km / 62 mile. Climbing altitude depends on the percentage of the discharging of Li-Poly batteries. The factory recommended safe discharging of the batteries is around 50% of the total batteries capacity. In this case the climbing altitude is more than 1000 m / 3280 ft and such usage assures the batteries a long life time and best comparative investment / usage costs of the batteries against different energy power-plant systems. For instance in this case the batteries guaranteed life time is ten years when making 100 take-offs a year. Apis E engine control system also offers the possibility to charge the batteries in the air by using the propeller as a rotor (recuperation).

The electric system is incredibly quiet and includes simple maintenance free technical solutions. The fuselage power plant doors closes when the power-plant is outside / in use.

Technical data and performance of the first Apis E prototype:

Electric motor	brush DC
Engine power, constant	13 Kw / 17.4 hp
Engine power, short intervals	20 Kw / 26.8 hp
Motor speed	3400 RPM
Two blades propeller diameter	1.7m / 66.9 in
Propeller speed	1500 RPM
Batteries Li-Poly power capacity	5.0 Kwh
Capacity current	70 Ah
Nom voltage	72 V
Batteries weight	40 kg / 88.2 lb
Charging time	2 - 3 hours / 220V
Take off distance on grass	140 – 180 m / 459 – 590 ft
Best rate of climb with engine	2 m/s / 400 ft/min
Max altitude 50/80% discharging	1500m (2000m) / 4921 ft
Best lift/drag ratio (main wheel retracted)	41 :1 at 85 km/h / at 46 kts
Empty weight (with 40 kg of batteries)	230 kg * / 507 lb
Max take off mass	350 kg * / 772 lb
Europe certification (less power capacity) *	215 kg / 322 kg



LMAC Contest Calendar 2005 - 2006

Date	Event	Club	Location	Time
Sat/Sun March 18 th & 19 th	Tasmanian <u>State Pattern</u> Championship 2006	LMAC	Symmons Plains	9.00am
Sat 15 & Sun 16 April	Tasmanian <u>State Scale</u> Championship 2006	LMAC	Symmons Plains	9.00am
Sat 20 May	7 Cell Electric Glider (Round 4)	LMAC	Symmons Plains	9.30am
Sat 17 June	All Models Day	LMAC	Symmons Plains	9.30am

Note LMAC Contests to be on the day specified, if the weather is not suitable then the next day Sunday. If that too is not suitable then it is cancelled and moved to the next event scheduled.

N.B. The committee may re-schedule the event for another time to be advised.

LMAC Club Day is held on the first Saturday of each month
(HMAC first Sunday of each month)

“Café Symmons” Operates each Contest Day and Club Day

LMAC invites flyers from affiliated clubs to come along and participate

*Does not apply during winter months: June, July and August

COMING EVENTS for your Diary!

Sun 28 May	Scale Fly-In	PFL
Mon. 5 June	Annual General Meeting, LMAC	KsMs Health Centre

SEE YOU AT THE AGM!