



PROP TORQUE

Official Newsletter of Launceston Model Aero Club Inc. PO Box 1204 Launceston TAS 7250

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From the President

Hello All

Welcome to another Prop Torque! I trust that this November issue finds everyone well and in good spirits. We are having a wonderful spring, but it's all go for farmers, with many having to cut hay early due to the wet start followed by the recent hot spell. It is worth noting that farmers everywhere are having to use their land ever more intensively in order to make ends meet. We would do well to remember that; we are fortunate indeed to enjoy the facilities that we do.

The Club's Annual Dinner went off very well. Those that came appeared to have a good time, while those that didn't come missed out on some interesting stuff. We were pleased to welcome Tony and Elaine Gray from Hobart as guests. After we had eaten, Tony entertained the crew by passing around a number of model engines he'd collected over the years, together with an informative commentary. We had a number of worthwhile prizes that were donated; the winners went home happy. Thanks to all who donated prizes and to sponsors

from outside the club. Their efforts were appreciated. You can read about the dinner and see the photos on the club's web site, courtesy of our tireless reporter and webmaster, George Carnie.

On the modelling front, I hear that Greg Robertson has now built no less than twelve (12) Tomboys. I guess he can build them in his sleep by now. The models I've seen look resplendent and fly well. However, don't let Greg's efforts discourage the rest of you from building and flying a Tomboy. They are not hard to build and take up very few materials in their construction.

Here are couple of Tomboy tips that occur time and again in magazines and on the 'net. First, for a diesel-powered Tomboy, it is recommended that you extend the engine bearers back past the first former to the second one. This adds little weight but makes for a much stronger airframe. It also helps to better spread the loads from engine vibration. Second, the bottom longerons (or stringers, if you prefer) take quite a bend at the front of the fuselage. Unless you take the trouble to form the longerons properly (steaming or soaking) you may find that they want to straighten after the frames are removed from the building board. This because there are no diagonals in the fuselage. The result can be a subtle change in decalage (difference in incidence between main wing and tailplane) when the plane is rigged. If your Tomboy doesn't fly well straight off the board, then this could be the problem. For those who don't wish to either steam or soak longerons (balsa tea, anyone?), another tip is to carefully run a cut along the front part (only) of each longeron before you pin it down to the board. The front part of each 3/16" square longeron thus becomes two strips of 3/16" wide by 3/32" thick; the cut needs to be normal to the plan. If you pin them down without glue, thin CA will tie the two laminations together. For those

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wanting to use aliphatic glue (white or yellow), place glue in between the two strips first, then pin down. It is a guaranteed method of making sure that the fuselage will retain its exact shape.

Another little tip is the result of my own experience, but I'm sure many other modelers have been caught out as well. If you photocopy plans for scratch building, always check the geometry before you build the wing and stabilizer (tailplane). It's amazing how many times you will see distortion in the placement of ribs, and, frequently, spars and/or leading and trailing edges will not be straight. So pick up your favourite fine red pen, straight edge and set square. (I suggest a red pen as small deviations on a black line are a easier to see.) Check the straightness of all the long bits and make sure the ribs are at 90 degrees to the spar(s). For what it's worth, it also pays to check plans that come with kits, too. While many kits come with computer drawn plans that are very accurate, others are photocopied plans, subject to small (and sometimes large) errors in alignment.

Well that's all from me. Don't forget Club Day (5th December) and the BBQ/Tomboy Event on the 19th.

I look forward to seeing you all the flying field

.....**Gerry.**

From the Secretary's Desk

Hi all,

It never ceases to amazes us just how quick time seems to go, here we are now in November again and another year has all but slipped by, Our strip has now returned to normal and is a pleasure to fly off. That is if the pesky crows do not see fit to return all will be well.

I do not have much to report on this month. At our last meeting we accepted into senior membership Mark Lucas and we bid him

welcome to our ranks as he shares with us the highs and lows of aero modelling.

We will be talking at our next meeting about re-introducing some contests that will go towards an accumulation of points, culminating at the end of the contest year in some sort of recognition of a pilot's skill during the year. Whilst there are some members who do not want the stress of going in a contest there are others who are missing the competing and improving their personal skills by doing so. One such contest which will be quite easy for all to do and will be a lot of fun when it does get going will be the Tom Boys. This has really taken off down South and is gaining momentum in the North.

By the time you read this News Letter we will have had our annual dinner which will be held at the Centennial Hotel in Bathurst Street. At the time of writing this we have 27 persons who have confirmed of their intention of attending so it should be a good night.

The other part of our end of year functions will be held at the field on December 19th in the form of a Bar-B-Que, Normal prices will be charged for this function, so an idea of numbers attending would be appreciated so as to give us just how many to cater for.

It is intended to hold a Tom-Boy competition on that day as part of the programme, which will be a good chance for all who have not seen these little birds fly to witness some pure fun.

Birthdays for this month are; Alice Robertson, John DeGroot and Peter Riall we do wish them all the best for their special day and the year ahead.

Don't forget I have Cloth badges; sheets of club stickers for your models, clubhouse keys and frequency keys if you require any of these just contact me.

Well that about wraps it up for me for another month but I leave you with this:

My sight impaired friend was in a supermarket with her guide dog when the manager asked,

“Is that a blind dog?” My friend replied: “I hope not or were both in trouble! “

So as always
Happy landings all.

Geoff.

Contest Director's Report

Due again to bad weather on Saturdays this month there are no contests to report on unfortunately.

From the Editor's Desk

Nano-gadgets?

With Christmas coming there are the usual number of new gadgets advertised, that astound me from the points of view of price and size, both of which seem to be reducing proportionately each year. I guess that this is due to the massive markets and the continuing reduction in scale due to improvements in nano technology.

A few examples this month from RCM & E (December issue) are really quite creative and demonstrate the scope we have in this hobby for multiple areas of interest and expertise.

Time and Speed Electronic Regulator (Taser).

This replaces the receiver in free flight electric powered models in order to mimic the running out of fuel in an IC motor. (Apparently you may leave the receiver in place if you want.) It has 3 controls to set: time, speed and “decay”. The last being a setting to ramp down the speed. It also has a 10 second delay before a soft start after plugging in or switching on. Contact for the maker is: kpaero.derek@virgin.net in the UK.

Aerial amplifier.

For those with small aircraft who don't want to give up all their 36 MHz sets for 2.4 GHz, in order to reduce aerial size to a manageable length, an aerial amplifier has been produced by www.gbmodelaircraft.co.uk at a very reasonable price of about £3.00 sterling! It has a good range according to the reviewer, Nigel Hawes, and of course eliminates trailing wire everywhere.

Remote battery voltmeter.

This device transmits an alarm signal to a small receiver in your pocket, when the voltage in either or any lipo cell falls below 3 volts for 2s to 6s batteries. It could therefore be used for receiver as well as motor power packs. The micro transmitter is connected to the battery balancing plug, and weighs 7 grammes. The cost is £29.95 from www.foamyjets.co.uk.

Extra slim servos.

The same people are selling metal geared slim (“Vigor”) servos, measuring 8mm. thick, weighing 8 Gm with a torque rating of > 1.5Kg for £7.99: which to me sounds impressive.

Finally the following is a copy of the notice on our web site, including some more details:

Christmas Barbecue and Fun Fly Event December 19th. (extract from the web)

Don't forget to come along to our Christmas BBQ and Fun Fly day on Saturday, December 19. It'll be a great day and fun for everyone (Let's hope the weather is kind to us).

Members register your attendance (Log in first) here for you and your guests so we can cater for you and also register your entry into the Tomboy or Fun Fly event.

Non members can contact anyone in the committee who will make a booking for you. Go to the **Contacts** page for a list of Committee members.

There'll be the barbecue, a Fun Fly event a Tomboy event and wait for it.... **Gavin Hallam will demonstrate his new gas turbine jet!!** If you didn't witness the last time Gavin flew his jet at Symmons Plains you missed a spectacular sight. In the air, the sound and speed replicate the real thing!

So if it's slow and relaxing the Tomboys will do it for you but if you want to see and hear the speed and the sound of a real miniature aircraft then Gavin Hallam's turbine jet will rock your socks!

So we look forward to seeing you on December 19. Come and enjoy a friendly fun day with something for everyone. Don't miss out!

You must register by Wednesday, December 16.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all. The next news letter will be published at the end of January next year...till then.....

...Richard.

Around the Hangar,
or jottings from George Carnie.

It was that time of year again, Christmas is getting closer which meant it was time for our annual dinner. We decided to retain the Centennial Hotel again this year. Not only is the location central for most to get to but parking is easy, especially with the Coles supermarket opposite. The aviation theme in the dining area coupled with the privacy afforded by virtue of the numbers attending makes it an attractive venue for our club.

It was nice to see such a good turnout for the event with 27 people attending. It is great to see the partners of those members who don't regularly attend the field. We welcomed Tanya Pearson, Leanne Hay, Pat Ferguson, Julie Jones, Pat Jacobs, Marg (friend of Geoff), Janet Wiggins and Elaine Grey.

President Gerry de Groot emceed the evening and talked about the events of the past year and in particular what has been the catalyst for the resurgence in the Tomboy class. After thanking Tony Grey for generating the interest initially, Gerry went on to add that the main ingredient for the widespread interest in the Tomboy class of model was fun. Fun was also the reason we have seen the Old Timer and Thermal glider events garner so much support. For many years the question has been asked as to why the decline in many of the traditional competitions. Many commented that they lacked the desire to compete because they didn't enjoy the strict rules associated with some events and the anxiety that results. This is especially true of the aeromodeller who sees the hobby as relaxation rather than a sport. Gerry went on to say this may be where LMAC's niche lies, not in serious and expensive scale or hi tech gliders but in providing an outlet for aeromodellers who want to build and fly simple and inexpensive models and fly them in a relaxed environment. Throw in a few scale, LEG glider and pattern events and we hopefully have a format that caters for our membership base. We still have a smattering of big scale, pattern and hi tech gliders that can hold their own anywhere but we like to have a broad appeal.

Tony Grey then presented a talk on a few of the older engines he has in his collection. This was very interesting and Tony ensured that his passion for these older engines was felt by all. Well almost

all as he almost made Alice R fall out her chair as the photos show. Thanks for bringing them along Tony.

I can only speak for myself and Kerry but the food was very good and reasonably priced with a good selection on the menu. As usual the club provided a free drink to all the attendees and it is a gesture much appreciated by the membership. For those who did not make it, I'd urge you to come along for the next night out when it comes along as there was much banter and it is always nice to have a talk to the partners who put up with the "boys and their toys" You also missed out on a bagful of lucky door prizes -

\$50 voucher for Tiger Models - donated by ZZ Autos and won by Faye Hellinga

Two haircut vouchers - donated by Just Cuts and won by Kerry Carnie & another anonymous winner.

Seven bottles of wine - donated by Sunny Hill Country Club Hotel and won by a few happy drinkers!

The Comper Swift kit - donated by Gerry de Groot and won by a very happy George Carnie

Aeromodel magazines - donated by Tony Grey and won by Kevin Hay

Many thanks to our generous sponsors! I was half way to the dinner when I realized I had left my camera behind, however Dave Jacobs came to the rescue and loaned me hi pocket camera to take some shots. Thanks Dave & Pat. Photos from the night are [here](#), and some of which are printed below for those not on the web.



Gerry and Kevin officiating.

Pictures from the Club Dinner



Elaine and Tony Grey all the way from Hobart: to whom many thanks for the effort!



Alice just loves the smell of diesel!



The Delta 490: Made in Australia.



Frog 80 Diesel, 1950's



Super Merlin: mid 1950's



Vanguard Pup: 1950's Made in Australia.



Gerry describing the prize he donated:
the Comper Swift kit won by George Carnie



Leanne and Kevin Hay



George and Kerry Carnie



Bill and Faye Hellinga.



Dave and Pat Jacobs



Robin and Andrew McEntyre



Phillip, Peter and Pat Ferguson.



Janet and Max Wiggins.



Tania and Terry Pearson.



Geoff Hays with friend Marg.



Julie and Graeme Jones



Greg Robertson asking Alice for
a Diesel?

EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Events
Dec 5 th	Club Day
19 th	All Models Family Fun Fly and B.B.Q.
2010	
Jan 2 nd	Club Day
16 th	Club Pattern Contest - Practice
Feb 6 th	Club Day
20 th	(State) or Club Pattern Champs
Mar 6 th	Club Day- AM Gen flying -- PM Electric Glider
20 th	State Electric Glider Champs
Apr 3 rd	Club Day
17 th	Fun Fly Novelty events
May 1 st	Club Day
15 th	Proposed scale fly in
June 5 th	Club Day
19 th	To be advised--Possibly special Old Timer event

Note: Starting times: - F/Flight----- 9 AM
 Old Timer-----11 AM
 All Other events except where noted----- 10 AM

This Calendar is subject to change that will be notified as required

Club AGM will be held Thursday June 10th 2010 venue TBA

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