



The newsletter of the Sport Aircraft Association (Auckland Chapter) Inc

# Sport Aviator

September 2023



[www.saaauckland.org.nz](http://www.saaauckland.org.nz)

# Committee 2023/24

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Gary Briggs

**Vice President:** Graham Smith

**Secretary:** Keith Weale

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Gavin Magill**      **Tony Payne**  
**Treasurer**

**Arjen Visser**      **Kal Rabarts-Small**

## OPERATIONAL POSITIONS

**Newsletter Editor**      **Technical Library**  
Gavin Magill      TBA

**Safety Officer**      **Airspace Users Group**  
John Ashman      Bill Luther

**Tool Library**      **Webmaster**  
Manfred Scherbius      Warren Sly

### **Catering**

All members to share this role.

## TECHNICAL MENTORS

Wood & Fabric      - Steve Chilcott  
Composites      - Alistair McLachlan  
Metal Skin      - Kevin Paulsen  
Avionics      - Liviu Filimon

### **FRONT PAGE**

Arjen Visser's instrument panel for his Sling TSi arrives from Blenheim at Ardmore. The icing on the cake was it being delivered in a Sling TSi!

# Contents

- 2 Committee 2023/24
- 3 Presidents Corner
- 4 From the Editor
- 5 Chapter News
- 8 In the News & On the Web
- 9 Upcoming Events

# Next Meeting

**WHEN:** September 28<sup>th</sup> 2023, 7:30pm

**WHERE:** Auckland Society of Model  
Engineers Club Rooms  
Peterson Road, Panmure Basin  
Mt Wellington

**Speaker:** TBA

**What:**

# 3 President's Corner



Hi All

Well, another month has gone and soon Christmas will be knocking.

As most of you would know, 2023 marks the Final Year for National Championship Air Races at Reno-Stead Airport which started in 1964. I hope some members did get to attend so we could get an update.

On a sad note, condolences to the two pilots that lost their lives in the tragic accident there. I would have loved to attend this great event.

I hope some of you have been able to aviate the last few weeks as the weather has been more acceptable. I did manage to get out a couple of times. Mike Penny and I flew up to Whangarei last week Saturday for a pie. There will be some u-tube video of us flying some loose formation. Hopefully we can get this edited and uploaded soon.  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMh3J4To3mQ>)

The better weather means there are some great fly ins being planned for the next few months, I hope to also be able to attend some of those.

I look forward to catching up with you all on Thursday night.

Cheers

Gary



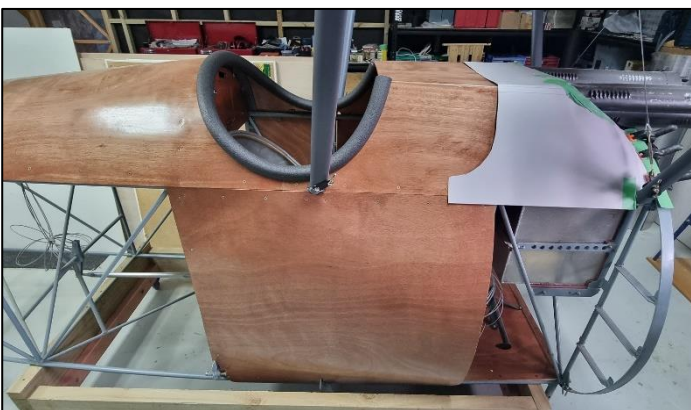
Hi Everyone

Not much to report this month apart that Spring has definitely sprung in our neck of the woods. Spring of course brings the

usual mixed bag of weather and will no doubt keep all of us on our toes over the next month or so when the weather permits us to fly. The spring flush at Whitianga airfield has also definitely kicked into gear with the runways, taxiways and lawns all starting to grow like mad. I recently picked up a rating on the MBAC John Deere tractor to help with mowing the runways and taxiways and I have been enjoying helping out to keep the airfield looking tidy.

Thanks to those who sent in updates for the newsletter. This is greatly appreciated and makes my life as editor a great deal simpler as I don't need to go chasing down content. That said in the lead up to the end of year it would be great to hear from those who have a project tucked away in the shed and have been quietly working away on it this last year or so and have not sent in an update for some time.

Progress on my Sopwith Camel is proceeding steadily. The woodwork around the cockpit is now complete and I am moving on to the aluminium panels around the nose of the aircraft.



Enjoy the newsletter and I will hopefully see you tomorrow evening.

Regards

Gavin



## MEMBER NEWS

## Thorp T18 versus Mig 21 Fighters

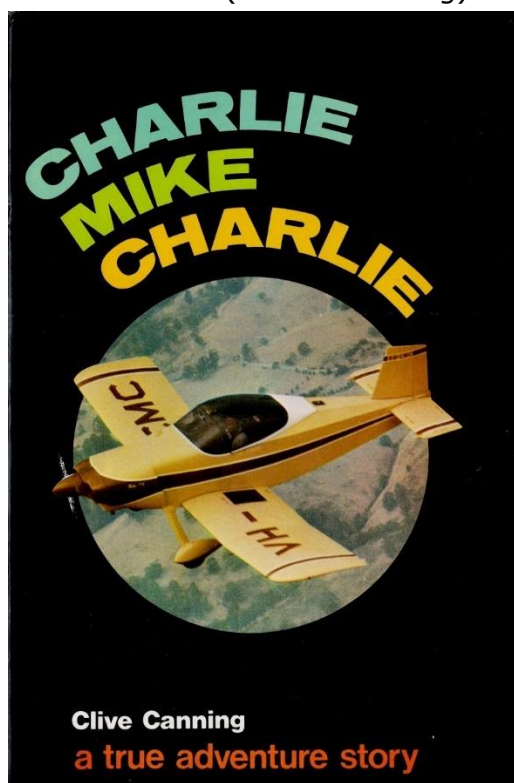
By Rob Keith

I noted the mention of Don Taylor's T18 displayed in the Museum at Oshkosh and reference to his round the world flight in 1976 in it.



I wondered if younger members were aware of another T18 and pilot who was also making headlines in 1976. This was Australian Clive Canning who departed Melbourne on June 12, 1976 and arrived at Shoreham London to a Popular Flying Association Fly In on July 1 after some 95 hours flight time.

Clive wrote a book on his exploit entitled Charlie Mike Charlie (the aircraft Reg).



The Chapter that I recall most is the one where the Civil Aviation Authority in Syria omitted to advise the Military that VH-CMC would be transiting their airspace.

The MiG 21's first appeared on either side of the aircraft at about half mile distance and appeared friendly enough and then disappeared only to re appear over the top of the T18 displaying the blast furnace of their exhausts. After a number of these encounters and avoiding them by being able to out manoeuvre them, two more MiG's appeared before they all moved away, little did Clive realise this was to allow their leader to shoot him down.

The noise and shock waves as the cannon shells passed the aircraft he described as beyond description.

Clive's only option was to make a bee line for Homs off to starboard of track and circle the centre of the city at low level which stopped the firing but was only a short term fix so he elected to land on a dirt track between two fields.

After a successful landing and immediate exit, he was immediately surrounded by some of the locals so was relatively safe.

Without going into further detail with the story the military were eventually convinced he posed no threat and he was told to leave NOW. Wisely he did not argue.

[Ed. I had an interesting discussion with Rob Keith about this book as I also own a copy which I purchased as a teenager at the AACA Fly-In at Te Kowhai in Feb 1980. This was my first introduction to the world of homebuilt aircraft.]

## PROJECT NEWS

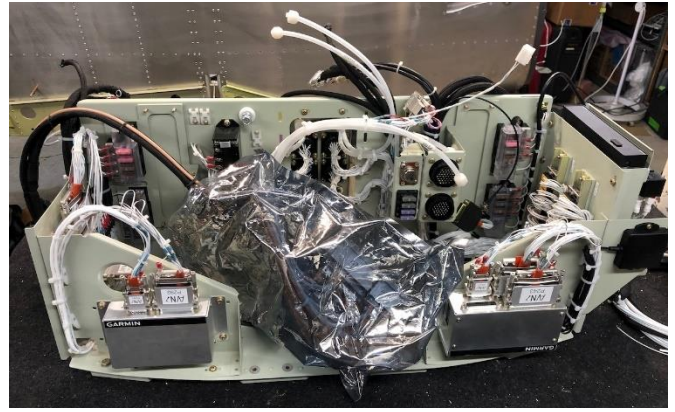
## Arjen Visser – Sling TSi

By Arjen Visser

The instrument panel for my Sling TSi has arrived from Blenheim. It was being delivered to Ardmore by a Sling TSi! The Sling TSi based at Fielding flown by the NZ Sling agent, flew from Fielding to Blenheim to pick up the instrument panel and all the avionics along with the owner of avionicsnz.com, Jake Bradley, and flew up to Ardmore where I picked them up and drove to my house to see how it all fits in my Sling TSi. All the looms were installed and fitted perfectly. I then drove them back to Ardmore so they can fly back to Blenheim and then to Fielding. A lot of flying done in one day.



It really is a beautiful panel and so much effort and thought has been put into this design. It is a plug and play system with so much attention paid to the little details to make it easy to install and maintain. It is a fully backlit system with a plastic overlay. The switches are installed on an aluminium plate along with the LED lights. Then a plastic panel is put on top and the light shines through the lettering that has been lasered into the plastic. So only the stalks of the switches poke through the plastic layer. You do not see the mounting screws. Very tidy and very clear. Can highly recommend Jake Bradley for his expertise and love of all things avionics.



I have mounted the canopy onto the fuselage. I am not entirely happy with the paint job I did now that it is on the fuselage, and I see it from a different angle, and will see if I can make some touch ups while it is mounted in place. There is no way it is coming off as it is riveted and bonded in place.



The back skins are also riveted and are finished. I can start to install some inside skins in place as well as some of the upholstery. Next job is to see if I can get it out of my garage. Fingers crossed!





## PROJECT NEWS

## Chris Wade - Sonex

**By Chris Wade**

Back to work after our trip to SA and the Isle of Man. Building the exhaust box for the radiator, which will have a side exit. I will be removing the engine mount to weld some fixing points for the exhaust and accessories.



## SAFETY NEWS

## Ardmore Operations and Radio Calls

**By John Ashman**

Hi Team,

By now everyone has probably browsed through the newly designed website for Ardmore Airport company.

It has the preferred arrival animations; web cameras on the tower; and much more.

In the last Ardmore operators meeting we were all reminded that there are 2 separate calls (not one) required prior to take off:

1. Line up call
2. Rolling call including your intentions i.e., it's not correct to say "lining up and rolling runway 21".

Be aware that as you climb out using a recommended departure procedure you may still encounter unexpected traffic so keep a good lookout.

An energetic climb to at least 1500ft will get you above most traffic and though it seems unnecessary, it often pays to make an additional position report.

## MEMBER NEWS

## Glstar Kit For Sale

**By Dudley Harrison**

Dudley asked me to include a reminder to members that his Glstar Kit is for sale.

It has the factory fuselage option, with the main wing spar option, an engine mount and cowling. It's a tricycle gear kit but can also be a tail wheel. Everything to complete but for engine, prop and avionics.

Dudley says he would welcome any interest and is happy to host a full inspection.

Contact Dudley Harrison, 022 650 1614 for more details.

# 8 In the News & On the Web

## ON THE WEB

### Avspecs Mossie

**Rob Keith**

Dave Homewood has visited Avspecs and has written an article on their website on the latest progress.



Photo by Dave Homewood

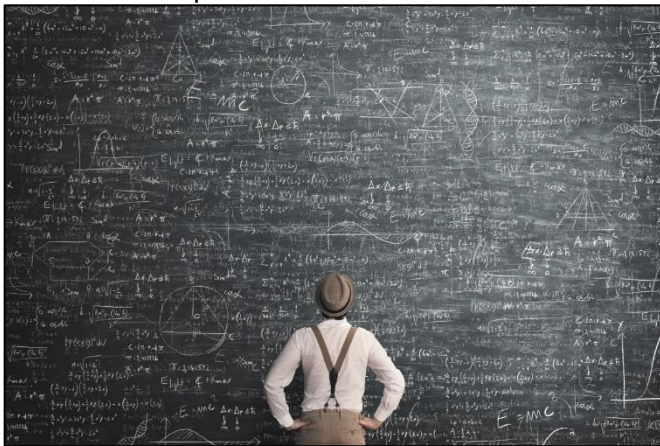
<https://warbirdsnews.com/warbird-restorations/avspecs-latest-de-havilland-mosquito-project-report.html>

## ON THE WEB

### Maths for Pilots 101

**Gavin Magill**

From calculating a reciprocal course to stabilized descents, here's a primer of basic mathematics pilots need to know.



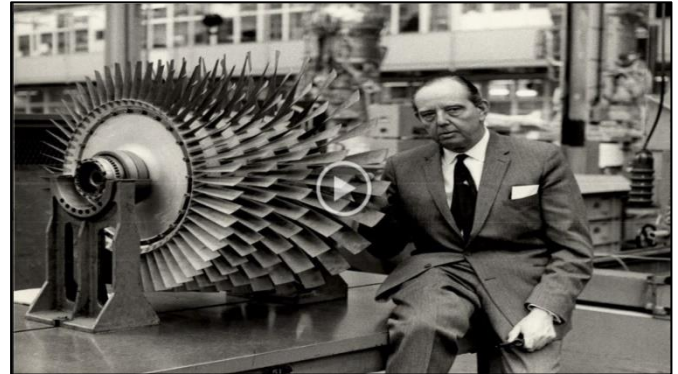
<https://www.flyingmag.com/math-101-for-pilots/>

## ON THE WEB

### Not Much of an Engineer – Book Review

**Gavin Magill**

Found this book review video online. Having read the book I can attest to it being a great story.



[https://youtu.be/x5\\_54YUhr7M?si=UMBJENUwnrFAg99g](https://youtu.be/x5_54YUhr7M?si=UMBJENUwnrFAg99g)

## ON THE WEB

### DH.60M Test Flight after refit.

**John King**

In Canada, DH.60M CF-AAJ has been test flown from Martin Field, Grand Valley, by Dave Hadfield prior to her delivery to her new home at Gatineau. A short record of her circuit has been immortalised on this link:



Gipsy Moth first-flight after extensive maintenance, (Wat)Martin Field, Ontario, July 08 2023

<https://youtu.be/PG2-A3n-JIk>



## Chapter Events

2023

<b>Aug 31</b>	<b>Chapter Monthly Meeting</b> 7.30pm at the Auckland Society of Model Engineers clubrooms, Petersen Dr, Panmure Basin
---------------	---

## Aviation Calendar

2023

<b>Every Sat</b>	<b>Dargaville Aero Club – Catered Lunch</b> The place is buzzing every Sat, wet or fine, windy or calm, and the catered lunch at 12.30 is good value, just don't be late! Club website is <a href="http://dargavilleac.weebly.com/">http://dargavilleac.weebly.com/</a> . If going as a group, please ring in advance so the cook expects you. Ph. Murray 027-478 4308 or club house on 09-439 8024. <b>The Dargaville Aero Club has advised that their famous catered lunches are back on from this Saturday 23 April. The lunch starts at 12.30 and the cost is \$15 per person.</b>
<b>Every Sun</b>	<b>Whangarei Flying Club Sunday Lunch</b> Penny burgers every Sunday \$7. Contact Rusty 021 173 8942 <b>Penny burgers are now back on!</b>
<b>Sep 24</b>	<b>Hawera AeroClub Fly-In Hawera Airfield</b> Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept 11:00am Lunch \$5. Fuel available. No landing fees. Wet weather alternative day 01 Oct 2023 Enquires: Beverley 027 476 8495 beverleypranker@gmail.com
<b>Oct 08</b>	<b>Tokoroa and Districts AeroClub Fly-In Tokoroa Airfield</b> October 8 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am onwards rain or shine. All aircraft welcome. Hangars open for viewing. Planes, gyros, microlights, models, helicopters. Sealed and grass runway available. Note: Fuel not available at NZTO <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TokAeroClub/">https://www.facebook.com/TokAeroClub/</a>
<b>Oct 13-15</b>	<b>Taumarunui Tiger Moth Club Fly-In 2023 Taumarunui Airfield</b> October 13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> Spring is here again and with it comes the new season of warm weather flying activity. For us in the TMC our first big outing is our annual Taumarunui pilgrimage. The date for Taumarunui this year will be from 13th to 15th October which immediately shows a clash of dates with another big occasion.... the New Zealand General Election. However, the TMC had the date booked first, so we'll be doing our usual outstanding weekend of flying activity at Taumarunui. Registration: <a href="https://forms.gle/q7aK3umAUvavwKCEA">https://forms.gle/q7aK3umAUvavwKCEA</a>

## Aviation Calendar

2023

<b>Oct 21-22</b>	<b>MBAC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Whitianga Aerodrome</b> Fly in on Sunday 22nd arriving before 9.30am as airfield will close until 12.00pm for flying show/display just off main beach. Warbirds, Yaks, DC3, and individual displays. Currently working on getting RNZAF represented with the Texans or NH90s. Have suggested a Hercules which would open a few eyes. Looking to start the show with parachute drop from 10000 ft out of the DC3 over beachfront. Free air show beachfront 1000 until 1200 and open day at the airfield after that. Shuttle bus will run for gold coin between airfield and beachfront for those wanting a lift on Sunday. Classic cars, heli rides, DC3 rides and others. Rainy day option is Monday 23rd for flying show. Suggest early booking for motels for those wanting to make a weekend of it at Whiti. Friday night finger food and nibbles in hangar. <b>Seafood dinner on Saturday night out at the airfield, should almost be as good of the legendary ones back in the day.</b>
<b>Nov 24-26</b>	<b>Wings Over Wairarapa Hood Aerodrome – Masterton</b> Wings Over Wairarapa Air Festival has a new date, the Masterton based festival that attracts tens of thousands from across Aotearoa as well as international visitors will now take place from <b>24-26 November 2023</b> . <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wingswairarapa">https://www.facebook.com/wingswairarapa</a>

**TOKOROA AND DISTRICTS AERO CLUB**



**Tokoroa Aero Club Annual Fly-in 2023**



**October 8th, 10am onwards – rain or shine**

**All aircraft welcome**

**Hangars open for viewing**

**Planes, gyros, microlights, models, helicopters**

**Sealed and grass runways available**

**Note: Fuel not available at NZTO**



**Facebook.com/TokAeroClub**



