

SPORT AVIATOR

November
2010

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



This Month's Guest Speaker

Rob Burns, Kiwi Thunder

The Thunder Mustang, how it flies, trip to Norfolk Island, the engine and all the good bits.

This will be a meeting not to be missed.

Looking ahead

January will be "Spider Track", they have a new package for Sport Flyers. Much cheaper than the Commercial one and probably affordable

February

Air Affairs Ltd, a NZ Company selling military training to the US - UAVs and missiles. Founding Director Doug Pauling will talk on their amazing history.



Presidents Report

I look forward to stories and pics of Black Sands weekend. Had a previous engagement so could not attend.

Our new web site is up and running www.saaauckland.org.nz I look forward to your ideas on developing the site. Please send me your stories, tech docs and pics to add. We can make it informative and interesting by keeping it up to date.

The site has a public and private section. Anyone can see the public section but you must log in to access the private section. I will give you the password when it's ready.

Next meeting we talk Mustangs. It will be our last meeting of the year so we will have a little christmas cheer. Bring the family to our Christmas BBQ on Sunday the 5th. Kids can play in the pool while we play in the shed.

Club will sponsor the meat. BYO and a plate of veg or desert to share is appreciated.



Coming Events

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2010

Nov 25th

Last Chapter meeting of the year, 7.30 p.m. Details elsewhere in this issue.

Dec 5th

NZ Warbirds Pearl Harbour Open Day at Ardmore, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Practice displays at 10.30, 12.30 and 2.30. Entry \$10. Kids under 14 free. www.nzwarbirds.org.nz/events.html

Dec 5th .

SAA Auckland Christmas family BBQ and social get-together at President Warren Sly's home, 45 Trig Rd, Huapai, off SH16. 11 a.m. to "when Warren gets tired" Ed. Full details elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Chapter web site. www.saauckland.org.nz/sauckland/Home.html

2011

Jan 21st ~ 23rd

Wings Over Wairarapa. Hood Aerodrome, Masterton. <http://www.wings.org.nz/>

Feb 3rd ~ 6th

Great Plains Fly-in, Ashburton. <http://www.saa.org.nz/cms/great-plains-201/>

Feb 7th

Rocket Day at Taupiri. Starts around mid-day. Be aware if you are en-route back from Great Plains, etc. www.nzrocketry.org.nz/index.php?page=rocket-day

Feb 19th

Parakai fly-in. The big event of the year at Parakai. Lots of aircraft and action. <http://www.parakaiairfield.co.nz/>

Feb 26th

North Shore Aero Club. Open day and fly-in at North Shore Airfield. All welcome, custom builds, microlights, everything. No landing fees. Car clubs, all-day catering, scenic & heli flights. Plenty of action.

Feb 27th

Wings and Wheels day at Ardmore. Includes warbirds aircraft. www.nzwarbirds.org.nz/events.html

Apr 22nd ~ 24th

Classic Fighters 2011 'V for Victory' Airshow. Omaka. <http://www.classicfighters.co.nz/>

If Chapter members are aware of any other events that could be of interest to others please pass details to Gordon Sanders. gordon@sanders.gen.nz

Raglan Report from Gordon Sanders

Monday Oct 25th saw the summer fly-in season seriously open with a one-day gathering at Max Clear's Te Kowhai strip. Beautiful weather pulled in some 90 odd aircraft and probably 130 enthusiasts for an enjoyable day.

This event was closely followed by the always popular annual Black Sands fly-in at Raglan, organised by the Waikato Thames Valley Chapter. Once again the operations side was in the hands of Bruce Cook and his team while the catering side was handled by a strong team under the leadership of the indefatigable Basil McGahan, aka Baz. That kitchen team worked wonders keeping everyone well fed and watered, on the go from dawn to dusk. Where would gatherings be without such people who keep working while the rest of us talk aeroplane?

Chapter members well know that there is no show without Punch, or in this case Don Wilkinson. He leads an interesting life. On the Friday of fly-in weekend Don, his son David, and Alfred Hirzel combined to get one campervan and two Starlets (Corby variety) to Raglan. Don drove Alfred's campervan, Alfred flew TNT which he had built but is now owned by David, while David flew TOY. A gusty day which had the planes bouncing and the van driver paying attention.

On Friday evening Don, David and Alfred sauntered across to the Harbour Side Hotel for dinner. The middle-aged couple at the next table were pleasant and seemed to want to talk. Turns out he was a recreational pilot from Queensland, and they were over on holiday. The subject of wives and planes came up. After a little discussion Don commented that 'Messing about with planes was probably preferable to messing about with some else's wife'.

The Australians fell instantly silent, looked at each other with a queer look on their faces and gradually turned the colour of tamarillos. They departed shortly after, saying very little more. Our intrepid aviators were left wondering, and certainly with a story to dine out on.

Saturday's weather was good, fine and sunny with relatively light wind, so the circuit and strip were soon busy with arrivals and parking on the near side of the strip rapidly filled up, leaving later arrivals a longer walk from the far side.

Bill Henwood gave the briefing and led the flying for the beach landing exercise on Saturday afternoon, with 29 aircraft taking part in ideal conditions. Rather more pilots attended the briefing as some preferred to not expose their aircraft to the risk of salt damage. A legal bag of mussels was returned to the kitchen.

Much to everyone's delight Wayne Butt demonstrated his Cri Cri several times on both days. Those little two-cylinder two-strokes sure sound sweet with their tuned exhausts and, at 25hp each, provide a very good power to weight ratio. To continue the theme of fitting large objects into

Committee:

small ones, Alistair McLachlan somehow fitted his six foot six LOA into a Corby Starlet, and did it more than once.

Alfred Hirzel has been keeping active after building and flying Starlet TNT. He bought an Australian Winnebago camper van (no relation to the American ones, the Aussies just pinched the name – sound familiar?). Touring around Oz he found the solar charging system left quite a bit to be desired so has designed and installed his own. This is much more efficient, using a switch-mode power supply to change the voltage out of the solar cell to exactly match battery requirements and maximise solar cell efficiency. A pair of digital meters in the van indicate the battery voltage and percentage of charge at any time. He has now done extensive free camping relying on just solar power and never had a flat battery. People who can build aeroplanes are seldom satisfied with other things they buy, as improvements are always possible.



On Sunday many of the pilots were committing aviation when David Wilkinson, taxiing TOY in, heard a tick-tick-tick that wasn't there before from the idling VW engine. Cowls off and investigation revealed that a stub shaft supporting the mag drive pulley had come slightly loose where it was riveted to the cover. With the offending part removed a temporary repair, very adequate for the trip home, was completed. The mag was refitted, timed with a borrowed timing 'light' (actually Alistair's timing box with an LED and a beeper, which is much better) and the engine test run. Perfect. As TOY is registered as a microlight owner repairs are legal. Had it been a Homebuilt/Experimental then an LAME would have been required. Alistair was on the field but just loaned some tools and kept an eye on proceedings, being comfortable with the skill level of those doing the work.

But Don wasn't finished yet! Homeward bound the trio stopped off at Te Kowhai just long enough to refuel both aircraft and for Don to leave his fuel card on the pump. He later received an email thanking him for his generous donation of full tanks for the whole Te Kowhai fleet. Back in Auckland Alfred machined up a new improved stub axle assembly with a guaranteed 10,000 hr TBO, so all's well that ends well.

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This Months Evening Meeting will be held on:

Thursday 26th November 19:30, at the Auckland Society of Model Engineers Club Rooms, Peterson Rd., Panmure Basin, Mount Wellington.



Christmas Function Instructions from Gordon Sanders

Xmas BBQ Sunday the 5th Warren Sly's home
45 Trigg Rd Huapai Auckland 09-412 2960

The Chapter will be supplying the meat (as it did last year) and - as suggested to Warren 'who brings what' will be

Surnames starting with A-M bring desserts and N-Z bring main course items such as salads, vege dishes, etc.

Please pass this to the respective "Minister of the Interior" within each senate.



Bits and Pieces

Don Wilkinson

Paul Munro flew his RV 8 ZK- SST (Super Sonic Transport) for first time this month.

All Good

Our new web site is up and running.

There are two sections

Public www.saauckland.org.nz

and our private section. To get there, click the Members tab then the Go to members private area.

You will then be asked for a name and password (please keep these private)

name enter: sauckland
password: built2fly

them click the OK button. You are in. Have a look around. Let me know what you think.

I am keen to get images and captions for the gallery and modify or add new features to develop the site

From Nev Hay

What great weather embraced the Labour Day weekend. It certainly played its part in seeing around 80+ aircraft attend the Te Kowhai fly-in. Lloyd Morris offered me a ride down in his Glastar if I could get to the North Shore Aerodrome. Does a dog have fleas??

After a refuel we were off accompanying Don and David in TOY and TNT. As is apparently typical of this group the flight had a wandering track passing over friend's airfields and points of interest. I suppose it is difficult to keep a short coupled aircraft in a straight line. This was my first ride in a Glastar and it impressed me as a sprightly machine. Lloyd certainly had it under control when we arrived at Te Kowhai by taking out 3rd+ prize in the spot landing competition.

A magic carpet ride up the East Coast topped off a day of great flying and good company.



Member's Projects from Mike Tunnidiffe

Peter Armstrong's panel for his MCR-4S. I am told that has already used up 1 x 1000" roll of 22AWG. Who said weight was important. He has lost wires in the bundle but fortunately has also found them thanks to a fizzy wizzy digital toning tool stolen from his work.

He is too scared to connect it just in case it has a crossed wire!!!!

