

March  
2015

# *Flight Lines*



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**Cover; Mini quad racer at Round 1 of RotorcrossNZ (HMAC Field)**

# ***FLIGHT LINES***

HAMILTON MODEL AERO CLUB INC.

March 2015

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

**PATRON** Stu Rogerson

PRESIDENT	Grant Finlay	027-273-7461
VICE PRESIDENT	Gordon Meads	021-1252-911
SECRETARY	Phil Hall 50 Houchens Road	843-4688
TREASURER	Phil Hall, 50 Houchens Road	843-4688
CLUB CAPTAIN	Mikey Wilson	021 168 9243
BULLETIN Ed.	Andrew Ferry, <u><a href="mailto:andrewjamez@yahoo.co.nz">andrewjamez@yahoo.co.nz</a></u>	

**COMMITTEE:**

Grant Finlay	
Mikey Wilson	021-168-924
Gordon Meads	021-1252-911
Mike Sutton	854-1413
Lyndon Perry	
Julian Thornton	
Sell Melville	
Andrew Ferry	847-2259

WEB SITE Mikey Wilson  
CATERER James Danby

CLUB NIGHT Wednesday 11th March  
VENUE Beerescourt Bowling Club  
68 Maeroa Road - Hamilton

THEME: AGM and World Champs Control line by Kevin Barnes  
and Loren Nell

**Bulletin Printing** *Compliments of Racing Type. Ian Innes, Hamilton.*

# Presidents Report

The end of year is nigh, and the drought is almost broken...well for the farms sake we hope it is. Like last year at this time, the ground has really dried up to a crisp and the grass is burnt to a cinder. However a bit of wet weather around the area this week won't have gone amiss.



Hopefully we will see some green back shortly. It has meant that we've had plenty of flying days this month, some a bit windy, but otherwise pretty nice. I note the Tower Register records continue to indicate someone goes flying most days, so it's good to see regular use of the site.

Last month's club night saw a great run down from members with numerous reports on the key events held at the National Champs. It was pleasing to see HMAC providing excellent attendance at the Nats from our membership, which ultimately lead to HMAC coming out on top as Champion Club. The rest of the club night included photo's and reports from recent events , the usual tall stories and the highlight being Frazer Briggs giving us a talk on his sponsored flying trip to India. Thanks Frazer.

This month's club night meeting is the Annual General Meeting. As you will see on one of the attached pages, we have a full list of nominations for all positions within the committee. If you would like to nominate any further candidates, please put it in writing to the secretary or convey them on the night. Following on from the AGM we will have Kevin Barnes and Loren Nell as guest speakers talking about their World Champs Control Line efforts late last year.

We didn't have a Club fun fly day in February due to all of the other events on the calendar at this time of year. However we plan to kick our year off with a float plane day at Lake D on Sunday the 15th of March. At present we are awaiting council

approval, so hopefully by club night I will be able to give confirmation that it's all go. Remember to check the club website as that will provide the final confirmation.

Also this month we have the Waikato RC Pylon Champs to be held on Paul Clausens farm on Sunday 29th March. This is the first time in many years that the Waikato Champs Pylon has been held. The ultimate goal is to take home the prestigious Alf Leong Pylon trophy. As this event is very much reliant on helpers for time keeping, flagging and safety line judges, it would be appreciated if anyone who can spare some time on the day came along to help out. It's pretty easy stuff and frequently extremely exciting. Note, "All day Helpers" will go into the pylon series draw for a JR XG8 radio set donated by JR Propo and JR Airsail. Hope we see you there.

Make sure you also check out the other events on in the area during the month including Tauranga Clubs Grand Opening, a Vintage event and New Plymouths Flyin.

On a serious safety note, the risk associated with charging batteries was brought home again this month with a near disastrous fire ripping through Gordon Meads model shed. Leaving a battery on charge and un-attended is a serious risk if you don't take any precautions to safeguard against fire. Gordon can now tell you how complacency can lead to disaster! Peter Kirby came up with a novel idea for safely charging Li-pols out of the plane, check his video out on youtube under Pete Kirby:

"Lipo charging test and intentional fire - safety demo and a cheap solution"

Also, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish James Danby and Frazer Briggs all the best for their respective competition events in Australia this coming month. James will be flying for the NZ team in the R/C Pattern Aerobatics Trans Tasman event in Sydney, whilst Frazer will be flying Scale Aerobatics at the Australian IMAC Champs near Adelaide.

Well that's about all I have for my final bulletin of the current club year as president. I've had a lot of fun and enjoyed the laughs. A

big thank you goes out to everyone who has contributed to the successful running of the club and helped out when there was work to be done. Thanks to the committee and club helpers for the work they do behind the scenes making sure everything like the bulletin, field maintenance and club nights run smoothly. A lot of help makes the big jobs small. Also a special thanks our Secretary/Treasurer Phil Hall who is standing down after a few years of dedicated support.

Finally, the biggest thanks I have is to the Reekers Family for their continued support of our club and our activities on their farm. It really is appreciated.

Thanks everyone for a great year ....and as always....you know it by now..."Safe flying is no accident"

Grant



# ***Captains Ramblings***

Welcome to another club captains report. How on earth did Gordon think of dribble to write every month for all the years he did it.. Another month rolls around and another 4 weekends of great flying weather. For those who have ventured to the club you will notice once again it is incredibly dry but every weekend has had some great flying weather with blue skies and gi-normous thermals. Hopefully some rain hits soon so our grass can regain some life. With so many events on over the last month such as Awatoto Warbirds and the jets rally out of town it's been open skies at the club with many enjoying the empty skies. Members have been travelling the country representing the club and everyone I have been talking to seems to be enjoying themselves which what this hobby is all about.

As I write this I have just completed my first attempt at "rotorcross". I am sure Andrew will fill you in about this event in this newsletter or next, but what an event and it was great to see HMAC being the host at the first ever round in New Zealand. Rotorcross is the racing of small quadcopters around an obstacle circuit with FPV. It is one of the most frustrating RC events I have ever entered due to the share difficulty of cleanly flying a circuit with the extra pressure of racing others and the stopwatch but the challenge was fun anyway even with my complete lack of finishing any races. The organisers thanked the club for being so open at running the event and I am sure it will be repeated in the future so thanks for those members who turned out, watched and competed. As I said last month I was hoping to run some wings badge "sessions" and I hope to run these on Saturday mornings. I will have all the relevant forms ready so please just ask me on the day and I will explain and run you through the test. Apart from that, stay safe, watch for turning props, watch your li-pols as they are charging and check your battery's before taking off.

And I just about forgot that this month we have the AGM so I hope to see as many of you there as possible and keep checking the website for up and coming events.

Mikey



***HMAC AGM, Wed 11th March  
2015, 8.00pm Beerescourt  
Bowling Clubrooms***

**Nominations for Club Representatives  
2015-2016 year**

Nominations have been received for the 2015-2016 years club executive and committee as follows:

President: Grant Finlay

Vice President: Gordon meads

Secretary/Treasurer: Alan Rowson

Club Captain: Mikey Wilson

Bulletin Editor: Andrew Ferry

Committee members:

Mike Sutton,

Sel Melville

Lyndon Perry,

Julian Thornton.

James Danby (Caterer)

Further nominations for any position may be made in writing to the secretary or conveyed on the night.

# ***RC Pylon Racing - Puketaha 22 Feb***

## ***(by John Danks)***

Arriving at Paul Clausen's air strip last Sunday had us thinking it was going to be an early finish. With steady rain greeting us we decided to get the Pylon committee meeting under way early, after which the rain had stopped and it looked promising to go racing.

The course had already been set up thanks to Paul and Marcel and the first race was under way by 11am. The low attendance was, I guess, due to the rain early on, but once the sun was out we were in for a perfect day's racing with very little wind. Of special note was the fast times from all competitors and the closeness of the final scores, only 6.6 seconds separated the entire field in Q500 Sport with a similar result in Expert. A special mention for Stephen Collins who after only a hand full of race meetings is consistently scoring under 1.40's, in fact all his scoring times at this event were sub 1.40.

Many battles were witnessed between our host Paul and John Knox, with Paul taking the top spot by a mere 0.6 of a second after four round totals. Also a similar result in the other heats between Marcel and Stephen with only 0.4 seconds separating them by the end of the day.



Quickie Expert was flown last with our only electric entrant, Brian Harris, slotting in with them to get some racing under his belt. All the Expert entrants got down into the 1.08 times at least once but consistency paid off with a row of 1.08's and 1.09's to take the top spot for John D with John Knox in second. Paul Clausen was going well also with a 1.08 in his score but a micro brain fart in the last flight of the day saw him kiss the ground around pylon 3. These V Guns from BB Racing are really strong suckers, the only real damage was to the fuselage with the wing a repairable item, hitting the ground at around 280 kph normally requires a new kit. Big Bruce may have to redesign his kits if he wants to sell more :-) Mr. Electric, Brian Harris, called for me in Expert while my usual caller, Neil Lickfold, was on control line duties in New Plymouth. Brian did well but we all had to put up with his whining after getting castor oil all over his hands, the highlight of the meeting for me:-)

Thanks to Shelly Knox who came down for the day to help, did lights and timing duties at No.1 pylon all day, thanks again Shelly.

RESULTS 22/02/2015

Q500 Sport

1st. Paul Clausen Sniper OS.46AX 381.4

2nd John Knox Viper OS.46AX 382

3rd. Marcel LaGrand Sniper OS.46AX 387.6

4th Stephen Collins Viper TT.46 Pro 388

Q500 Expert

1st. John Danks V Gun Nelson LS 274

2nd John Knox V Gun Nelson LS 281

3rd. Paul Clausen V Gun Nelson LS 285

E Sport

Brian Harris Own Design 335.3

The next meeting is a big one, the Waikato Champs. This will be held at Paul's strip, Telephone Rd., Puketaha on the 29th March. We will be racing for the Alf Leong Trophy, this will be the first time we have raced for this trophy for many years, also the first

Waikato Pylon Champs for quite a while too, so make sure you put this on your calendar.  
Until then enjoy your flying.

Remember, all the competitors go in a draw for the fantastic JR XG8 radio set donated by JR Propo and JR Airsail. All you have to do is enter one of our pylon competitions to be in the draw, you get one draw ticket for each entry up to a maximum of four tickets, there are plenty of events left in this series so get along to a few race meetings before the end of the season.

Cheers John Danks



# ***RotorCrossNZ***

## ***Inaugural Round 2015***



Well if you hadn't heard of, or be partly caught up in the hype surrounding mini quadcopter racing at some point in the last couple of months then you were probably taking an extended holiday on Planet X.

RotorCrossNZ was formed after the successful event held at Matamata alongside the MFNZ Nationals. Although the pilot numbers were down on those indicated, this was not the case at last weekend's event at our own HMAC field with a huge show of interest of 20 plus pilots from around the central to upper North Island.

When you included support crew/friends/family and a good number of spectators, a good crowd and a long line of cars had formed. Light hearted comments could be heard from the crowd like....."attack of the drones"....."we've been over run"....possibly thrown out there by certain HMAC members.....aahheemm..

The racing was split into two classes. A spec class which places limits on motor size/kv rating (2204 / 2300kv), prop size (5" max) and battery size (3cell / 11.1v) and an open class where anything goes.



Spec class had around 15 entries split into 3 heats and open class had around 6 entries with a single heat. Four rounds were flown on the day which consisted of 16 races lasting approx 3 min each. Heat sizes are limited to 5 or 6 pilots because that is the

maximum amount of 5.8ghz video transmitters that we can get working together in the legal ISM band range before you start having issues with video overlap. The winner was the first to finish 5 laps and points allocated to the position in which you finished. If for any reason you didn't finish the race ( 99% of the time this was a spectacular crash into the ground, course obstacle or flag ) then no points were allocated.

The course itself (which seemed to take an age and a half to set up) was roughly based on a figure of eight with a slalom, three fly unders and a fly over which was above the center fly under to separate the intersecting flight paths. This course was a step up in technicality compared to Matamata and although the consensus was that it was a well designed and challenging course, it proved to be a bit much for a portion of us FPV pilots that found it hard enough to complete a lap at pace let alone finish a whole race. Many races finished with only two craft left in the air however to be fair, this is the case for most fpv racing I have seen to date, because if the course is easier then pilots



just fly even faster resulting in more carnage anyway. In essence, some of us, including myself, were just not good enough, whether by lack of preparation or lack of skill or a mixture of both.

However through all this carnage, I did manage to win the only race that I finished, ending in a spectacular wipeout into the finishing line flag and emptying the guts of my mini quad across the race course. Hey...a win is a win.



Many of the top placing pilots came from Auckland (there will be payback!!!). At the time of writing I do not think the points have been tallied and published but those pilots with good points on the board are keen to head down to next weekend's race meeting in Levin. Pilots only need points from 3 meetings to go towards the National championships (early 2016) The idea is to do 4 meetings and pick the top 3 results. Going to more meetings means you can hen peck your top 3 results from a larger pool of not so good or better ones giving the dedicated traveling pilots an advantage.

A huge amount of thanks goes out to the club for letting the group hold the event at our field, but mostly to the guys that made it happen. Matthew Wellington, the driving force behind this series and also to Kim Clark who put down his goggles and transmitter for the day to help Mathew in the relentless heat, keeping up with

and counting laps of the tiny quads zooming around the course....heat after heat...round after round....entering data into the laptop and spitting out the pilot order for the next round and any frequency changes needed....Kim pushing pilots to be ready for their next heat, checking and sorting video issues and being ready to start 5 min after the previous heat. All this demanded constant work from Matt and Kim. A huge amount of thanks goes to them for this and they did an excellent job of handling the complexities of this new type of event.

What this means though is that all pilots at some point are going to have to help in lap counting and recording though. It is too much for the same guys to be doing this every meeting, nor should they be expected to. In the future, things may possibly get easier if some kind of medium range RFID tagging system is invented/made affordable for automated lap counting.

poke...poke...Steven Wharepapa...poke..poke...



All in all I think this was a hugely successful event and when you compare the size of the meeting to the one at Matamata, it has quadrupled in size already. One can only imagine how big this could get. But with size will also come the added complexity of running this kind of event. There seems to be a loose kind of international standard that clubs seem to be adopting and I see

this being built upon hopefully to a point where all the lap counting, point scoring and pilot rostering can be automated. This will make this kind of event much more enjoyable for everyone involved. Especially the organisers...Thanks guys.

Editor.



Photos by Peter Kirby.

# **Tuakau RC Vintage and Classical Contest and Rally**

## **18-19 February 2015**

This was an enjoyable event. Numbers were down a bit, and the available flying time was short for those wanting to fly several classes. Weather was good on Saturday morning, but a gusty westerly came up in the early afternoon – flyable but not enjoyable. Conditions were excellent on Sunday after drizzle lifted about 10.30.

After a good introduction at the Nationals, the new 1/2E Texaco rules again worked well, with a strong entry. Entries in E Texaco have also taken off. The new Tomboy rules were a success, with the intended shorter flights in E Tomboy.

Hamilton people were not as prominent as usual, with several AWOLs. That said, Rex Anderson had an excellent fly-off score in E Texaco, and my Top Banana is now doing its stuff in E Duration. Rex had to pull out of the Sunday flying due to a Tx Battery failure – luckily on the bench. Dave Crook did well in both Precision and E Texaco - he commented that he finds vintage competition much more enjoyable than soaring.

Thanks to the Tuakau club for excellent organization and hospitality. There are signs that the NI RC Vintage Champs (20 - 22 March at Blackfeet) will be keenly contested.

Wayne Cartwright

# ***Coming Events***

**March 11th** HMAC AGM

**March 15th** HMAC Float plane Day @ Lake D...to be confirmed.

**Mar 20-22nd** N.I.2015 RC Vintage Champs @ Thames Blackfeet MAC Ngatea

**March 22nd** Brett Cudby Memorial Flyin @ New Plymouth MAC

**March 28th** Tauranga MAC Grand Opening @ TECT All Terrain Park Model Flying Centre, Pyes Pa Road. (29km from Tauranga, 27km from Rotorua )

**March 29th** Waikato RC Pylon Champs @ Paul Clausens Farm 244 Telephone road, Puketaha. (*helpers required*)

**April 11th** RC Precision aerobatics @ Taupo MAC

**April 12th** Te Awamutu Car Club Flying Demonstration.  
Supporting the Air Ambulance Trust - Te Awamutu Race Course, Race Course Rd, Te Awamutu

## **Flight Lines Deadlines 2015**

April Bulletin – 28 March  
May Bulletin – 25 April  
June Bulletin – 28 May

For further up to date event info please visit:  
<http://www.nzmaa.org.nz/calendar.htm>

Official newsletter of the  
Hamilton Model Aero Club Inc.  
P.O. Box 1333, Hamilton

Website: [www.hamiltonmac.org.nz](http://www.hamiltonmac.org.nz)