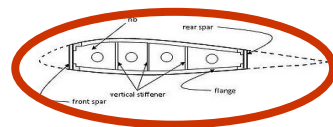




The Spare Rib News



September 2020

**The monthly newsletter of the
Kapiti Aeromodellers Club**

www.kapitiaeromodellersclub.org.nz

The Presidents podium



Hi all.

Just when we thought it was safe to go out!

Reality hit home this last month and any complacency disappeared. The world is indeed a different place and our lives are changed forever.

We cannot plan much going forward and the new norm is that each month we will need to wait and see if conditions will allow for club meetings etc.
We will make those calls as needs arise and advise to members through club notices.

I'm not sure what's in the water, but new member applications have been plentiful this year.

In the last month we have welcomed: -

Noel Fisher

Alan Campbell

Harald Harsveldt

Welcome to the club and if you need a hand, get in touch.

We ran out of member application forms in the club house the other week.!

Enjoy the month ahead.

Steve

Flyers World

We received the following notification from MFNZ.

We've asked for a couple of paper copies.

Folks

Hopefully you're aware that the MFNZ magazine is going to be predominantly an online publication for this financial year. We still want to print a small number of paper copies and an idea has been proposed that a paper copy is provided to each club for their clubhouse.

If you've got a clubhouse at your field and think this will work for your members, drop me an email and I'll add your club onto the publication list.

Regards

Paul Clegg

Secretary, Model Flying NZ

email : secretary@modelflyingnz.org

phone : 021 986 566



Whanganui / Manawatu

First Airmail to Dannevirke

Gordon Tait

There wasn't anything more exciting for a school boy in 1932 than a plane coming to your town. In March 1932 the New Zealand Air League announced a series of experimental flights to deliver air mail to provincial towns.

The Air League was an organisation formed in Britain in 1909 to promote aviation. The Air League believed that aviation was the way of the future and actively promoted commercial and military ventures that used aircraft. The League aggressively promoted young men to get involved in aviation.

A number of airmail deliveries were planned around New Zealand in 1931 and 1932 to test the potential of air mail.



Airmail stamp on a letter carried on the first flight.

The plane lands and the mail is unloaded. There doesn't seem to be a lot!



For something interesting, have a look at this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kk4BI2XVAL4>

Bob Upton

13 Sept 1924 – 24 Aug 2020

Bob, along with his son Neil, were founding members of our club.

He was active up until a few years ago when a stroke curtailed his modelling activities with us.

When I came to the club, Bob wasn't as active as he had been, but I still enjoyed numerous flying sessions with him. He flew with the Tomboy group, having built not only his own Tomboy, but also that of Gordon Wood. He would only fly with John Miller on his shoulder, as he had only one eye, and if that eye started to water (as it did in those times) he could pass the transmitter over to John. I remember turning up at the strip one day and Bob turned up with a small roll of signwriters vinyl which he split amongst the few of us there. As it wasn't great flying weather, we sat and had a good natter in the clubhouse and it was then I learned of his passion for modelling, especially large ships. He showed me a photo of a model of the Queen Mary that was seriously impressive.

So, who was Bob Upton?

Bob lost his right eye in a workshop accident in the UK in 1953.

Following this tragedy, he was hospitalised for 15 months with TB. It was during this period of illness that he started modelling.

These experiences and local conditions encouraged he and his wife and a 5-year-old Neil to immigrate to N.Z, as Neil puts it "as 10 pound poms".

He has built hi-fidelity models of both the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth (1.8 to 2m in length) where everything was handmade except for the propellers.



Neil tells me that "Bob was one of those modellers who was game to try almost anything and his models were nearly always small and built to a budget. They ranged from high wing trainers, canards, flying wings, biplanes to ducted fan. Initially glow powered but that later changed to battery powered. His models would not have placed in a concourse event but that is not what motivated him – flying models in the company of others was what it was all about. Having fun, flying, crashing and repairing provided his enjoyment.

Much to the chagrin, and amusement of others, Bob was inclined to view the number of mounting holes as a guide only and often suffered the consequences when motors vibrated loose or a servo shifted on its mounts. If nothing else this provided 'excitement' at the strip"

When bad weather prevailed, our clubhouse provided a haven for the exchange of views and opinion. Members describe such discussions with Bob as delightfully acerbic and non-PC. Over the years Bob was a regular stalwart of the club and a good flying buddy to many.

On learning of his passing, one of our club members wrote: *"This is sad news; Bob, a couple of others and I got offside with the then hierarchy by daring to start flying on Saturdays! In those autocratic times, Sunday morning was the prescribed flying time, full stop. Needless to say, the opposition was ignored (Bob had a few choice words to say!!), the Saturday crowd grew and then some people started flying on weekdays; the rest is history"*.

Bob maintained a friendship with several current and past members over the last few years.

He will be missed.

Our thoughts go to Neil (our Club Captain) and family at this time.



The following letter was received recently and there are a couple of our longer serving members looking to go along.



KAPITI MINIATURE RAILWAY 40th Celebration

Mr Wayne Elley, Kapiti Aeromodellers Club

Dear Wayne

Paraparaumu Associated Modellers was established 50 years ago last December. Kapiti Aeromodellers Club and Kapiti Miniature Railway both have continuous links to those days. Although construction began 2 or 3 years before, the KMR name was registered and public running of the Railway commenced in Marine Gardens in August 1980.

On Saturday 26th September we are planning a celebration to mark the occasion and as an opportunity to publicly thank all those who have supported, encouraged and enabled the enterprise we have today.

Because of our shared origins and the contribution both our societies have made to the Kapiti community we should be honoured if you and others of your group were able to be with us on that day.

Graeme Brown

Secretary,

KMR 40th Celebration Committee

Flying under Level 2

MFNZ has issued the following guidelines.

We are already following these, but a reminder is never amiss.

The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2.

We can go to the club to go flying during Alert Level 2 but please follow this Government advice:

- *Keep a 2-metre physical distance and wear a mask when in public when you can't distance.*
- *Stay home if you're sick, wash your hands, cough or sneeze into your elbow, clean surfaces*
- *Keep a record of where you have been, use the NZ COVID app*
- *If you have cold or flu like symptoms call your GP or Healthline to book a free COVID-19 test, and get tested if asked*

The latest information can be found on www.covid19.govt.nz or the Unite Against Covid social media channels

DON'T FORGET.

Sign in at the field using the Covid App or manually register in the club house.

Steve

Park News

Following on from last month:

Sand slips at gate entrance.

Wayne and his team have fenced off the eroded area by the inner gate, put in a low retaining wall to catch further sand slips and planted the area in Tree Lucerne.

The fence is electrified so no stock will get in there.

It would seem the sand has now found it's level and when the plants establish, we are hopeful the problem will be over.

Rabbits.

The GWRC pest control people were in a week or so ago to have a look at the damage and plan a bait drop.

This should happen in the next week or two.

Parks Network Plan.

As was mentioned in last months newsletter with the input from Wayne, the PNP is now out for public consultation and submissions on the

draft plan, which covers parks management for the next 10 years, have been called for.

As with the last period of public consultation for the existing plan, the club will make a submission.

In support of this submission, I would ask any member who has a thought on the future direction and management of the park, to send their thoughts into me.

Members are of course able to send their own submission as private citizens as well.

Further information can be gleaned from the website:

<https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/parksplan>



Submissions close in October.

If you have anything you wish noted, please get back to me in the next few weeks.

Steve.

Auctions

WMAC auction.

Postponed – new date to be advised.

TMAC auction.

We've received notification that TMACs annual auction is being postponed, with a date of Octboer 4th.

Ian Crosland writes: -

I got a call from John Miller to say he had some club members calling at 2.30 for a bit of a work shop on covering and one of them was new member Neil Fisher, living not far from me, who he wanted me to meet.

Arriving just before three I found the Millers yard choker with cars and a hive of activity in the open garage. The master modeller John Ellison was in the middle of demonstrating the finer points of iron on plastic covering including the tricky bits around wing tips and such. Also, in attendance was Ross Monk with a repaired wing to be covered, Ian Matheson also with a wing and of course new member Neil Fisher. This impromptu get together was great to see and the importance of being in a club so that we can learn off one another. I also got to chat with Neil and was impressed with a Fairey Swordfish plan he had drawn up, definitely a modeller at heart.

Now while I have your attention, Dean has dropped off a lot of RCM&E and RC Model World mags at the club house with not only pretty pictures to google over but interesting article on model engineering and aerofoil behaviour.



Photos from
Noeline Miller.

August Club night:

Another time

September Club night:

Spitfire Night.

Brendan Whittaker will talk on the research and building of his spitfire.

Bring your spitfires or spitfire memorabilia along for a Spitfire night.



	Km/hr	Date
Max Average Speed	45	Saturday, 8 August 2020
Max Gust	65	Saturday, 8 August 2020

August Weather Woes - The Von Report



Another month fly's by, Spring is here!

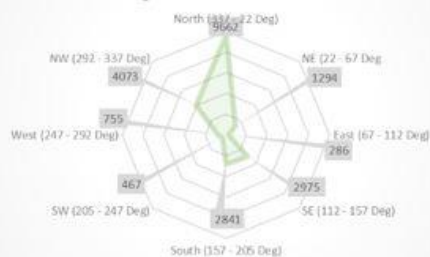
Our weather watcher stats show conditions have been very average over the month, but still a lot seen out enjoying the flying company when they can, old and new a like.



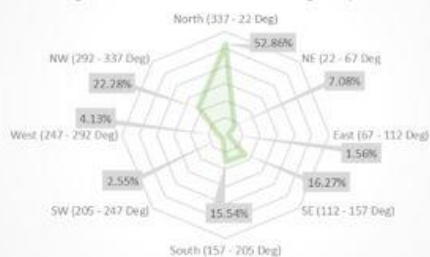
Monthly August 2020 Summary All Days



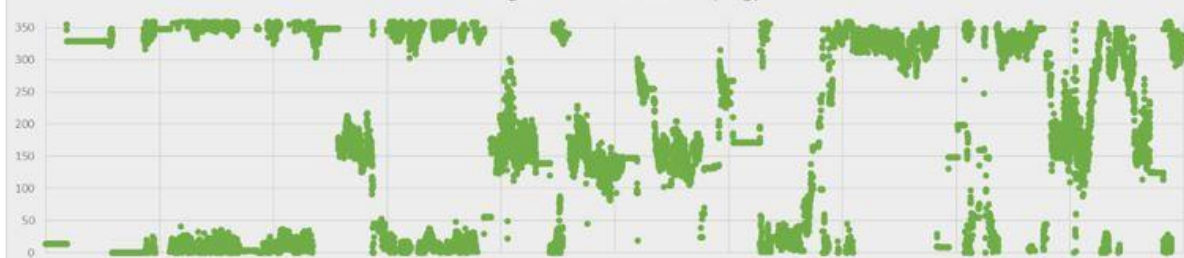
August Wind Direction



August Direction Percentage Spread



August Wind direction (deg)



I'm extremely concerned that the 'von' is unable to tell the difference between Keri and his rake and a lady walking a dog.

And when they go wrong!!!!



As the von says "this can be a very cruel hobby".

I wasn't going to post about this one, but thought the lessons learned were worth sharing.

The night before, I was trying to get another model's controls functioning properly. The setup in that model was identical to the Edge in that 2 channels were being used each for elevators and ailerons.

In the model being tested, one of the ailerons wasn't doing its thing, although the

servo was moving, it wasn't centring or returning. Having gone over everything several times, I then used the Edge transmitter setup to test, believing I had a transmitter setup problem. The same problems occurred and as part of checking I played with servo settings and channels. The problem was eventually traced to 2 servo leads going to the wrong channels. (6 and 5 were around the wrong way).

Having fixed the problem, I didn't check that I had set the Edge back to where it had been and on flying the next day, forgot all about the night before.

Pre-flight checks made sure everything was working, but I didn't consciously check directions of travel.

From my fiddling, ailerons were reversed.

Whilst I realised as soon as I tried banking after take-off, I didn't have the height and time to neutralise and try getting back on rudder. With high rates on ailerons, the thing just rolled one way and then the next and then in she went.

So, the lesson is to take more time over pre-flight checks!!

The wings are fine. Engine is fine and the fuse is rebuildable.

Steve

WANTED

For the Edge repair, I need a new wing tube.

32mm OD.

800mm long

Steve



Another perfect landing, sight unseen.

This time Barry Simmonds with Keri looking on.

Rally 2021

*The rally for 2021 will be held on the weekend of 14th and 15th of March.
This works in with the New Plymouth rally which is being held on 5/6/7 March.
So, get it in your diaries now. No excuses!!!*



I'm not sure what Drew would say about the sheepdog imitations, but the action photo says it all!!

A man and his plane

That erstwhile builder of seaplanes, Alastair Rivers, was spied recently getting photos of his Walrus on Paraparaumu beach. Very realistic it looks too.



*And that's it from me
for this month.
'tallyho' and 'chocks
away'*

Steve