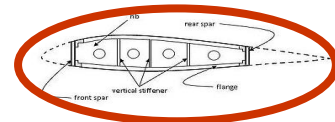


# The Spare Rib News



*The monthly newsletter of the  
Kapiti Aeromodellers Club*

**December 2023**

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



Kapiti Aeromodellers Club group



## Notes from the Scribler

I've just had a look at the editorial for last year's Xmas newsletter. It's dajavu.

*And just like that, it's Christmas again.*

*I cannot recall a period of weather so consistently awful as we've had these last few weeks.*

Well, perhaps not that bad, but getting flying days has been a challenge. Even when the forecast looks OK, it often changes.

This last month saw the second of our fun competition events. This time it was a fun scale event. A lot of members turned up, some just for a look and to enjoy the company. This event had no competition component but was about bringing a scale or semi scale model and enjoying the day. It was great to see the farrows in the air again with the Corsair. It hadn't flown since the rally when a burst air line meant a wheels up landing and consequent destruction of the 3 bladed prop.

The day went without any major dramas. Just the odd model in the long grass. Noel and Brendan turned up with a couple of beautiful scale models which haven't yet flown but were on display.

Lots of photos further on.

This coming Saturday sees the Vintage day at the club. As with all these events, it's about the participation.

The Nats are just around the corner and no doubt a number of our members will be entering. At the end of the scale day, I was flying the Smith mini plane and Andrew took me through a flight sequence such as would be flown at the Nats. The upshot was I have now entered the Smith in the Nats. I have to fly in intermediate as it is heavier than allowed in novice. Looking forward to it. It seemed a waste of a trip just to do that, so have entered basic I Mac with the Edge. Probably a bit underpowered and a bit small but it will be an interesting experience.

What I learned on our fun aerobatics' day is that there are a lot of things you do in general flying, that, without the discipline of a routine you get away with and you never really get the model itself right. Lots of changes to the Edge have it flying a lot better, so we'll see.

The sim is getting a thrashing at the moment, as weather isn't conducive to flying.

I also took the opportunity over the last 6 weeks to have a really good check over the Smith.

All models need maintenance, but larger models only keep flying if you look after them.

I found problems in the tank and problems in the rigging.

Having addressed these, I can now have confidence it will do another summer.

Have a great Christmas and we'll catch up at the field some time.

Steve

## *Presidential thoughts*

Fly safe!

John Pfahlert  
0211509763

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## *Rally 2024*



**Kapiti Aeromodellers' Rally**

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> and Sun 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Queen Elizabeth Park  
Mackay's Crossing  
Paekakariki

**No landing fees**

**MFNZ wings badge required**

***Come fly with us***

**[www. Kapitiaeromodellersclub.org.nz](http://www.Kapitiaeromodellersclub.org.nz)**

The rally date for 2024 has now been confirmed.  
We are going back to a 2-day rally as in previous years, and the date is the weekend of 16/17 March 2024.  
This date avoids clashes with other rally's and the Tokoroa jet met.

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## *November Club Night*

November club night saw Alastair Haussmann bring back the quiz night. He certainly does his research and the quiz posed lots of interesting questions. There was the opportunity to do the quiz as a team or as an individual.  
We had a lot of old modelling stuff for sale for a donation. These items came both from the estate of David Treseder and a collection that John Pfahlert was asked to dispose of. The club raised considerable funds through this effort.  
Supper followed with Mrs H's world-famous Xmas cake the main attraction.  
Club nights have been great this year and I look forward to them re-commencing in February.  
If you have any ideas for club night, let John know so that it can be organised.



## *Club competitions:*

2-3 December - Vintage Rally Day "Pre 1970 models – for reasons".

The format for the day and requirements have been circulated to members.  
Hopefully a great day is ahead.

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## *Open Invitation to attend Levin Glider Fun Fly*

**Saturday 9 December 2023 - 9.30am start (No wind/rain date)**

### **Open Invitation to attend Levin Glider Fun Fly**

After the success of the Glider Fun Fly held last summer, the Levin Club is keen to run two Levin Glider Fun Flys this summer, the first being on Saturday 9 December, the second in 2024 with the date to be advised.

**Format:** Fun fly for soarers. No entry/landing fee. It's all about having fun with like-minded glider guiders! Dig out those gliders or electric soarers that may have been tucked away for months or years! Bring along your electric, winch, bungee or hand launched glider and come soaring. All welcome. The day is about having fun flying soarers together no matter what your ability or sophistication of model. We anticipate Radians/Gentle Ladies right through to full house moulded soarers. Help available on the day, don't hesitate to ask the organisers.

**Christmas Lunch:** The Levin Club is putting on a Christmas Lunch at the Glider Fun Fly for both members, spouses and visiting pilots at no charge. Bring your own plate, cutlery, glass and chair. Please advise your intention to attend to [levinmodelclub@gmail.com](mailto:levinmodelclub@gmail.com) so the club has an indication of numbers for catering and to ensure there is enough to go around. Make a day of it! N.B. The lunch will go ahead whatever the weather.

**Location:** Levin flying strip, Tararua Road. Coming from the south, having turned right over the railway line opposite the Allied fuel pump and then immediate right at the T intersection, continue along Tararua Road past JB's on the right and Trayla on the left. The field turnoff is on the right about 50 metres past the 80km speed sign – you can see the clubhouse and the hay barn from the road.

**Cancellation notification:** Given the busy time of year and the need to work around the farmer's silage cutting plans, the event will either be flown on the advertised date or cancelled. This Email List will be notified on the Friday afternoon whether the event is on or off. This will also be advised on the Levin Club website [Levin Model Aeroplane Club - Home \(sporty.co.nz\)](http://Levin Model Aeroplane Club - Home (sporty.co.nz))

If uncertain on the day, feel free to ring Stew Cox on 027 548 1894 or Kevin Daly 027 446 3822

You can also check out the Levin Club weather station for conditions on the day at <https://holfuy.com/en/weather/1073>

Hope to see you there!

Thermals

Stew Cox & Kevin Daly

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## *The Nationals and Vintage*

An important communication from Stew Cox.

Nationals 2024

The online entry form for the 2024 Nationals to be held at Carterton 1-5 January can be found at

[https://modelflyingnz.org/Admin/Nats\\_entry.php](https://modelflyingnz.org/Admin/Nats_entry.php)

Those who have been flying the likes of the Levin Vintage events may be interested in the new rally style Vintage RC event format for this Nats. All of the RC Vintage events including the popular RC Precision may be flown on 1, 2, 3 or 4 January at the flier's choice. So, you can pick a nice day to pop over to Carterton to fly. The only proviso is that an event must be completed on the day it's started, and events must be entered and paid for at least a day prior to arriving at the field to fly. So, if you enjoy flying Vintage Precision, Duration etc at Levin, pop over to the Nats for something similar. If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact Stew Cox 027 548 1894.

Thanks, and regards.

Stew Cox

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## *Park News*

Before I ventured overseas, we had been informed that Gary Wheaton, the Ranger responsible for liaising with us, had been given the post of chief ranger at Battle Hill. A few weeks ago, John Phalert and I met with Jeremy Paterson, Western Parks Team Leader, and Gary's replacement, Jordan Clear. Jordan has a mobile role within the organisation, works out of Battle Hill, is on QEP some 3 days a week and also has responsibility at Titahi bay.

Jordan is taking over Gary's role in liaising with Park users such as ourselves. She was the 'Summer' ranger on the park last summer.

Working with Jordan, we are now getting ourselves into a position to at last spray the broadleaf on the strip. The weather, of course, isn't being helpful.

The growth around the strip area will again be mown. No date as yet.

All in all we feel our relationship with GWRC and QEP is in a good space, so if you see Jordan about, give her a cherry wave.

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An oldie but a goodie. I'm sure I've had it in before. This time pinched from Model Flying HB FB page.

### *Flight Journal*

Aviation pioneer Howard Hughes flight-tests a radio-controlled model of the Spruce Goose in California in 1947. At the time it was built, the full-size Hughes H-4 Hercules was the largest seaplane and airplane in existence!

Flight Journal Magazine celebrates the aviation adventure. Subscribe today at

<https://simplecirc.com/subscribe/flight-journal>





## Ernie Thompson

It was with some sadness and surprise that we learned, last week, of the passing of Ernie Thompson.

Ernie had passed at the end of September. We found out when, within a few days of each other, John von Hartitzsch found his FB page and Deanne Searancke went to visit him. Ernie was a larger-than-life member of the club; well known for the beautiful spitfire he built which is on display at Southwards.

He also gave a riveting talk one club night, some years back, on his Harvard experiences. He was well known in plastic modelling circles and won many awards.

The following FB post from Dave Homewood, pretty much sums up Ernie.

*I am sad to hear the news that Ernie Thompson passed away last night in his sleep. He had been ill for a while. Ernie was one of the original members of NZ Warbirds Association Inc and he owned two of the Harvard's that were purchased from the RNZAF when they were disposed of, one of them, ZK-ENE, he flew for some years. He formed the very first civilian Harvard pair display with Phil Hewett for Easter 1979.*

*Later that year Ernie and the late Trevor Thomas Bland and John Denton formed a three-ship Harvard Aerobatic Team and that would develop over a short amount of time into the Roaring 40s team we know now.*

*Ernie was also a very good model maker. He recently turned 80 years old. RIP Ernie, and thanks for all you did in the early days of warbird preservation.*



**“People who wonder if the glass is half empty or full miss the point. The glass is refillable.”**

**I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph. Shirley Temple.**

**My ability to remember song lyrics from the 60s, 70s and 80s far exceeds my ability to remember why I walked into the kitchen.**



## *Scale Day*

There's not much to be written, other than it was a great day.

The photos tell it all, and if you want to see the full set, look on our FB group page.

[Kapiti Aeromodellers Club Group | Facebook](#)



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And that's it from me.  
As Don would say, 'Fly hard, land soft'.

Steve