

VALLEY RADIO CONTROL MODEL CLUB

MAY 2010 NEWS LETTER

A big thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets to support VRCMC in raising funds for a runway irrigation system. Only 38 tickets were eventually sold which was disappointing when you consider that we even had a topic posted on the AvCom website in an attempt to increase ticket sales. Over 400 hits but unfortunately not one ticket sold...

The raising of the much needed funds for the irrigation system will be revisited in the not too distant future.

Now for the most important bit: The raffle draw was held at the club on Saturday 5th June 2010 after the superb engine tuning informative workshop. Congrats to Peter Hopper whose name was the lucky one to be drawn from the hat. Peter is now the proud owner of a new ARF Kit.



We would also like to thank Leon Breytenbach from FlyBoyz Hobbies for supplying the kit at a very reasonable price. Leon has also made us an unbelievable offer should we wish to have another raffle in the future – watch this space...

Informative Workshop:

One of the Club committee objectives for this year is to host open days and informative workshops where members and other RC model enthusiasts can get together and exchange knowledge and ideas.



Paul Dobson surprised many new and seasoned modelers on Saturday afternoon when he kindly presented a totally different perspective on the workings of nitro and petrol engines. Thank you Paul, we sincerely appreciated the time you spent with us. We have received nothing but positive feedback from all the attendees...

Boys And Their Toys:



Ian Seach tells us that he enjoys building models, which is borne out by glow powered scale model Elder (**LEFT**) which has taken him sixteen years to complete. What a craftsman, the detail and craftsmanship is absolutely great!

The lucky man who got the opportunity to maiden the Elder was Ian's good old friend Colin Glazer...



Here are a few more new models at the club:

LEFT: Colin with his Ultra Stick.

BOTTOM LEFT: Rudie with his Pilatus.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Stephen with his Edge.



After a tree trimming exercise which trimmed Stephen's Edge he decided that it was time for a new one. Believe it or not he purchased and assembled the new plane within a week and was back at the club flying as if nothing had gone wrong.

Well done Stephen, it is great to see you back at the field on a more regular basis. And yes, George was at the field that day. He was more concerned about the possible damage to the tree than Stephen's plane...

At The Club:

We can report that it has been yet another accident free month at the club, well done to all who have visited and flown at the club since the last news letter. Just a reminder that safety at the club is not only the responsibility of the committee, but that of all the members. On the odd occasion that we've had a number of visitors at the club, like this past weekend, it is vital that VRCMC members assist and ensure that the clubs safety rules are adhered to at all times.

Please note that on the back of the frequency board a new sign has been erected showing the layout of our club and also the fly and no-fly zones. Thanks to Rudie from RS Print for arranging the material and printing of the sign

Water Lettuce – We are currently dealing with Richard Lundie from the Ethekewini Municipality regarding assistance with removal of this invasive weed that has covered our water surface in such a short space of time. Unfortunately we have not progressed very far and it would appear that the Municipality is not interested in attending to the problem. In the meantime if any one has any suggestions, please get in contact with any of the committee members.

DE HAVLILAND DH98 MOSQUITO 1/9 SCALE ELECTRIC SCRATCH BUILD: Part 3 – Barry Mann



The end of May got here really quickly and although not a lot to report on the progress, I have spent many hours working on the retracts. I think my next build will be something with a fixed undercarriage or simple retracts with the doors fixed to them! Getting the wheels to extend and retract proved to be the easy part, after all the hardware was installed and I had made up the T push rods to operate both the legs together, adjusting them to operate correctly was relatively easy. I use the term "relatively" very loosely. The little gizmo I bought to slow the servos down makes the retracts operate much more realistically and they lock OK in both positions.



All's well I thought, now for the retract doors. Normal hinges won't work here because the doors are curved in 3 dimensions, so I bought some offset hinges which allows the doors to move whilst increasing the gap.

Neat but with no instructions, after much experimenting I ended up drawing everything to scale so that I could figure out the movement and where to put them. At last I have doors that I can open and close, but how to make them do this automatically?

The first thing was to fibre glass the inside of the covers to reinforce them. I'm not much good with this stuff but I eventually got it done, don't look too closely though. My first idea was to use an extra servo but unless I could make myself a couple of inches tall to get in the wheel bay this wasn't going to happen. The final answer though not as aesthetic was to simply let the wheels and gear struts open the doors against the tension of an elastic band. When the wheels retract this tension would then close the doors. Simple... not so, with friction and wheel axle cut outs to be made and getting the tension in the right spot made this job tricky to say the least and I uttered "Anglo Saxon" words I didn't know I knew...

Here's the nearly finished job, the first picture shows the wheels extended, the second the wheels retracting and the third the wheels retracted. Needs some more tuning, but it's getting there...



If you have any articles, hints or plane related RC stuff for the newsletter please email them to webmaster@vrcmc.co.za. We are always looking for new or additional material for our newsletters.

If you know of someone who might benefit from this, please feel free to forward it to them!

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THANKS FOR READING – SAFE AND HAPPY FLYING...

Regards,

David Charls
VRCMC Chairman