

# Valley Radio Control Model Club

## February 2011 – Newsletter

### Jetty project:



VRCMC has a large expanse of water which is ideally suited for float plane flying and RC yachts. A previous jetty built by David and Ian was carried away in pieces by the "locals" not local as in VRCMC members. A replacement jetty that can't be dismantled and carried by the locals was always on the wish list.

Bryan Ward heard about the wish and

managed to twist a few arms at the Point Yacht Club and obtained a floating section of an old walk on mooring, which was relatively easy on the VRCMC savings account.



Ian kindly arranged for transportation and some minor repairs that were required to the jetty.

A number of very interesting debates ensued amongst the club members as to how this ± 5000 kilogram 6 x 2 meter solid concrete walk-on jetty was going to be lowered into the water. To start the ball rolling Les Ward contacted Santosh Balgobind who kindly sponsored one of his earth moving machines to build a slipway to launch the jetty.



Once the slipway was prepared the count down to the jetty launch day began. The actual placing of the jetty into the water was entirely dependent on the availability of a suitable vehicle preferably at no charge to

the club. Les tried but was unable to procure a sufficiently large helicopter for free to lift the jetty into the water. So cap in hand Dave, our hard working chairman approached Shane of Nel's Breakdown Service who agreed to assist with getting the jetty from the hard into the water.

Late one Friday afternoon Dave of Nel's Breakdown called Chairman Dave, confusing all these Dave's, to say that the vehicle was available to place the jetty into the water.

After a few frantic phone calls Ian, Les, Rudie, Bryan and Andre dropped what they were doing and made haste to the club to assist Dave from Nel's to get the jetty into the water.

Wow it was a very powerful recovery truck that greeted the launch party. Serious power made light work of putting the jetty in the water. The club extends a very big thank you to Shane for the use of his vehicle and to Dave for bringing the rig to the field and putting the jetty in the water.

Then to top it off the VRCMC launch gang had an after-launch beer at the Rep's Bar on the way home to wet the new jetty. Thanks Bryan, Les, Rudie, Andre and Ian for all your assistance with the launching of the jetty.



The next problem was the reeds at the end of the jetty. Andre and Quinton managed to clear some of the reeds and Byron kindly donated a few bricks and cement blocks which were used to sink some of the reeds. Since the jetty launch the reeds on the inland side of the jetty have been completely cleared thanks to Andre, a grappling hook and Toyota bakkie power (see article and picture "Clearing Reeds Again" further down)

On behalf of the Committee and the members VRCMC would like to thank all those who participated in making the "Jetty Project" possible. Bryan Ward for finding and procuring the ex walk on mooring, Santosh Balgobind for the loan of earth moving equipment and a driver to make a slipway, Shane at Nel's transport for his recovery rig and Dave for operating the rig and putting the jetty in the water, Les, Bryan, Andre & Ian thank you for providing us with the necessary equipment and help which assisted in the successful launch of the jetty.

## Nature at the club:

Lesley Frescura of Birdlife Port Natal and some of her learned colleagues visited the club on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Despite the very windy conditions they still managed to record 32 different species of bird life. After their visit Crystelle Wilson published the following on her blog:-

### The Quarry Rats with a zest for birds

THIS is a bunch of guys who are passionate about their birds. They fly radio controlled aircraft, but are great admirers of feathered fliers as well. On Saturday members of Bird Life Port Natal were invited into their den at the quarry deep in the heart of Durban's Seaview for a peep at life on the wing. It is a win-win story all round.



The chaps, residents of the industrialised southern suburbs of Durban, needed space for their hobby; the disused quarry was a nightmare of neglect leading to environmental degradation. Five years ago the VCMRC approached the municipality for permission to use the area to fly their planes in return for clearing it of rubbish and managing the vegetation.

An unforeseen spin-off was the creation of a safe haven for birds. Now it is an urban green lung allowing breathing space for people, birds and the dwarf mongoose mother and her young.

Noise from flying the planes (or from the nearby freeway bridge carrying heavy duty traffic) doesn't appear to have an impact on the birds and the club members talk fondly

of THEIR African Fish-Eagles nesting on the cliffs of the quarry, the Purple Gallinule in the reeds and the Egyptian Goose sailing out with her goslings.

## VRCMC Pattern day – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Thanks to Neil Allen and the KZN Pattern Association VRCMC hosted it's first Regional KZN Pattern Day event.

An incredible entry of 17 pilots entered this first round of the KZN 2011 pattern tournament breaking the previous highest number of 12 entries.



The pilots were quite brave to fly in wind of sometimes 15 to 25 km/h. Some really good flying was seen, and it was a pleasant, well attended social get together.



Due to the large entry only two rounds were flown instead of the usual 3 or 4 that would normally be flown by the pilots in each category.

A very special thank you to Christo Pienaar (Novice), Leon Coetzee (Sportsman) and Les Ward (Advanced) for entering the event and representing VRCMC.

**Below are some of the comments posted on the VRCMC web Page after the event:**

"Yes, I am very impressed with the Pattern pilots. All of them managed to evade the big Quarry dam and land perfectly on the runway. Now you all can say: "I flew at the Quarry and survived!""



"David, Fred, Andre and all the Valley guys! Thank you for all the preparation of your field and a great pattern day at your club on Sunday was great to see all the guys and so many entries! We will have to visit again soon."



"To the committee and members of VRMC...thanks hugely for hosting the pattern flying event on 30/01, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Your hospitality and preparation of your field was greatly appreciated, also the support of so many of your members. And....yes....there certainly was a bit of pattern flying alongside the weather and braai smoke patterns!!"



### VALLEY RADIO CONTROL MODEL CLUB - 30TH JANUARY 2011 RESULTS

	Round 1	Round 2	Best round to count
<b>Novice</b>			
1 Christo Pienaar	28.0	53.0	<b>53.0</b>
<b>Sportsman</b>			
1 Craig Lipsett	65.8	59.9	<b>65.8</b>
2 Clive McInnes	53,5	62.1	<b>62.1</b>
3 Colin Addis	52.5	58,8	<b>58.8</b>
4 Johan Britz	49.0	58.0	<b>58.0</b>
5 Gijs Wijgers	50.0	51.0	<b>51.0</b>
6 Steven van Niekerk	45.6	47.0	<b>47.0</b>
7 Mike Wyatt	40.0	46.8	<b>46.8</b>
8 Leon Coetzee			
<b>Advanced</b>			
1 Mark Savage	69,5	66.0	<b>69.5</b>
2 Arthur Eggar	68.2	69.2	<b>69.2</b>
3 Jason Barker	65,3	68.9	<b>68.9</b>
4 Alex v d Spuy jnr	62,7	64.2	<b>64.2</b>
5 Arthur Coleby	50,0	53.0	<b>53.0</b>

6	Les Ward	33.0	49.0	<b>49.0</b>
<b>Masters</b>				
1	John Dorse	66.0	66.8	<b>66.8</b>
<b>F3A</b>				
1	Neil Allen	71.2	67.9	<b>71.2</b>



### **VRCMC Web site [www.vrcmc.co.za](http://www.vrcmc.co.za):**

Early in the year you might have noticed that all the Hobby shop links and banners were removed from the VRCMC web site. Webmaster Andre then contacted Hobby Shops inviting them to advertise by means of contact details and a clickable banner to a web page on the VRCMC web site for a nominal annual fee. Web sites cost money to run and the VRCMC site is no exception and the thinking is that a nominal charge for banner advertising space and contact details will offset some of the costs associated with running the VRCMC web site and assist local Hobby suppliers to be more visible to fellow modelers, RC enthusiasts and site visitors who are in the market to purchase. Congratulations and thanks to FLYBOYZ HOBBIES who is the first VRCMC paying banner advertising customer.

All Hobby Shops / Suppliers are welcome to contact the VRCMC webmaster to place an advert consisting of a banner and contact details on the VRCMC web site at a price of R 300.00 per annum. These funds will be used to continue to maintain our web site at a very high standard and assist the club in offsetting some bandwidth costs.

If you would like to advertise or know of anyone who may be interested in placing an advert on the VRCMC web site please email [webmaster@vrcmc.co.za](mailto:webmaster@vrcmc.co.za). Maybe you require more than just a banner advert and a link. Talk to the webmaster and the committee maybe they can accommodate your request.

Reciprocally we would urge VRCMC members to support the companies that subsidize our web site by placing adverts.

### **BOAT DONATION:**

We would like to extend special thank you to Leon Coetzee who donated a fiberglass tender to the club. The club has also purchased a very serviceable second hand 2.5 Hp outboard motor. The new tender with the 2,5 Hp motor on the back will be just perfect for float plane flying, a bit of fishing and of course the retrieval of aircraft that land up in the water. Andre our vice Chairman and webmaster has given the tender a facelift and makeover as can be seen from the pictures below. Thanks Andre a great job.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

### **FITTING FLOATS TO THE PIPER CUB: BY BARRY MANN**

I think it was David Charls who mentioned a float day at the club and I thought: "That sounds like a good idea". "Anyone done that at the club before?" I asked, "Ian Gordge has" was the reply. So off I go and speak to Ian who also thinks it's a good idea and he still had his float plane tucked away somewhere.



David offers me a set of floats just the right size for the Cub and off I go to make a couple of mods, this is when after a lot of reading and discussions and measuring I realized maybe not such a small job, the Mossie will have to wait some more.

A bit of fiber glass, a bit of body filler, some sanding and they were looking as good a new again. I decided to leave the paint job until the end so that they wouldn't get scratched.

I would use the existing undercarriage for the front main float mounts and make a new rear mount and strengthen the fuselage where it was going to fit. I cut away some of the covering under the fuse and made cover plate from light ply to fit then strengthened the fuse sides where the new rear mount was going to fit. Next to fit the floats, the front fixing is determined by the CG of the aircraft and the float step should be in line or approximately 10mm back from this. The rear fixing determines the amount of incidence applied to the wing, this should be somewhere between 0 and 10 degrees.

The floats were then test fitted to check the wing incidence and CG, then painted and final fixing.



Just when I thought it was finished the rudder debate came up, don't need one, do need one, without one you can't steer on the water with just a small breeze, conclusion...fit a rudder. I bought some bits of brass, cut out a rudder shape (Ian put me right with the shape) silver soldered the bits together, bought a bendy push rod and a week or so later it was finished. Lastly I fitted a drain plug to each float, water will get in there somehow, then does it float.....



I covered the mostly desperate maiden flight on the VRCMC 'Have Your Say' page a couple of weeks ago and since then I've made a couple of adjustments to stop the severe tendency to turn left. Re aligning the RH float which Colin pointed out to me. The Cub last flew on my Futaba 6ch radio and after checking the settings the aileron right trim was set to 80%, hadn't put that into my new radio. Now all we need is some good weather and we can try a second flight.

### **CLEARING SOME REEDS (AGAIN): BY ANDRE KOTZE**



A few weeks after launching our new wonderfully stable concrete walk on jetty in the water it was most annoying that we did not have proper access to the water without having to first fight our way through reeds. Cutting reeds and dropping blocks in front of the jetty was not solving the problem. We managed to retrieve our original grappling hook which Mr Les Ward had abandoned in the reeds next to the jetty, and with many pieces of rope tied together we hooked the reeds next to the

jetty and started pulling towards the fishing spot on the rock outcrop to the right of the jetty.

To our amazement when we started pulling the whole reed island started to break away from the edge of the quarry and came away in one big solid piece. After much pulling, swearing, rope breaks and grappling hook resetting the reed island had folded in half and was floating away from the jetty and the quarry edge.

The final pull was made with the grappling hook set in the middle of the detached reed mass and with assistance from a fresh north easterly breeze and the Chairman's tough, everything keeps going right Toyota bakkie



doing the lions share of the pulling the now detached folded in half reed mass finally broke away completely and set course for the far side of the quarry

A few more water plants and reeds need to be removed from the edge but at least we now have proper access to the water from the jetty. A special thanks to Colin, Les and Dave for their help on the day...

## IRRIGATION SYSTEM



The first bits of the irrigation system are installed and running.

This bodes well for a stunningly green lush runway all through the winter months.

Thanks to Mr. Kevin Hatch, who is looking very well after his recent bypass surgery, and all the others who assisted in getting the irrigation up and running.

**Thanks for reading!**

If you know someone who could benefit from our News Letters, feel free to forward it to them!

If you have anything you would like to contribute for inclusion in the newsletter please forward your article and or photo's to [webmaster@vrcmc.co.za](mailto:webmaster@vrcmc.co.za)