

Canberra Electric Flight Association
Radio-Controlled Aircraft Club
Yarralumla Bay Oval, Canberra, ACT



Current Affairs

Newsletter of the Canberra Electric Flight Association
Issue 4 – February 2003



Dale Williams launches his impressive Multiplex Twin Jet at Yarralumla.

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Message from the President

We electric and glider flyers are the silent revolution. We are a wave filled with energy and rapidly growing in magnitude, both worldwide and locally. By being a member of CEFA and coming along to our flying days, YOU are growing this wave.

When I offered to take over as President of CEFA I wanted to help grow the wave by putting a little something back into this wonderful hobby. As such I have encouraged many beginners to have a go at flying regardless of experience, started a mailing list for both club members and those interested in taking up RC flying, started a club newsletter, and updated the website with a comprehensive guide to getting started in flying. The aim of this has been to attract beginners to the hobby, and give club members a way of keeping in touch if they can't make it to the field.

It was just over a year ago that I started flying at Yarralumla Bay Oval on my own. Towards the end of last year I was joined by up to ten, twelve or even fifteen others. That is a phenomenal increase in interest in the club, and it all helps to promote our wonderful hobby. I would like to say a big thankyou to the experienced flyers for coming along and to welcome those new to the hobby. Remember, the active members we have, the more interest we will generate, which means in turn more members and more enjoyable flying sessions!

Another way you can help to grow the silent revolution is to support a few of the local events. There are many events coming up, including the Seven Cell Glider Competition / Electric Fun Fly weekend being organised by club member Byam Wight, the ACT Thermal Glider Competition, the Millenium Cup, and the indoor flying evenings. Having a good time catching up with old friends, making new friends and doing some flying is what it's all about.

Finally if you have anything to contribute to the newsletter (such as photos and a description of an interesting model you've built, or a brief report of an event you've attended) please tell me about it so other club members can read about it. By doing this you will be giving our newer members ideas, encouraging them to build more planes fly more often too, which will in turn help the club grow.

This hobby will only ever be as strong as we are prepared to make it. It has been wonderful to see the silent revolution growing at CEFA's flying days. Let's keep the silent revolution growing.

Matt Greenfield

Millenium Cup Round 1

Werrington – 12th January, 2002

The first event of the new year was well attended, with 24 entries. As usual Werrington provided good conditions, though the usual extreme heat and zero wind were replaced with a warm cloudy day, and a stiff breeze.

In round one there were plenty of thermals and it appeared you would need to make the six minute target every flight to have a chance, but it was not to be. As the wind strengthened the little two metre gliders struggled more and more and, although a few six minute flights were made in later flights, for most of us four minutes was a good flight.

John Haren, flying one of Max Stone's composite models, was the only one to master the conditions, for which his glider was well suited. He used the superior penetration to find lift in places others could not reach, and several times went well down wind and got back safely, something most two metre models are not good at. A few others tried going downwind, but ended up performing the "walk of shame". John certainly had the right plane for the conditions, but also knew exactly what to do to get the best out of it.

Although the wind was strong, it did not seem to be dangerous, so I was surprised to see quite a few models fold their wings on tow, until I did the same thing myself, bringing to an end the life of a simple glider that has served me well for nearly six years, and has won three Millennium Cups.

Seven rounds were flown, with each pilot's best six counted. Only two pilots got anywhere near John Haren, and even they were well back.

Place	Pilot	Points	Model flown
1st	John Haren	2118	Soar Max
2nd	Chris Woodward	2022	Spirit
3rd	Peter Sikora	1922	PS2

I believe Chris was flying in his first glider competition.

Ian Roach (HSL)

Millenium Cup Round 2

Berkeley – 9th February, 2002

In some respects Round 2 of the Millennium Cup was similar to Round 1, held at Werrington just a few weeks previously, with conditions perfect early in the day, but becoming rather windy before long.

Last year the Millennium Cup round hosted by IMAC attracted a reasonable entry of 17, but this year 28 pilots attended, a very encouraging trend.

The combination of wind direction and the shape of the field made it possible to use only one reflex launching system. With the large entry this meant that we would do well to complete six rounds, even with cooperation from the weather. However the weather did not cooperate.



Tom Prosser launching his 2m Prophet. Reflex tow method shown in operation.

In round one, you could look at the scores and see three distinct thermals coming through, and most competitors made the six minute target time. As you have to fly when called, the unlucky few who had to launch into the corresponding patches of sink, only got two minutes. Yours truly happened to be consistently launching into those sink cycles, for three of the four rounds flown. Well, that's the luck of the draw. Early in round two the story was much the same, but from then on the wind gradually strengthened, making good scores hard to get.

By early in round four it was blowing quite hard, at least by two metre glider standards. In this round Ian Roach made a flight in which he launched high, but had to fly so fast just to remain in the field that he was down in just two minutes, (hey join the club) and failed to reach the landing spots despite flying straight towards them for the entire flight. Others had similar experiences.



A selection of gliders in the pits.

At this stage, although flying was difficult, it was not really unsafe, and no model had been damaged in a wind related accident. However the wind strength was still increasing, and late in round four was averaging 8 m/s, nearly 30 km/h, and gusting much higher.

The last five gliders to fly in this round were all damaged on landing, mine being number one in the flight order. The glider that should have flown last was damaged while in the pits, when it was blown away in a strong gust.



A glider on tow. Hard, steep launches are the norm with the reflex tow system.

It was not surprising that, at a pilot's meeting held at the end of round four, there was a clear majority in favour of cancelling rounds five and six. Despite the premature finish, and the damage to models in the final round, the event was an enjoyable one. The IMAC people were very happy with the support received, and hopefully will host the event again next year.



Bruce Robbins with his new Chrysalis. Colour scheme looked like a ladybeetle.

The results were:

Place	Pilot	Points	Model flown
1st	Ken Woodward	1166	Sagitta 600
2nd	Peter Sikora	1149	PS2
3rd	Tom Prosser	1097	Prophet

Ken appeared startled by his success. He has just returned to flying after a break of a decade or so. Obviously he did not forget much during those years. After two rounds, Peter Sikora leads the Millennium Cup, with John Haren not far behind, but there is a long way to go yet.

Klaus Weiss and Ian Roach (HSL)

ACTAA Thermal Glider Competition - Round 1

Cooma – 23rd February, 2002

Apart from a couple of early showers that stopped flying and sent the competitors seeking shelter in their cars, the first round of the ACT Thermal Glider Competition turned out to be a great day for a thermal glider contest.

Proceedings kicked off when I attempted a launch, only for my glider (which I finished at about 3am the night before) to veer alarmingly to the left and in less than two seconds it was hurtling back towards the ground. A good dose of up elevator and right rudder pinged the glider off the towline with only feet to spare, and I managed to land safely. I never found out why this happened (the washout and trim sere spot on), but let's just say it was one of the more exciting starts to a gliding contest I have had!

After a short rain break flying got underway properly. The Open Class gliders had little trouble punching upwind to find the patchy lift, or returning from several hundred metres downwind after circling to considerable height. Scott Lennon and Brad Harris in particular exploited the conditions extremely well. Brad did the only perfect flight of the day – an exact 8:00 time and a perfect spot landing. However all competitors flew well and most flights exceeded six minutes.

Ray Murray and I, the only Two Channel competitors, had a terrific mini-contest in this class. Realising that thermals would be kicked off by a row of pine trees a few hundred metres upwind, both of us strove to reach them each flight. However, most of the time the wind was just too strong to allow us to penetrate this far. I was the first to complete my flights; my times varied between 2:00 and 4:00 as I found no good lift but avoided the sink. Ray, on the other hand, took the lead with a superb flight hovering in a strong thermal as it drifted back across the field. On his last flight Ray needed only 1:27 to beat me – but he was caught in exceptionally strong sink and could manage only 1:25.

The final results were:

Open Class		Two Channel Class	
1 st	Scott Lennon	1 st	Matt Greenfield
2 nd	Brad Harris	2 nd	Ray Murray

It was a shame that only eight flyers attended, but then others may have been put off by the threat of more rain throughout the day. The next contest is in two weeks time at Queanbeyan – see you there!

Matt Greenfield

7 Cell Glider Competition

\$500 in prize money

1st \$150. 2nd \$125. 3rd \$100 4th \$75. 5th \$50

and Electric Fun Fly.

The Belconnen Model Aircraft Club in Canberra and the Australian Electric Flight Association invites all local & interstate aeromodellers to participate in an electric fun fly on Saturday 15th March and a 7 cell electric glider competition on Sunday 16th March 2003 at their flying field.

So come out, fly, or just watch and see all facets of electric flight including Park Flyers, helicopters, pylon racers, 250 kph F5B rocket ships through to multi engined scale models.

Any financial member of the M.A.A.A. is welcome to participate.

Contact Byam Wight on 0411 337162 for further details

Watts On

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
March 3 rd	Indoor Fly-In (7:30pm – 10:30pm)	Daramalan College
March 9th	ACT Thermal Glider Round 2	Queanbeyan Model Aircraft Club, Hoskinstown, NSW
March 15th- 16th	Seven Cell Electric Glider / Electric Fun Fly	Belconnen Model Aero Club, Mitchell
March 30th	YMAC Open Day	Yass Model Aircraft Club, Yass, NSW
March 30th	Millenium Cup (2M Glider) Round 3	Queanbeyan Model Aircraft Club, Hoskinstown, NSW
April 20th	Millenium Cup (2M Glider) Round 4	Muswellbrook, NSW
April 27th	ACT Thermal Glider Round 3	Belconnen Model Aeor Club, Mitchell
May 17th-18th	7 Cell Glider / F5B	Illawarra Model Aircraft Club, Wollongong, NSW
May 25th	ACT Thermal Glider Round 4	Goulburn Mulwaree Sports Flyers field, Goulburn, NSW
June 29th	ACT Thermal Glider Round 5	Belconnen Model Aeor Club, Mitchell
July 13th	7 Cell Glider / F5B	Picton, NSW
August 31st	ACT Thermal Glider Round 6	Yass Model Aircraft Club, Yass, NSW
September 6th-7th	Millenium Cup (2M Glider) Round 5	Cowra Model Aircraft Club, Cowra, NSW
October 26th	Millenium Cup (2M Glider) Round 6	Heathcote Soaring League, Maddens Plains, Sydney, NSW
November 16th	Millenium Cup (2M Glider) Round 7	SMFC Bomaderry Field, Nowra, NSW
December 7th	Ted Swan Cup (Open Glider)	Goulburn Mulwaree Sports Flyers field, Goulburn, NSW

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