



Piston'n'Prop.

Newsletter

Marlborough Associated Modellers Society Inc.
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December 2023

Model of the year meeting is on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm

Committee Meeting notes for October / November 2023

Just a short note this time to finish the year off. Work on the track project has occupied most time and attention of members as well as carrying out grounds maintenance to try and reduce the amount of spring growth around our the tracks to make them usable again. We have been assured the track project is almost complete so we can arrange for an audit and apply to Work Safe for permission to use the track system and carry passengers. We hope this may happen before

Heritage Day in February but the Christmas break coming between now and then will affect when things are done by the powers that be. It has been a tremendous effort by many people and the finished product is a credit to all concerned.

Next year's Heritage Day (Waitangi Day) is on a Tuesday and we are aware that a number of our members and locomotives, as well as members from other clubs, will be attending the function at Mosgiel over the long weekend. We wish them well and trust the event will be successful. However, this will put pressure on how we operate and our ability to provide train rides for the public with reduced numbers of members and locomotives. The intention is for us to operate over the weekend (with Sunday being a scheduled monthly running day) and Monday being an opportunity for any visitors to use the facilities at their leisure before Tuesday's Heritage Day activities.

The willingness of members to help with quite a number of pre-Christmas and birthday train ride parties and their input is really appreciated. The ongoing maintenance and re-sleepering of the ground level track has improved the track operation and reliability and the locomotives, both club and private, have performed very well, although one club loco required new batteries.

We welcome Ray Joseph, a new member, whose interest is in boating and trust that he will enjoy his time with us and make new friends as well as sailing.

The annual model of the year meeting is on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm in the clubrooms and is the opportunity to get together for a social time of fellowship and to see what models and projects have been worked on during the year followed by supper. Please make the effort to attend as it is one of the few times during the year that all interest groups meet together.

On behalf of the Committee I wish to thank each one of you for your participation in club activities throughout the year. It is appreciated and we trust each of you and your family members will have a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday and a successful and happy New Year.

Nigel Wood
Secretary
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Boating.

Had a great day on Sunday. Sailing was great with some racing getting done. Other weekends have been a bit so-so. Ray is taking possession of Starlet "Butter Bean" and it will receive a bit

of a revamp, it will be replaced by the compass 650 now that it has a new rudder servo. This will become a club boat.

Ray has been working on getting a full size Starlet CAD drawing in a .dwg and .dxf file format sorted. Involved scanning a pdf copy and converting to a .dwg file which then needs scaling to correct size and a lot of clean up. This is the original plywood hulled version. Most our members boats are fiber glass hulled.

Over Xmas/new year the club boats will all need checking and made functional and ready for founders day. A job that got forgotten about last year.

Sadly, John Hansen has been placed in care.

(Ray)

Flying Section Update – Dec 2023

Revised Handbook/Site Rules

The MAMS Aero Section Handbook and Rules have been updated and you should find a copy attached to the December Newsletter. All members are encouraged to read these and take note of some changes - particularly regarding MFNZ membership/insurance and revised weight and power limitations with respect to large models.

Pilot Proficiency and the MFNZ ‘Wings’ programme

(<https://www.mfnz.org/members-pilots/wings-programme/>)

Following the recent club rule change requiring MAMS pilots to join Model Flying NZ for insurance purposes, several members contacted me to ask whether they have to attain the MFNZ Wings qualification before they can fly at the Tuamarina field. The answer is no - you do not have to hold Wings to fly at the field - but MAMS pilots are strongly encouraged to gain this qualification and there are several good reasons for doing so:-

- a. **You can fly at more places nationwide** - the structured MFNZ Wings programme ensures RC pilots gain adequate flying proficiency, aviation knowledge and airmanship to fly safely anywhere in NZ, including at other model club's sites, fly-ins and at organised model flying events such as the MFNZ Nationals etc.
- b. **You can fly near aerodromes** - Wings allows you to fly legally within 4km of an aerodrome, which includes the club's Meadowbank slope soaring site. If you do not have this qualification you have to be supervised by someone who does.
- c. **You can fly large models** – Wings with the Large Model (LM) endorsement, permits pilots to legally fly models weighing 15kg or more and with larger motors from 86cc upwards.

- d. **You will inspire confidence** - Wings reassures other pilots you may fly with that you are a competent, knowledgeable, careful and skilled pilot who takes safety seriously.

Any member who wishes to know more about the Wings programme and is interested in gaining their Wings qualification should talk to me (Peter Deacon) or one of the other MFNZ Instructors. These are - Rex Ashwell, Trevor Faulkner, Carl McMillan, Garry Morgan and Robert Evans.

Model of the year

This year's Model of the Year meeting is planned for Tuesday 12th December in the Clubrooms at 7.30pm. Bring along a model for viewing and discussion or just come for a chat with fellow modellers to celebrate another year of model building and flying.

Some recent scenes at Tuamarina







Peter Deacon - MAMS Flying Section Representative

The Soaring Scene

The glider group has had another good year competing in the National Decentralised Competition run by Model Flying NZ and open to affiliated clubs around the country. If you take it seriously (and we do) it makes for a solid year of competition - I can't imagine there are many sports whose competition lasts for 11 months. That's what happens with NDC though and I think most of us are happy to have a break now until it all starts again in January.

This year there were 40 separate events or roughly 4 events each month. With the top 10 competitors in the country awarded points, individual and club scores for each event accumulate to decide the winners at the end of the long season. The MAMS group fly just the Soaring category and our main opposition currently comes from the strong Christchurch Model Aero Club. As in past years the competition is intense and there is not much between the clubs, and even though we may not have any World Champions or NZ reps we can hold our own a lot of the time.

Final points tallies are not available yet but it looks likely that Christchurch have pushed us into second this year while the individual places are too close to call at this stage, with 3 people from each club in contention for places. It's been a tough year and weather disruptions haven't helped at all, with the Tuamarina flying field being susceptible to particularly difficult conditions whenever the wind is from the East, and we seem to have had a lot more Easterlies than normal this year. That said, I'm thankful that I don't live on the East coast of the North Island.

There was some discussion at the recent Soaring Special Interest Group meeting about falling numbers in model soaring competitions and how we might stimulate interest. Of course this is not a problem unique to model flying, as members of other sections in MAMS will be well aware. It's a problem faced by many, if not most, recreational and sports clubs. A club member from Levin told us that they had decided to try targeting the older age group rather than chasing after youngsters and that this had been very successful. Given that almost all of our group are retired that seems a natural thing for us to try as well.



So, if you have an old soaring or vintage model gathering dust somewhere, powered or unpowered, electric, winch or bungee launched, keep an eye out for an announcement of a fun flying day in the not too distant future. I've just started to think about this and the idea requires a bit more thought, but it won't be competitive, just a chance to get out in the sunshine and have a play with a bunch of like minded people, see what's flown these days, maybe get some advice or rekindle a few memories or perhaps find out how to get started (or start again).



Perhaps you have or had something like this and remember what fun it was to fly. Maybe it's a little ragged around the edges or needs some parts - we've got lots of bits and pieces and most repairs are easier than they look. We might fly big composite models in some events but there are a lot of traditional 2 metre models flown as well and there's just as much enjoyment in them - maybe more! Check out what you have in the shed, I'll be in touch.

Rex

MAMS Membership and Subscription Structure

Ordinary Member (all Sections)	\$60
Family membership	\$65
Junior Member	\$40
Country Member (+40km from Blenheim)	\$40
Life Member	Nil.

Members may belong to any or all of the following Sections, for one Ordinary Membership fee:

Engineering - Boating - Flying.

*Flying Section members must join **MFNZ** for an **additional** annual affiliation fee of: **Senior \$95 Junior \$30, and Family \$100, paid to MAMS.***

*NOTE: MFNZ Fees must be paid to the club before **31 March**. NEW members joining after 1st October only have to pay half fees, however existing members renewing late, will still need to pay for a full year. *Peter Deacon* is the MAMS MFNZ Contact person regarding any MFNZ membership issues.*

For on-line payments members just have to use the club account number, give their name and purpose of payment, i.e. **MAMS subs**, and/or **MFNZ subs**.

SBS Bank Account number is 031355 0512739 00

Subscription Policy: Financial membership shall cease if the required subscription fee has not been paid by the **31st of July**. **Non-financial members are not covered by our insurance policy and therefore cannot operate their models at our designated sites**, and they do not receive a Newsletter.

(**New** members who have joined and paid their Subs from December 2023 onwards are still considered paid up club members for 2024/2025 year)

Those who have paid their subscription since the last AGM may collect their membership card and receipt from a folder on the notice board in the clubroom. Anyone not wishing to renew their membership please let the treasurer, or a committee member, know. If any flying section members are not renewing their membership could they also return their key to the flying field.

Publication dates: 1st week of **February**, April, June, August, October, and December.

Please get any items (Notices, articles, or for sale items etc) for the **February** issue to the editor a few days before the end of **January**.