



Piston'n'Prop.

Newsletter

Marlborough Associated Modellers Society Inc.
Brayshaw Park, 8 Arthur Baker Place, Blenheim 7201

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If Clubs or members currently receiving this Newsletter by mail could receive it by email please let me know carlmcmillan101@gmail.com

February 2024

Committee Meeting notes for December 2023 / January 2024

We hope you and your families have had an enjoyable holiday time and are refreshed and ready for whatever the year ahead brings.

This year's Heritage Day (Waitangi Day) is on Tuesday 6th Feb and has occupied our thoughts and planning. A letter containing details for the weekend was sent to members as well as to Nelson and Christchurch clubs. The intention is for members and visitors to be able to use the track facilities at their leisure over the weekend, apart from Sunday afternoon which is a scheduled monthly running

day, and also on Monday, then Tuesday will be for Public Heritage Day activities.

Unfortunately the track upgrade project is not complete so we can only use the ground level track system for carrying passengers. The raised track will be able to be used in a limited way for personal and club loco use only, but not on Heritage Day.

The usual activities will take place with model boat and yacht sailing on the pond and with a static display of models in the Clubrooms. Models for display (with details) can be left in the clubrooms from Saturday and there will be people staying in the grounds over the weekend who will act as security.

Morning and afternoon teas will be available in the upstairs rooms of the Signal Box and fixings for lunch (eg rolls, spread, fillings) will be available in the Clubroom kitchen for visitors or members as required. We will be without ladies to help in the kitchen over the weekend so your patience and co-operation will be appreciated. Donations of biscuits, loaves, etc toward morning/afternoon teas would be appreciated, please, and can be left in the kitchen.

There will be a light pot-luck meal on Tuesday evening for members, visitors and guests to round off the activities of a busy day. 5.30pm – 6pm. Members please bring salad and a dessert. Sausages will be provided for the barbecue. BYO but soft drinks will be provided. These meals have been a great time together in past years and you are cordially invited to join us.

The annual model of the year meeting was held on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm in the clubrooms and was an enjoyable opportunity to get together for a social time of fellowship and to see what models and projects have been worked on during the year. There weren't a great number of members present or models on display but each model represented many hours of work and it was a pleasure to view them and to hear details of construction.



Bryan Wood had various pieces for a 2 1/2" Kb loco which has been under construction for many years.



Dave Mathieson from Nelson had a very nice working model of a 1904 Florida River Stern Wheeler.



Nigel Wood had made a real whistle for his Sweet Pea (don't yet know if it works)



and Diana, an unfinished 1:6 scale model river launch. Photos are attached.

Maybe this year we can hope for more workshop activity and new models to view in December.

Nigel Wood
Secretary
email: woodng@xtra.co.nz
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Boating section report (No Report submitted)

Refer Nigel's report earlier for Heritage Day (6th February) info. Philip is picking up the SBS for use by the pond, as in previous years.

Flying Section Update

Heritage Day – 6th Feb at Brayshaw Park - Reminder

If any member has a model they would like to display at the club meeting rooms please bring it along on the day. Committee members will be there all day to supervise visitors.

Slope Soaring Temporary Suspension

Most MAMs pilots are probably now aware that the Wither Hills Farm Park has been temporarily closed to the public due to the on-going extreme fire risk. After discussion with the Meadowbank Station landowner it was decided MAMs should temporarily suspend flying activities at our slope soaring site at Meadowbank, as the consequences of a model crashing and a battery fire starting in the tinder dry conditions could be devastating for the landowner, the local community and the club. As soon as it is safe to recommence slope soaring an email update will be circulated.

Model Flying NZ News

- 1. MFNZ Membership Fees for 2024/25** – for senior members these remain unchanged from last year at \$95, however junior membership is now **FREE** and 'juniors' are considered as anyone under the age of 26. This is a significant change and will hopefully help to attract more young members. Fees must be paid into the MAMS bank account by or before 31st March for members to remain 'financial' and to retain their MFNZ insurance cover needed to fly at club sites. The MAMS club subscription of \$60 can also be paid at the same time as the MAMS fee and must be paid by or before 31st July.
- 2. Website** - there is a new MFNZ website which can be found here - <https://www.mfnz.org/members-pilots/clubs/>. The site is still being developed/improved and there are a few bugs in to be sorted out. If you have suggestions for improvements the website administrator can be contacted at admin@mfnz.org

Aerotowing Events – Nelson Lakes February 23-26 & Marlborough April 26-29

Several scale aerotow/soaring events are held around New Zealand each year for those who enjoy flying scale sailplanes and towplanes or 'tugs'. Models range in size from around 2 metres up to 6, 7 or even 8 metre behemoths and these are quite impressive to see both on the ground and while airborne. Two aerotow/soaring events will be happening in our region over the coming months – one at the Nelson Gliding Club's field at Lake Station from 23rd-26th February and the other at Quaildale Station in the Waihopai Valley from 26th-29th April.

You can register for these events using the following links:-

Lake Station Aerotow - <https://forms.gle/pr5bu516jUuXfLp66>

Contact Person - Dave Griffin

Marlborough Aerotow - <https://forms.office.com/r/pLdgZ9pja9>

Contact Person - Peter Deacon

If you do not have a tow plane or suitable glider but would like to come along to watch the action you will be made very welcome indeed. For further details on either event contact me at peterd@orcon.net.nz or on my mobile 0212107769.

Visit to Nelson Club

I was lucky enough to visit the Nelson Model Aero Club flying site at Whakapuaka recently – see photos below. The main reason for the visit was so that my friend Sam Laidlaw and I could refresh our aerotowing skills in preparation for the forthcoming events. Aerotow is an unusual type of RC flying discipline as 2 aircraft are connected by a towline which means the pilots must co-ordinate control inputs closely and communicate their intentions clearly to ensure a successful tow and release. The skills really need to be practiced regularly to stay proficient and it is easy to get rusty if you don't fly often enough. Although we were both quite rusty at the start we had a great time and by the end of the day the take-offs, tows and landings had greatly improved. If you ever have time the Nelson flying field is worth a visit. The runway is very long with a smooth, firm surface and few obstacles. You will need to contact a NMAC member in advance to gain access as the entrance is padlocked.



Figure 1 Sam's 1/4 scale Cub



Figure 2 - Sam and I plus 1/3 scale Pawnee, 4m LS8 and 3m ASW19 glider



Figure 3- LS8 and Cub on climb-out



Figure 4 - Tow pilot concentrating



Figure 5 - 1/3 scale Hangar 9 Piper Pawnee



Figure 6 - Cub on final after another successful tow

The Soaring Scene

Here we are starting a new competition year and it seems no time since the 2023 season finished. Last year was another good year for MAMS in the National Decentralised Competitions (NDC) where our small but enthusiastic group of glider flyers continue to make our presence felt nationally.

In the NDC Soaring category MAMS finished second, close behind the Christchurch club. With 10 clubs featuring, Christchurch had 745 points, we had 716 and North Shore were third with just 72, which gives you some idea of the dominance of South Island clubs in this competition. Individually Rex Ashwell was 2nd, Phil Elvy 3rd, Carl McMillan 6th, Garry Morgan 7th, Phil Sparrow 12th, Peter Deacon 13th, Peter Smith 14th, Chris Hagen 15th and Philip Gibbison 20th.

We did well in the Overall competition too, despite only flying Soaring events while some clubs competed in several of the five categories available - Vintage, Free Flight, Control Line, Soaring and Pylon. MAMS were second, again behind Christchurch but ahead of 25 other clubs from all parts of the country. Individually Rex Ashwell took 2nd, Phil Elvy 4th, Carl McMillan 7th, Garry Morgan 8th and so on down to Philip Gibbison in 47th place. Philip didn't join us until halfway through the season so 47th is a good result in a field of 123 competitors. Once again something for the club to be proud of.

Weather is a major factor in soaring competition and much of January has been ideal for kite flying, so not exactly what we are looking for. In fact there have been very few suitable days at Tuamarina so far. We don't fly competitions on the club strip on Sundays, leaving the power flyers to do their thing without having to worry about where the silent, slow moving obstructions that we fly are. Fortunately we often have

Quaildale farm in the Waihopai Valley as an alternative and we have had a couple of excellent Sundays out there this month - lots of thermals and quite good scores. It was particularly hot competition in Radian with only 5 seconds covering the first three places:

Event 402 - ALES Radian

Peter Deacon MFNZ #10441

Flight 1 - 7 min 09	419 points	50 landing	461
Flight 2 - 6 min 58	418 points	00 landing	418
Flight 3 - 7 min 01	419 points	50 landing	<u>469</u>
			Total -1348

Phil Sparrow MFNZ #12385

Flight 1 - 7 min 17	403 points	25 landing	428
Flight 2 - 6 min 40	400 points	50 landing	450
Flight 3 - 6 min 59	419 points	50 landing	<u>469</u>
			Total -1347

Phil Elvy MFNZ #11020

Flight 1 - 6 min 53	413 points	50 landing	463
Flight 2 - 6 min 51	411 points	00 landing	411
Flight 3 - 7 min 01	419 points	50 landing	<u>469</u>
			Total -1343

Rex Ashwell MFNZ #10746

Flight 1 - 6 min 48	408 points	50 landing	458
Flight 2 - 6 min 58	418 points	50 landing	468
Flight 3 - 5 min 36	336 points	50 landing	<u>386</u>
			Total -1312

Carl McMillan MFNZ #8446

Flight 1 - 7 min 03	417 points	50 landing	467
Flight 2 - 6 min 57	417 points	50 landing	467
Flight 3 - 4 min 33	273 points	50 landing	<u>323</u>
			Total -1257

Chris Hagen MFNZ #5011

Flight 1 - 7 min 04	416 points	50 landing	466
Flight 2 - 6 min 58	418 points	50 landing	468
Flight 3 - 5 min 23	323 points	00 landing	<u>323</u>
			Total - 1257

Peter Smith MFNZ #12188

Flight 1 - 6 min 43	403 points	25 landing	428
Flight 2 - 6 min 41	401 points	00 landing	401
Flight 3 - 0 min 00	000 points	00 landing	<u>000</u>
			Total - 829

Philip Gibbison MFNZ #13130

Flight 1 - 2 min 21	141 points	00 landing	141
Flight 2 - 3 min 17	197 points	25 landing	222
Flight 3 - 6 min 52	418 points	00 landing	<u>418</u>
			Total - 775

It was close in ALES 200 as well - Phil Elvy and Peter Deacon are away to a good start this season. For those not familiar with the formats of these events, in Radian the aim is a 7 minute flight and a measured spot landing, while 200 has a 10 minute flight and spot landing. Both have launch altitude limits of 200 meters, the main difference being the use of 2 metre foam Radian models in the first, while anything goes up to a 4 metre wingspan in ALES 200.

Event 400 - ALES 200

Phil Elvy MFNZ #11020

Flight 1 - 10 min 02	598 points	45 landing	643
Flight 2 - 10 min 01	599 points	45 landing	644
Flight 3 - 10 min 00	600 points	40 landing	640
Flight 4 - 10 min 01	599 points	10 landing	<u>609</u>
			Total - 2536

Peter Deacon MFNZ #10441

Flight 1 - 10 min 09	591 points	50 landing	641
Flight 2 - 9 min 51	591 points	45 landing	636
Flight 3 - 9 min 57	597 points	35 landing	632
Flight 4 - 9 min 56	596 points	25 landing	<u>621</u>
			Total - 2530

Rex Ashwell MFNZ #10746

Flight 1 - 7 min 11	431 points	50 landing	481
Flight 2 - 9 min 59	599 points	30 landing	629
Flight 3 - 9 min 55	595 points	45 landing	640
Flight 4 - 10 min 01	599 points	25 landing	<u>624</u>
			Total - 2374

Phil Sparrow MFNZ #12385

Flight 1 - 9 min 51	591 points	45 landing	636
Flight 2 - 9 min 52	592 points	40 landing	632
Flight 3 - 1 min 47	107 points	00 landing	107
Flight 4 - 9 min 41	581 points	30 landing	<u>611</u>
			Total - 1986

Carl McMillan MFNZ #8446

Flight 1 - 5 min 38	338 points	40 landing	378
Flight 2 - 9 min 56	596 points	50 landing	646
Flight 3 - 4 min 12	252 points	30 landing	282
Flight 4 - 10 min 02	598 points	25 landing	<u>623</u>
			Total - 1929

Peter Smith MFNZ #12188

Flight 1 - 4 min 20	260 points	10 landing	270
Flight 2 - 5 min 03	303 points	00 landing	303
Flight 3 - 7 min 39	459 points	00 landing	459
Flight 4 - 10 min 16	584 points	00 landing	<u>584</u>
			Total - 1616

So, we are underway again and it looks like a good start to the year with some very good scores to get the season started. Now all we need is a few nice calm days with lots of lift to play with and we'll try to hunt down those Christchurch guys. We are always interested in helping others get started in this game so if you fancy some quiet soaring in good company get in touch.

On a completely different subject I recently read an absolutely fascinating book on the work of English model engineer Cherry Hill. This woman is one of the most accomplished practitioners of the art of shaping metal and our local library has a book about the lady and her work. She specialises in Victorian steam machinery and I would have been happy with a book about the full size versions, but to see them in 1/16th scale just blows the mind. The link below is a quick look at her story and a few photos of some of her models. If you scroll down a little you will find a link (in red) which takes you to a brief review of the book.



Cherry Hill – The Miniature engineering
Craftsmanship Museum

<https://craftsmanshipmuseum.com/artisan/cherry-hill/>

The library has obviously had this book for several years and it looks like it hasn't seen much use, so I'm happy to have discovered it and recommend it to anyone with an interest in mechanical devices in general and models in particular - sorry, you'll probably have to wait in line now.

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 (under 26) Free, 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 **April** issue to the editor a few days before the end of **March**.