

MILDURA OPEN THERMAL REPORT

The week end of October 24 & 25 saw the 9th annual Mildura Open Thermal event take place. 18 keen flyers from Adelaide and Melbourne made the trip to the Wentworth race course about 30 klm from Mildura. Most had arrived by mid afternoon Friday and took advantage of the good conditions to familiarise themselves the field, catch up with others and have a social fly.

The contest this year was flown to the new LSF thermal rules with the exception that the flight time would stop when the model first came in contact with the ground or anything touching the ground. Possibly an additional change next year. The 150m lines and the new landing tapes have been a new challenge that most flyers have tackled head on and are coming to grips with.

Saturday morning saw a forecast of 9-14kl wind from the ESE changing to the SW by lunch time. So Garry and I set out the winch lane to suit. Bit of a cross wind to start but should get better as the day went on. THE WEATHER MAN LIED TO US. By the time we started at around 9:30 the wind was coming nicely and consistently from the North. Two launches into the first heat we call a halt to everything and changed the winches around 180deg and started again. By the time lunch time came around (the usual roast meat and salads) we had flown 3 rounds. It seemed to take for ever to get through rounds with most flyers getting their 10 min. times.

Not long after lunch the wind did its thing again by changing 180deg. Because it wasn't that strong it was decided to put up with it and continue. This made for some very interesting launching but despite the wind direction, thermals were plentiful and the good times kept coming. The new landing tapes were starting to sort out what was becoming a very close contest. By the time we finished up at around 5:00pm the temp. was up around 30deg. and we had made it to 6 rounds. The leader board was very close with Jamie Nancarrow in front with 4995, Mike O'Reilly 2nd with 4993, David Hobby 3rd with 4991 and Nick Chabrel 4th on 4988. Back to our motels for a shower and up to the Wentworth Club for dinner.

Sunday's forecast was for a 20-30kl Southerly wind. THE WEATHER MAN HAD TOLD THE TRUTH. We got under way just after 8:30. Most of the F3J models were traded for more suitable F3B machines. This was going to be a difficult day, and it was. Line breaks became common and several models found themselves landing 100's of metres down wind. Greg Potter managed to achieve this twice in the one heat. Although the wind was proving a problem for some the lift at times was very strong and there were still some good times achieved. The landings were proving a real challenge. There were a few cases of damage with all but one repairable.

We worked our way through to 11 rounds by 1:30 and called it quits. We were running out of time to make it to 12 rounds. After packing up we all retired back to the club rooms for lunch and presentations. This time lunch consisted of the traditional BBQ.

When everyone had filled themselves it was time to get to the results.

After 2 very challenging days, 11 rounds with one dropped the final results were in. The top three place getters were:

1st Nick Chabrel 9974

2nd Mike O'reilly 9743

3rd David Pratley 9688

The remainder of the places are attached to this report along with round by round, landing and team scores.

Everone who took part in the comp received a prize and a bottle of wine.

There was a large range of models flown over the week end. Saturday saw Pikes of different spans, Tragi 801, Espada, Zenith, Supra, Shooter, Aspire, Explorer and Satori. On Sunday the sleds came out. Among them the Radical, Caracho, Pike Extreme, Espada RL, Tragi, Nyx, Freestyler and Ceres.

I had three flyers comment that this comp. is the most challenging event they attend each year. Possibly even harder than Jerilderie. The conditions are very difficult to come to terms with and the air is so hard to read.

At this point I would like to thank Mike O'Reilly of Model Flight Adelaide for his generous donation of prizes for the week end. Mike has taken it upon himself to do this as we have never approached him for support. Again thank you very much.

A special thank you to Michelle and Jennifer our lovely offsidiers for all their efforts in preparing and serving the great food we get spoiled with. They spend nearly a week making sure everything is purchased, cooked and organised for us to eat. It would not happen without them.

Last but not least, thank you to all who made the long drive to Mildura (Wentworth) to compete.

It will be on again next year. It being our 10th year we will look at making it something special.

Regards

Darrel Blow
MILDURA

Contest Director