

The Thermaleer

After Thoughts on the 2005 Frank Ehling Half A Postal. *by Barry Barton*

It's a cliché but; nothing succeeds like success and SAM 600's winning of this trophy for the third consecutive year is a milestone in the history of this most prestigious trophy, but it comes at a price; only five teams from the USA figured in the end result with SAM 27 of the wine-growing NAPA valley in California missing out on the top spot due to a misunderstanding of the rules. A regrettable situation.

Teams from South Australia and Western Australia figured very well, but Australia's strongest O.T State - New South Wales - failed to field a team for the second consecutive year.

One curious anomaly becomes apparent when one scans the list of models used; the USA has not yet discovered Don Broggin's Stardust Special, an American design which looms large in results here in Oz. Ed Solenberger of SAM 27 used an Anderson Pylon, a model which was highly successful here in Australia 7-8 years ago, the same model was flown by Don Crosby and Ralph Wasier of SAMNX 211, but we have since found the STARDUST to be much more competitive even with the 8oz wing loading, in fact several Oz fliers leave the ballast in for general competition, finding that the model behaves better with it than without, particularly when wind is a factor.

We all welcome Italy's entry yet again and applaud their use of "different" models, we learn that the STARDUST plan has reached that Country and look forward with interest to next year's results from them.

SAM 600 (Victoria, Australia) was at a performance peak this time around with twelve taking part so strongly that even the third, fourth and fifth flier's scores would have been sufficient to secure a win, but the wheel will turn and we all hope that American interest in this very American Trophy will rebound.

Thanks once more to WEBMASTER Peter Hosking's admirable work on collecting, collating and disseminating results.

B² (AKA **Barry Barton**)