

The Thermaleer

25th Canowindra at "Bogwood" 2007. by Barry Barton

In the beginning was SAM 1788, based in the most populous State and first to embrace the OLD timer movement in Oz and begun as the Nation's Premier event way back in '83 at Goulburn when Victorian Fliers such as Dennis Parker and Monty Tyrell were among the first to patronize it. After two runnings at Goulburn the event moved to the Pines at Canowindra thence in 1998 to Paul Farthing's 500 acre property; "BOGWOOD".

SAM 1788 President; Paul Farthing had spent much time and effort promoting the event In Victoria, traveling to Cohuna twice for the Vic Titles. SAM 600 initially agreed to fully support his worthy endeavors which fell in a heap when someone in 600 shifted the goal posts and shot 1788 in the rear; despite this disappointment however the entry at Canowindra; 30 plus in several events and five days of flying with some enthusiasts traveling 3000kms to be in it, was an event bigger and better than we have been privileged to be part of for many a long year.

A sad note occurred on Thursday Day One, when we learned of the death of Basil Healy's wife Pat after a prolonged battle with cancer, Basil was at the event flying, as Pat, no doubt would have wished.

Five Vics did make the journey; three from Snake Valley and Two TOFFS, an impression they did eventually make.

Day One Thursday; a C/L Rally plus R/C Tomboy won by Veteran SA "Bogwood" enthusiast Rex Brown, F/F Tomboy taken out by yet another "Olde" Oldtimer Geoff Potter and Vintage F/F saw the Little Aud: of Peter Scott beat Jim Rae's "Heckler" into second.

Day Two dawned fine early but sadly got windy as the day progressed, flying continued in conditions which were very marginal, no damage however and Condo put on a fine display of fence-hopping to make his final landing in to take first from Penny. Arnold Broese (QL); a recent and most enthusiastic addition to our ranks flew in third.

A refreshing acknowledgement occurred this day when Dave Brown; who spent much time organizing, gave credit for Trevor Boundy's original score sheet layout which has established the standard, despite the other name on the bottom of the sheet.

1/2A shifted to an 08.00 start Day Three with a huge field of 34 with 24 making the fly off in light breezes which got up and once more were to cut short the proposed flying day to only two rather than three events.

The South African born, Australian naturalized, Canadian employed and Queensland retiree, Arnold Broese, though only second in 1/2A, showed that his form in this event has not diminished since his two 15 minute max's in the recent Frank Ehling Trophy, flying a small Playboy, he was the only Oz based flier to achieve this difficult feat.

TOFFS Brian Laughton now began his run with a 5th in 1/2A soon to be followed by a 5th in Burford coupled with a 6th in Nostalgia and rounded off his amazingly consistent effort with wins in Duration and 2cc against some of the Nation's top competitors, after a lifetime of OT building and flying, a just reward.

Not to be overshadowed, Steven B Gullock from Snake Valley blitzed the field in '38 with his ancient POLLY, his best ever win in his short OT career, the rest of the field was left shaking their heads in bewilderment at the strength of this year's Mexican Invasion.

Danny Missen didn't have such a good weekend, he wrecked his model on take-off, Dave Myers the second of Snake Valley's Support Team did slightly better, but his main contribution to the highly successful event was his introduction of Euchre to those camped in and around the shearing shed.

Paul Farthing may not have succeeded in getting as large a SAM 600 representation as he would have wished but he can take much kudos from the fact that those who were fortunate enough to make the journey will not need second invitations to be there next time around.

One large plus next time around is the by-pass at Albury which saves much frustration and fuel.

Next Old Timer around for the Victorians (read Mexicans in NSW) is a return to Haddon on May 5th & 6th, where we hope to crack it for some suitable weather.

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