

The Thermaleer

Wangaratta 2007 or Penny's Purple Patch (date ?? 2007). by Barry Barton

Historically this event, (which used to be based at our MAAA funded facility at DRAGES AIRWORLD), attracted a huge following of ardent OT fliers, not so any more. Victorian fliers numbered eight and NSW about the same, such is the decline in our sport.

Paul Farthing, the far traveled and extra-enthusiastic Pres: of 1788 led convincingly taking the first three events on Saturday; '38, Burford and Duration. Grant Mainwarring, much to his surprise, managed a max with his Yankee Clipper; a model no one in Oz has yet been able to come to terms with. Bill Britcher was one who spent many fruitless hours trying to tame it. Duration was held amidst much background comment about a certain AFL Grand Final happening somewhere down in Melbourne, it didn't bother Penny, he continued his blitz until day's end in weather which was certainly flyable though perhaps not ideal, it being Spring.

Talking point early on was a unique COX 049 that Penny had acquired. It sported a ribbed drive shaft housing and according to one authority may have been cast in magnesium! It didn't function too well in Sunday's first event (1/2A)but will be sorted before the WA Nats. Freshening, gusty wind bedeviled the field in 1'2 A. Graham Scott, one of the first away, did an OOS over by the railway and tree line. Brian McLean of the Echuca Club, sporting his new green and dayglo orange SDS, also struck trouble using his slow-revving, electric-propped, unsorted model. He wisely packed it when retrieved ready to fly another day. Out of the 17 1/2A entrants only five made the fly off held in rapidly deteriorating weather which eventually killed off the very popular Texaco event. Extra fliers from THE Texaco Club = Cohuna - had arrived but were disappointed as was Geoff Potter who assembled his model to no avail.

This was the last event that our SAM 600 travellers took part in before their foray into the big-time @ the OT Nats in Nevada, Steve Gullock and Brian Laughton didn't achieve at their usual high level, probably saving themselves for a tilt at the Americans. We all wish them good fortune.

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