

Return of the Glory Days.

Canowindra 2008

There is only one dedicated venue of O/T flying in Oz, no other form of model flying is fortunate enough to get access, it is laid back, superbly organised and if anything getting bigger and better. No one matches the devoted input of SAM 1788 President, Paul Farthing and his team at his "Bogwood" property. Increasing numbers have woken up to the fact, travelling immense distances using fuel becoming even more expensive to be part of Australia's and probably the World's Premier O/T event.

Small wonder Paul & Kym heave a sigh of relief when the last vehicle departs after Easter.

SAM 600's small band of faithful did not fare as well as last year. Steve Gullock's Burford powered "Polly" did not retain '38. Brian Laughton did not achieve the great run of high placing's, switching stupidity resulting in a fly-away. Kevin Fryer surprised many with the potential of his "uncompetitive" "Red Zephyr" but lacked the tank capacity to get amongst it. Robert Taylor lost his "Cumulus" in dark cloud, flew another model thereafter only to later see his model plummeting vertically to a shattered conclusion. Brian Dowie lacked R&D on his P/B so retired, B2 did not lose, bend or achieve anything.

Outstanding among results was Brian Laughton's Texaco effort, in a field of 42 he was amongst those high fliers who overcame low level glass ceilings to get that optimum height to almost guarantee success. After 50 minutes however his ageing eyes and body cried "enough" so he brought it down to gain a creditable 3rd against Australia's toughest competition.

So the "Mexicans" returned South of the border vowing to return next year to be part of the very best in Oz. Mooted for 09, when Easter is in early April, thereby avoiding the dreaded Autumnal Equinox, there was to have been the OZ Nationals one week later at Cootamundra (restricted to two days). Some thought is now being given to making the Nats concurrent with SAM 1788's Easter at "Bogwood". Watch this space.

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