



The Newsletter of the Burlington Radio Control Modelers Club

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The President's Letter: *Tom Gwinnett*

I'm back in sunny Ontario after a couple of months in South Africa. We had a great time staying, in the most part, in the Cape peninsular south of Cape Town. Great place to visit but a bitch of a journey to get there although a new and better schedule is opening through Atlanta I hear. Thanks to Paul Chitty for holding the fort while I was away. It's a credit to past presidents that the organization of your club is so effective that the President can be away for 2 months with nobody noticing.

Were I rich I would have taken the opportunity to Visit "Thunder City" in Cape Town. This unique organization offers flights in 3 different ex-military aircraft. The English Electric Lightning, the BAE Buccaneer and the Hawker Hunter. I believe they have 3 operational Lightnings.

Check out the website <http://www.thundercity.co.za/>. They have a "spring special" for a ride in the Buccaneer. 69,990 Rand. That's about \$10,000. Gulp. A ride in the Lightning is about twice that, and these guys are not getting rich from this. Next time you ooh and aah over you favorite fighter, pause and think how much it's costing to run the thing. If you figure it costs \$20,000 every time they light up a CF18 it suddenly become a lot less sexy. Perhaps the answer is unmanned radio controlled models. There's a thought!



Buccaneer

I saw only the Buccaneer flying, but it was a real blast to see this large immaculate "veteran" airplane coming down the coast of the Cape peninsular at about a thousand feet and doing a perfect roll before heading out to sea with noisemakers going full blast.



Lightning

South Africa is "The" African Superpower, with a robust army, 6 spanking new frigates and 3 equally new submarines purchased from Germany. They currently have delivered or on order about 20 SAAB Grippens, which replace their outdated Atlas Cheetahs, (which were in fact SA re-built Dassault Mirage 111's from the 70's). In those days nobody would sell to the apartheid government so they hired a bunch of Israeli designers and with their help

built their own aircraft manufacturing capacity. Even today they are cagey about revealing some of the operational details of Cheetah. Interesting that with the Grippen they have stayed with the delta wing format. They have also purchased a couple of dozen BAE Hawks as advanced "heavy" trainers and of course potentially ground attack aircraft if ever needed. Their frigates are equipped with Westland super Lynx helicopters. In addition they designed and manufacture their own attack helicopter, the Denel Rooivark.



Gripen

South Africa could straighten out the Mugabi bunch in Zimbabwe likkety split if so inclined. They certainly have cause as they have been "invaded" by millions of refugees but the current leadership seems to have no stomach for this sort of robust action. There is an election in May, I hope things work out for the people of SA for their sake as well as mine: I want to go back.

\Hi All;

As you may well be aware, Karl Gross has received another invitation to attend and compete in the world renowned Top Gun competition in Lakeland Florida this coming May. Karl has in the past recent years competed with a Beechcraft Bonanza, Beechcraft Debonair and will now be competing with his 1/3 scale PT-17 biplane modeled after the restored version from the Joe Nall event in South Carolina. Several of us have attended the Joe Nall event over the last few years, Karl Gross, Paul Chitty, and myself. The owner of the event, Pat Hartness, has a full scale restored PT-17 that he flies at this event. Last year Karl photographed the plane ad infinitum capturing lots of detail and was able to design his own plans, machine ALL of his own parts including the landing gear struts and panels.

I have been invited by Karl to attend again with him and to be his spotter for the event. We look forward to having a few more flights on the aircraft before leaving for the first week in May.

On Friday, April 10, Karl set up the aircraft at Bayview flying field for it's maiden flight. Once everything was thoroughly checked out it was time for the taxi and lift off. Wind was generally down the runway, and when power was applied the 7 cylinder Moki pulled the aircraft off the runway in a very short distance. The only adjustments required once in the air were a few clicks of down elevator to keep it straight and level. Because of the immense size of the aircraft, we misjudged the approach and the gear caught the rise on the right side of the field, causing some slight damage on the landing approach, but nothing serious,



that cannot be corrected before the competition.

Below are a few pictures to illustrate the size and beauty of the aircraft. If you have an opportunity to observe up close, pay attention to the detail and cosmetics that simulate the full scale aircraft.

Great work Karl, I look forward to being with you at Top Gun with another winner of an aircraft.

Bill Swindells
MAAC 47841



**The Next BRCM
Meeting will be:**

Thursday, 28 May



Hi Race Fans: Race #55 (Eric Palmer)

Wow! 13 racers have contacted me so far, 11 motors in the mail from Hong Kong plus Al and I are geared up. Paul tells me he is ready to cover so he might even be done now. For those who are still to start building get cracking!!!!!!!

Mr Race has one extra copy of the Martha plans left and can get more made or you can scratch a plane. Marc is working on his own design so look for something really cool there and I will not be surprised if Harry comes up with a different plane also. I plan on building a second version of my racer with a slightly longer fuse plus smaller stiffer tail. It might be triangular in cross section behind the wing just to be different we will see. I finally purchased a Compaq module for my radio so now have more memory than planes for the first time and can experiment without needing to overwrite existing setups. Yay.

I have started a list of race numbers so far all double digits but you can have more or less it's your preference. These numbers are taken, 55, 64,22,00,13,99,69,22.

I will contact everyone who has ordered a power system through me with your final cost shortly. The package weight is 4KG and Hobby King will put a value on it so we will have to wait and see if Canada Post charges Tax. The parcel still will be marked as a "gift". This will be fun to pick up as the box will be rather small for the weight it contains, just hope our dedicated postal employee's treat it kindly. Ten days has been the longest order turnaround time to date so I expect to be able to collect funds and hand out systems @ the April meeting.

I am looking at a May date for the first race, sounding like near the end of the month as we have Mothers Day and the Joe Nall for the first two weekends. I like the cold but not while playing with toy planes so the later the better for me. Laugh all you want, my hands get COLD and that makes me cranky.

We will get a date set at the April meeting.

At our March meeting, Paul Gentile gave an excellent demonstration of vacuum bagging.

Vacuum Bagging of fiberglass and resin parts is becoming a widely accepted and useful tool.

From solid glass lay ups to complex composite structures, vacuum bagging is a technique that should, and can, be explored by even the novice. Paul demonstrated the basic elements of the technique.



Photographs from the March 4th Great Rubber Race

