

MODEL AERONAUTICAL
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Newsletter

NO. 3/2004

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Manual of Procedures

The M.A.A.A. Manual of Procedures is on the M.A.A.A. web site.

Personal Accident Insurance.

As noted in earlier Newsletters, the Personal Accident Policy, which is part of the M.A.A.A. Insurance suite, does not apply to members over the age of 80. The M.A.A.A. has been negotiating with our Insurance Broker with the view to being able to offer a refund to our members who are over 80 and therefore receive no benefit from this policy.

The M.A.A.A. Executive have agreed that should we be successful in negotiating a refund of premiums for members over 80 years, then that amount will be refunded to those in the M.A.A.A. data base with a confirmed date of birth that puts them over 80 years of age as at July 1 2003. It was decided due to administrative and cost reasons that only full year refunds would be processed.

Despite many requests in various M.A.A.A. Newsletters, many members still do not advise their birth dates and therefore we do not have an accurate list of birth dates.

Any member who is over 80 years of age who would like to receive a refund of the Personal Accident Policy premium, about \$5-50, if we are successful in our negotiations, you will need to provide documentary evidence of your date of birth

to either your State Secretary or the M.A.A.A. Secretary by no later than May 30th 2004.

For all other members please make an effort to provide your date of birth when renewing next year, particularly if you are in the 70 plus age group, as the refund of this premium may be an ongoing occurrence.

Change in M.A.A.A.'s Financial Year and Council meeting date.

For historic reasons the M.A.A.A. financial year has been from 1st November to 31st October each year. This was "out of step" with the M.A.A.A. "membership year" of July 1st to June 30th. This caused problems in financial reporting with the potential of the figures to be skewed due to late payment of membership fees etc. It also made it difficult to get an accurate picture of the M.A.A.A. financial situation. At its 2004 meeting the M.A.A.A. the Council decided to has changed its financial year to improve the reporting and management of the Association

Council decided to bring the Associations financial year into line with the membership year and generally accepted financial year of July 1 to June 30. This will also have the affect of changing the date of the M.A.A.A. Annual Conference that has, for many years, been held in February. Starting in 2005 the M.A.A.A. Council Meetings will be held in May of each year. This will enable the Council to more readily understand the Associations financial situation and to consider insurance quotes and set fees for the up coming year.

Rules Change

As a general wake up call for all members who compete in competitions run to M.A.A.A. Rules please note that 2005 is a Competition Rules Change year. The rules to which competitions are run to are fixed for four-year periods and can only be changed at the Special Rules Conference of the M.A.A.A. The only exceptions to this are Rules changes for safety reason. The next Rules Conference will be held as part of the 2005 M.A.A.A. Council Conference that is scheduled to be held in May 2005.

All M.A.A.A. Technical Sub-committee chairmen have been advised of this and they should be in consultation with their groups to review the rules applicable to their discipline and draft any changes. This is your opportunity to have input to the rules. Do not waste it as it will be 2009 before the next Rules Change Conference is held.

Location of M.A.A.A. Council Meetings

Many will realise that the M.A.A.A. Council meeting have in the past been held in Melbourne. Initially this was due to a Constitutional requirement that the M.A.A.A. Executive to all reside in the same State so that they could have face to face meetings. As many would know Chris Greenwood and the other members of the

Executive at that time, lived in Melbourne, and therefore the Council meetings were organised by Chris in Melbourne. With the improvements of communications technology this rule was changed and the Executive now has members in several different states and their Executive meetings are tele-conferences.

It is possible for the Council meeting be held in any location but they have continued to be held in Melbourne. For the past nine years, with the kind support of the Ford Motor Company, the M.A.A.A. has been able to hold our Council meetings at their training centre in Melbourne. This is a great facility and is very close to Melbourne airport so has great advantages to the Association not the least being the cost. The Council has decided that whilst we are able to have access to this great facility, it is to the Association's financial benefit to continue hold the meeting in Melbourne. If we loose access to the Ford facility then the location of the meeting will most probably change and could also rotate around different States.

Safety

We are still getting insurance claims as a result of hands and propellers coming into conflict. In all cases the hand and/or fingers, lost the battle. A couple of the incidents have proved very damaging with a finger being actually cut off. These types of accidents are preventable. Please be aware that you must be extremely careful around engines that are running. Do not talk to or distract your fellow modellers when they are starting and engine or near one that is running. Always, repeat, always, move behind the engine to make tuning adjustments and remove the glow lead. Do not lean or reach over an engine that is running. If you do, it is only a matter of time before your fingers get mixed up in the propeller. That is something that you do not want to experience. Please use aircraft restrainers, but do not just rely on them. If the ground is soft, in particularly as we are coming up to winter, get a mate to also hold the model, especially if you intend to run the engine up to a high throttle setting.

Let us all have a goal to eliminate conflict between hands and propellers. It can be done, it just needs us to be aware at all times.

2004 World Championships

As all the world championships for 2004 are being held in the northern hemisphere the time is fast approaching for our teams to depart for the competitions. I know most of the Teams are in the final stages of planning for departure. I am particularly impressed with the buz that has developed around the Control Line team heading off to the Muncie in the USA. They have managed to put together pretty much a full team with two juniors also flying. They also have a good number of supporters going over as well and from reports all are really looking forward to the event. There is a feeling that they could bring home

some medals and there is a positive feel with respect to a possible team medal. Let us hope that they do well and have a great time. The CL World Champs are being held at the American Model Academy (AMA) headquarters in Muncie, Indiana. It is a fabulous facility. It has an excellent model museum as well as a 1000 acres flying site, yes that is 1000 acres. I have had the privilege to visit the facility and have a tour. It is well worth a look if you are even in the US. Their museum is really something. It has a full size fully stocked 1950's hobby shop. All the kit and engine boxes have product in them. All donated by members. It is wonderful what having 186,000 members can give you.

Other teams that are heading off for world champs are, F3J Gliding to Canada, F4C Scale to Poland and F5B/F5D Electric to the UK. We wish them all luck and a great contest and hope that they all perform to their expectations.

Of course Australia is hosting the F3A (Aerobatics) CAOCC (Combined Asia Oceania Continental Championships) event at Coolum on the Sunshine Coast over the period 15 to 24 July 2004. If you want to see top people in Aerobatics then Coolum in July is the place to be. Why not make an effort and go to the event. You may never get the opportunity again to see these top aerobatic pilots.

2005 Nationals

The 2005 Nationals are to be held in NSW and will be centred around Sydney in the mid year. Further information will be provided when it becomes available.

2005 World Championships

In 2005 the following world championships will be run; F1A, F1B & F1C - Free Flight, in Argentina ; F3A – Aerobatics, in France ; F3C – Helicopters, in Spain and F3D – Pylon Racing, in France.

The M.A.A.A. Special Interest Groups or Technical Sub committees are responsible for running team trials for these events and are being scheduled right now. If you are interested in trying out for a place in any of these teams you should immediately contact the relevant Special Interest Group or Technical Sub-committee for details of the team trials. If you do not have the contact details, contact your State Secretary or the M.A.A.A. Secretary who will be able to give you a contact.

The 2006 world championships are not that far around the corner. The disciplines for 2006 are the same as for 2004. If you are keen to have a go at getting into world champs team then you should start to plan now.