

A Tribute to Dave Hines

Dave Hines passed away on November 1, 2012 after a 10-year battle with mesothelioma (asbestos induced lung cancer). During that time Dave competed in 3 world championships - for F5B in York 2006, Pitesti 2008 and Muncie 2010. Dave finished as the top ranked Australian competitor in two of those competitions. Behind the scenes Dave was a driving force in organising the rules and standards for several of the electric competitions held in Australia. His deep technical knowledge, resulting from his fine brain and engineering background, made him the go-to person for matters technical. His gregarious nature and willingness to help made him one of those people that drove the cohesiveness and sense of community that has existed between electric model aircraft flyers since the sport began. Along with the passing of Ray Pike, it has been a tough year for the Australian F5B and electric gliding community.

The sense of community that the sport engenders has reached out beyond Australia. Dave and his friend Ken Ueyama were the driving force in establishing the Australia-Japan F5B cup that has been held on several occasions in the past few years. The event provided several Australians and their families with a great opportunity to experience Japan and Japanese hospitality at first hand.

No mention of Dave and model plane flying could go without noting his dedication to his family, Denise, Lachlan and Imogen, and in turn their support both for him and for electric fliers. I competed with Dave on three occasions overseas at model aircraft competitions and was never in any doubt where his first loyalty lay. Our thoughts are with them. Dave will be much missed by those of us who received evening phone calls discussing RC matters, things that needed doing, major problems of the world that needed solving, and various other issues. Although sometimes difficult to find an opportunity to get one's own point of view across, these conversations were always welcome and we knew that Dave was in fact an excellent listener, taking it all on board. Dave's determination not to let his illness get in the way of his life and his strong spirit set a great example for everyone.

I did not have the pleasure of meeting Dave until 2003. His earlier passion was for control line racing. One of his colleagues from those times, Stuart Maxwell recalled as follows:

"Ten or so years ago, whilst at Steve Rothwell's workshop, I learned of Dave's illness. I was stunned that he would be taken from us far too early. A bunch of childhood memories came flooding back to me, reminding me of what were probably the happiest times of my life, and the most fun part of all my aeromodelling activities - control line racing at Kuringai Model Flying Club here in Sydney. I remember back in the late 70's



and early 80's, as a kid flying control line racing, Dave was one of my mentors. He taught me a lot about racing and aeromodelling. He had a huge impact on me. He was pretty serious about his racing, yet always had time for me, whether it was starting and launching my aircraft or helping me set up my racers, or helping my Dad get my engines running correctly. One very vivid memory is of the time when he pitted for me in mini-Goodyear, at a club race at KMFC, in 1980. We used Cox .049 reed valve engines (Black Widows). Dave was so used to slamming the refuelling bottle into the quick-fill valve on his "proper" Goodyear racers, he forgot how delicate the little mini-Goodyears were. First pit stop and he was so keen to get it done super-quick, he pushed the re-fuelling nozzle onto the tiny tube on the tank so fast he split the fuselage in two. I thought my day's racing was over, but he ran off, got some 5 minute epoxy and glued it back together while the race was still going on, with me sitting on the grass in the middle of the circle and

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two other models whizzing by overhead. I was stunned, I would never have thought you could glue a model back together at the field, let alone do it while a race was in progress. Half an hour later I was back up racing. I still have the trophy I won for second place in Junior Mini-Goodyear that day. It was that "never give up" attitude that rubbed off onto a young Stumax and stayed with me.

Fifteen years later, when I was designing and racing composite F3D models, I met up with Dave again, after not seeing him since my control line days. This time, *he* was picking *my* brain for ideas, something that made me feel like I'd really succeeded, and drove home just what a great bloke Dave was. Even though he taught me so much, he

still sat and listened to my ramblings about aerodynamics and composite structures as if I was the mentor this time. There was not a touch of "I've been doing this longer, so I know more than you" attitude that some people seem to be plagued with. I never got to fly one of Dave's F5B models, although he often asked me to come out with him to have a go at F5B. I guess it's part of being a kid aeromodeller that you're gonna lose all of your mentors sooner or later. In 35 years of aeromodelling I've lost a lot of my mentors, but still hold the memories and knowledge they graciously shared with me. Thanks, Dave!

David Leitch & Stuart Maxwell

A Call to F5B Fliers

It has been a sad year, as David Leitch said—to lose two of our top F5B fliers in one year! And good friends at that! I would like to issue a call to all F5B fliers to not lose heart. Do not give up on F5B—rather, let this be an impetus to greater efforts. Rally support and see if you can set up an F5B event to be held in memory of, and as a tribute to, Ray Pike and Dave Hines. Even name the event after these strong fliers. Let the show continue and remember our mates!

Announcement—2013 NEFR to be held at Queanbeyan

The Queanbeyan Model Aircraft Club have agreed to host the National Electric Flight Rally in 2013 at Easter and the Barossa Valley has been scheduled for 2014. The club has a well-developed field with facilities and is close to Canberra. Club site at: <http://www.flyqmac.info>

Events will be conducted from midday on Friday 29 March to Sunday 31 March with breaks for free flying. Monday 1 April is reserved for free flying only. The AEFA dinner will be on Saturday night 30 March. Book the dates now. If you would like to stay at the local caravan park close to the centre of Queanbeyan, book soon to secure a cabin or camp site—see it here: <http://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/queanbeyan-area/queanbeyan/accommodation/queanbeyan-riverside-tourist-park>

Swan Hill 2012 Preview—article next edition



Twin Otter snapped at Swan Hill by Mal Pring—watch for Mal's article about the event in the next newsletter.



Kevin Weedon's Concorde flew successfully at Swan Hill as experiments were conducted with different propellers.