

Herewith are the results from most official slope contests known to have been held in Victoria since 1971.

They include mainly State slope aerobatics championships, local aerobatics contests, some slope pylon racing and a few other interesting things that have happened along the way.

There are also a handful of events that were run in other states.

This information was compiled and edited by Ian Cole with historical information taken from the VARMS History log compiled by Des Bayliss.

Victorian State Championship - Slope Aerobatics

Mt Hollowback, 2005

~ August 18 ~

Arriving early at Mt. Hollowback I was greeted to a windless slope, with expected south westerly's not eventuating. Instead, a light breeze came in from the north, steadily increasing throughout the day. It was well past lunchtime before the first round was able to get underway.

The wind did eventually spring to life but it was from the north (as it was two years ago, the last time this event was held). The conditions were consistent all afternoon - the wind consistently got stronger, the sink was consistent and the pilots frustrations were consistent. Nevertheless, there were consistent thermals, which came through about every three to five minutes. All pilots were given ample time to complete their incident-free rounds with varied success.

Notable was the fact that there were only three people who had competed in the 2003 event. Some had not competed in this event before and for at least two of the pilots it was their first ever model gliding competition.

Now if you don't see my name on the scoresheet, that's because I wasn't there. Well, actually I was but unfortunately my annual fees arrived late - too late. I found out a few days after the event that after an agonising consultation with the VMAA, VARMS had no alternative but to disqualify me, thereby forfeiting my position to Theo Arvanitakis. The lesson to be learned here is to make sure you are paid up well before a

From Left: Anthony Peate, Andrew Wyatt, Bill Hamilton (visitor only), Gerry Carter, Bernie Sizer, Theo Arvanitakis, Dave Pratley, Des Bayliss, Daryl Wallis & Ian Cole.



Report by Ian Cole

competition. In fact make sure you're paid up, full stop! If I had been involved in a serious accident on the day, the contest director or VARMS or me or all of us, could have been paying someone's medical bills for a long time. My final say on this matter amount to just three words. "I'll be back."

One of the dilemmas of slope soaring is arriving to a windless site and not being able to fly, which was the case on this day for quite some time. However this could all change in the future. As many of you would be aware, the technological break-throughs in electric flight over the past few years has

been absolutely mind-blowing.

The good news is that there is now in the market place more affordable, powerful and compact motors and battery packs, which could be used in such gliders as the Ricochet and the like. Over the next twelve months, Dave Pratley and myself will be working on converting the Ricochet using the latest technology available. Dave will be working an internal conversion, whilst I will be tinkering with a aerodynamic vacuum-formed clip-on sleeve arrangement, which will house all equipment necessary without altering the existing set-up. We will be working towards trialing these systems for next year's aerobatics event. This could totally revolutionise the sport if trials are successful and hopefully might create a renewed interest in slope soaring competition and the hobby in general.

SLOPE TRIVIA: Five significant changes have been made to this photo taken at Mt. Hollowback, although you could break it down into smaller increments. You'll know what I mean when you've solved the puzzle.



COMPETITOR	2 loops		ax/ba roll Total	5 sec inv Convert	2 stl turns Pos	3 spins	optional					
	Rd 1	Rd 2										
Ian Cole	Provisional winner but was disqualified on an administration technicality.											
Anthony Peate	Rd 1	22	19	24	18	19	21x1.5 = 31.5	(inv circle)	133.5			
	Rd 2	22	18	20	13	16	12x2.0 = 24	(3 con rolls)		113	246.5	858.9 3
Des Bayliss	Rd 1	19	18	21	16	21	21x2 = 42	(3 con rolls)	137			
	Rd 2	21	22	21	14	18	20x1.5 = 30	(inv circle)		126	263	916.4 2
Andrew Wyatt	Rd 1	23	15	19	15	19	22x1.0 = 22	(snap roll)	113			
	Rd 2	11	17	17	20	17	20x2.5 = 50	(inv fig 8)		132	245	853.7 4
Bernie Sizer	Rd 1	18	18	15	9	22	15x1.5 = 22.5	(inv circle)	104.5			
	Rd 2	22	22	20	18	25	20x1.5 = 30	(inv circle)		137	241.5	841.5 5
Theo Arvanitakis	Rd 1	6	18	20	22	18	24x2 = 48	(4 pt roll)	132			
	Rd 2	18	23	19	23	17	22x2.5 = 55	(Cubin 8)		155	287	1000 1
David Pratley	Rd 1	15	19	3	12	17	12x1.5 = 18	(inv circle)	84			
	Rd 2	22	21	19	18	19	17x2.5 = 42.5	(Cuban 8)		141.5	225.5	785.7 7
Gerry Carter	Rd 1	18	23	17	19	9	14x1.5 = 21	(Inv circle)	107			
	Rd 2	25	24	21	15	6	18x1.0 = 18	(snap roll)		109	216	752.6 8
Daryl Wallis	Rd 1	20	16	20	13	21	17x1.5 = 25.5	(inv circle)	115.5			
	Rd 2	24	12	22	13	27	8x2.5 = 20	(Cuban 8)		118	233.5	813.6 6

Victorian State Championship - Slope Aerobatics

Mt Hollowback, 2003

~ September 28 ~



September 28th saw a few of the die-hard slope soaring enthusiasts head up towards Ballarat and beyond for a day of aerobatics at Mt. Hollowback (approx. 20 minutes drive northwest of Ballarat). Whilst the odds of the big hill producing perfect conditions for this type of event are about **one** in four, this day was one of those **ones**.

Though the north side of Mt. Hollowback isn't the best of slopes, the 20 to 30 knot wind, the intermittent cloud cover and the constant thermal activity all combined to produce conditions that were about as good as it gets - which were pretty damn good.

Whilst the day was played down by most as a fun, not so serious affair, it became obvious when the time came to perform, that everyone was out to impress the judges to the best of their ability. Those not flying at the time were either judging, looking on, giving back-up support to their mates when needed or just trying to keep warm. I reckon the chill factor must have been around zero - zero - zero. However, as you can see from the photos, everyone was well equipped for the conditions and no cases of hypothermia were reported on top of 'frost-bite' hill.

Most competitors were out of practice - some more than others. However, what was most noticeable during the four rounds held throughout the day, was the lack of knowledge by pilots in regards to positioning their gliders correctly before commencing each manoeuvre. This proved to be very costly, not only in points scored but most probably contributed to the loss of at least one glider and minor damage to some other models on the day.

It was good to see some new faces having a go at slope aerobatics. Overall, it was a very successful day. I hope it will generate more interest in the future from newer members who are getting into gliding. Maybe we will see more events of this type on the VMAA calendar in the future. Currently there is just the one.

During the holidays, I will be conducting some workshops on slope soaring, which will include aerobatics flying and judging for those interested. More on this next month.

On the subject of aerobatics, after over ten years revising a very flawed program, I'm soon to present a new draft of the MAAA rules and guidelines for slope soaring aerobatics, which has been successfully trialled throughout the 1990's. The changes will be displayed to the appropriate associations around Australia, before tabling the draft at the next MAAA's Rules Conference.

Not being associated with this particular event for some years, I couldn't help notice an anomaly, which still exists within the title. In 1993, it was decided to separate the aerobatics program from the pylon racing program. In years gone by, pylon racing was carried out with multiple models flying simultaneously - sometimes up to four gliders per heat. As models became more expensive, it was decided to have only one model flying at a time. This made the day long and tiring for all those involved. Hence the change in format and the subsequent evolution of two separately titled contests - one of which heads this report. It was the superseded title, which appeared in Aspectivity recently, that prompted me to address this anomaly. Also, trophies supplied by the VMAA for this year's event, displayed yet another title, making this at one of about six different titles to this event since its very inception. I hope this can be sorted out once and for all in time for next year's VICTORIAN STATE SLOPE SOARING AEROBATICS CHAMPIONSHIP. **STOP PRESS: It wasn't.**



~ ~ ~ PLACINGS ~ ~ ~

1st (445)	Ian Cole	Modified Bullet Ricochet	5th (284)	Dave Pratley	Mini Elipse & Spectrum
2nd (422)	Des Bayliss	Slope Ricochet	6th (263.5 *)	Ian Slack	Mod. Rico, EZ Arrow Head & Lunak
3rd (383.5)	Colin Smith	Slope Ricochet	7th (247 *)	Peter Cossins	Slope Rico
4th (336.5)	Geoff Moore	Slope Ricochet	8th (237.5)	Dave Millward	Nemesis

* Signifies round missed