

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, 2009

~ November 29 ~

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On Sunday, November 29th the Victorian State Championship for Slope Aerobatics was re-run at Mount Hollowback, Ballarat.

CD for the day, Peter Cossins, again travelled to Ballarat on the Saturday afternoon practise and also to be able to be on the slope to get a timely start to the competition by staying the night at a motel close to Bald Hills.

Peter arrived at the north slope at Hollowback only to find Ray Cooper and his wife waiting for a rain squall to pass. The squall eventually did pass and Ray and Peter attempted to do some aerobatics. Peter was keen to try out the Reverse Double Immelmann which was one of the new manoeuvres added to the competition this year. The north slope does not work all that well and he had difficulty maintaining height. He went through a few other manoeuvres and also tried the Reverse Double Immelmann unsuccessfully. Ray had better luck, as while Peter was packing up at about 6:00pm, Ray performed one of these manoeuvres. Great, at least Peter's theory of how to do it was proven.

The weather conditions for the Sunday was close to prediction. On Peter's arrival to the slope at about 9:15am, a south-westerly wind was already blowing, so it all looked a goer. I was the second to arrive on the slope, (early for a change) followed by the rest. However, as I had by far the longest distance to travel, I was absolutely stuffed as I had to be awake by 5:00am. I almost fell asleep at the wheel on the way. Whilst I had given my Ricochet a total re-build the month before and was reasonably well practised for the October scheduled event, this time I was not well prepared, due to personal issues on the home-front and a last-minute decision to install new aileron and flap servos on the Ricochet. I had never had my flap servos in the wings before. However, after about half an hour's practise and pre-flight trimming, I felt ready to rumble.

The turn-up of fliers was less than the first attempt to run the competition in October, which is sometimes the case with a re-run. Also, there was a clash of dates with other activities on the same day and perhaps a few people could not arrange a second day out.

The competition went ahead quite smoothly with a few of us trying out new tricks. I chanced an Inverted Three Turn Spin I had been working on and Ian Slack showed us all how slope aerobatics should be done with some very smooth flying. Ian Slack pulled out all stops by performing Two Outside Loops in his second round - a feat that hasn't been attempted for about 20 years. Unfortunately, his second attempt at the same manoeuvre in the final round did not pay off and this cost him outright second place.

Ray Cooper was a bit of a dark horse, although we know Ray to be a very experienced and expert flyer. The only criticism made of his flying was that at times we needed binoculars to see his conservatively sized model, though I think this might have had something to do with some incredible thermals Ray managed to

catch, much to the envy of the rest of us. Ray only came back into the fold in 2007 when he competed in this event for the first time since 1991. He did not compete in 2008.

For Peter Cossins' part, he actually got through a Reverse Double Immelmann in one round with a reasonable score, only to bomb out horribly in a second attempt later in the day. Ah well he muttered, "Back to the drawing board."

As happens on the slope, there were periods of sink but generally conditions were good for slope soaring, though timing the gap between the frequent showers was crucial in order to get all the rounds completed.

A part of the sport is to read the conditions and act accordingly. This was the downfall of many fliers. The actual manoeuvre is only half the battle. Positioning one's model correctly before diving to pick up speed is critical to a successful outcome. I have heard people in the past criticise my method of flying. Perhaps they would be well-served to notes rather than throw stones.

Colin Smith experienced one of the worst periods of sink with his Ricochet very much sub-terrarium and well below the horizon heading lower and lower. It looked at one point that he was going to have to ditch his model at the bottom of Mt Hollowback. Fortunately, a small thermal bubble appeared and with some patient flying, Colin was able to work his model back up the slope to a successful landing, not far from the top.

Des Bayliss turned up again representing the Corangamite Club. This time he was recognised without his beard, unlike last month when most of us saw him for the first time without a beard for many years. Unfortunately, there can be no more, 'Father Xmas' jokes !!!

It was good to see Trevor DeHaan back on the slope. He was a bit on the rusty side as he hadn't competed in this event since 1986, when he finished about midway in the field of 11 competitors. Trevor was a top flyer before leaving VARMS to do full sized gliding. I am sure with a bit more practise he will do well.

The challenge for everyone is to do a bit more practise before the next year's event to be that little bit more competitive.

Note that we had an equal second with Ian Slack and Ray Cooper both putting in a very good showing. Des Bayliss took out third place.

Ian Cole.

Places 2009 : 1st - Ian Cole (510), equal 2nd - Ian Slack and Ray Cooper (457), 3rd - Des Bayliss (428), 4th - Peter Cossins (358), 5th - Colin Smith (352) and 6th - Trevor DeHaan (261).

(This report was adapted, added to and edited from an article submitted by Peter Cossins in the December 2009 issue of the VARMS newsletter, ASPECTIVITY.)

The aim of the results laid out in the order with which they have been presented it so that the competitors can assess their results and look at areas they can improve on for time.

Results													
Judge 1 = J1													
Contestant	J1	J2	2 loops	axial roll	5s inv flight	2 stall turns	3 turn spin	optional man #1	raw score	kf	man #1	sb tot	total
Peter Cossins	31	32											
Round 1	8	7	5	6	8	8	7	6	2.5	35	102		
Round 2	7	6	5	5	8	7	6	7	3	42	106		
Round 3	6	6	6	6	7	6	8	7	4	25	20	85	
Round 4	5	4	6	6	6	5	8	7	1	3	6	65	358
Ian Slack													
Round 1	7	8	9	9	8	8	9	7	7	8	37.5	120.5	
Round 2	8	8	9	8	8	8	7	7	3	45	122		
Round 3	8	8	8	7	6	6	9	7	6	25	32.5	107.5	
Round 4	7	8	8	7	8	8	5	6	7	5	3	36	107
Des Bayliss													
Round 1	6	6	8	8	7	7	8	8	8	7	2.5	37.5	109.5
Round 2	5	5	7	7	8	8	6	6	6	6	2.5	30	94
Round 3	7	7	8	8	7	7	8	8	6	7	2.5	32.5	106.5
Round 4	7	7	8	8	8	9	5	6	9	9	2.5	45	118
Ian Cole													
Round 1	6	7	9	10	10	10	7	7	9	8	2.5	42.5	122.5
Round 2	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	3	51	138
Round 3	9	8	7	7	8	7	9	8	8	7	2.5	32.5	111.5
Round 4	9	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	3	51	138
Ray Cooper													
Round 1	7	7	7	7	8	8	7	7	7	7	2.5	35	105
Round 2	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	7	7	3	42	125
Round 3	7	7	8	8	7	7	7	8	8	7	2.5	35	109
Round 4	8	8	7	7	8	8	9	9	6	6	3	42	118
Colin Smith													
Round 1	8	7	6	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	2.5	25	88
Round 2	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	2	20	78
Round 3	6	7	8	8	6	6	4	4	4	4	2.5	45	102
Round 4	6	6	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	2.5	25	84
Trevor DeHaan													
Round 1	6	6	5	6	3	4	7	7	2	2	3	6	54
Round 2	6	6	3	5	5	5	6	6	4	3	2	24	73
Round 3	4	2	6	6	5	4	7	7	5	5	3	18	69
Round 4	5	6	6	6	4	4	8	8	3	3	2	12	65

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~ Gallery ~

