



Windsock Slope Gliding

« Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc »

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Windsock Slope Gliding :: General :: [GENERAL CHAT, FLYING PLANS, BRIEF REPORTS](#) :: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc



Author

**thevon**  
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Joined: Mar 2007  
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Posts: 1,364  
Location: Woody Point Qld Aust

Topic: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc (Read 95 times)

**Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**

« Thread Started on Mar 10, 2009, 9:01pm »



I want to avoid spending too much time writing these stories but I'm so bursting with enthusiasm after flying at Beechmont today, that I have to have a quick rave. I picked up our new dog hydrobath at Burleigh today, squeezing it into the Outback and then repacking heaps of glider stuff around it and headed for the hills. The radio news was saying 75kph winds on the coast and there were light showers scudding through occasionally but as it turned out, 95% of the arvo was clear.

It was about 2pm when I got to Rosins Lookout and met up with Kane and Ivan – great to make their acquaintance for the first time. The lift was huge. You could hear the roaring in the trees and I was a bit scared – my main aim was to maiden the Fazo – the 3 metre Caracho wing mated to a Fazer fuselage. This was serious wind.

I warmed up with the Nemesis. Again I say – what a plane! That little thing is totally awesome. By the time we finished today Kane was begging to get one. And with good reason! Kane got his new Zipper airborne – he got this thing fully molded from Glenn at Off the Edge and couldn't be happier with it. He was crowing with excitement.

Yesterday was the maiden and today he had the CG dialed and the Zipper was really cranking. A very fast fun machine and it even does great outside loops! The vac bagged wing with spruce leading edge feels really strong.

Ivan got his Raptor carving too. This is a Future Slope Designs plank which Kane can sell. It seemed really good, the little bits I saw – mostly I was watching my own plane! The frontside lift was just huge. It's been a long time since I've flown in lift like that. You could lose sight of the plane climbing too high, easily. I reckon you could have flown a park bench in that lift and it would have felt nimble and aerobatic. Amazing.

I dived over the back of the trees for some wild DS. So wild I had 3 huge near misses, one where I went back out the front inverted. Kane counseled me to cut the aileron rates back by half, so I landed, but this is a scary exercise. They land over the back which involved flying thru the shear between trees into a gully with dead/ mixed air and over powerlines, turning back at the end without hitting a second set of powerlines, pulling flaps and flying now UNDER said powerlines following the contours over soft undulating kikuyu till it touches down. After a couple of trial runs I put her down beautifully, and when I retrieved it found the wing had stopped 3 inches from a corner star picket! Very lucky!

Kane got the Opus up – another fantastic plane in fantastic conditions – what more can you say! The half pipes were so big you almost lost sight of it at the top.

But despite the nerves I had to stick to the plan and fly the Fazo. Kane and Ivan were really taken with it - I nearly took out a restraining order to stop them from stroking and kissing it. I finally satisfied them by taking a photo of them with it.



From left - Kane, me and Ivan. Planes are Opus, Zipper, Raptor, Fazo and Nemesis.

Then after putting in a bit of ballast, range checking etc I ran out of excuses and had to launch. Straight out of the hand, not one click of trim required! It was truly beautiful to fly and to watch. Big, fast, smooth and with a roll rate a 2 metre would be happy with. It was gi-normously nice and I was in love with it very soon. Coming across the slope with flaps down, trying an approach it suddenly pitched into the grass for a fast but flat landing, which although unplanned looked OK, but unfortunately a woody weed stem had mashed a section of wing on the centre panel. No big deal but a bit sad on the first flight! When I got back to Kane he said "Oh, no, are you on 36meg? (Yes) Did it happen in front of that tree? (Yes) Oh, I'm sorry! Should have told you everyone on 36 gets a big glitch right there! Never fly just in front of that tree!" So I don't know for sure whether that was the reason, but it made me feel a bit better.

Then it was the Vector's turn and again I could rave. What a fantastic plane! My first flight in big lift and the first flight using some ballast. It was so perfect it was almost boring. It was smooth, user friendly, fast, aerobatic and fun. Flying it was like a flight sim game set on "dead easy". It just went everywhere and every which way.

Then we pulled out the old Bat which I've modified with a zip-tied Reaper boom and fin, and an aluminium tube for a nose. I was pessimistic as the Bat hasn't been much fun lately but in this incarnation it was OK. Mind you as I said, anything would have felt good in that lift. We got the radar gun out and got stuck into some "I don't care about this plane DSing" and got 98mph before a funny fast treetop crash which did no harm, then later it bellied into the ground

at a similar speed and separated the fuse tube by snapping the ties and wing bolt. This is great because that's what I designed it to do.

Five minutes would have had it back in the air but instead, with some encouragement I had another crack at DSing the Nemesis, this time with much lower rates. And it was much smoother than before. 130mph was the best read but it's an intense place to DS. You have to approach, bottom turn and exit within a small area. Plus the wind was far from smooth with some unexpected swirls etc. There was one huge flickout over the treetops - I don't know how I got out of that! My unpredictable wild lines had the other guys hiding strategically behind me, until finally I clipped the outer leaves of the tree above us at top speed. Kane was on the phone; "Oh no, he's hit the tree ... hang on ... it's still flying!!! I can't believe it!! Land, land it now!!" It flew and landed perfectly and was found to have quite minimal damage.

Thus ended a great action packed arvo. I've been doing more fixing and building than flying lately and it was great to get the opportunity to put some of my projects into the air.

Here's me posing with the Fazo. Normally I'm quite handsome but next to this thing I look quite ordinary.



« Last Edit: Mar 10, 2009, 9:13pm by [thevon](#) »

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**sean**  
> 500  
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**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**  
« Reply #1 on Mar 10, 2009, 9:20pm »

[quote](#)

Man that sounds like a fun day, would have loved to be there. That spot is just awesome.

The wind was huge up here too, as strong as it ever gets (as you'd expect with a cyclone just off the coast I guess) and there were actually breaks in the rain and fog, probably would have been great at Bald Knob afterall.



Joined: Mar 2007  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 793

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**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**  
« Reply #2 on Mar 10, 2009, 10:04pm »

[quote](#)

awesome,   
love your new plane

Joined: Jan 2009  
Gender: Male   
Posts: 25  
Location:  
wamuran QLD

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**jirvin4505**  
> 100  
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member is offline



Joined: Aug 2007  
Gender: Male  
Posts: 169  
Location:  
Shed...Burpengary

**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**

« Reply #3 on Mar 10, 2009, 10:57pm »



Great report AVB.

Good to see you boys having fun 🎉🎉🎉🎉

cheers jeff

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Working to the closest cm!

**chamm37**  
> 250  
☆☆☆☆  
member is offline



Joined: Apr 2008  
Gender: Male  
Posts: 476  
Location: the local slope...usally SC

**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**

« Reply #4 on Mar 10, 2009, 11:08pm »



Yer i was on the phone talking to Kane while that was happening ae.....bloody hell it was tense listening to you Andrew in the backround lol.....it sounded like u had just become a millionaire or something ae 😊🎉🎉

Truely amazing Andrew, you never seem to disapoint me, 😊  
Chris 🎉

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3D, 4D, Sloping, D'sing, Combat, Thermaling and women are the best things in the world

**callun**  
> 250  
☆☆☆☆  
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Joined: Mar 2007  
Gender: Male  
Posts: 360  
Location: Brisbane

Wowza  
Guest

**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**

« Reply #5 on Mar 11, 2009, 10:20am »



I think I would've called the Fazo a Carazer.

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**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**

« Reply #6 on Mar 11, 2009, 12:09pm »



WOW great report Andrew... What more can I say...

A fantastic fun filled arvo !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I really needed to get some footage with your nemesis on the backside, 3 of the best saves I have seen...

As for the Caraser ?? I only fondled 36 times hehe.

I think you had a top reading of 136 mph which Ezza has said that anything over 100 / 110 mph is the limit there... So you have done very well.

And yes I want one of those too. My opus is just too big and quick for that tight tree line DS it zooms into the tree's at the back before you know it. and not worth dumping it. I am feeling confident to take it down to Byron and post some speeds in next few weeks 😊

Cool AVB.. let's fly some more !!! Kane

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**Pij**  
> 500  
☆☆☆☆  
member is offline



Joined: May 2008  
Gender: Male  
Posts: 628  
Location:  
Bundaberg, Q.

**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**

« Reply #7 on Mar 11, 2009, 3:12pm »



**Mar 10, 2009, 9:01pm, thevon wrote:**

Here's me posing with the Fazo. Normally I'm quite handsome but next to this thing I look quite ordinary.

Ah. Okay.

Is that the frontside you are posing in front of?

Sounds like a great day and place to be flying. Hasn't been good here.

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Pij

**thevon**  
Administrator  
★★★★★  
member is offline



**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**  
« Reply #8 on Mar 11, 2009, 5:13pm »



Yes, Pij that's the frontside. Hey Kane next time you're there can you get some good photos of the DS zone, landing zone and frontside?? It would be good - I don't think we have any on Windsock. It could be a long time till I get there again! (but I hope not)

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**mikey100**  
> 100  
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member is offline

**Re: Beechmont, Fazo, Zipper, Nemesis, Raptor etc**  
« Reply #9 on Mar 12, 2009, 3:39pm »



Just love your enthusiasm Andrew....love to read and reread your writings!! I learn a lot from 'em.

Joined: Sept 2008  
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Posts: 108

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