



Hobart Model Aero Club

Member Handbook

March 2026

Hobart Model Aero Club Inc. (00549C)
ABN 35 279 316 575
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1. Welcome to the Hobart Model Aero Club (HMAC)

Purpose of the club

The purpose of the Hobart Model Aero Club (HMAC) is to:

- promote, organise and encourage in every way the building, flying and development of model aircraft and model aeronautics generally in and in connection with Tasmania; and
- provide a safe, family-friendly and welcoming environment where people of all ages and abilities can enjoy model aviation, learn new skills, and participate in a supportive community.

What new members can expect

We welcome anyone interested in aeromodelling, and friends and family are always encouraged to come along. HMAC is a friendly, social club where members are happy to help and answer questions.

You'll often hear the club referred to simply as "HMAC."

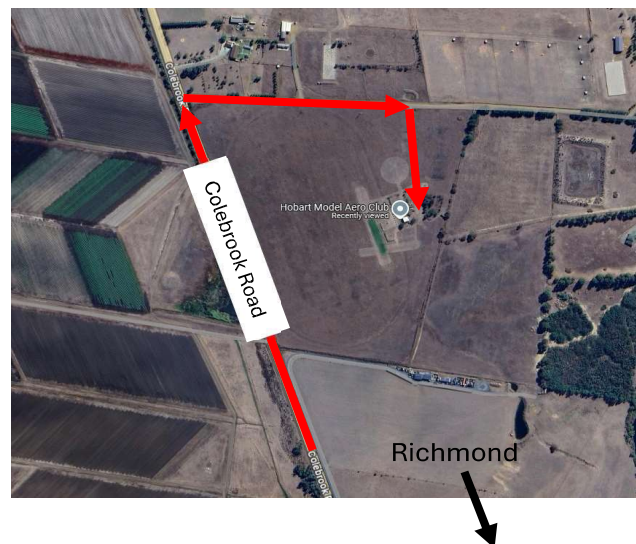
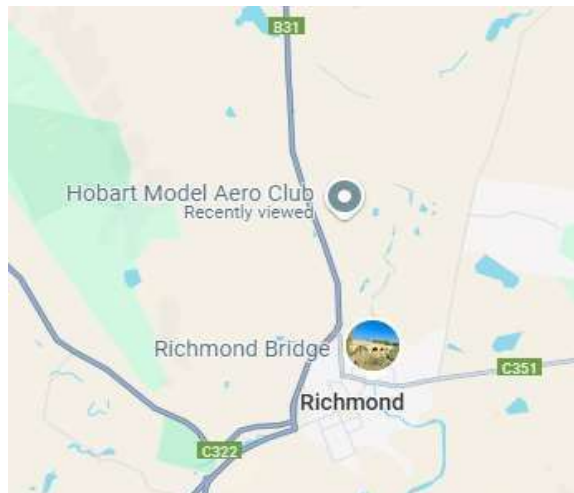
Most flying happens when the weather is calm and dry. Members usually fly from around 8:00am, with conditions often best in the morning before the northwest winds pick up.

Sundays are our main club flying day, but Saturday and Monday mornings are also popular times to meet other members at the Club.

Location

HMAC is located at 142 Colebrook Road, Richmond, just a few minutes north of the township. Look for the club sign on Colebrook Road, then turn right onto the side road leading to the field. A second sign marks the entrance gate.

Please drive slowly along the side road, driveway, and within the car park to ensure everyone's safety.



Contact Details

All general enquiries should be emailed to the Club Secretary.

Club Secretary hmacsec@gmail.com
Club Treasurer hmacreas@gmail.com

Postal Address

PO Box 244
Richmond, 7025 Tasmania

HMAC Website

Our website: <https://www.hobartmodelaeroclub.org.au>

HMAC on Facebook

Our Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/HobartModelAeroClub>

2. Membership

The purpose of this section is to define the different HMAC membership types.

- Members may be required to provide proof of membership from time to time
- Members must comply with the instructions set out in the manual

HMAC Member

A HMAC member is:

- A financially affiliated member
- Permitted to fly model aircraft at HMAC (provided they hold appropriate wing status or are under supervision of an HMAC Instructor or HMAC Assistant Instructor)
- Permitted to access and use HMAC facilities.

HMAC Junior Member

A HMAC Junior Member is:

- A financially affiliated member, under the age of 18 years
- Permitted to fly model aircraft (provided they hold appropriate wing status or are under supervision of an HMAC Instructor or HMAC Assistant Instructor)
- Permitted to access and use HMAC facilities.

HMAC Associate Member

A HMAC Associate Member is

- A financially affiliated member of a club, other than HMAC
- Permitted to fly model aircraft (provided they hold appropriate wing status or are under supervision of an HMAC Instructor or HMAC Assistant Instructor)
- Permitted to access and use HMAC facilities.

HMAC Non-Flying Member

A HMAC Non-Flying Member is:

- A financially affiliated member
- **Not permitted** to fly model aircraft
- Holds the same rights as a HMAC Member, such as nomination for appointments on the HMAC Committee or voting rights at the AGM
- Permitted to access and use HMAC facilities.

HMAC Social Member

A HMAC Social Member is:

- a financial member who participates in social aspects of the Club
- **Not permitted** to fly model aircraft
- **Does not hold** any operational right, such as nomination for appointments on the HMAC Committee or voting rights at the AGM
- Permitted to access and use HMAC facilities.

HMAC Honorary Life Member

A HMAC Honorary Life member is:

- a HMAC Member who has been unanimously recognised by the Committee as having provided outstanding service of significant and lasting benefit to the Club.

Visiting Pilot

Visiting pilots wishing to undertake flying activities at HMAC must:

- sign the Visitor Register upon arrival, and
- provide proof of current MAAA membership upon request, or
- if unable to provide proof of MAAA membership, or if not a MAAA member, may fly only under the direct supervision of a HMAC Member.

Visitor (including spectators and pets)

A Visitor is any person from the general public who attends HMAC on any occasion.

A visitor or spectator may:

- observe flying activities provided they remain in designated safe areas and comply with any direction given by an authorised person
- not fly model aircraft
- must be under the supervision of a HMAC Member at all times
- ensure that any children under 18 years of age are accompanied by a responsible adult at all times
- bring pets, provided they are supervised and kept clear of the pits, runway, and flight line whenever flying activities are underway.

3. Becoming a member

There is no expectation for you to join the club on your first visit. Most people come along a few times as visitors, meet the members, see how the club operates, and then decide if HMAC is the right fit for them.

Membership fees include:

- **HMAC club fees**, which we aim to keep as low as possible
- **MAAA membership**, which provides the insurance required for flying model aircraft
- **TMAA membership**, the Tasmanian state association affiliated with the MAAA

MAAA – National aeromodelling body: <https://www.maaa.asn.au>

TMAA – Tasmanian aeromodelling body: <https://tasmodelaero.com>

Visit [Hobart Model Aero Club](#) for more information, including membership fees, and application form.

4. Code of Conduct

HMAC aims to be a safe, respectful and welcoming place for everyone. We ask all members to help maintain a positive atmosphere at the club and in all club interactions.

- Treat all members with respect and keep communication courteous.
- If you have a grievance, put it in writing to the Secretary hmacsec@gmail.com so the Committee can address it. If you're not willing to do that, the issue shouldn't be raised further. Including suggestions for resolving the matter is encouraged.
- Rumours and gossip don't belong at the club. If they arise, politely ask the person to stop and direct their concern to the Committee.

Unacceptable behaviour may result in a warning. Continued poor behaviour can lead to removal of the Club.

Unlawful Acts or Threatening Behaviour

- Unlawful acts or threatening behaviour are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at HMAC. The safety of members and visitors takes priority at all times
- For unlawful acts or threatening behaviour, contact Police on 131 444 (non-urgent) or 000 (life-threatening).
- Members must not intervene or place themselves at risk

5. Site access

Site access

Access to HMAc is restricted to:

- HMAc financial members (including Non-Flying, Social and Life Members if requested)
- Approved visitors
- Persons authorised by the Committee

Access codes and keys will be issued to members, where required.

Members must not give access to HMAc unless HMAc Committee approval has been given

Members must not share access codes or keys with anyone

Club Access Code

The club access code will be provided to HMAc Members upon membership payment being received.

The code will give members access to:

- Main Gate
- Club House Lock Box
- Charging Shed

Members may access HMAc at any time but must ensure the charging shed, club house and main gate are closed and locked when leaving, unless flying activities are still underway and another member is present.

Visitor Access

Visitors, including spectators are welcomed and encouraged to attend HMAc, provided they:

- Do not enter the designated pilot area, marked by the main gate/s leading into the pit areas, unless under the supervision of a HMAc member

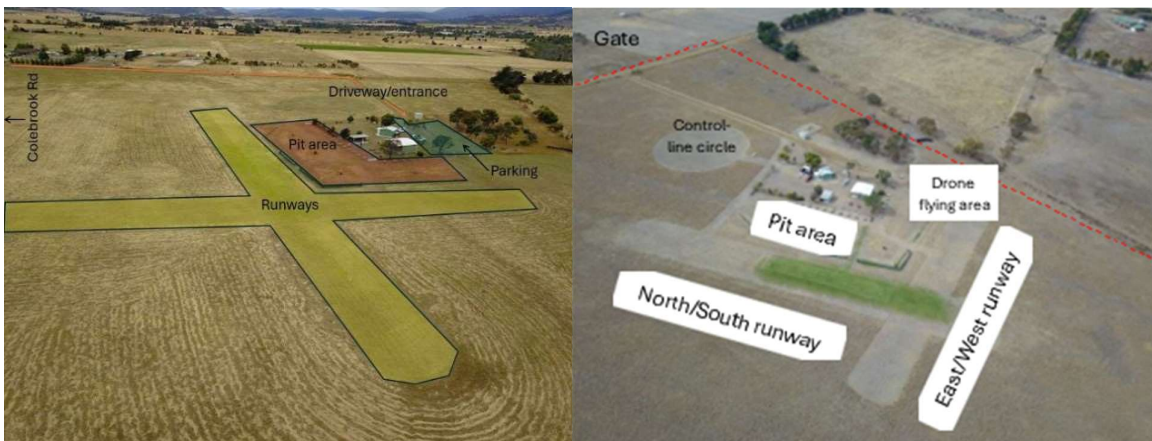
Parking and Vehicle Access

- Vehicles must only be parked in the designated gravel parking area.
- No vehicles are permitted on the runway, taxiways, or pits unless authorised for maintenance or emergency purposes.
- Drivers must proceed slowly and give way to pedestrians, aircraft, and ground operations.

6. Our Facilities

Runways

HMAc has two runways, giving pilots takeoff and landing options depending on wind direction and aircraft type. Please follow standard circuit procedures set out in the HMAc Operations Manual.



Pits and Prep Table

The pits and prep tables are for preparing and maintaining aircraft. Please keep these areas tidy, stay alert, and follow all safety procedures outlined in the HMAC Operations Manual when models are being armed or started.

Charging shed

HMAC has a dedicated charging shed for safe battery charging. Please keep this area tidy, use approved charging equipment, and follow all safety procedures outlined in the HMAC Operations Manual.

Club House and Amenities

Club House

The clubhouse provides a comfortable place for members and visitors to relax, warm up by the wood fire in winter, and enjoy tea and coffee facilities. It also has gas hot-water and lighting powered by recent increase in solar panel and battery capacity.

BBQ Area

An undercover BBQ area is available for members to use, especially during the warmer months. It's a popular social spot where members gather, share stories, and enjoy the community side of the club.

Toilets

Toilet facilities are available on site for members and visitors.

Campground Area

HMAC has an upgraded campground area with a fire pit, offering a relaxed space to enjoy the surroundings and make the most of the land we are fortunate to access.

Smoking and Alcohol

Smoking

- Smoking is only allowed in the designated car park area.
- Smoking is not permitted in the pits, taxiway, pilot area, flight line, runway, or any location where fuel, batteries, or aircraft are present.
- Smoking is also not permitted in or near areas where food is being prepared, served, or eaten.

Alcohol

- Alcohol is permitted at HMAC; however, it must not be consumed by anyone who intends to fly or supervise flying activities.
- Members must be free from the effects of alcohol before undertaking any flying related duties.

Security Cameras and Weather Station

Weather Station

HMAC has a personal weather station installed on site. Members can check live conditions, wind, temperature, rainfall and more—via our website or through Weather Underground:

- <https://www.hobartmodelaeroclub.org.au/weather>
- <https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/IRICHM303>

This helps members decide whether conditions are suitable before travelling, especially those who live further from the field.

Security Cameras

HMAC also operates several cameras around the site. These provide added security and allow members to view live video feeds, including cameras showing the windsock. This gives a real-time view of weather and activity at the field, helping members plan their visit.

Members wishing to obtain access are to contact hmacsec@gmail.com



7. Safety and Incident Management

Safety is our highest priority at HMAC. We want every member and visitor to enjoy the hobby in a safe, supportive, and well-managed environment. Please follow all safety signs, stay within designated areas, and always operate your model responsibly.

All members and visitors share responsibility for maintaining a safe environment. This includes:

- acting safely and avoiding behaviour that could create hazards
- reporting any safety concerns or near-misses as soon as possible
- following any direction given by an Authorised Person

HMAC follows the safety requirements of the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia (MAAA), and all members must comply with the rules set out in the HMAC Operations Manual.

Site-Specific Hazards

HMAC is an outdoor flying site with a mix of aviation-specific and natural environmental hazards. Members and visitors should be aware of the following common risks while on the property:

Out-of-control aircraft

Model aircraft can become unstable or crash, posing a risk to people, property, and other aircraft.

Weather conditions

Strong winds, turbulence, heat, or sudden changes in weather can make flying unsafe and increase the risk of accidents.

Battery fires

Lithium batteries can ignite if damaged, overcharged, or mishandled, creating a fire hazard.

General fire and bushfire risk

Dry grass, hot weather, and equipment use can contribute to fire ignition, especially during periods of elevated fire danger.

Heat and sun exposure

Hot weather and limited shade can lead to dehydration, heat stress, or sunburn if members are not adequately prepared.

Snakes

Snakes may be present around grass areas, shelters, and equipment, particularly in warmer months.

Slips, trips and falls

Uneven ground, cables, tools, and natural terrain can create tripping or slipping hazards around the site.

Emergency Procedures Overview

General Safety Expectations

To help keep HMAC safe and enjoyable for everyone on site, all members and visitors are expected to:

- follow all posted safety signs, instructions, and guidelines
- stay aware of their surroundings and avoid entering areas where aircraft are operating
- respect restricted areas such as pits, taxiways, and runways, these are for authorised members only
- supervise children at all times while on the property
- remain within designated visitor areas unless invited or escorted by a member
- be mindful of weather, heat, and environmental conditions while outdoors
- report any hazards, concerns, or incidents to an Authorised Person as soon as possible

In an emergency:

- Stay calm and assist only if it is safe to do so
- follow the directions of an Authorised Person or emergency services
- call 000 for life-threatening or urgent medical emergencies
- A defibrillator (AED) is located in the clubhouse, and first aid kits are positioned around the site. Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with their locations.
- Site location for emergency services:

“Kelly Fields”, 142 Colebrook Road, Richmond (approx. 2 km north of Richmond)

Incident Reporting

Any person involved in an incident while undertaking any activity at HMAC must notify an Authorised Person as soon as possible. Prompt reporting helps the club respond appropriately and maintain a safe environment for everyone.

8. Learning to fly

Learning to fly a model aircraft can feel daunting at first, but every skilled RC pilot started exactly where you are now. With the right support, it's easier than you might think, and at HMAC, learning to fly is completely free.

HMAC has highly skilled volunteer Instructors and club trainer aircraft set up with a buddy-box system. This system links two transmitters together so an instructor can guide a trainee safely, taking control instantly if needed. This means you can learn at your own pace without the fear of losing control or damaging an aircraft.

There is no expectation to buy your own model until you are confidently flying with an instructor. When you are ready, it's a good idea to talk with your instructor and other experienced members before purchasing a model or radio gear, they can help you choose equipment that is reliable, suitable for beginners, and capable of supporting your progression.

Our instructors are essential to the success of our club, generously giving their time to help new pilots learn. Please be respectful, follow their directions at all times for safety, and coordinate lesson times that work for both you and your instructor.

Refer to Appendix 3 for a list of the top 10 recommended models for new pilots.

9. Getting your wings

After a number of instructional flights, once you have acquired and demonstrated the appropriate skills needed to safely operate a model, you will be ready to undertake an assessment flight by an instructor where you will be required to undertake certain tasks and manoeuvres to satisfy the Instructor you are ready to be endorsed (also known as “getting your wings”).

There are several levels of endorsement – Bronze, Silver and Gold wings. A Gold wing pilot can then undertake appropriate training to become an endorsed Instructor.

Any HMAc member with a current endorsement (i.e. has their “wings”) can provide instruction, however only our endorsed Instructors can conduct a final flight assessment and endorse other members to fly.

Appendix 1: Terms and Definitions

The following table defines key terms used throughout this Operations Manual.

Membership Term	Meaning
MAAA Ordinary Member	A State Association properly affiliated with MAAA Inc. NB: For Tasmania the MAAA Ordinary Member is the TMAA.
Affiliate Association	An Association properly affiliated with the TMAA. NB: HMAC is an Affiliated Association of TMAA.
Affiliate Member	A person properly affiliated with an Affiliate Association. Upon payment of membership fees, the person becomes a member of their club, the TMAA, and the MAAA.
HMAC Executive Committee	Consists of the “Officers of the Association” being the President, Vice-President, Secretary (and Public Officer) and Treasurer.
HMAC Committee/ Members	Consists of the HMAC Executive Committee and three ordinary members elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
HMAC Member	A person who has been duly nominated and seconded for membership of HMAC by two financial members, has been accepted for membership by the Committee, and has paid the relevant membership fee.
HMAC Junior Member	A person under the age of 18 years, who has been duly nominated and seconded for membership of HMAC by two financial members, has been accepted for membership by the Committee, and has paid the relevant membership fee.
HMAC Associate Member	An Affiliate Member of a club other than HMAC, has been accepted for membership by the Committee, and has paid the relevant membership fee.
HMAC Non-Flying Member	A person who is not authorised to fly model aircraft but holds the same rights as an HMAC Member, has been duly nominated and seconded for membership of HMAC by two financial members, has been accepted for membership by the Committee, and has paid the relevant membership fee.
HMAC Social Member	A person who participates in social aspects of the Club, is not authorised to fly model aircraft and does not hold any operational rights, who has been duly nominated and seconded for membership of HMAC by two financial members, has been accepted for membership by the Committee, and has paid the relevant membership fee.
HMAC Honorary Life Member	A person who, in the unanimous opinion of the Committee, has performed some outstanding service of definite benefit to the Club.
Visiting Pilot	A non-HMAC flying member operating a model aircraft at HMAC may or may not be a MAAA affiliated member.
Visitor	A person from the general public who attends the Club for a purpose other than flying model aircraft.

General Terms	Meaning
Authorised Person	A HMAC Member who has been appointed by the HMAC Committee to uphold club rules, safety procedures, and operational standards.
HMAC Safety Officer	A HMAC member, who has been appointed by the Committee to oversee, promote, and enforce safe flying and site practices at HMAC.
HMAC Instructor	A HMAC member who holds a MAAA-endorsed Instructor rating and has been appointed by the HMAC Committee to undertake training activities on behalf of the club.
MAAA-endorsed Instructor Rating	An Affiliated Member who has successfully completed the MAAA Instructor training course, holds Gold Wings in the relevant discipline, and has demonstrated a high level of proficiency in order to instruct.
HMAC Assistant Instructor	A nominated HMAC Member who has been endorsed by a HMAC Instructor and appointed by the HMAC Committee to assist with the training of new or developing pilots.
Bronze, Silver, and Gold Wings	Bronze, Silver, and Gold Wings are awarded when a pilot successfully completes the relevant Wing assessment, demonstrating they can perform competently and to the required standard, the manoeuvres listed in the applicable MAAA Flight Requirements & Test Check Sheet.
Emergency Landing Area	A designated zone for forced or unplanned landings.
Failsafe	A system which sets a control/s to a predetermined setting when loss of signal is detected.
Flight Line	The designated area from which pilots operate their aircraft.
Model Aircraft Inspector	An Affiliate Member who has met the requirements for their appointment and has been given written authority to carry out inspections on behalf of the MAAA in connection with the issue of a Permit to Fly.
No-Fly Zone	Any area designated as prohibited for flight due to safety, noise, or regulatory restrictions.
Permit to Fly	A document valid for 3 years from date of issue, issued by an MAAA Aircraft Inspector following inspection carried out in accordance with MAAA guidelines.
Pilot Box	Marked pilot standing positions along the flight line.
Pilot in Command	The person responsible for the safe operation of a model aircraft during flight.
Registered to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP)	A Work with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration is a mandatory clearance under the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 (Tas) for any person engaged in activities that involve contact with young people. Upon successful confirmation they are issued a “Registered to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP)” card.
State Chief Flying Instructor	The State Chief Flying Instructor is a Affiliate Member who has been appointed by the MAAA as the Senior Flight Instructor for the TMAA to oversee the certification and testing of the MAAA-endorsed Instructor rating and holds the same authority as a HMAC Instructor.

Appendix 2: Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
ACMA	Australian Communications and Media Authority
AED	Defibrillator
AGL	Above Ground Level
ANR	Air Navigation Regulations
BVLOS	Beyond Visual Line of Sight (not permitted for recreational model flying)
CAO	Civil Aviation Orders
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CASR	Civil Aviation Safety Authority Regulations
FPV	First-Person View
HMAC	Hobart Model Aero Club
MAAA	Model Aeronautical Association of Australia
MOP	Manual of Procedures (MAAA)
PIC	Pilot in Command
RF	Radio Frequency
RTH	Return-to-Home
RWVP	Registration to Work with Vulnerable People
TMAA	Tasmanian Model Aeronautical Association Inc.
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System
VLOS	Visual Line of Sight

Appendix 3: Top 6 recommended models for new pilots

We are seeing a few new younger members show some interest in the RC hobby at our club, so I thought I would compile some information regarding advice on choice of first model. This is of-course purely my personal opinion, but has come about in response to feedback I have had from other members who already own some of these models and from reviews I have read and videos I have watched online. I have chosen to avoid mentioning models without landing gear on purpose (such as the Hobbyking Bixler and the many glider models which would definitely rate high as trainer models) as I believe it is important students learn the art of landing with gear. I have also only included EPO foam models, although there are some great balsa trainers available (such as the old trusty Boomerang).

I started with the top 5 models, but then came across another one I thought was worth mentioning. So now it's the top 6!

So.....here goes.

E-flite® Maule M-7, 1.5m

This is proving to be the number one choice in our club (3 members already own one of these) as this model is very stable for learning basic flight but can very easily perform basic aerobatics. Comes standard with a AS3X® flight control system to allow progression onto more advanced manoeuvring. A tribute to a full-scale STOL-capable design with rugged tundra-style landing gear, flaps and an optional-use float set. 3S or 4S suitable and battery access is from the top hatch.

At around \$470 (BNF) this model is one of the more expensive of the trainers.



The E-flite Maule, beautifully modelled here by Jon and Albert!

Hobbyzone AeroScout S, 1.1m (NOTE: Not the Mini AeroScout)

The new HobbyZone AeroScout S makes learning how to fly a radio-controlled plane easier than ever before. In fact, this model is only really recommended to students that don't aspire to more agile models and are happy to stay with stable well-behaved aircraft. Perhaps recommended for nervous students lacking confidence to help get them in the air safely. Personally, however, having flown one myself this is probably not the best choice for learning as this thing almost flies itself.

With SAFE technology, this high wing model is exceptionally stable and easy to fly. For \$450 (RTF), this comes with a Spektrum DXS transmitter, a 2200mAh LiPo and a charger. There is even a panic button for recovery from difficult situations.



FMS Super EZ Trainer, 1.22m

HMAC members will be familiar with this one. Not sure how many hours our club FMS Super EZ has been flown but it has certainly stood the test of time and many a student's failed landings.

Regarded as a perfect beginner-friendly sport aircraft by the manufacturer. Has a large, high-wing design with ultra-low wing loading and stable flight characteristics. It gives beginner pilots great handling even at slow speeds.

At \$413 (RTF), this comes with a FlySky transmitter and a 1300mAh LiPo.



Volantex Trainstar Ascent 747-8, 1.4m

I am a bit biased when it comes to this model as it is what I have learned to fly on. I'm not saying that it's the best trainer and everyone should learn on this. In fact I don't necessarily recommend it to learn with, but it is definitely one of the cheapest options and with a basic flight stabilisation/gyro system installed in it (such as a HobbyEagle A3 V2) this model handles windy conditions with ease, meaning more stick time for learners.

A high-wing setup, blow-moulded rugged fuselage and large wheels for grass take-offs and landings. The flimsy landing gear needs replacing with a sturdier one. Can easily take a 3200mAh 3S LiPo or bigger.

About \$350 for the PNF version or \$290 for the kit version.



TOP RC Riot Pro, 1.4m

This model is getting great reviews, but I have no first-hand experience of it. Was mentioned to me by Peter Ralph as one to look at.

The manufacturer states the following about it. "The incredible new TopRC Riot is the perfect all-rounder. With reduced control throws it's smooth, stable and remarkably easy to fly for the novice or beginner. Increase those throws and the Riot more than lives up to its name thrilling the most ambitious aerobatic pilot. It's ideal for operating from "less than perfect" flying strips, resisting hangar rash and those inevitable bumps."

\$400 (RTF), including a 3S 2200mAh LiPo

