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NEWSLETTER

Ensign's Report 1st September 2010



Some time ago group members sailing at Northcorps Lake were treated to a dramatic display of cloud known as mamma or mammatus, after the Latin name for breasts.

This is a rare supplementary cloud type that forms on the underside of other clouds when there is thunderstorm activity. It's also the closest you'll get to a dirty picture in our newsletter.

For more on clouds see: www.cloudappreciationsociety.org

On tow

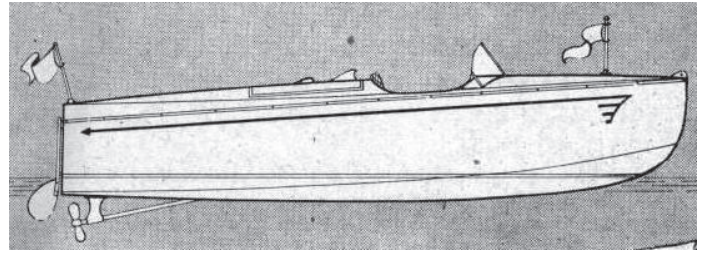
Photo: Clare

Shown providing towing practice for the tug *Craig* on sailing day is Elmar's discarded freighter. Don has since fitted a spare motor, battery and radio control to it.



Boss Drover speedboat by Murray

Boss Drover is a runabout based on Boat Builders Annual "Sea Scout" print craft project No. 138 by William D. Jackson. Refer to <http://www.svensons.com/boat/>



It contains many design elements of Chris-Craft or Riviera boats, but is less sophisticated. It's finished with coloured paint rather than clear varnished timber. First impressions of the plan were mediocre, but after reflecting on the finished boat I think it's quite elegant.

Ply may not have bent over some of the bow contours so construction was from thin timber planks (about 200) glued onto ply frames. Planking certainly lets you form curved hulls easily but has the disadvantage of extra filling, sanding and sealing to the desired finish.



An over-rated drive system consisting of a brushless motor (1400Kv 470W), 40 Amp ESC and 3S Lipo battery were chosen because they would run at low load and stay cool by air convection alone. Weight was kept down by supporting the prop shaft on a nylon bushing inside a strut. The shaft was sealed using a specially made gland containing three 0.1 mm Teflon disks. The motor end of the shaft was mounted in a ball race. Total weight of Boss Drover was 1.342 kg.

Extra effort to prepare smooth surfaces and spray red and black gloss paint resulted in an excellent finish. White waterline pin striping combined with chrome trim proved a very cost effective way of enhancing the boat's appearance. I was very satisfied with Boss Drover and learnt that even mediocre plans can produce great models. Full details are at:

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~mteese@ozemail.com.au/BossDrover.html>

