



Cub Day – Sunday 13th October 2013 by Gus Brown

I was at Baragwanath Airfield for a different reason other than to attend the second attempt at the annual Cub Migration hosted by the Johannesburg Light Plane Club, so it was a pleasant surprise to observe the antics of the day. I was surprised that there were not more aircraft visiting, but apparently strong morning winds and possibly the tragic events of the previous day kept a few aircraft in their hangars. Nevertheless, the action was fun to watch and, I am told, even more fun to participate in.

The variety of aircraft taking part made for some excellent plane spotting opportunities. I saw some fine examples of Piper Cubs, Super Cubs, Cubbys and a Tiger Moth with no wheel brakes making for some unusual rolling run-up and takeoff procedures on the downward sloped taxiway.

This is the first year this event is being held, but the second attempt at holding the flying activities this year. The previous attempt was in June and although well supported, with more than 20 aircraft counted, the winds on the day were too strong to hold the various flying activities and so it was decided to reschedule those for another day, this being that day with only half that number of aircraft visible this time but most of them competing in the balloon busting, flour bombing and spot landing. The idea came from the Woburn Abby UK de Havilland Rally attended by the convener, Courtney Watson, where Tiger Moths performed balloon busting. The flour bombing is a revival of the old EAA Sun 'n Fun pastime.

The balloon popping, I suspect, was more difficult than it appeared with only two attempts each and no one pilot scoring two hits. One balloon managed to get stuck spinning in a wingtip vortex and hung around for some time after the plane passed amusing the spectators. The flour bombing

looked like the most fun, but it helps if you have a door that stays open in flight. Interestingly the overall winner was Brian Davidson in a Cessna 140, I guess the Piper pilots are going to have to do something to improve their performance next year.

The action certainly looked like a lot of fun for the participants and with as many as 90 Cubs listed by the Piper Cub Association (www.pipercub.co.za) and possibly 30 Cubbys flying I expect that there will be a whole lot more interest next year. I for one will definitely try to be there even if it means buying some sort of Cubby aircraft, which of course was why I was there in the first place ☺

Note that this was not an EAA event, for more information visit: www.jlpc.co.za

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Top Balloon Busters

1. C140, Brian Davidson
2. PA11, Ian Popplewell; Supercub, Alan Evan-Haynes; C140, Patrick Watson

Top Flour Bombers

1. J4 Cub, Theunis van Vuuren
2. Supercub, Alan Evan-Haynes
3. Tiger Moth, Courtney Watson

Top Spot Landings

1. C140, Brian Davidson
2. J3 Cub, Ron Wheeldon
3. Tiger Moth, Courtney Watson; C140, Patrick Watson



Microwings Cubby (Cubby No. 1) missing a balloon



Locally produced Microwings Cubby (Cubby No. 3) and a Cessna 140 taking off



Inspecting a 1946 Piper L-4 / J3C Cub flown by Ron Wheeldon. This Cub has clipped wings and a set of floats in the hangar



de Havilland Tiger Moth flown by the day's convener Courtney Watson



Piper PA-18 Supercub flour bombing flow by Alan Evan-Haynes