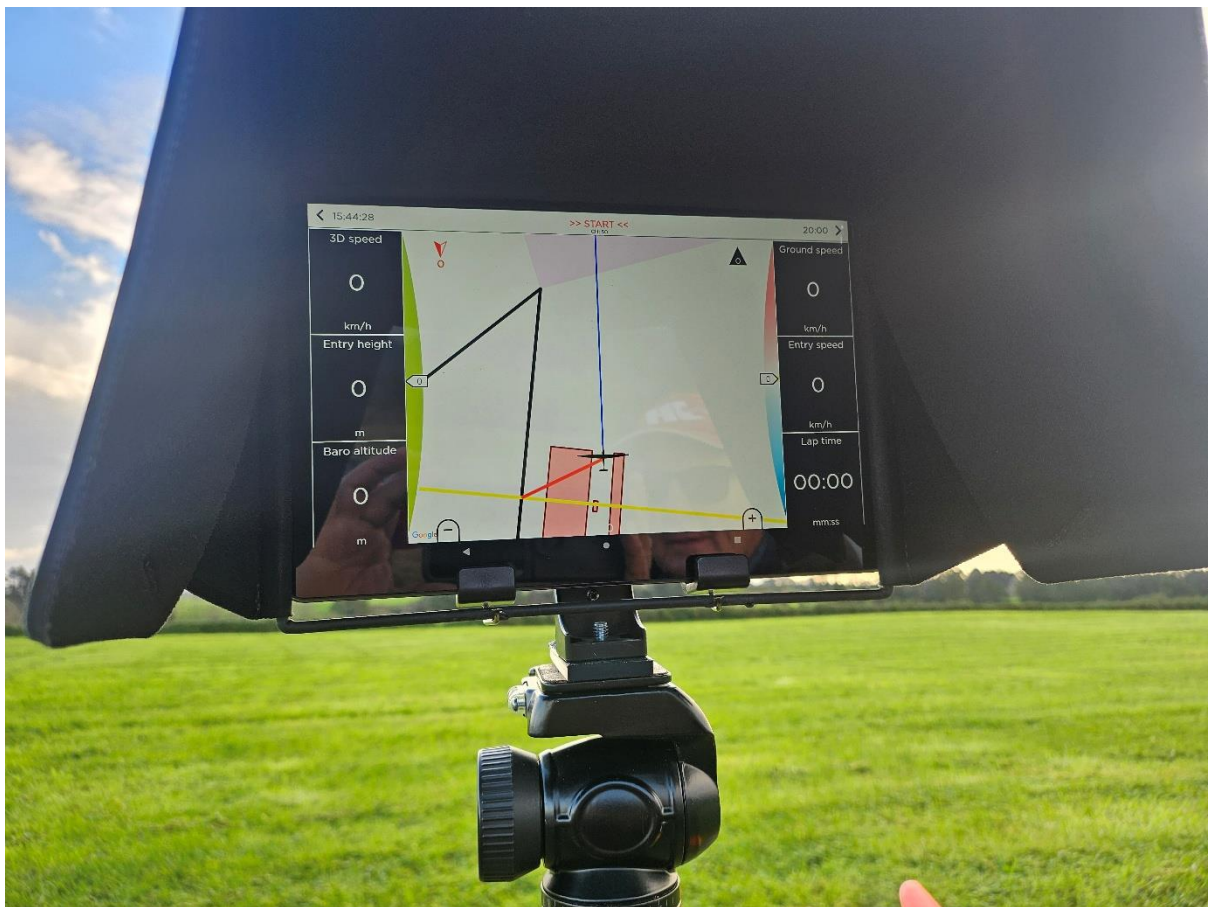


New Zealand first GPS Triangle competition,

Matamata 'the Goat Farm' - June 13-15 2025

Our first national GPS competition with heats and rounds was flown recently at the Goat Farm near Matamata. 8 keen fliers plus several visitors keen to learn more joined in from around NZ.



The weather forecast had been fluctuating between good and NOT over the weekend before the event, we had a few light showers early Friday afternoon, some fog Saturday morning and eventually too much wind on Sunday morning, in between some great flying, learning, troubleshooting talking and teaching occurred.



The fliers included Rob Johnstone, Kevin Botherway and David Griffin with some prior competition experience. Kev and Dave setup and ran the event. Locals, Bill Derenzy, Bruce Clark and John Shaw, Wayne Bilham from further south were there to experience their first GPS competition and more importantly get gear set up and running reliably and tuned to provide the right information to the pilot.



Models flown were mostly from Nan Models of Bulgaria – the Compass and Explorer Q5, plus Rob's Maxa.

The Goat Farm is set on a large open space close to the Kaimai Range. The Goats are all in sheds and the lush grass they crave is regularly harvested and taken to them, leaving a lovely site for us to fly from.

GPS events are run to a set of rules which can take a while to understand well. Scoring is done online via the rcmodelsport.com website. Each competitor downloads the same triangle task before the event, flies and records their flight on a tablet which shows where they are in relation to it and adds speed, altitude and other data. At the end of

each flight, it is saved automatically and then uploaded to RC modelspot. Organisers can then download all the scores and see results. Once we figured all this out it worked well.

Most of Friday afternoon was spent doing one on one training and equipment setup, so all had some form of reliability in their systems and understood how the various little quirks were overcome.

As this was our first time running an event both the organisers and competitors had a lot to learn, patience and asking questions was the order of the day as we all figured what was needed. Eventually we got some rounds underway with 3 or 4 models in each heat. It was great to be trying to fly GPS triangles with other models around, seeing where they found lift, hearing the callers offering advice and trying to find the balance between riding thermals for more height or getting on with the laps. In one heat John and Dave were the last two flying – both achieved 9 laps with average speeds of 31.1 and 31.3... with the same number of laps the fastest flier wins the heat, Dave got 1000 points and John 999. This was great fun and left both fliers stoked for more.

We all meet for the evening at a restaurant, and everyone was involved in a debriefing all filled with enthusiasm for the new discipline.



Sunday was for forecast as another nice day and once assembling models, we held a seminar explaining the tablet and Snipe setup preferences and explained the techniques we have already discovered. Also going through the process of maximum ballast with wing loadings on models in the Light class. As most had Q5's we also compared COG to get the most out our models for setups.

Sunday mornings first round was flown in booming lift so much so that Dave hit the competition max of 350m – this earns a penalty which can only be cleared by landing, repowering the model and starting again... only Dave didn't realise this until it was too late. Still 9 laps were flown, while Rob managed 10, the weekends record laps. The next heat was met with strengthening wind and no lift, 2 laps were flown.

Kev and Dave also flew a round of sport class later Saturday when the air was quite quiet. Only 2 laps were achieved. This class has a little larger triangle, higher entry height and entry speed.

A fantastic weekend of flying and absorbing information we managed three full rounds of Light class with congratulations to John Shaw who flew well into 1st placed and got the golden chocolate easter egg!



All results and details of the event on Modelspot : <https://www.rcmodelspot.com/>

Click on rankings, GPS Triangle cups, Local Events, past events, New Zealand Light Class, New Zealand Sport Class

We also have a page on MFNZ website under the soaring SIG, GPS Triangle

<https://www.mfnz.org/members-pilots/gps-triangle/>

This also has links to recommended GPS equipment & systems

Super thanks to everyone for attending and thank you to Bill Derenzy for the flying facilities and organizing the Notams etc.

Next GPS event is scheduled at Matamata 1st to 3rd August