

What's News?

- 2010 Catalina Festival – 23 October 2010
- Royal Motor Yacht Club – Opening of the Boating Season 2010
- New Members/Donations
- Monopoly – I didn't know this!

2010 Catalina Festival – 23 October 2010

Preparations have begun for the fourth annual Catalina Festival at Rathmines. This year's event will be held on Saturday 23 October 2010. The Festival will be held at the usual location at Rathmines.

More information will be provided as it comes to hand. Another great fund-raiser for our project!

Royal Motor Yacht Club – Opening of the Boating Season 2010

The Royal Motor Yacht Club in Toronto on Lake Macquarie invited me to be the Guest Speaker on 4 September for the occasion of the opening of the Boating Season 2010.

This involved a luncheon (at which I was to speak) and then a formal sail past of some 80 yachts, all dipping their ensigns and saluting the Commodore (and me). See photo below.

The reason I was invited was because of the Catalina base at Rathmines and the plans to build a hangar/museum and operate VH-CAT from there - just around the corner from the Royal Motor Yacht Club. A number of the members had fathers or uncles who were Catalina crew and they were interested to hear of our progress to date and our future plans and hopes.

I took the opportunity to promote the operation of seaplanes generally and their mixing safely with other boats. I explained that on the water a seaplane is just another power boat capable of a speed of 10 knots and that we are subject to the rules of the Waterways Authorities and the COLREGS (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea) - pilots had to have a boat license!

This seemed to satisfy a lot of curiosity and I am sure the CAT and other seaplanes will be welcomed on the lake when we start operating.

I was able to distribute our little publications on the CAT and the "Seabirds" - SPA. If you don't have a copy of these, please let us know and we will send you some.

Kind regards

Phil Dulhunty



New Members/Donations

The Catalina Flying Memorial welcomes the following members to the Aussie Cat Club:

Life Members

- John Bourke

Family Life Members

- Mr Ollie Allen and family

One year Members

- Roger Matthysen
- Peter Lemon

Donations

- Graham White - \$500 (this being the cost to hire our stand at the ADF Air Show at RAAF Williamstown)
- RAAF Association – Sunderland Squadrons Branch - \$500

A very big thank you to all of the above for their support!

Monopoly - I didn't know this!

(You'll never look at the game the same way again!)

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set - by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

I realize some of you are (probably) too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Dec. '41 to Aug. '45), but this is still interesting.

Comment from the editor: The source of this article is unknown, but it seems to be doing the rounds on the internet at the moment. However, one thing that can be established about the author is that he or she is obviously American.

News or comments

If you have any news or comments regarding the website, please forward to Colin Cool (colin.cool@jemena.com.au) or Jill Brandon (info@catalinaflying.org.au).