

UAV Challenge - Outback Rescue 2008

By

J.E. Bennett

RCAPA Editor in Chief

Information, Standings, and a bit about Team Telemaster

The 2008 UAV Challenge-Outback Rescue 2008 was held from September 23rd through the 25th 2008 at Kingaroy Airport, Queensland, Australia. This event was sponsored in part by the AUVSI. Participants from around the world attended and demonstrated some very sophisticated hardware and software systems in pursuit of reward in the various classifications of competition. Here are the final standings of those competitions:

Final Standings

Airborne Delivery Documentary Challenge

Winner: **Brisbane Boys' College – Bash, Burn and Crash** (\$2,000)

Search and Rescue Documentary Challenge

Winner: **Mueller College - MUROC Bush Masters** (\$8,000)

Airborne Delivery Encouragement Award (donated by RD Collins and Associates)

Winner: **TSHS Mt Lofty** (\$500)

Steven M Sliwa Search and Rescue Encouragement Award (donated by Insitu)

Winner: **Missouri S&T UAV Team** (\$500)

Airborne Delivery Challenge

Winner: **Mueller College - MUROC Bush Pilots** (\$10,000)

Search and Rescue Challenge

Despite impressive demonstrations of autonomous UAV flight, unfortunately no teams were able to rescue **Outback Joe** this year. With there being no winning team, encouragement awards were provided based on technical reports, inspections and practice flights. Proof of concept and execution in this category was very evident as well.

Finalist: **Telemasters** (\$5,000)

Finalist: **Missouri S&T UAV Team** (\$3,000)

Finalist: **QUT SRUAV 08** (\$1,000)

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The Telemasters team was using the [UNAV3500 autopilot](#) as part of their impressive equipment, and it performed extremely well in that role.

“Our plane flew perfectly during the test day and completed the first fully autonomous circuit at the competition in the two years it's been run. We are using a UNAV3500FW and it performed perfectly. A big thanks to Mark at UNAV for his help and assistance in the AP setup”, said Aaron Donaldson of Team Telemaster, winners of the 2008 OutBack Challenge, Search and Rescue event.



**UNAV3500 Series Autopilot Board
(By UNAV-LLC)**



Team Telemaster entry taking off at Outback 2008

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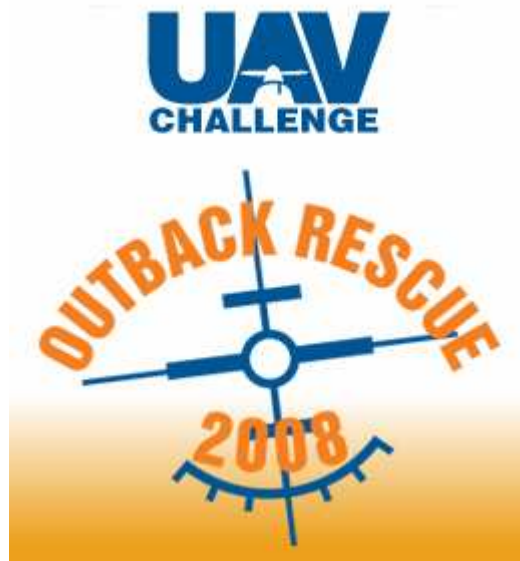
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A drafty camera mount view



The logo for the Outback 2008 Challenge

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Where the Magic happens

The Telemaster Team consists of (in no particular order) Simeon O'Neill, Aaron Donaldson, Alice Bjursell, and Sara Pike. Thanks for all the hard work and effort they put into this event and we all hope to see them again in competition in the coming year.



Telemaster Team Group Photo

Thanks go out to all of the hard working people who made it possible for the Outback Challenge 2008 to even take place. Next year should be a really great series of events with all of the lessons learned over the last several years. Will look forward to receiving an invitation to attend on behalf of the RCAPA Reporter to the UAV Outback Challenge 2009 in my email box soon!!