

Drones take Miramonte by Storm

Drones, those mini quad-copters that were a thing of sci-fi films, have now been more accessible than ever to the broad public. As a result, teenagers everywhere have been exercising the drones' ability to fly high and far, over cliffs and oceans, to finally capture footage that would be otherwise inaccessible. A few Miramonte students have even used these little toys to further their film careers.

Henry Marken, a Junior who has made a name for himself in his numerous short films, has fueled his filming dream with shots captured by his Phantom 3 drone, and has not been disappointed: "The fact that I can now incorporate footage that is smooth, crystal clear and easy to fly is an unreal feeling," Henry Marken said, "I can now show the importance of the setting, amazing different perspectives of the character, and emphasize powerful music scores with drone footage." The now widely available drones have allowed young filmmakers like Marken to capture shots that seem to have come straight out of Hollywood.

However, the ability to fly these drones far and wide has caused problems for drone fliers, especially when the battery is unexpectedly low. Will Cassriel, another Junior who has made numerous montages of drone clips, experienced first hand the strategy of losing his prized drone. His Phantom 2 went down over a remote lake in Briones Regional Park after it lost its battery life. Him and his team of filmmakers tried to recover the drone, but to no avail. "Losing the Phantom was very disappointing, I could get some sick shots with that

thing.”

As the world of drones expands, more and more people will have access to professional-level quality of otherwise unreachable views. These little quad-copters can finally give sustenance to the many filmmaking dreams at Miramonte.