



JUNE
2023

It's BBQ time..

*Saturday
24th June 2023*

Most importantly, before we start..

THE CLUB'S FIRST 2023 BARBEQUE IS *THIS WEEKEND*

Saturday 24th June

Flying from 10am, Food from approx.. midday.

Bring your own drinks.

Due to reduced club finances a £3 contribution per person would be appreciated.

Partners welcome.

As always subject to weather etc.

Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - June 2023



Dear Fellow Firebirds Club Members

It's been a dry and warm month with many of us flying more than we have for a very long time.

There has also been some new faces down the field recently, both new members and potential new ones.. I took this picture down the field of three recent new (to me) faces. I explained that I would never remember their names, but with a bit of help from another member I think they are Bill, Wayne and Gary. Hi to you all, hopefully see you again down the field this summer.



This month also brought the final indoor 'large hall' indoor flying event at Havant Leisure centre, run by Alan of the Waltham Chase model club.

I was there with fellow member Paul Brown and I am looking forward to this facility being available again next winter. The indoor events at Wickham community centre are still going ahead throughout the summer, if you interested ask member Paul Brown, he has all the details. There are 2 sessions, one for free-flight and another for powered which includes little helicopters. Here (right) you can see a few models fighting for their piece of airspace, although, as the hall is big enough for 8 badminton courts there is rarely any serious contact.



Before I forget, the committee wanted me to report that the club has gained a few members this year (welcome to them) and although, as in most years a few didn't re-join, the club is on target for a slight increase in numbers over-all which is very positive. Our relationship with our farmer landlords remains good and as always the committee reminds members to remember that, flying sites are very hard to find, so please make sure our landlords and neighbours have nothing to complain about.

So, on with the month, recently Russell, Paul and I drove the 3-hour journey to Weston Park in Shropshire (near Telford) for one of the biggest UK model air displays which is held every year on the Father's day weekend. Here are a few words and pictures from the event...





We arrived on the Thursday and set-up camp ready for the show which started on the Friday and being early got a really good pitch with the end of the flight area just over our shoulders.

The first call was to the bring and buy area, which even on the Thursday was already full of a wide selection of every aero-modellers desires. As the 'Bring' part of the sale doesn't start until Friday, many of the models there on Thursday, actually belonged to the club members that were running the event, but even then there was a huge range.



Alan Shergold has always fancied flying a Duraflly Tundra, and had asked Paul to keep his eyes open for one at the show.. unbelievably we were spoilt for choice, as there were 2 for sale and both in very good condition. A quick phone call and a WhatsApp photo exchange, and we had bought Alan a Tundra just a few hours after we arrived.



While we were negotiating on the Tundra, the chap selling it said he was selling it for his car mechanic who was also an aero-modeller. he said that he looked after his mechanic's modelling needs and in exchange got discount on his car servicing.



Then, as we continued to look through the sea of available items, I came across something that appealed to me. Anybody that knows me, or watches me fly will know that I actually enjoy slow flight and my most regularly flown model, even has the word 'slow' in the title.. I really do love flying my Hobby King 'slow' stick.



So, when a few years ago Hobby King again promoted a machine with the word 'slow' in the title, a 1930's 'style' model aeroplane called the 'slow poke', I really did want one. But, being sensible and already having a shed full of model aeroplanes I resisted, but now, in a bring-and-buy sale at less than half the original price... well, I couldn't resist!



So, I now own my very own Hobby King 'SLOWPOKE' and at a very reasonable price too.

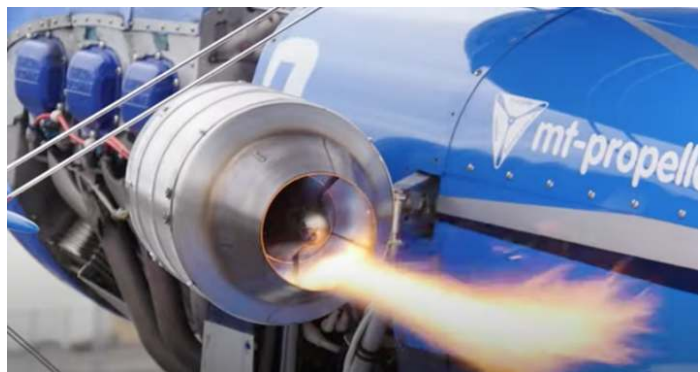


Now, if you are still following, a 'naughty' thought sprang to mind, and for this, I need you to imagine I am writing in the style of Jethro, the famous (or perhaps infamous) Cornish comedian.. here goes..

"So, learning from the man at the bring and buy sale, that there are deals to be done in exchange for model aeroplanes with local car mechanics ... I asked my mechanic what discount I would get on car servicing in exchange for a slow poke?.."

I'll be the one with a Black eye at the flying site!!!

Well, back to the Weston Park Show, there was some amazing models both on display and in the air and as always a few displays by full size aeroplanes too. Unfortunately, when you have visited many air shows, you do worry that you will have already seen everything and that there will be nothing new. Thankfully the people that put air-shows together are always one step ahead, like Richard Goodwin



Richard Goodwin has been performing 'Pitts Special' stunt shows at air shows for many years. But now, he and his display team decided to bolt 2 Lynx jet turbine engines on to the side of an already hugely powerful Pitts Special...

So, thanks to Richard Goodwin, you can now see a full size aeroplane PROP HANG !! more on this story .. available here .. <https://www.richgoodwinairshows.com/g-jpit>. If ever there was a man who you would love to bump into in a bar!

Firebirds Model Club

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So where were we, oh yes, there is always something a bit different each year and this particular model also caught my eye. It has four 'electric' motors, nothing special you're thinking many models have 4 motors! But, look at the size of that flight box in the picture.. this model is really huge. I didn't get the full details on the day, but I found this on the internet, it may be the same model.. <https://www.tonymijhuisdesigns.co.uk/BoeingB-50.htm> with the title "The largest electric model in the world - Tony Nijhuis Boeing B50".



There were plenty more fabulous aeroplanes on display and in the air, but one thing that makes the Weston Park model show extra special is the way fireworks and explosions are also integrated into the show. See below a rather long line of pilots and each one has a model in the air, all at one time. So together with all those aeroplanes they add pyrotechnics, what could go wrong? Well, many aircraft were burnt by explosions or grounded by mid-air crashes, the word 'carnage' springs to mind.



The pilots are then seen at the 'bring and buy sale' buying more models so they can destroy them during the next session.

Then as dusk falls, the flying and fireworks continue, each year the LEDs embedded in the wings of the model aeroplanes get brighter and the fireworks better. We were given a synchronised display by 4 full size display aeroplanes, then when fully dark the actual fireworks started.

A-MAZE-ING!!

The bar then opened and a live band played until the small hours... Looking forward to WPA 2024.





Let's try some click-bait.

10 LIES the RC Industry is Built On (a YouTube video)

https://youtube.com/watch?v=O1m_2xUVT8M&feature=share7

Although you had to click it to find out what it was about, in reality much of it is true and the bit about the C rating of batteries has been discussed at length on our WhatsApp groups.. interestingly (allegedly) lower C batteries are both lighter and smaller than higher C batteries so potentially for model aircraft that don't need huge current flows a lower C battery may give a longer flight time.

And... while looking on a web-site recently, I thought it interesting that the product description (below) confirmed exactly what our members were saying "continuous discharge 30c 90amps", but they continue to sell them with a 60amp plug!!



RADIANT SUPERPAX 3S 2200mAh 11.1V 30C LiPo XT60

£13.70

RADIANT SUPERPAX 3S 2200mAh 11.1V 30C LiPo XT60

ON BACK ORDER, DUE END OF SEPTEMBER

- 1 +

ADD TO BASKET

Brand: RADIANT

SKU: BALR322X

Categories: Battery Packs & Connectors, Electric Flight , Batteries & Field Chargers, Radiant Lipos

Share: [f](#) [p](#) [in](#) [s](#)

[DESCRIPTION](#) [ADDITIONAL INFORMATION](#) [REVIEWS \(0\)](#)

Key Features

- Battery Lead : Silicone with XT60 plug.
- Continuous Discharge: 30c (90 amps).

Specification:

P.S. Inwood models are good guys and at £13.70 each, these batteries are a good price, I just bought a couple so ask me, if you want to know how they perform. See <https://inwoodmodels.com/>

HOW MANY CAN FLY

Remember last month the newsletter asked how many fliers / model do we allow at once?..

Did you get it right ? Well the answer at our current site is 4 of which a maximum of 2 can be I/C.

By keeping the numbers flying at this level it keeps things safe and may also reduce the chances of one of our neighbours being annoyed by our activity. Remember..

With Happy Neighbours we keep our Flying Site.



Down at the Field

Not sure what this technique is officially called, but the “2 trolley” delivery technique is definitely one to be admired. This is Ian arriving at the field with his Riot on a particularly warm day dragging 2 trolleys.

Dropped ‘UXB’ caused confusion

This next picture and model caused a bit of discussion when down at the flying site. Notice the ‘natty’ little device connected to the bottom of this WOT 4? Whilst the model was certainly not a scale ‘world war bomber’, the device was certainly a BOMB!



So, with a target (a crushed coke can) placed in the middle of the strip and a NOTAM issued to all flyers present the pilot manoeuvred his plane, dropped the bomb and narrowly missed the target.. What a fun game.

Unfortunately, a technical issue with the aeroplane after re-loading the ‘bomb’ curtailed the next sortie, but I am sure we will see a direct hit sometime in the future.

So, what was the confusion?.. well, if you read the CAA information on flying model aircraft, it clearly says that you CANNOT drop anything from a drone (the new collective name for what we fly). BUT our wonderful BMFA have negotiated on our behalf, that we, as BMFA members flying under article 16 rules CAN drop ‘some’ things from our models under ‘certain’ circumstances.

Thank you BMFA ☺

ADVICE TO ALL

When looking at CAA flying rules, always make sure you are looking at Article 16 rules not CAA general rules.





IMPORTANT

Remember one of our landlord's requests is not to put anything on the long grass. The long grass is a product which they sell. We only have access to the mown areas, except for recovery or in an emergency.



DOWN at the field a little while ago

Anybody recognise this member?





Can you see what it is? ..

A whole 2m aeroplane hidden in a patch of stinging nettles, luckily the pilot saw where it went.



Allan doing an 'up-wind' mowing session, if you want to join the mowing team speak to Paul Brown..



A visit to Firebirds member Raj's Indian restaurant near Fareham by other members of the club.





From The BMFA re. record attempt team

Dear Firebirds Model Club

I would like to offer my sincere thanks for registering to take part in the 2023 BMFA Record attempt.

182 clubs took part in the 2023 attempt which took place on Sunday 14th May 2023. Despite varied weather across the day (16 clubs were unable to take part due to bad weather or a waterlogged flying site) a total of 2224 aircraft were airborne as the clock ticked past noon. Another fantastic achievement.

While we were unable to match the amazing figure of 3109 from 2022, once again a large number of model flyers came together to enjoy a great day and had lots of fun, which is what it is all about.

I am already receiving requests to do it all again next year and there is talk of making it an international event!

Once again, thank you for registering for the record attempt. It is you that makes these things work and our sport is richer for your efforts.

Andy Symons (2023 Club Support Officer and BMFA Record- Co-ordinator)

Another 'confusion' settled

Yet again there was a confusion down at the site last month when the subject of flying height was discussed. Yet again, the confusion occurred because of the 'general' rules issued by the CAA versus our BMFA authorisation (article 16) which is different. Here is an official explanation and summary.

The latest CAA regulations allow for alternative sets of rules to be applied to unmanned aircraft. **The 'Open Category' rules set out in CAP722** can be used by anyone in the UK, regardless of whether they are members of any club or association and, amongst other things, **include a ban on flying above 400ft**. The Open Category requirements **will not apply to BMFA members** flying in accordance with the terms and conditions of our Article 16 Authorisation.

So, how high can I fly as a BMFA member under article 16 authorisation?

The new regulations limit the operation of all unmanned aircraft to 400ft above the surface. However, our Authorisation permits members to fly above 400ft, subject to:

- The model aircraft is not a rotorcraft (multi-rotor) with more than two lift generating rotors or propellers.
- The model aircraft is not automated. *(This means a model aircraft with autonomous or automatic flight capability. This does not include systems which are fitted for flight stabilisation purposes or flight termination purposes, such as free-flight termination devices).*



- The model aircraft is not operating within the Flight Restriction Zone of an aerodrome, other than with the written permission/agreement with the aerodrome.
- The model aircraft remains within visual line of sight of the remote pilot.
- The model aircraft has a MTOM of not more than 7.5Kg.

Any slope soaring model glider with a MTOM exceeding 7.5kg but not more than 14kg may be flown up to 400ft above the remote pilot, even though it may then be flying more than 400ft above the surface directly beneath the glider.

Flights above 400ft by model aircraft exceeding 7.5Kg MTOM are also permitted if either of the following apply:

- The model aircraft is being operated from a Club Site which holds a 'BMFA Site Permit' which authorises the operation of aircraft with an MTOM greater than 7.5Kg, but less than 25Kg at heights above 400ft. See Section 14 for further details.
- The model is being operated under a 'BMFA Model Flying Display Permit' which authorises the operation of aircraft with an MTOM greater than 7.5Kg, but less than 25Kg at heights above 400ft as part of a Model Aircraft Flying Display (*this means any flying activity deliberately performed, by model aircraft for the purpose of providing an exhibition or entertainment at an advertised event*). See Section 12 for further details.

The operation of aircraft with a MTOM greater than 25Kg will be subject to the LMA's Article 16 Authorisation and will require separate permission from the LMA.

When operating at heights which may exceed 400ft, it is essential that members maintain a good look out for manned aircraft. If a manned aircraft appears in the vicinity, their model aircraft should be brought down to under 400ft as quickly as is safely practicable.

Remember last month.



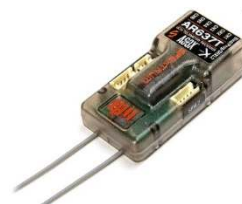
Remember last month I said that I bought a new model and a new receiver..

Well, I have to report that both are 'Bang'-on although only the aeroplane came from 'Bang'good, another member Keith liked the plane so much he has already ordered one.


And the Receiver well, without the receiver, I would have crashed already but with the receiver I am able to fly, (with assistance) to a safe height before switching the support facility off and controlling the plane without assistance.

Then if I get in trouble, I can switch assistance back on, regain level flight before trying on my own again. It has undoubtedly saved me time and money repairing the aeroplane already!

I know at least one other member has already bought one, I won't say who, but see if you can tell who's flying suddenly improves! ☺



**Spektrum AR637T DSMX
6-Channel AS3X & SAFE
Telemetry Receiver
SPMAR637T**

 nexus-models (2471)
100% positive Feedback

£113.99



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Flying times : (from December 2021)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<i>Quiet / Electric</i>	<i>Electric & I/C</i>	<i>Electric & I/C</i>	<i>Electric & I/C</i>	<i>Quiet / Electric</i>	<i>Electric & I/C until 2pm then Quiet / Electric until 4pm</i>	<i>Electric & I/C</i>
10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00	10-00
20-00 or dusk NO NIGHT FLYING	16-00	16-00	16-00	20-00 or dusk NO NIGHT FLYING	16-00	13-00

Or put another way:

<i>Quiet / Electric – NOW everyday of the week</i>		
Monday	10-00	20-00 (or dusk) NO NIGHT FLYING
Tuesday	10-00	16-00
Wednesday	10-00	16-00
Thursday	10-00	16-00
Friday	10-00	20-00 (or dusk) NO NIGHT FLYING
Saturday	10-00	16-00
Sunday	10-00	13-00

<i>Electric & I/C – Five days a week</i>		
Monday	NO FLYING	
Tuesday	10-00	16-00
Wednesday	10-00	16-00
Thursday	10-00	16-00
Friday	NO FLYING	
Saturday	10-00	14-00
Sunday	10-00	13-00

'Bank Holiday' exceptions to the above.

Good Friday 10am - 1pm (electric and IC)

EASTER SUNDAY ... NO flying!!

ALL BANK Holiday Mondays - 10am - 1pm (electric and IC)

CHRISTMAS DAY... NO flying!!

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Poorly club member

Continuing thoughts and good wishes from the committee to all poorly members.

FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS - Advance notice

Following a few years curtailed by the coronavirus, it is now hoped that we can restart some of social events as we near winter, we're far too busy flying in the summer ☺.

Club Information

This section gives a summary of club services and contact details.

External Events

If you need more details on any particular event, then go to <https://bmfa.org/Contests-Events/Contest-and-Event-Calendar>.

Firebirds Model Club Committee

The following are the contact details for the Committee. Each has given permission for their phone number and email addresses to be included in this Newsletter.

Chairman	Russell Lewis	07503 153962	russell@pilot1.co.uk
Vice Chair	Peter Clark	07867 557964	psclark911@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Alan Shergold	07973 221915	alanshergold@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Rob Cope	07795 996549	copes02@ntlworld.com
Flying Site Rep.	Paul Brown	07730 202510	paulprb@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Geoff Griffiths	023 9265 5931	ggriffiths@hotmail.com
Membership Sec.	Keith Warwick	07887 486040	keithw11@hotmail.co.uk

General contact e-mail address - firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com

Firebirds Constitution and Rules.

The Firebirds constitution and rules document can be found at the bottom of the 'about us' section on the web-site or by clicking the following link.

<http://firebirds.org.uk/onewebmedia/FIREBIRD%20CONSTITUTION%20%26%20RULES.pdf>.

Remember... Safe flying is no accident.