



Firebirds meeting
21st November at the
Hamble Club

Happy October everybody!

And, yes I know you haven't had a newsletter for a while! It's mainly because it's been a great year for flying, so to find time to sit in front of a computer has been difficult. I have been doing the newsletter since Christmas 2016, perhaps it is time for somebody else to take the reins? 7 years is a long time! If you are interested in doing your version of the newsletter please contact a committee member, ideally prior to the AGM.

So, another busy few months, with many flying hours down the flying field with winter only now starting to curb our flying.

Hopefully see you all down the field soon.

Chris

**** IMPORTANT ****

Don't forget there is a get together / meeting down at the Hamble club on Tuesday 21st November arrival from 7pm. Drinks, crisps, chat and more!

**** EVEN MORE IMPORTANT ** ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

12th December – Arrival from 7pm, **AGM** at 7.30pm **Christmas Party** at 8pm.

And remember these evenings are not weather dependent. 7pm for 7.30 start.



RAFFLE TICKETS ARE STILL ON SALE FOR THE CHRISTMAS DRAW



Speak to Russell if you want some Tickets. Tickets will be on sale at the Hamble club social event on the 21st November and immediately preceding the draw at the Christmas Party. Many Great prizes already purchased.

NOTICE

If members have anything that they would like discussed at the AGM, please speak to a committee member at least 2 weeks before the meeting, with details.



We went to Buckminster – EXTRA!

So, now in the distant past Me (Chris) and Paul went up to the BMFA national site at Buckminster where we enjoyed a rather wet and windy weekend flying at this wonderful facility.

But whilst much of what went on was covered in the August Newsletter we also met another interesting guy while we were there, James. James runs a company offering 2 drone based services, 1, he carries out drone surveys and 2, Supply and repair of DJI drone products. While we were at Buckminster he demonstrated to us the latest DJI products and took a few high resolution aerial images, he kindly sent them to us.

In this first photograph you can see me, Paul and James, the tent having just been packed away, the flight line is in the distance behind that hedge.



Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - October 2023



Although James isn't local I am sure if anybody was looking to purchase or have a DJI Drone repaired, he would be happy for you to ring him, if only for some advice. See below for James's contact details.

www.droneairsolutions.co.uk

DRONE AIR SOLUTIONS
Revealing A Birds Eye View
www.droneairsolutions.co.uk

James Handley
Director
07881 911718
james@droneairsolutions.co.uk

QR code: SCAN ME

Licensed for commercial work

Cheekatrade Approved member

DJI Drone Shop
Sales Hire Repair

dji AUTHORISED DEALER

sales@djidroneshop.co.uk
0121 769 1812

QR code: SCAN ME

24 Market Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1AG



Indoor Flying to continue through the Year

A new 'medium sized' venue at Stubbington is ideal for those that can't come and fly during the week as these meetings are on Saturday evenings. They are run by the Waltham Chase club in association with BMFA southern area. Speak to our member Paul for more information. Image below is of the new Stubbington 'mid size' hall.



Thank you Alan and Debbie

Following yet another wet weekend forecast Alan and Debbie gave up their dining room table to allow the committee a place to hold this month's committee meeting, thank you both.

Even more from Buckminster

It really was a full weekend, see below a couple of images that adorned the walls in the 'hanger' at Buckminster.



Francis de Pridget. SMAE Vice-Chairman in 1923, with his compressed air machine he was the man who persuaded Lord Wakefield to present the Wakefield Cup to the SMAE in 1926.

Note: the Wakefield Cup has since 1927 been the Trophy for International Free flight high performance rubber powered models.



KeilKraft was perhaps the best known kit manufacturer in the UK and displayed a wide selection of DIY models at this exhibition in the early 1950's. The company was founded by Eddie Keil who had worked on the De Havilland Mosquito production line during WWII. Despite the demise of the original KeilKraft company several kits are still in production today by other makers..



So True, BUT...

Firstly, I hope that the BMFA doesn't have a problem with me re-publishing this cartoon taken from the last BMFA magazine. But I think it's true and reflects the views of most stalwart, old school model flyers. However, I still think there is a place for modern assistive technology, as these technologies can help those that may struggle to fly safely.



Everybody loves a Concorde story

.. and, if you didn't already know, November marks the 20th anniversary of the last flight of our beloved Concorde. The last flight was from Heathrow to Bristol. Concorde also set a final speed record on its flight from New York to Seattle in the same month.

What an Amazing group of people we are.

So one of our members (Raj), posted a question on our WhatsApp group about a boat he owns. Would you believe it, not only was another member (Chris) able to help, but was also building an identical model. What a coincidence and again it shows the benefits of being a member of a great club. Now I know they are not fixed wing aeroplanes, but we are all modellers and radio control enthusiasts, so here are some photos. Apparently they are 'Bent Coast Boats' by Billings kits.

First images are Raj's boat and the second images are Chris's model (still in construction).





A new idea...

How about a Firebirds flying club “over and above” pedestal?

Has somebody helped you, helped the club? Maybe they have done something amazing in the air or just done something amazing in life? Perhaps even none of the above but are just a thoroughly great person!

Anyway, this month I am going to suggest Alan Shergold, a well-deserved pedestal position, Alan has this year helped re-build other peoples planes, done several barbeques (together with his wife Debbie) and opened up his house for committee meetings when inclement weather made meetings at the field impossible... and that's all in addition to being the clubs treasurer!!



Well done Alan ☺

Who should sit on the Firebirds pedestal next month? Let me know (Ed.)..

KeilKraft company – a video

I found this on YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/FwGaoQwDasY?si=ykLBM5QOqQaumSuh>



Boeing P26a "Peashooter" - by Geoff Griffiths

It must have been at least five years ago that I bought the kit for this plane from much missed Mike Harvey. The aluminium cowl was missing, but other than that, it was complete. I soon made a replacement cowl from laminated plywood, epoxy and balsa and I assembled the dummy engine. The kit is 1/5th scale, giving a wingspan of around 67". It dates back to the 1980's and was made by the Japanese firm "Marutaka" but they were imported under the name "Royale" These really were the Rolls Royce of kits. A common feature of the range (mostly warbirds) was that every part was drawn full size on the plan, so it's possible to build from scratch without the kit.

Towards the end of the summer I had managed to psyche myself up enough to make a start. It's quite big and a fair amount of work, but it's now starting to come together nicely.

Drawn on the plan, but not included in the kit are flaps. These are just shown in outline. To have any chance of flying it from our strip these will be essential. Problem was, I could not find either a drawing or a photo of what they actually looked like. In the end I just made something up that sort of looks convincing!

I had considered going electric, but as I already has a 120 four stroke doing nothing it seemed daft not to use it.



Fuselage under construction



Basic wing structure



My attempt at guessing what the flaps should look like



Progress so far....



This went above my head..

Although it went above my head, I think this was important to some. I have published it so that it can be referenced in the future.. Barrie Stillwell wrote on the WhatsApp group

Had a model using Futaba T16SZ with Futaba R617fs receiver with mixture of analog and digital servos. Flew without any problem.

Bought new TX Futaba 16lz and changed to Futaba R7008 sb receiver. Set up binding TX and Receiver outside the plane all done connected some servos all worked fine, so I thought.

I then realised the existing plane I was putting the new R7008, which previously used the R617F receiver had a mixture of analog and digital servos.

However, I remembered I had read somewhere, you could not use analog servos in the R7008

Maybe I should have read the manual 🤔🤔

Yes, it clearly states you must NOT USE analog servos in the R7008 in the FaaSst 12 channel mode, there are only 2 system types modes to choose from using the R7008 receiver, FaaSst 12 Channel or 18 Channel, which is shown in the TX set up under "system Type"



I then looked at my TX and found i had inadvertently chosen the FastTest 12 channel mode, but all the servos were working correctly !! Digital and Analog !!

So looked at the manual again and yes it only mentions about NOT USING analog servos in FaaSst 12 channel mode, but does not say HOW YOU CAN USE ANALOG SERVOS.

So contacted Ripmax (Bob) very helpful, he confirmed you can use analog servos or even mixed, using the R7008 receiver, but you must set up TX using FaaSst 18 channel mode.

Futaba



I then asked the question, when i inadvertently set TX up in FaaSst 12 Channel mode, why was everything working?

ANSWER: YES, IT WILL WORK, BUT YOU WILL BURN OUT YOUR SERVOS DUE TO THE WAY DATA IS TRANSFERRED FASTER IN THE FaaSst 12 CHANNEL MODE, ANALOG SERVOS CAN'T COPE WITH THE SPEED. (something like that). SERVO BURN OUT MAY HAVE HAPPENED IMMEDIATELY OR EVEN AFTER 10 or 20 FLIGHTS, DEPENDENT UPON THE MAKE OF SERVO USED. HE AGREED THE MANUAL DOES NOT HAVE A FOOT NOTE ABOUT HOW TO SET UP USING ANALOG SERVOS or MIXED. HAVE NOW SET UP USING 18 CHANNEL MODE, USING A MIXTURE OF ANALOG AND DIGITAL SERVOS

CONCLUSION: THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A COSTLY MISTAKE AND MANUALS ARE NOT ALWAYS THAT CLEAR. THAT'S WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT MODEL CLUBS, WE SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE'S, NEVER BE TO PROUD TO ASK FOR ADVICE.



Down at the field

Jeremy flies his trainer, safely advised and buddy-boxed with Russell.



The last of the summer days passes by, and the farmers get another cut of the grass following a late summer warm spell.





One of Adrian Fisher's models is given a test flight. Hopefully Adrian will be joining the club next year.



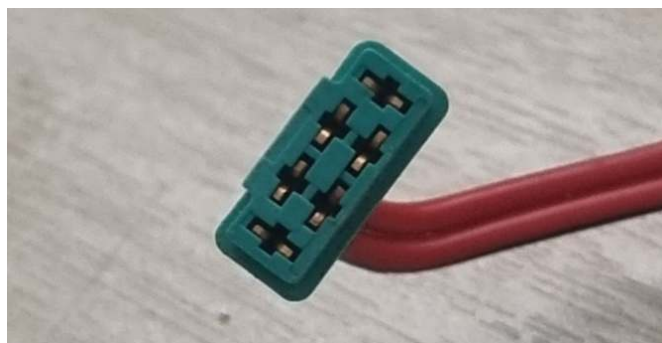
Jeremy again, this time with Geoff, well done Jeremy, we like members who are keen.





A New connector (for me)

Whilst setting up my brother's plane to test, I swapped this connector originally fitted (image below) on his rather old model for an XT60. But although it is now not fitted, I do think this type of connected could be rather useful, ideal for linking multiple servos with one cable or as was the case in his model the battery connection used three pins for each of the positive and negative battery connections and there is much safety in redundancy!



And.. being an inquisitive type, I did a 'reverse image look up' on Google and found out what the plug / socket was called, and then finding them for sale on the internet. It's an MPX connector and in the 'for sale' picture it is shown as a power cable connector again giving that all important redundancy.

Something else useful

Barrie found these useful and posted in the group chat..

Barrie S...



Just bought these, they just stick on your battery they have a slider you can move to red/green to show if battery is fully charged or in storage / used mode etc. Great when you have a lot of batteries to look after.

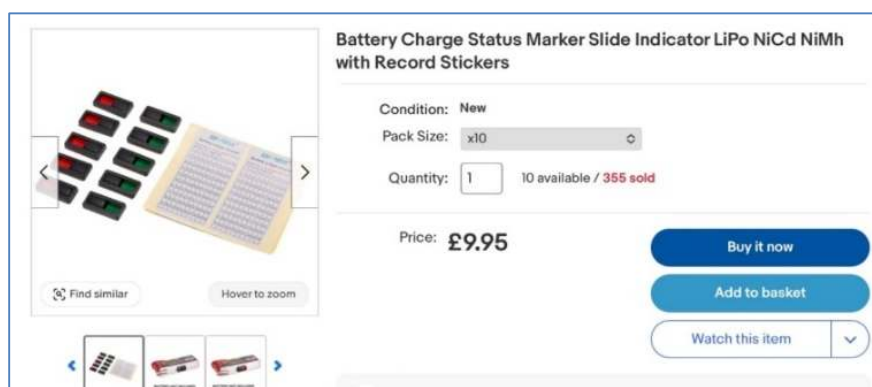


ETRONIX MALE MPX WITH
10CM 14AWG SILICONE WIRE

£1.84

Save £0.15 Off RRP

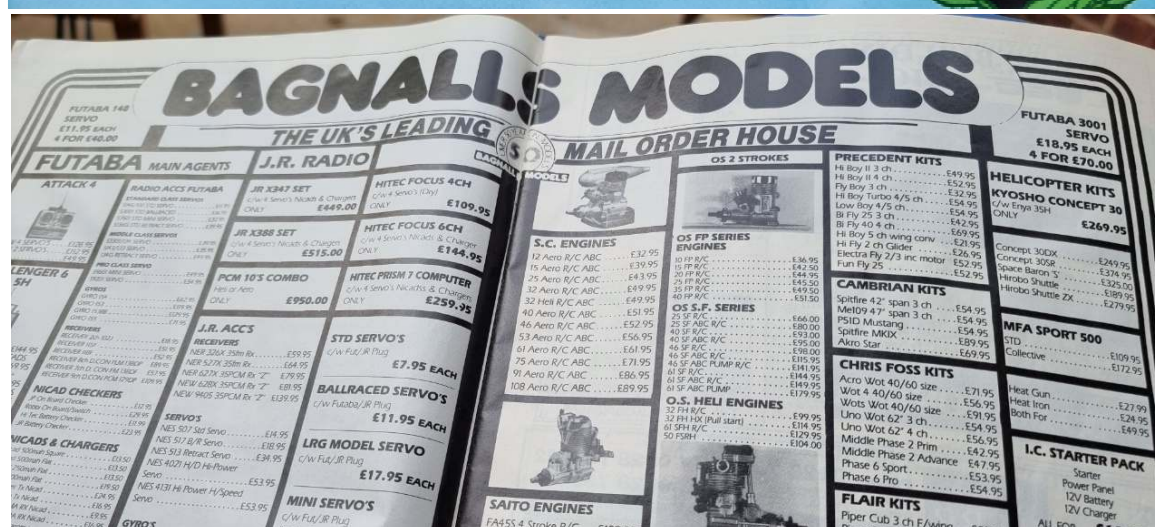
Then a helpful member found them on eBay..





History is always interesting

When an old RCM&E falls in front of you, you can't help but have a flip through, and this issue was from almost 30 years ago. Somethings haven't changed at all and some of the companies still exist.



J.R. RADIO		CHRIS FOSS KITS	
JR X347 SET c/w 4 Servo's Nicads & Chargers ONLY	£449.00	Acrowot Wot 4	£69.90
JR X388 SET c/w 4 Servo's Nicads & Chargers ONLY	£515.00	Wots Wot	£54.50
PCM 10's COMBO Heli or Aero ONLY	£950.00	Uno Wot	£54.95
IRVINE		Extra Delux Uno Wot	£69.95
20 Diesel	£59.95	Middle Phase 2 Primary	£42.95
Q40	£79.95	Middle Phase 2 Advance	£47.95
40 R/C ABC Diesel	£78.25	Phase 6 Sport	£53.95
20 ABC Car Engine	£56.75	Phase 6 Pro	£53.95
20 ABC R/C	£49.95		
25 ABC R/C	£55.25		
NEW 36 R/C ABC	£76.50		
NEW 36 R/C ABC Heli.	£71.99		
40 R/C	£58.50		
40 R/C ABC	£62.50		
46 R/C	£64.35		
46 R/C ABC	£67.45		
46 R/C Heli.	£73.60		
61 R/C	£76.95		
61 R/C ABC	£81.75		
NEW Q72	£98.99		
120 R/C	£141.50		
61 RFH	£130.50		
61 RFH ABC P	£182.50		

Interestingly that JR PCM 10's radio in today's money would be nearly £2000 and an Acrowot kit at Steve Webb's is currently selling for £149.99.

Most of the engines you can still buy second hand on eBay, now half the price they were in 1994. And the RCM&E magazine has gone from £1.70 in 1994 to a whopping £6.35 per issue today.. ouch!

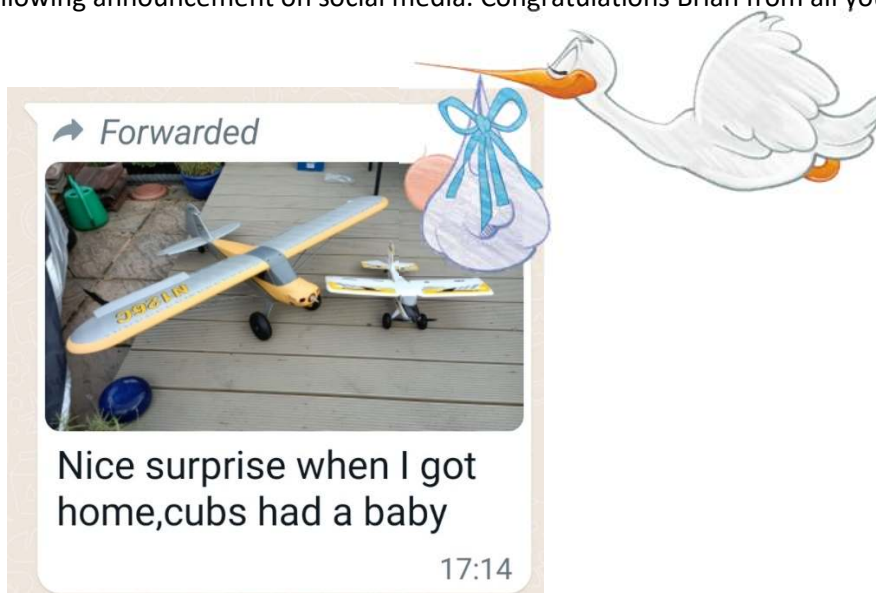


Back down at the field

Here's Brian with his Horizon Hobbies cub and Geoff doing some flight testing.



And further news, Brian now has a little one, but he kept it very quiet until the big day when he made the following announcement on social media. Congratulations Brian from all your friends at Firebirds.



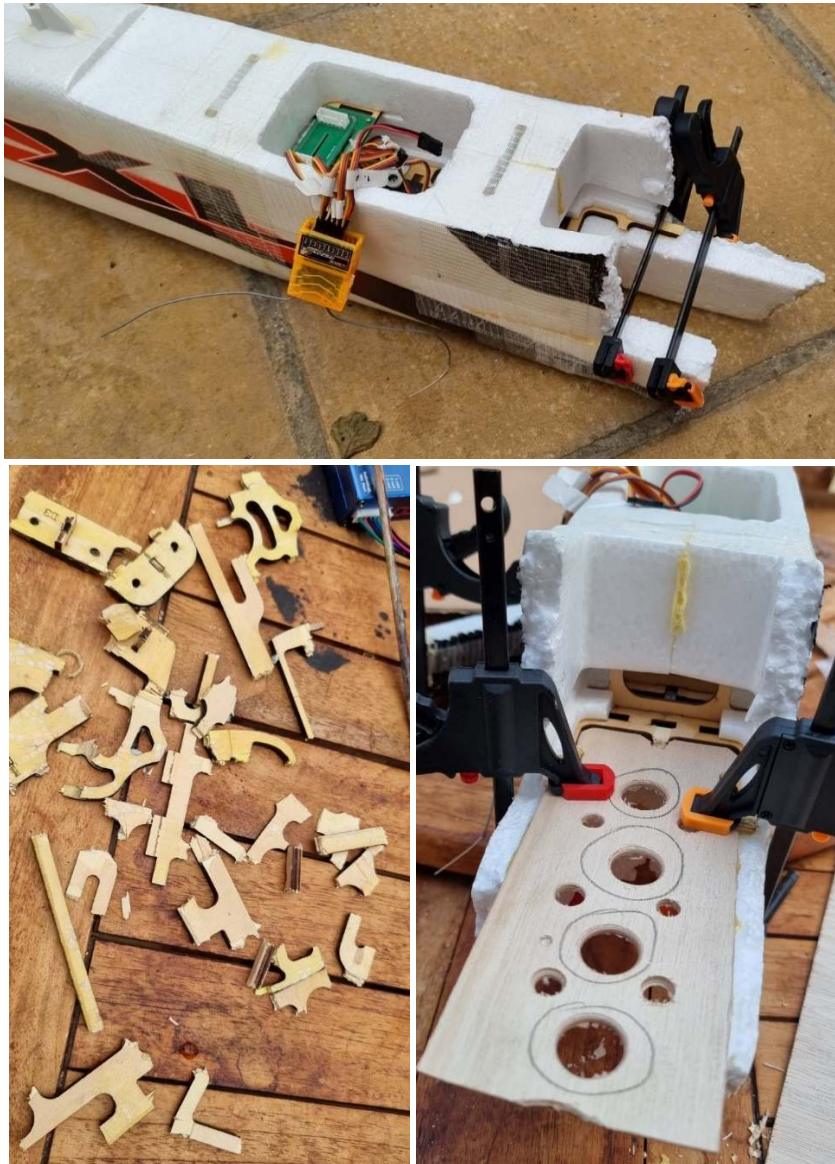
Guys is too windy to fly aeroplanes or not?





So, I broke my Riot XL

And I did a proper job, having collected all the pieces of balsa from around the hole in the field that I created, I set about building the resulting plywood jigsaw, the jigsaw that would be the template for my new battery box and firewall. But I had done too good a job, this jigsaw was a hard one, I couldn't find enough matching pieces to even start, so I started making a new one, then 2 things happened...



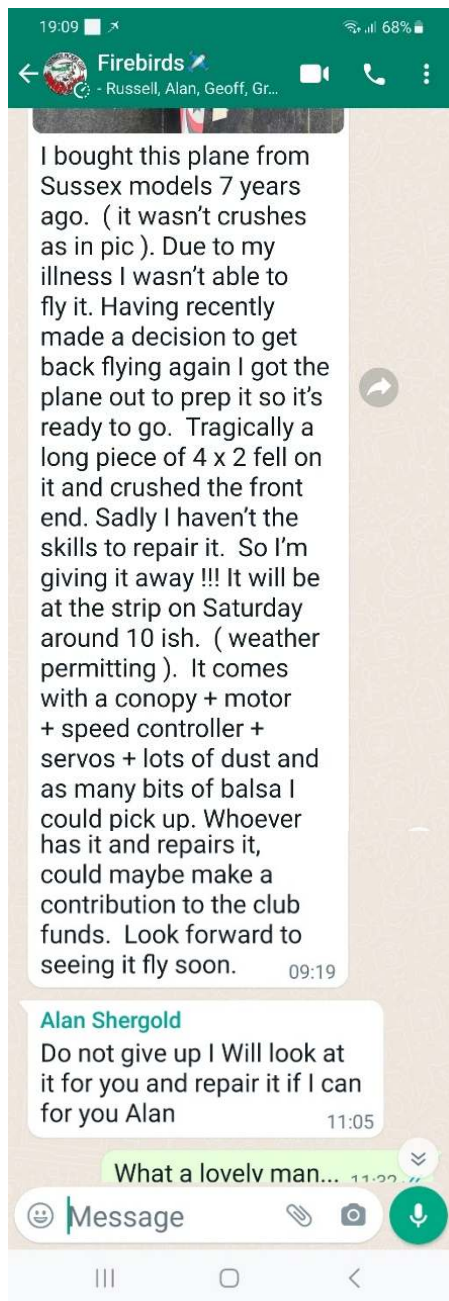
First I was down the field telling other club members what I was doing and how I could have done with a bandsaw or similar to help cut the new ply firewall... and then, as if by magic a fellow member offered to sell me their spare scroll saw. Perfect, I can now do a much better job of the next part of the job. But Then...

... I mentioned to another member that I had broken my Riot XL, to which he said "no worries I have a spare one for sale". Now, I am the owner of new Riot XL, a pile of spare Riot XL parts and an excellent Scroll saw. Firebirds flying club, what a wonderful place to be!



We have Angels in our midst

The following was posted on our WhatsApp group. Together with the harrowing photograph.



The picture below shows the level of damage.



And now...

Restored to her former beauty by a master of modelling and an Angel of society.



Well done Alan.

A real model shop - recommended by a club member.

Apparently they do still exist.

Andover model centre - Unit 117 Commercial Centre,
Picket Piece, Andover SP11 6LU. 01264 355033

Can't find a web-site or any further information about them so perhaps ring before making a journey.





Something from The internet

Berkshire

Thames Valley and Hampshire police expand use of drones

Updated 15 hours ago ■ 2 min read

By Nikki Mitchell

The drones trialled include on board thermal and zoom cameras

Current regulations state the police must be able to see a drone to fly it safely but the Joint Operations Unit is working with the National Police Chiefs Council, the Civil Aviation Authority and others on technology that could allow pilots to fly one as far as 62 miles (100km).

Insp Summers said accurate hazard detection systems would



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So it looks like the police need to fly their drones safely at the moment with, like us 'line of sight' being a requirement. But not for long..

And..

Amazon pledges parcels in an hour using drone deliveries

19 October · Comments



How Amazon uses drones to deliver from the sky

By Emma Simpson

Business correspondent, BBC News

Amazon has announced it will start using drones to deliver parcels in the UK in under an hour.

Amazon are soon to start allowing drones to deliver parcels, presumably that won't be line-of-site.

And the CAA worries doing figures of eight in a farmer's field!

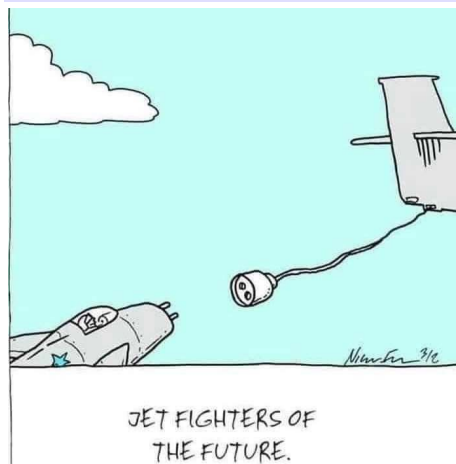
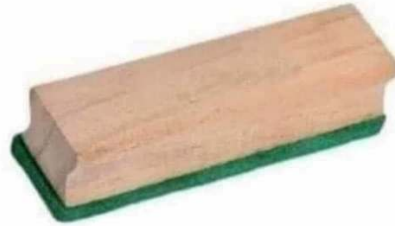
Just wait until Uber want to do flying Taxi's!!



Funnies from the internet



The first drone I saw flying in primary school



Something tells me that a roadrunner and a coyote were somehow involved.



Wise Words from the flight line

"The more model aeroplanes you have, the lower the chance of your other half discovering you've just bought a new one"

And remember, "when flying inverted DOWN is UP and UP is EXPENSIVE!"



Loosely associated with what we do ..

In just 10 years Pilot and Camera both lost their job...



Him Again

Adrian Fisher, another plane being tested.



He had better join after all this newsletter coverage!



Geoff fancied something different

Geoff Griffiths has built some of the most amazing model aeroplanes ever flown at our club, he already owns more than he probably cares to remember, but he said a few months ago that having flown a few members 'shop built' cub models that he really fancied owning one himself so.. he bought one and here it is. Flaps down and a slow pass, b-e-a-utiful.



Down at Hamble Club

We have now had 2 get-togethers back at the Hamble club where members could bring their latest toys or build projects. Pete brought along his current 3D printed model examples to the September meeting and members showed great interest. NEXT meeting 21st November 7pm for 7.30pm.





Sometimes it makes sense not to rush away...

On Saturday the 16th September, not long after most members had left the flying site and the last few stragglers were putting the wind-sock away, there was a roar overhead and the red arrows flew right over our pitch. Thankfully nobody was flying a high glider at the time, as there really wasn't time to shout 'full size' but then, I guess they were probably at 1000 feet or more. They were scheduled to fly over the Boat show at 1.30pm and this picture was taken at 1.31 it doesn't take long in a BAE Hawk! Always a wonderful sight.



Talking of Hawks...

This strange bird of prey was also seen flying over our pitch during the warm summer mornings.



I am sure I had a few of these... did you?





Here he is again...

Not Russell's plane, but the new member for next year, Adrian's again! The story goes..... many years ago a friend offered Adrian some models, models bequeathed to him by his late father. Adrian had many years previous been involved in RC model cars, but said he didn't have time in his life for these models. But the friend was persistent and a deal was done, Adrian now owns 4 model aeroplanes 3 electric and one IC, the IC model is seen below being test flow by our Russell.





It's a shame we can't put videos in the newsletter

So one day down at the field Rob is flying his excellent Wots Wot



The Wots Wot is a great and proven design that has been around for 30+ years, see this picture below from that 1994 RCM&E I was reading, a very popular model, but can it be improved?



So... Rob wants to improve on the original Chris Foss design, he wants to make it fold-able so it will fit more easily in the car. Here's a picture of his modification.



PERFECT... BUT... The ground handling definitely isn't as good as it was... MUST see video 'ROBs Wots Wot' - https://www.youtube.com/embed/7o6KgWil5_I?si=CEm9oGipvjimNhbf4



Flying times : (from December 2021) correct at time of newsletter publication

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Quiet / Electric	Electric & I/C	Electric & I/C	Electric & I/C	Quiet / Electric	Electric & I/C until 2pm then Quiet / Electric until 4pm	Electric & I/C
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:

Quiet / Electric – NOW everyday of the week		
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

Electric & I/C – Five days a week		
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!!

Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - October 2023



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.	Paul Brown	07730 202510	paulprb@gmail.com

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.