

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter February 2014

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Committee News

Here we are at the beginning of another year and looking back January was a bit of a write off due to the rather inclement weather. Currently, February is not looking much better either. This has made gathering up our usual members has been a bit difficult but so far we have managed to enrol over 50 to date. That is quite normal for this time of year. A few more are expected to re-join once the weather improves.

Personnel Changes

There have been some changes to the committee since the AGM. Firstly, those who attended that meeting will know that there were no nominations for Safety Officer, so Dave Hoppe agreed to take on the role on a temporary basis in addition to his Site Representative duties. Fortunately, Geoff Griffiths has since volunteered to do the job, so all safety issues will be dealt with by him from now on.

The second change is that Joe Humphries has stepped down for personal reasons after 22 years loyal service to the club. We all owe him a vote of thanks for his hard work during that time and the committee will miss his contribution greatly. Geoff Scott will take over the editorship of the Newsletter in addition to database management, and Roger Stanton will assist him by taking over the membership paperwork for the time being.

Flying Sites

Those who attended the AGM will know about the club's interest in the Portsmouth club's flying site. This started when we heard that PADMAC were considering winding up their club because of dwindling membership and financial difficulties. Since then PADMAC have decided to keep going, but have not ruled out an informal Firebird proposal to share their site. The advantage to PADMAC is that we would share the cost of the site. In turn, we would benefit from access to a decent 7 days a week site at a lower cost than renting a second site just for ourselves. Because one of the key

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PADMAC players is away on business in the USA, formal discussions have not yet taken place, but we will keep you posted.

The above does not mean that we have given up looking for a second site, but until the way forward with the PADMAC proposal is known (hopefully before the end of the month) the search will be lower key. As explained to a number of members after the AGM, the second site search started with approaches to local authorities at Eastleigh, Winchester and county level. These did not bear fruit as most of the suitable land available was used for playing fields. Apart from being very expensive to rent, it seems people are continually using them for boring footie games etc.

When it comes to council owned farm land, we again drew a blank including at Manor Farm (we've almost lost count of the times we've tried to get a site there). Incidentally, one of the reasons we started with the local authorities is that we believed they should be the ideal landlord. For example, planning permission would not be an issue. However, the latest BMFA guidance on finding site states that of all types of landlord, the BMFA deals with more problems involving local authorities than any other!

One of the important issues when looking for a site is that the BMFA recommend a separation distance of at least 2 miles between clubs that use of 35MHz gear. Therefore an Ordnance Survey map has been marked up with 2-mile radius circles around the sites of all known model clubs in the area, including our own at Poplars. Another circle has been drawn around the full-size aircraft strips at Roughay Farm and Lower Upham.

The controlled airspace around Eastleigh Airport has also been taken into account. Assuming we want a site south of the A272 and preferable west of the A32, there are only two "corridors" that are available – ie they have suitable land that doesn't encroach on other clubs airspace. The first is between Curbridge, Burrigge and Fareham, but we've contacted every suitable farm in this area without success.

The second corridor is about 5 miles wide and extends north from Corehampton through Kilmeston to Hinton Ampner on the A272. It is bounded in the west by the Winchester Club and the Lower Upham/Roughay airfields. To the east, the boundary is defined by the PADMAC site and the Petersfield site at Chidden Down. It is in this second corridor that we will continue our search once the outcome of the PADMAC approach is decided.

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Netley British Legion Club Future

The redevelopment of the club is expected to start in June, which means we will need another “home” for club nights and functions. Pat Parsons and Russell Lewis are looking for alternatives and one looks particularly promising. Hopefully we will be able to announce the new venue in the next Newsletter.

Down at the Field

This section details what’s been going on at our lovely (ish!) flying site. Members who use the Fab Forum (<http://furbirdsmc.freeforums.net/>) will recognise some of this content. *[Note: The forum is not formally associated with the club but many members use it, as do some other local club members.]*

The site at Curdridge is certainly quite boggy, maybe the additional drainage ditches will improve the car parking area when the sky stop precipitating. This picture was taken on the 11th January and the ground conditions proved quite tricky for cars and planes alike.



I suppose we wouldn’t get much sympathy from those who have been flooded out of their homes.

As a by-the-by, the BBC Radio 4 shipping forecast has been using words that it has seldom used and in one case, has never used to describe conditions in the sea areas around the UK coastline. Wind conditions were described as “violent storm force” and “occasionally hurricane force”.

The word never used before was delivered on the 8th February and it was “Phenomenal”. This described the “sea state” and it meant that waves in excess of 14m (46ft) could be expected. So I guess we could be thankful that we were not directly in line for any of that lot.

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There were a couple of good flying weather weekends in January but the experience was marred by the appalling surface conditions. A fair number turned out on the 11th January.

It was a beautiful sunny and mostly calm day. Whilst the wind remained fairly light most of the time, there were some bumpy cross-wind conditions from about 11am onwards.

The biggest problem we faced was the waterlogged strip. For example, the take-off run with this Extra 260 was a bit alarming as it barely reached air speed by the end of the strip. The little wheels carved two ruts into the soft surface, adding a huge amount of drag to the process. Upon touch-down the plane came to an immediate dead stop in a brown mist. Here's how the underside looked afterwards.



Darrell's high standard of aerobatics is testimony to the fact that he will often turn up on less than ideal days, so it's no surprise that he pitched up on such a nice day. The P47 is now sporting retractable U/C and flew well but sustained damage when one

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wheel dug-in on landing and snapped its mounting off the wing. He also sent the blue white and orange Yak up for its maiden flight.

Alan managed some good trouble-free flying with his Wot 4, as did Geoff with his Sniper.



Roger managed some Impressive aerobatics on his Astro Viking, a plane with no ailerons.

Jim flew his Acrowot foamie , his TwinStar and his Edge 540. A few things got bent and broken for him too.



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Pete did some great flying with his big foam Hawk but unfortunately he sustained some damage when the nose dug into the mud on an aborted take-off. A little bit of gaffa tape sorted that out and he carried on.



Bob had some good trouble free flying with his silhouette.



John flew Gaz's old "Sputnicked" a few times but also sustained damage when one wheel dug in on landing. This resulted in a wing tip breaking off.



All-in-all there was a theme of planes getting broken because they came to a dead stop in the mud. The profile foamies were probably best suited to the conditions we had because they carried less momentum. The following Saturday (or Sunday – can't remember now) was also a calm day but I don't think many turned up after their experience on the 11th.

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External Events

This section details events in Hampshire (or further afield if they are significant events) that might be of interest to club members.

The Great Southern Model Auction

If you need a cheap way to bolster your fleet, then why not get yourself along to the biggest RC auction in our area. This event is organised by the Hampshire Model Flying Association (HMFA) and therefore 95%+ of the lots are fixed wing model aircraft and helicopters plus their associated paraphernalia. The odd few tools and other bits show up too. The auction takes place on the 23rd March 2014 at Mountbatten School, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5SY.

- Doors open at 9am, auction starts at 11am.
- Entry £5, under 16s free. Refreshments available.
- If you're selling, then the minimum lot is £10.
- Pre-booking of auction lots is strongly recommended, contact Paul on 07500 175897.

See www.hmfa.hampshire.org.uk for more details.

Blackbushe Model Show

Like Wings & Wheels, this is a pretty big show and is somewhat easier to reach. It boasts a professional flying display organised by Ali Machinchy, including top UK pilots and International guests. It all happens at Blackbushe Airport – Off the A30 between M3 J4/4A and Hartley Wintney GU17 9LQ

- Gates open at 09:00 – Flying from 10:00 till 17:00.
- All persons Over 16 years £9.00 per person
- All persons Under 16 years £4.00 per person
- OAPs £7.00 per person
- Bring and Buy £9.00 per person

See <http://www.blackbushemodelairshow.co.uk/> for more details.

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Daedalus D-Day commemoration

Thank you to John Williams who has submitted information on a D-Day commemoration event at Daedalus on the 3rd & 4th June.

DAEDALUS D-DAY 70TH & DAKOTAS OVER NORMANDY

70TH D-DAY COMMEMORATION 1944 - 2014

Lee-on-Solent Daedalus, UK.
4 June 2014

Lee-on-Solent Daedalus, UK.
3 June 2014

Launch Dakotas
Invasion Formation
Cross-Channel Flight
Para-Drop, Normandy

Seafront Memorial Service
Seafront Memorial FlyBy

DAEDALUS IN THE CAUSE OF THE FREE

**THE LARGEST GATHERING OF DOUGLAS
DC-3 / C-47'S OVER NORMANDY SINCE 1944**

LEE FLYING ASSOCIATION PARTNERS... AND ...JOIN US!

LFA@eghf.co.uk

www.daksovernormandy.com

See <http://www.leeresidents.org.uk/014-DaedalusD-Day70thAnniversaryCommemoration3-4June2014.pdf> for more details.

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Model Wings & Wheels Spectacular

Yes it is a bit of a trek but it's definitely worth seeing at least once. You can get to see some of the exotic stuff normally only found on YouTube e.g. super-sized scale models, gas turbines and superb aerobatic displays. There is also quite a big Bring & Buy sale there too.

This very large model show takes place on the 28th & 29th June 2014 at North Weald Airfield, Epping, Essex, CM16 6AR.

- Show times: 9.30am - 5.30pm

For enquiries contact: admin@wingsnwheels.net or Tel: 01242 604126

See <http://www.wingsnwheels.net/> for more details.

Club Information

This section gives a summary of club services and contact details. Apart from the "Future Club Night Programme" most of the info here is fairly static.

Future Club Night Programme

The following events are planned for the third Thursday of each month.

February 20th 2014	Talk on aircraft by Mike Watts (detail below)
March 20th 2014	Spring Bring and buy sale
April 17th 2014	Firebirds History– by Pat Parsons-founder member

February Club Night

Mike Watts has agreed to give another talk to the club at the next club night on Thursday 20th February. Mike's last talk about his light aircraft overhaul business was very successful, and this time he will be slanting the talk more towards the engine work he does. He will also be mentioning developments in full-size electric powered flight, which will no doubt excite Pete Clark! Please give your support to what promises to be a very interesting evening.

Cheap Glow Fuel

Fuel is available through the club and supplies are held by the club. All grades of fuel are available to order. Terry holds many other useful items: glo-plugs, propellers, glue, fuel tubing, wing bolts etc.

Contact: Terry Jacobson on 023 8040 2080 or see him at the field.

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Club Clothing

A number of items of club branded clothing are available from a local supplier. The current prices are:

Sweatshirts	£14.25
Polo shirts	£12.50
T shirt	£ 8.50
Caps	£ 7.95

All shirts are Fruit of the Loom and available in all sizes up to XXL & most colours. There is also a huge range of quality outdoor wear that can be embroidered with the club logo.

Contact Justin on 07572 613190, email windgyber@hotmail.com or see him at the field.

Firebirds 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	Pat Parsons	023 8056 2611	patrickparsons.parsons3@googlemail.com
Vice Chair	Russell Lewis	023 8056 1397	russell@pilot1.co.uk
Treasurer	Paul Adams	023 8069 2729	paul.adams10@tiscali.co.uk
Secretary	Roger Stanton	01489 784152	roger-stanton@sky.com
PRO	Peter Clark	01489 692881	psclark911@hotmail.com
Flying Site Rep.	Dave Hoppe	07704 826343	davehoppehome@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Geoff Griffiths	023 9265 5931	gcgriffiths@hotmail.com
Membership Sec.	Geoff Scott	023 8039 0013	geoffrey.scott100@ntlworld.com



Safe flying is no accident.