

Newsletter



September 2007

Editor Nick Neve.

Number 71



FISH MEADOW - JULY 2007.

THE SUMMER WHINE. Do you remember those warm sunny days last April with light warm winds and thermals bubbling up? Oh, happy days. We should have suspected something when it turned dull in May, damp in June and then July came with its record floods unprecedented in living memory after 5 inches of rain in 36 hours. Fish Meadow became Fish Lake, Upton cut off for days, rescue helicopters blackening the sky and our open weekend washed away. 'Ark Building For Dummies' is sold out, gopher wood is reported to be in short supply and nobody can recall how many cubits there are to the metre anyway. Summer floods are unusual however. On July 19th 1587 there was a "sudden inundation" which overflowed the meadows to such an extent that inhabitants were compelled to leave loaded carts behind them according to one chronicle. Another flood of the Severn, in July 1875, burst so rapidly through meadows from Worcester to Gloucester that "Much hay was carried away and grass spoiled". Perhaps the most disastrous summer flood of the Severn struck a large belt of western England on June 24, 1258. "A great tempest of flooding rain, ice, heavy thunder and horrible lightening happened suddenly according to the Annals of Tewkesbury "All grass likewise adjoining the Severn and the crops were lost, displeasing both to men and animals. Submerged in the same were horses, and many men and children of both sexes." In 1258 the rains continued throughout the autumn and "multitudes died of starvation". Like the floods of this summer the deluges of 1258 were considered "very unusual". However it is unlikely that global warming, El Nino or the flatulence of cows were blamed in those days.

FARMING DISASTER. The Malvern Gazette has recently reported that farmers across the region are facing a disaster worse than BSA and the foot-and-mouth crisis put together. That is the view of local dairy producers, who have revealed the full extent of the damage caused to crops and grassland and the financial hardship the rains have brought. Peter Surman of Ryalls Court Farm, our landlord, has admitted that the July floods were "devastating". He has lost 300 acres of grassland used to feed the 200 dairy cattle and the 600 beef cattle. "Because the crops are uninsurable, all the loss will have to come out of our own pockets," he added. He is having to import many tons of expensive organically grown grain to feed those 800 mouths. He is unwilling to put an exact figure on the damage but it could run into six figures.

LATEST SITUATION. The good news is that Fish Meadow is open again for flying. Just a quick update for anyone that it may be of interest to, please find below the remaining dates that Fish Meadow will be used for Competitions this year.

Sunday September 9th Club Comp Progressive Time
Sunday 16th September F3J League Event
Saturday 22nd September F3B League Event
Sunday 23rd September Club Comp - BARCS Rules Event

If any of our club competitions are weather affected they will be re-arranged from September 30th onwards

LOCAL PRODUCE. Do you need some small nuts & bolts or other fasteners? Alfast(UK) in Tewkesbury has a wide range of small nuts and bolts from M2, M3, M4 upwards in both stainless and plated steel at a fraction of model shop prices. Telephone: 01684 273344, Fax: 01684 273345. Postal address: Unit G2, Northway Trading Estate, Northway Lane, Tewkesbury, Glos., GL20 8JH. Electronic mail: info@allfastuk.co.uk or go to their website at <http://www.allfastuk.co.uk>

RECOVERY OF MODELS FROM TREES. It is a well known phenomenon that the oak trees at Fish Lake have a magnetic attraction to balsa, spruce and nowadays carbon/kevlar composites. Should you experience this, Mick Payne, 'The Crayne', at the garage by the bridge has a crane that can cherry pick up to 100 feet and can sometimes provide an instant recovery service. A possibly cheaper alternative is to contact a local Pershore professional tree climber, Kevin Boulton, tel: 01386 556679 mobile: 07745 721524. He almost ran up a tree recently to rescue a glider for a modest fee of £30. Well worth it for a moulded model. Keep the numbers in your model box just in case.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES. The Royal Aero Club Trust, as part of its flying for Youth programme, administers a Bursary Scheme for young people aged 16-21 years. Every year it awards a number of bursaries, each of up to £500. The scheme is divided into two categories:

(1) flying Bursaries for those wishing to advance from one recognised level of air sport to the next higher level and wishing to upgrade their existing qualifications;

(2) FlightSim Bursaries for Computer Flight Simulation enthusiasts wishing to gain practical experience of flying or an air sport. The scheme and the bursaries comprise all types of air sports and aviation-related activities including: paragliding, gliding, hang-gliding, parachuting, microlight aircraft, helicopter, fixed wing aircraft and the designing, building and flying of model airplanes.

Applications for 2008 bursaries must be made by 31 March 2008. For further details, see <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries.htm>

NOSTALGIA. For those with Internet access I suggest you take a look at the following film which has been posted on youtube of pre and early post-WW2 model flying. Having looked at this, then I suggest you explore the site further as I found some other gems there:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slwnO2YTeIQ>

RECENT CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS.

SLOPE 4 - Speed, flown on 26 August 2007. This was an excellent day. The wind was due north, so we flew from the north face of Table Hill, straight into the valley, and the sun shone all day.

We flew three rounds and the lift varied through each. The first two rounds were fairly consistent compared to the third round where the lift died almost completely towards the end. This made life very difficult for the later pilots.

The result was in the balance until the last flight with the final result showing a mere 1 second gap between the first two.

| Position | Name | Points |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| 1st | Mike Grantham | 100 |
| 2nd | Steve Hannon | 90 |
| 3rd | Geoff Carter | 80 |
| 4th | Trevor Hughes | 70 |
| 5th | Malcolm White | 65 |
| 6th | John Freeman | 60 |
| 7th | Barry O'Hara | 55 |
| 8th | Mike Hurley | 50 |

SLOPE 5 - Distance, flown on 12 August 2007. We arrived on top of the hill feeling not too confident about the weather. There was a gentle Westerly blowing but the sky looked ominous and the forecast not good. Worst fears were realised when it started raining about 10:15. However this proved very light and turned out to be the last of the day.

It was decided to fly distance and a triangular course was set up on Table Hill. The idea being to fly as many legs as possible in a set time.

The wind picked up steadily during the morning but this was made up for with the skies clearing out to give a mainly sunny session. By the time the comp finished the wind was really quite fresh, steady at about 15mph and gusting above that. This left those flying moulded planes with a distinct advantage over the rest. A mention must be given to Malcolm White, who virtually doubled the weight of his thermal style plane with the addition of lead and flew very well to achieve 4th place.

| Position | Name | Points |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| 1st | Steve Hannon | 100 |
| 2nd | John Freeman | 90 |
| 3rd | Mike Grantham | 80 |

| | | |
|-----|---------------|----|
| 4th | Malcolm White | 70 |
| 5th | Geoff Carter | 65 |
| 6th | Barry O'Hara | 60 |
| 7th | Steve Pearse | 55 |

SLOPE 6 - Loops and Landings, flown on 29th July 2007. At last the weather gods relented and we managed to resume our competition programme. The day's event was simply to perform as many loops as possible in a given time followed by a spot landing, also within a given time.

The weather was good from the start, improving as the day wore on. Unfortunately the final positions were dictated by the conditions prevailing in your slot. Some excellent lift in one was followed quickly by bad sink in the next. Still over a season these things have a habit of evening out.

The main thing was that everyone enjoyed the day and there was no damage to models.

| Position | Name | Points |
|----------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1st | John Freeman Mike Grantham | 100 |
| 2nd= | Steve Hannon Malcolm White | 85 |
| 4th= | Barry O'Hara Geoff Carter | 67.5 |
| 6th | Trevor Hughes | 60 |
| 7th | Mike Grantham | 55 |
| 8th | Steve Pearse | 50 |
| 9th | Bob Hutton | 45 |
| 10th | David Toye | 40 |

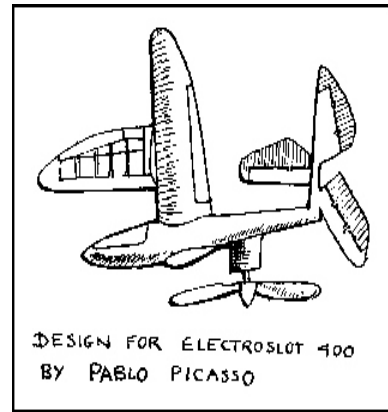
THERMAL 4 - Regressive Time Held on 2 September. Well at last we managed to resume the seasons programme at Fish Meadow. Things didn't look too promising at the start with a brisk breeze blowing and forecast to increase. Not to be deterred however we decided to hold the event.

There were some creditable performances given the wind and several pilots found very good lift, whilst others had their chances ruined in the first flight.

The objective was to fly set times of 10,8,6 and 4 minutes in that order with a landing bonus to complete the flight. No discards allowed.

The final result was as follows:-

| Position | Name | Points |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| 1st | Steve Hannon | 100 |
| 2nd | Mike Grantham | 85 |
| 3rd | Geoff Carter | 67.5 |
| 4th | Malcolm White | 60 |
| 5th | John Freeman | 55 |
| 6th | Trevor Hughes | 50 |
| 7th | Pev Attwood | 45 |



MAGAZINE SECTION.



A policeman out patrolling late at night in a well-known lover's lane sees a couple in a car, with the interior light brightly glowing. He approaches the car to get a closer look. He sees a young man behind the wheel, reading a model magazine. He then notices a very attractive young girl in the rear seat, knitting. Puzzled by this situation, he walks up to the car and gently knocks on the driver's window. The young man lowers his window. "Yes, officer?" The policeman says: "What are you doing?" The young man says: "Well Officer, I'm reading a magazine." Pointing towards the girl in the back seat the policeman says: "And your friend, what is she doing?". The young man says: "I believe she's knitting a pullover." Now, the policeman is totally confused. A young couple, alone, in a car, at night in a notorious lover's lane...and nothing out of the ordinary is happening! He asks: "What's your age, young man?" The young man says "I'm 22, sir." The policeman asks: "And your lady friend...what's her age?". The young man looks at his watch and replies: "She'll be 16 in 11 minutes".

A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on his radar, the local Air Traffic Control asked him "What was your last known position?" The student replied: "When I was number one for takeoff."



Conversation overheard between three elderly MSA members who were flying on Table Hill. First one says, "Windy, isn't it?". Second one replies "No, it's Thursday!" Third one says, "So am I. Let's stop flying now and have a beer."

Please fly safely at all times.

Nick Neve.