

Stansted Model Flying Club Newsletter

March, 2018

The next Monthly Meeting is planned for Monday, 2nd April and will either be at Ugley Village Hall or at the Flying Site, depending on the weather. (You'll be told)

Mike's Chat:

Our last meeting was the annual Simulator "Bombing" session, which is always good for a laugh. With Bill taking on all comers in a very tidy fashion. My attempts were definitely not tidy. Those in the game had a choice of model aircraft, from high wing trainer, to a Pitts Special, and then a Fokker Triplane (*so adding a wing each time! LP*). In a vain attempt to score I let my bombs go at a great height, which spoilt my chances quite a lot! A cup of tea was never more welcome!

One brave soul went for the BSI bomber, which took quite a lot of controlling but gave him a grand score, and so the evening was great fun, even if you didn't do well.

As you can see from the heading, and will be informed, the weather may turn out badly, in which case we will hold the annual "Indoor Chuck Glider" competition in the village hall. Here's hoping!

Cheers Dears

Mike



The bombing competition was even more fun this year with many spectacular and amusing crashes. My particular achievement was to drop my bomb a split second before crashing onto the target. The bomb was still emerging when the model hit the ground – but it still scored! LP

April Meeting:

As we start to enjoy the lighter evenings after the clocks go forward, and as it will be a bank holiday, we will try and hold the April meeting up at the flying site from 4PM 'til dusk. If the weather is unsuitable, (and at the time of writing, it does not look too promising) then the meeting will take place as normal at Ugley Village Hall where we will enjoy an evening of indoor Chuck Gliding.

From the Club Committee:

As we are about to start the flying season, it seems an appropriate time for the Committee to pass on a few words of guidance:

From the Chairman, Jason Channing:

Hi all, and a belated happy new year to everyone. The flying season is underway and there have been some very nice days lately and also some pretty awful ones as well.

The Committee wishes to be able to respond quickly to any incidents or accident that occurs up at the flying site. One of the first contacts should be a committee member to help with any reporting required or to provide other help; such as getting the models recovered if hospital treatment is required. My phone numbers are XXXXXXXXXXXX, the Safety Officer Mark Pearce's is XXXXXXXXXXXX, and the Acting Secretary's is XXXXXXXXXXXX. Whilst we do not want these numbers published, you could write them down somewhere safe and obtainable in a hurry should you ever need them while at the patch. These events are very rare but may just save you some added stress should you be flying on your own and an incident occurs.

Mark will cover some safety matters as well but there are still some members who persist in ignoring the club rules and fly from areas other than between the two markers, ie: closer to the pits than the club/BMFA allows, this has been mentioned many times before. This will be monitored more closely from now on and further action taken should it be required.

From the Safety Officer, Mark Pearce:

Hi All. As Spring is fast approaching and the weather hopefully improves, we will all be dusting off our models and heading to the flying site. (Yes, I do know some hardy modellers have been flying all winter!) So, a few important reminders on flight safety:

1. Remember always carry out the Failsafe and Range checks and model pre-flight safety checks .
2. Make sure you are aware of club rules regarding correct flying positions with different wind directions. If you are not sure, refer to the diagram up at the flying site.
3. Whilst flying, make sure you are standing together with the other pilots.
4. General safety in the pits area – make yourself aware of the rules and obey them.

It's also a good time to review the safety information contained in the BMFA Handbook. The latest edition was published in 2017. If you do not have copy it is available to download for free from the BMFA website.

From the Membership Secretary, Laurie Poulter:

I've sent out reminders to the few members who have not renewed their membership this year with a modest response, and there have been a couple of new members that have joined us – but membership numbers have been slowly declining over the last few years and we do need more new members. If you have a relation or a friend that shows an interest in model flying then get them up to the site. For people who have never flown a model before, our club BMFA insurance covers us for "taster" flights for such prospective members – providing that any flying is under the direct control of a BMFA registered instructor.

From the Web Master, Mark Moulds:

We do lack new photos and videos of flying up at the site so to encourage you to send these in the Committee will award a modest prize at the AGM to the member who submits the best/most interesting photo/video of the year. Send your entries to Mark at mark@mcmcomputerservices.co.uk

East Anglia Area Achievement Scheme Workshop:

East Anglia Area Cordially invite All Area and Club Examiners, Instructors and potential Test Candidates to a Fixed Wing 'A' and 'B' Instructor & Examiner Workshop Kindly hosted by Chelmsford MFA (just off the A1060 near Roxwell, west of Chelmsford) on Saturday 12th May 2018, commencing at 10 am. Directions for the site will be sent to all attendees nearer the time. Please book in early as the numbers will be limited to about 20.

The Workshop is being held in support of the BMFA Achievement Scheme and is designed to help Instructors & Examiners to improve consistency. The purpose is to allow Pilots, Instructors and Examiners the opportunity to gain experience, share information and discuss the requirements of the Fixed Wing 'A' and 'B' tests in a relaxed and informal environment. Delegates will be asked to 'score' the aspects of the mock tests, being pre-flight checks, from the pits to the take-off point, all of the elements of the flight, the retrieval and the post-flight checks - note: the demo flights will have various deliberate errors incorporated. Following this, there will be a group critique of the test in which the Demonstration Pilot will participate. At the conclusion of each section, the Demonstration Pilot will fly the schedule to the required standards. Refreshments and barbecue will be running from about 10.30 until we run out of food.

For further details, contact the Event Organiser, Phil Gutteridge, East Anglia Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator on philg44@sky.com or 07810 547 406

And Finally:

I'm off on a tour of Greece and the Balkans for three months, starting out near the end of April, so I've been trying to get some flying in first – without much success. Either the weather has been bad (mostly) or I've not been able to get up to the flying site. Must do better!

Laurie