

Stansted Model Flying Club Newsletter

May, 2016

Our next meeting will be at the Hadstock Flying Site on Monday, 6th June. Come at around 4PM and stay 'till dark! Let's hope for better weather than last time!

Mike's Chat:

We were all looking forward to our start of the season but with our usual gift of foresight chose the wettest, windiest, and coldest evening of the Spring for our May Meeting! I turned up at about 3.30 pm and gave up at 6.30. However, some flying took place in spite of the conditions.

Roy Spence let me have a go with his "Twinstar", which had new brushless motors and, for its size, it performed extremely well in the gusty wind. Perhaps it was the balanced power? Or it might have been Roy's "Buddy Box" which got me out of trouble. Anyway, it was most enjoyable and added some much needed excitement to my evening. Roy also had several flights and demonstrated the Gyro set-up which took over if sudden unwanted manoeuvres tried to take the model in the wrong direction; a very interesting experience.

Mark Mould had a go with his "Sun-Surfer" powered glider, which handled the wind very well, in fact it seemed to revel in the conditions, and flew without a hitch. Mind you, he is quite good at it as well! Laurie brought along his old faithful "Queen Bee" twin but I didn't see it fly for long, although it did seem to manage without any drama. Laurie doesn't court disaster anyway!

The old Riot is safe in the shed in these conditions but has given up one clue to the strange behaviour of the fail-safe recently. One of the battery connections had an intermittent fault, and complete loss of power, resulted in a cart wheel landing, which it survived (don't be sorry). Alan very kindly re-soldered the Deans connector for me, with his miniature blow lamp (a hot blue flame) so all should be well in future. With hopefully some calm weather to try it out.

Nearly forgot! Bill tried out the club trainer engine in the adverse conditions and it seemed completely reliable at part throttle settings, even when it rained! Bill never gives up, 'cos this engine has been dodgy in the past and needed much tweeking!

Cheers, dears - Mike



Two Motorhomes at the flying site? Must nearly be Summer!

SMFC Summer Events:

At the last AGM it was agreed that the club would run three events this summer:

A Training and Development Day – Saturday 18th June (not on the usual Sunday as the 19th is Father's day and delaying the event another week would clash with the Wings and Wheels show). Bill Michie has offered to supervise this event.

This is a new event for the club at which it is proposed that we have Examiners and Instructors on hand during the day to offer opportunities for training and development of skills at all levels to club members. Club members would be expected to bring a suitable model to use during this training or development activity. In particular, club members who do not yet have any BMFA Achievement Scheme Ratings will have the opportunity to go through the full "A" Test with an examiner, with the possibility of then taking the actual test that day. Prospective test candidates are reminded that the flying sequence is only part of the test and that they will need to study and demonstrate adherence to BMFA and SMFC rules, as well as being prepared to demonstrate competence on before and after flight checks! A reminder and further information will be circulated closer to the event date.

A Scale Day- Sunday 24th July

As usual, normal flying at the site will be suspended from about 11AM to 4PM, when only scale and scale-like model aircraft may take to the air. This event provides the opportunity for club members to display their most cosseted models to other club members. There will be a mild competitive aspect to the day, with models and pilots being assessed by their peers. Here is a little reminder of what this event is all about!

Stansted Model Flying Club's Scale Day, July 2014



A Families BBQ – Sunday 21st August.

This is a new event to encourage family members to join us on site: a lunch-time BBQ. Possibly, some of our more skilled members could give some flying demonstrations – a "B" rating would probably be needed for such demonstrators. We will need to consider the safety aspects of operating with non-model flyers, including children, present at the site. In particular: separating of the flight line and flying area from spectators, and extra flying instructions/restrictions.

We would also like to offer the opportunity for family members to try their hand at flying a model aircraft. We will need to have some suitable models available to work with a Buddy Box system. The SMFC's BMFA Club Insurance would cover "tasting" flights under supervision by designated club members by people who have never flown a model aircraft before. This insurance would not cover flying by any other visitors.

We need volunteers to help run this event and to man the club BBQ. As it's only a lunch time event, the task should not be too arduous.

Mark's Safety Spot:

From what I have seen and from feedback from others, it seems that the site layout diagrams, as shown on the back of the frequency board up at the flying site, are being followed by everyone. It's essential that all flyers stand in the same place when flying models, as this keeps the landing/take off area as big as possible and allows the pilots to communicate their intentions easily to each other. It also reduces the risk of a model being steered into a spot where another flyer is standing!

Club Trainer:

Bill has produced a set of usage instructions for the new Club Trainer and these will be issued whenever the Club Trainer is loaned out. The main points are as follows:

- The trainer and its associated radio and other equipment are the property of SMFC
- The instructor or member using the model is responsible for safe operation & reasonable care of the equipment!
- The model is available for basic training, familiarisation, practising, demo (eg visitors) to all members & club visitors/potential members; the buddy system must be used
- No take off or landing training please (to reduce damage risk!)
- Please ensure batteries are charged & model safety checked before use
- Please defuel, clean & check the model after use; any problems found, please contact Bill Michie or a committee member for rectification.

The Trainer Package consists of:

- Irvine Tutor 2 trainer c/w SC .52 engine, 4 servos & Spektrum AR 610 rx
- Spektrum DX6 "Black" Tx (master) & DX 6i Tx (slave) in twin case with neckstrap & battery tester
- Chargers for new Tx & glow sticks, etc
- Field equipment: flight box with power panel, starter, glow lead, fuel pump (only runs one way), & two glow sticks; plug spanner with spare plug, chicken finger & couple of small tools; "H" shaped restrainer.

Consumables will need to be purchased/replaced as required.

Finally:

Apart from at the AGM, many members do not have the opportunity to air their views on club matters to the rest of the club. If you have a burning desire to do so, space in this Newsletter could be made available to you. As editor, though, I will have to reserve the right to decide what is suitable for publication!

Laurie