



December 2009

A Happy Christmas to all our Readers

This Month's Meeting - Wednesday 16th December

This month's meeting will be the traditional Christmas meeting with food available and competitions to exercise those "little grey cells".

Guest of Honour

The guest of honour will be Darren Lewington, Operations Manager at Gloucestershire Airport and his partner, He will present the prizes at the end of the evening.

Competitions

Don't forget to bring your photos. There will be three separate photographic competitions. One for photographs taken from the ground, another for photographs taken from an aircraft and the editor's selection from those submitted to him during the year on which members will vote for the "Severn Valley Microlight Club Photographer of the Year". The only restriction on submitting photographs is that **each photograph must have been taken by a Club Member.**

Raffle

Everyone attending should bring a prize for the grand raffle. This should be handed to the Treasurer on arrival in

exchange for entry forms for the competitions and some coloured dots with which to judge the photographic competitions. The winners of the competitions will be announced at about 9.45pm followed by the Grand Draw.

Food

A buffet will be available at 9.00pm together with mince pies and tea and coffee. Any alcoholic drinks you require can be bought at the bar at any time during the evening.

Quote of the Month

"The natural function of the wing is to soar upwards and carry that which is heavy up to the place where dwells the race of gods. More than any other thing that pertains to the body it partakes of the nature of the divine." — *Plato*

Safety

This time of year is one of celebration and parties. Perhaps you have decided to slip quietly away from the party when nobody is looking and have yourself a quick flight. **Stop!** How much have you drunk so far? Alcohol and flying do not mix and even flying the day after the party is doubtful since there is the cumulative effect of alcohol to be considered. It is often quoted that there

VFR Chart Publication Dates

Chart Name	Current Date	Next Planned Date
500k Southern England & Wales	12 Mar 09 (Ed. 35)	11 Mar 10 (Ed. 36)
500k Northern England & Northern Ireland	4 Jun 09 (Ed. 32)	6 May 10 (Ed. 33)
500k Scotland	2 Jul 09 (Ed. 26)	16 Dec 10 (Ed. 27)
250k 1. N.Scotland West	28 Aug 08 (Ed. 5)	26 Aug 10 (Ed. 6)
250k 2. N.Scotland East	3 Jul 08 (Ed. 5)	1 Jul 10 (Ed. 6)
250k 3. N.Ireland	7 May 09 (Ed. 6)	25 Aug 11 (Ed. 7)
250k 4. The Borders	10 Apr 08 (Ed. 6)	3 Jun 10 (Ed. 7)
250k 5. Central England & Wales	9 Apr 09 (Ed. 8)	2 Jun 11 (Ed.9)
250k 6. England East	24 Sep 09 (Ed. 9)	28 Jul 11 (Ed. 10)
250k 7. West & South Wales	30 Jul 09 (Ed. 7)	30 Jun 11 (Ed 8)
250k 8. England South	12 Feb 09 (Ed. 13)	8 Apr 10 (Ed. 14)
1:50k London Helicopter Chart	20 Nov 08 (Ed. 13)	23 Sep 10 (Ed. 14)

should be "eight hours between bottle and throttle". But if you have had more than one pint of beer or one measure of spirits it builds in your blood stream and you will find yourself "over the limit" even the following morning.

The simple answer to this dilemma is if you want to fly, drive and avoid becoming a statistic - **think and don't drink!**

CAA Chart updates

The CAA have published a list of dates for the issue of the Half- and Quarter mil charts which is reproduced at the top of this page. You should not need reminding that you should always have the current map with you when you fly. Maps are expensive but are an essential safety aid in more ways than one.

While on the subject of maps it is worth raising the subject of winch launched glider sites. These are marked on the

chart (see picture below) and indicate the height to which gliders are towed. This can be as much as 3000 feet **above the airfield** and the cable is difficult, if not



impossible, to see. Flying into one is not to be recommended.

Internet

Adrian Peatman has found something interesting on the Internet. A company called Evvirofit has developed a retrofit kit which converts two stroke engines to direct in-cylinder fuel injection. This has been tested in the

Philippines on Tuk Tuk's and other road vehicles. The results show hydrocarbon emissions reduced by 89%, carbon monoxide by 76%, carbon dioxide by 26%, fuel efficiency increased by 34.8% and a decrease in oil usage of 50%.

This appears to be an interesting development as far as two-stroke engines are concerned but it might have come a bit late to be of any real relevance to microlights!

If you want to know more visit the website at <www.envirofit.org>

Dates for your diary

16th December – Club Christmas Party at the Gloucestershire Club, Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester (the usual venue)

20th January 2010 – Club AGM at the Gloucestershire Club

3rd to 5th September 2010. - LAA Rally at Sywell

Acknowledgements

John Hamer for the CAA chart and glider information and the header photo of last year's spread! Adrian Peatman for the Envirofit information.

Editor's Note - Change of Phone Number

Please note that the Editor's phone number will be changed from 14th December. It will then be **01684 833789**

Memories are made of these!



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