



December 2010

A Merry Christmas to all our
Readers

This Month's Meeting Wednesday 15th December

This month we have our traditional Club Christmas Party complete with buffet supper. The header picture from last year should whet your appetite! Members are invited to bring their spouses, partners, etc, but should inform John Hamer that they will be attending to ensure that there is no shortage of food! Things will start happening at 8.00pm.

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.

A Close Shave by Andrew John

With three miles to run to my home base I changed from a local ATC frequency to advise my intention to join the circuit downwind with a blind call to 'Defford traffic'. I had received a radio check of '5's before takeoff and reception had been excellent en route. I called 'downwind', 'base leg' and then 'turning

final' before confirming 'final' to land on 27, checking at the same time that there was no traffic approaching from my right. I landed and shut down in the normal way. Within a couple of minutes another a/c landed and shut down. The visiting pilot approached me and enquired whether I had used my radio on approach within the circuit. I confirmed that I had (as described) but he had received no signal and had had to abort his 'long final' approach as I had 'cut him up'. Having had radio problems recently, yet convinced that my radio was now working correctly, I did nonetheless apologise for apparent bad airmanship.

However, he asked me which frequency I was using and I told him, only to learn that he was using the old frequency for the airfield which had been changed about twelve months previously and had been widely advertised. Nevertheless he was convinced that his latest Pooleys update still had the old frequency. He had also phoned for his PPR earlier but had not asked for, nor was given, the frequency with his permission to land.

No harm done this time but circumstances could have been worse as it happens, as the pilot was escorting a 'rookie' pilot on a cross country exercise who had done a touch and go as I was on my downwind leg. I had observed this but had not heard any transmission from him. I checked that this aircraft had continued away from the airfield and did not re-enter the circuit as I continued my approach. So there were two aircraft using different frequencies both believing that theirs was the right one!

The lesson learned from this must be **ALWAYS CHECK THE FREQUENCY** as part of the PPR. I in turn will also check more thoroughly for possible confliction with aircraft at a distance on a 'long final'.

Defford is a popular 'dropping in' strip in the heart of the Severn Vale as well as home to a number of 'residents' and



The danger of low flying or don't take things sitting down!

frequent arrivals from GA, Microlights, Hang Gliders and even Military aircraft make for a busy airspace at times. Visitors are very welcome with PPR and donations to the Mission Aviation Fellowship replace a landing fee. In winter months especially, the strip can become partially waterlogged. The frequency for Defford is 122.250, PPR from Clive or Mike Porter on either 07767606172 or 07767796355.

Change of E-mail Address

On 13th December Bill Austin, the Editor, will be changing his e-mail address - provided BT live up to their promise! The new address is :-

marshview@btinternet.com

The previous Freeserve address will no longer exist.

Bill Austin (Editor)

marshview@btinternet.com

01684 833789