

Severn Valley Microlight Club

AIRSCREW

July 2003

This month's meeting

With the longer evenings upon us (see the background to the newsletter heading) our meeting this month will be a fly-out to **Redlands Airfield near Swindon**. Details of both location and a suggested route from Over are attached on a separate sheet.

Please take special note of the fact that Fairford MATZ is closed airspace until 1900 hours.

That means that no traffic other than military is allowed to penetrate the area. Do not therefore infringe the zone until after that time. Our hosts will be Joe and Sarah Smith who will be providing a BBQ. They will also be inviting their own Club members along as well so there will be a chance to renew old acquaintances, to meet new faces and to indulge in experience swapping. You can drive in if you wish. Flyers may be surprised to learn that in terms of distance it is just 3 miles further away than Long Marston so it's not a world breaking cross-country trip exactly. If the weather co-operates, it will be a flight to remember. *(Thinking about it, the same applies if the weather deteriorates while you are there! – Ed)*

The Club Treasure Hunt and BBQ

This year our friend and colleague Robbie was not as fortunate or lucky in his choice of weather as he has been for the last few years. The result was that the barbecue was delayed by a week. However, the weather relented and the event took place.

Robbie set a task that he was trying out for the World Championships next month based on two concentric circles around Tewkesbury.

The inner one passed over road junctions and the outer one over rivers. Locations had to be identified from photos supplied. Those members who flew the course had a taste of what it is like to fly a 'real' competition task. The Treasure Hunt winner this year was Brian Finch. Congratulations Brian and his navigator Dave Steade *(Will success go to his head and will this be the end of "Humble Bumble"? – Ed)* In second place were Pete Smith and Ed Wells followed by Paul Underwood and Jim Taylor, John Davis and Barbara Austin, Bob Hinds and Stephen, Phil Hanman and Dave Watson and Myron and Emma Burak. Well done to all the participants, and thanks to Robbie for setting the "brain teaser" task, for the BBQ and the strawberries and cream.



Treasure Hunt winners 2003

Safety

Looking skywards the other day a GA was circling the area in a clockwise direction at something near 500 feet. A few seconds later he was joined by a fast jet circling anti-clockwise about 200 feet **below** him. The GA

seemed oblivious to the fact that he had company and circled again but this time a little lower. The jet also came around again at roughly the same height as before. It was fairly obvious that the jet had seen the GA and decided that enough was enough as he disappeared into the distance. The GA circled yet again and then drifted lazily on his way. If you are sight seeing be sure to keep a good lookout for other aircraft since, as pilot-in-command, you are responsible for conducting a safe flight, the safety of your aircraft, your passengers and, should the worst happen, those on the ground as well.

A-maize-ing!

Bob Hinds e-mailed to say that members might be interested in finding a new maze constructed on a jungle theme in a field of maize which is located about half to one mile. North of his runway. He says it looks quite impressive from the air and will improve as the crop grows. Is this Gloucestershire's answer to the crop circle mystery?

Don't forget when you are out flying and see something unusual to let the editor know about it so that other people can also go and have a look – but be sure not to fly in such a way as to draw attention to yourself or annoy the local population.

Internet

Those members who use WindowsXP and laptop computers will be interested in Microsoft's "Cleartype" addition which can be accessed at www.microsoft.com/typography/cleartype It is a method of enhancing the display of text on LCD screens by fine tuning the colour rendering of each pixel on the screen resulting in smoother edges to the text and a much clearer typeface on the screen. I now have it installed and am very impressed with the improvement in clarity and readability of text on the screen.

Quote of the Month

"I've learned that it is what I do not know that I fear, and I strive, outwardly from pride, inwardly from the knowledge that the unknown is what will finally kill me, to know all there is to be known about my airplane. I will never die".— *Richard Bach*

The Wednesday Fly-in - Defford

There were 10 aircraft and 20 visitors who between them contributed £22.50 to Clive Porter's MAF Fund. Thanks to all who attended and to Clive for permission to use the airfield. Some pictures from the event are included to whet your appetite and tempt you to attend these gatherings.



"Happy Eaters" at Defford



Bob Hinds



John Davis



Ed Wells and Pete Smith

I'm back on cloud nine! – by Barbara Austin
As some of you may know, I have been re-validated and am now back in the air again. What most of you don't know is that I am flying Norman Frost's old aircraft - a Half Pint. As its name implies it's very small (see picture) - more my size. Frank, my inspector cum check-pilot, came all the way up from Sussex in order to permit my plane. Again some of you may remember that this plane had a very severe right turn in it some years ago which necessitated five hours of patient work on it by Frank to get right. Get it right he did though, and it is now a pleasure to fly. Please note this is a "fun" aircraft not designed for long cross country trips so if you want to see it you'll have to come to Defford. A five pound donation to MAF is currently suggested in lieu of a landing fee which may put some of you off!



Cleared for take-off!

New Microlight Approved

The Savannah microlight has recently been approved by the BMAA and is marketed by the Sandtoft Ultralight Partnership. More information can be obtained by going to their web site at www.sandtoft-ultralights.co.uk

RAF Lyneham to close

By the time you receive this newsletter most of you will have already heard that the government is intending to close RAF Lyneham by 2012 – not exactly next week it seems!. No doubt this will be another case of building houses on what is a prime aviation site. News reports indicate that for the last 18 months a campaign has been waged to try and preserve the RAF base. It is anticipated that operations will be moved to RAF Brize

Norton. Looking on the bright side if RAF Lyneham closes it means that the MATZ disappears and we no longer have the problem of finding the narrow corridor between the two areas of Fairford and Lyneham through which to thread our way to Popham and all points south. I wonder if there will be one last chance for a microlight fly in and the base. Watch this space for further news.

Frequency Changes

For those members who fly further afield two frequency changes might be worth noting. Bourne Radio (in Hampshire) changed from 129.80Mhz to 124.35Mhz and Fowlmere Radio changed to 135.70Mhz from 4th August.

Dates for your Diary

26th July Redlands Fly-in BBQ. Contact Roger Cornwell <rcorwell@totalise.co.uk>
The last Redlands barbecue attracted some 45 aircraft so it sounds a good place to go!
26 – 27th July Nationals Round at Sywell. Contact Paul and Dawn Dewhurst 01604 494459

Club Wednesday Fly-ins

16 July Redlands
23 July Eastbach
30 July Bredon Gallops
06 Aug Hartpury
13 Aug Gary Ball's, Chris Ball's or John Hancox (Exact venue to be confirmed)
20 Aug Farmers' Club monthly meeting

Bill Austin (Editor)
01684 833484
bill@austin65.freeserve.co.uk