



October 2007

This Month's Meeting - Wednesday 17th October

This month we are going to be transported to Morocco for the evening. Bruce Drake will be telling us about his latest long distance adventure. The meeting will start at 8.00pm prompt.

Quote of the Month

"Great pilots are made not born. . . . A man may possess good eyesight, sensitive hands, and perfect coordination, but the end result is only fashioned by steady coaching, much practice, and experience." — Air Vice-Marshal J. E. 'Johnnie' Johnson, RAF.

Safety

The following service bulletin from Nigel Beale is reproduced for the information of members. **Check your fuel filter without delay** if you have obtained one from Skydrive since April this year.

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SERVICE BULLETIN 200907
TITLE: DEFECTIVE FUEL FILTERS PART
NUMBER SKY27
Date: 20th September 2007
Classification: Recommended

Background

The SKY27 fuel filter consists of a transparent plastic housing containing a caged nylon mesh filter (Fig. 1). The affected filters are easily recognisable by the blue frame of the mesh filter and the 8 windows in the frame. Skydrive have only supplied this filter since April 2007. Earlier filters, also with a blue cage, but only 4 windows (Fig.2) are not affected.

Nature of Defect

During servicing of an aircraft fitted with a SKY27 filter, it was noticed that the caged nylon mesh filter was loose within the transparent body. This could result in particles by-passing the filter and reaching the carburetter float chamber(s), possibly causing an engine malfunction.

Dismantling and examination of a number of filters has revealed that the filter cage is bonded to the downstream end of the housing using an unknown type of adhesive. The loosening of the filter cage in the faulty filter could have been due to rough handling, vibration or a possible softening of the adhesive due to fuel or fuel additive.

Rectification Action Required

Due to the possibility of engine malfunction caused by defective filters, Skydrive are removing all their stock of these filters from sale, and will replace or credit all filters of this type already sold.

This Bulletin is being sent to all known purchasers of the affected filter, from individual retail customers to dealers and aircraft manufacturers who have purchased filters in quantity.

We recommend that affected filters are removed as soon as possible and replaced by SKY28 or any other filter type recommended by the aircraft manufacturer. SKY28 Filters, shown in Fig. 3, have the filter cage held in place mechanically, and therefore cannot suffer the same problem. (Note: No Fig 3 attached -Ed)

This fuel filter replacement should be recorded in the aircraft log book.

Pre-flight checks

While talking to one of our members at the end of last month's meeting the question of pre-flight checking was raised. The point at issue was how thorough were these checks when taking advantage, at the last minute, of the opportunity to fly - a situation no doubt familiar to many of us. In these circumstances time is often of the essence because daylight is limited.



In the rush to get into the air it is possible that pre-flight checks are minimised or not very thorough - "kick the tyres and light the fires" approach. Most times all is well and the flight is completed safely. However, something important could have been missed or overlooked. In order to prevent this, the member in question

thought that, in these circumstances, a written check list would be an advantage. Now that seems a good idea but it, too, has its disadvantages. After using it a few times it becomes habit. What you see may not actually register in your brain - you see what you expect to see. Subconsciously **you are on automatic!** However, a list is better than no list and certainly an improvement on a cursory visual inspection. You pay your money and take your choice - but make sure it's the right choice!

Internet

With the darker evenings now upon us some members might spend a little more time on the Internet. In recent months my e-mail filter programme has picked up a number of official looking mails from organisations such as banks and building societies all purporting to be reviewing their systems and inviting me to click on the link provided to update my information. Needless to say, I have not accepted the invitation. These are 'scams' by a third party to get hold of your personal details which they will then use to empty your account. Normally your bank/building society will not contact you in this way for personal information so be warned. Do not open any such e-mails. Alternatively, install a programme similar to the one I use which allows me to see and read all the e-mails on the server and delete or bounce them before I decide to download those that are deemed to be "friendly". You have been warned!

Another Airfield under Threat

Have you ever flown into Branscombe Airfield in Devon? It has recently changed hands and the new owner is facing closure of the airfield because of a petition to the local Council from the villagers to close the airfield. The original permission was for resident aircraft only but the previous owner allowed other aircraft to use it on a PPR basis. The villagers are asking the Council not to

extend the existing permission to the new owner.

David Hayman, the new owner, wants to apply for a Certificate of Lawful Use. For this he needs copies of log book entries from any pilot who has used the field at any time in the past. So far he has received details of 1700 movements over the last 20 years! If you can add to that number send a copy of your log book entries to David Hayman, Higherlands Farm, Branscombe Airfield, Branscombe, Devon EX12 3BL or e-mail <naomi@branscombeairfield.com>



plenty more opportunities for similar sunny gatherings next year. The last fly-in of the summer at Hawling saw some 20 aircraft arrive and rivaled the first of the year at Bulley as far as numbers were concerned. Unfortunately we have no photos from the Hawling event to show you.

Christmas - Advance Warning

Yes, it's that time of year again when you are starting to write your Christmas list. While you are about it make a note of our meeting on 19th December. We will again be having photographic competitions so sort through your collection for the best of the year. The categories will be as before - air to air, ground to air and air to ground. The only qualifications for the evening are that all photos must have been taken by a Club member and that everyone brings a prize for the raffle.

Dates for your Diary

24th - 25th November - SPLASH, the annual Microlight exhibition at the NEC, Hall 5. Entry price frozen at the 2006 level.

Acknowledgements

John Hamer for the fuel filter service bulletin. Myron Burak for the Branscombe Airfield information. Adrian Burden for the photos on this page.



Memories of a good evening

The four photos on this page were taken right at the beginning of the fly-in season before the weather man got his act together. Hopefully there will be

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