



April 2003

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This month's meeting - 10th April - CAA Safety Evening.

We are pleased to announce that the Bristol Strut will be hosting a CAA GA Safety Evening on Thursday 10th April starting at 7.30 pm at BAWA, Southmead Road, Bristol. The evening will be presented by David Cockburn and will take place in Conference Room 1 (front entrance, new building). These safety evenings are usually very popular and well attended so we hope that all our members will be able to come along and join together with like-minded aviation visitors for this very informative evening. Pilots - bring your logbook for stamp of attendance!

Last Month's meeting.

The March meeting didn't exactly go to plan, as Darrol Stinton unfortunately couldn't make it due to continuing spinal problems. Instead, we hijacked the TV/video which the BAWA staff unearthed at short notice, and the evening continued with general discussion. We were sorry to hear the news about Darrol, and wish him a speedy recovery. Alan gave a resume of his visit to Sywell to attend the National Council meeting, and our gratitude was expressed to him for representing the Bristol Strut. His full report follows later in this newsletter.

During a quiet interlude, Ian took the floor and presented a short briefing for our Young Eagles Day taking place on 5th April. At that time there were 13 aircraft on the arrivals list, but it was unknown just how many youngsters would return completed projects by the deadline date. He was optimistic, however, that we should equal or exceed the numbers attending last year. Questions from new members were answered, and all those present were encouraged to come along to Filton and assist as ground crew if not actually flying.

Next meeting - 8th May - "VFR down under, no worries"

Back in foggy November, our friends in the Wessex Strut were treated to a presentation by one of their members, Ian Fraser, who, along with his wife Elaine, had recently returned from a flying holiday in Australia. His presentation on laptop and digital display was so well received that we asked him to come along to show us as well! Rumour has it that tinnies of the golden XXXX were consumed during the intermission break, so this could be an evening to remember. Not to be missed by anyone minded to venture down-under for a similar adventure.



Ian & Elaine Fraser

G-VFWE at Kemble 9-11th May

Gwyn Rogers has suggested another strut outing - this time to Kemble for the Great Vintage Flying Week End. Anyone interested in pooling transport, either by car or by air, then contact either Alan George (see above) or Gwyn on: gwyn@hallatrow.freemove.co.uk.

Where to go in April/May

Free Landings in April with:

Pilot Magazine: Andrewsfield, Clacton, Enstone, Lashenden, Long Marston and Welshpool
Flyer Magazine: Bagby, Old Buckenham, Oxford and Welshpool.

12th April - VAC Daffodil Fly In - Turweston - Contact: 01280 705400

20th April - Wessex Strut Fly in - Henstridge - see below.

Future Places to Go

Are you thinking of going to the Great Vintage Flying Weekend? This will be taking place at Kemble on **9th - 11th May**. If you are flying in, don't forget to pre-register with Peter Campbell on 01747 838165.

On the weekend of **31st May - 1st June** Shobdon Strut is having it's first fly-in, coinciding with Aviation Days open to the public, and cordially invite all strut members. Café is open all day, plus pig roast and barbecue in the afternoon, and no landing fee. Over-night camping available. PPR by phone is essential and preferably in advance for up to date info on 01584 881205, or on the day, 07960 463709. Information is also on www.pilotnotes.org.uk/shobdon

The Wiltshire PFA Flyers (ne Swindon Strut!) are having a bit of a 'do' at Oaksey Park by kind permission of Brian Austen over the week-end of the **5/6th July**. The plan is to fly (or drive) in to Oaksey from 15.00 onwards on the Saturday armed with a DIY Bar-B-Que, food and a tent. The means of cooking your food will be provided on site.

Award winning beer will be available, as will wine, soft drinks and tea/coffee etc. On Sunday morning breakfast in the club room will be available to those who are tired of cooking followed by a fly-out to Lundy to join the Devon Strut at their Fly-In.

Everyone is welcome to either or both events, but I (Dudley Pattison, Swindon Strut) do need numbers for an idea on breakfast catering at Oaksey, and registrations to pass on to Chris Howell of the Devon strut for the Lundy fly out.

Dudley can be reached on 01793 791517 or via e-mail: gfv54@dial.pipex.com

19th - 20th July: Popham - Andover strut fly-in.

Places you may not be able to go in the future!

Did you know that there are plans to dig up the runways of **Wroughton airfield** and plant trees all over the site?

If you feel strongly about this then write to Mr Clive Gordon deploring this action and reminding him that there are enough airfields already threatened by Japanese car manufacturers and there are dozens of farmers out there who would love to sell their farms to Mr Gordon cheaply at present. Why not add your voice and ask him to find another venue and leave Wroughton with it's potential of becoming something really good in the future? One other thing to point out to Mr Gordon - more people every year go to air shows than attend football matches in the UK.

His contact details are: e-mail to: c.gordon@nmsi.ac.uk

Or by post: Clive Gordon, NMSI, Science museum, Wroughton, SN4 9NS.

A few hundred letters sent to Mr Gordon will probably have the most effect.

Henstridge Airfield

We are invited to the Wessex Strut Fly-in 2003. It's on the 20th April and as usual at Henstridge Airfield. We have been asked by the Wessex Strut to support this event as Henstridge is at risk of closure arising from an application for planning permission to use the runway for car storage / auctioning. Letters of objections should be sent to John Shaw, Area East Planning Manager, South Somerset District Council - Area East, Council Offices, Churchfield, WINCANTON, Somerset, BA9 9AG, quoting Henstridge Airfield Planning Application 03/00640/COU.

Finnmere under threat!

If any member flew into Finnmere from 1993 onward please send details to Peter Kember to

help safeguard the aerodrome from a possible development that might make it difficult to operate. Please send copies of relevant log book pages signed and dated with pilots/crew/passenger concerned including your address.

Send to Peter Kember, Kember Loudon Williams, Ridgers Barn, Bunny Lane, Eridge, Near Tonbridge Wells Kent, TN3 9HA. Contact peter.kember@klw.co.uk for further details.

Regards, Stuart MacConnacher

Bristol LARS - frequency change

For those interested the Bristol LARS frequency has changed with effect 20th March 2003 from 128.55MHz to **125.65MHz**.

Gloucester Approach (which used to be on 125.65) is now on **128.55MHz**! This may cause some confusion for a while. The reason is 125.65 is approved for use out to a range of 60miles, 128.55 is in theory limited to 40 miles.

Aircraft For Sale

Spike Parker has told us that he is thinking of selling his beautiful Luscombe 8A Silvaire G-BRDJ. If you would like the opportunity to own this superb aircraft please contact Spike on 01761-470281



Jodel D18 (TT 100r) with Jabiru 2200 engine (30 hrs TT)

Hangared at Bodmin. Permit until June 2003. £14,000

Fisher Celebrity with Continental A65 (87 hrs TT) on US register. No current permit.

For information on both above aircraft call Allan Silcox on 01840 211177

Pictures for strut board

Looking ahead to the PFA Rally at Kemble on 11th 12th and 13th July - we will be submitting a Strut Board and need to start updating it. If you have any photos which could be included please bring them along to the April or May meetings or send them to Ian & Mary soon. *Many thanks.*

Skills needed

Christopher Harrison who is building a VP1 is looking for an inspector for the whole project as well as fabric covering know-how. If you are or you know someone who fits the bill then please contact our Co-ordinator, Alan George on george.alan@virgin.net or phone: 0117 373 9945

US PPL Syllabus Books for sale

I have a set of almost brand new books for sale published by GLEIM, which are ideal preparation for anyone planning to do a US PPL in the near future:

PRIVATE PILOT WRITTEN FAA EXAM
FAA REGULATIONS AND AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION MANUAL
AVIATION WEATHER AND WEATHER SERVICES
PILOT HANDBOOK
PRIVATE PILOT SYLLABUS
PRIVATE FLIGHT MANEUVERS AND PRACTICAL TEST PREP BOOK
FAA TEST SIMULATION ON CD ROM
NAVIGATION WHIZZ WHEEL CALCULATOR

All of these books are in mint condition and are fully up-to-date. I can testify from my own success that they are excellent value for money; I passed the writtens and FAA check ride at first go. They cost £135 new (including P & P) and are available for sale at half price. The Gleim publications were recommended to me by another successful candidate,

and seem to be in very widespread use in the US.

Please contact - Graham Clark, 01454 618216, cgraham978@aol.com

NOTAMS direct from the UK AIS

Those readers who use a computer for weather and Notam information will be familiar with the problems caused when the NATS website was 'upgraded'. You may be interested, therefore, in a new service from AvBrief, which goes a long way towards providing Notams in a convenient and usable form. More importantly, it's quick!

NOTAMS are now available from <http://www.avbrief.com> for a free two-week trial period, with a no-obligation option to subscribe thereafter. It is unfortunate that it should be necessary to pay for information, which is essential for safe passage through UK airspace, but if the alternative (free) option remains too cumbersome to be useful to occasional GA flyers such as ourselves, then it must be worth a try. If you already use AvBrief, send an e-mail to newsletter@avbrief.com giving your Name, User i/d and e-mail address registered with them. Your guest status will then be upgraded to 'member' for two weeks.

Click the button below to read the NC report on Page 2...
