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Winter Review

Since the AGM we have had some great winter events, the Simulator nights were very well attended and everyone had great fun. We had something for everyone, from trying to take off and land a BAe 146 from a tiny court yard to attempting to land a Boeing 747 at Chicago O'Hare Airport in a thunder storm, with varying degrees of success I should add. But by far the most popular was attempting to land a Douglas DC3 on to the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, I know the latter would be considered 'unusual' but when you are on the simulator you can 'get away' with the odd breakage so why not an 'odd approach' as well. Hopefully the simulator nights will be back for the winter.

The two indoor flying events at Dallam School were fantastic! Everyone who took part really enjoyed the chance for a winter flight without getting frost bite in the fingers. The events showed the many different skills of indoor flying from the tiny lightweight technopor X-twin and I-Planes to the Pico Z type helicopters and even larger depron models from the more adventurous amongst us. At the end of the last event a resounding request was made to have more of these days so they should be held again later in the year and hopefully every month over winter. So for as little as £20 for a small light weight plane you too could enjoy some indoor flying through the colder months.

What's Happening

Well it looks like some fairer weather has arrived, so it's time to dust down the models and look forward to what we all hope will be a glorious summer. The grass at the field has been cut for the first time this year and is looking really good. The landing area has been extended, as requested at the AGM and the pits have also got a little more room along with a new path to avoid the 'depression' that has appeared over a number of years. In the next few weeks there will be several ton of top soil brought in and some re-seeding of the grass to try to combat the soft areas that develop over winter. Once this has been done please avoid these areas to give the new grass a chance to get roots down and bind the soil.

The committee have looked at installing field drainage, but on consultation with the farmer he has advised that unless we can tie in with the existing drains there would be little point. So we are trying what he has suggested first rather than incur the considerable expense of getting an agricultural engineer to dig trenches 4 or 5 feet deep. Hopefully the top soil will do the trick for the majority of the time.

2.4GHz radio equipment

As most of you will be aware this new unlicensed frequency is now available to the R/C modeler, whilst it has the potential to make some aspects of flying easier and reduces the chance of interference considerably it will be living alongside 27 and 35MHz for some time and as such it does present some new challenges. Not least of which is clearly identifying who is flying on what frequency, so with effect the 6th of April the following is to be done. A new 2.4GHz peg will be added to the peg board all flyers using the frequency are to add a peg (with their name on) to this whenever their transmitter or receiver is switched on and all 2.4GHz transmitters are to clearly display a black pennant from the antenna (35Mhz users must also display the appropriate pennant, more about this in Etiquette)

Very soon some manufacturers will be launching after market modules for existing transmitters so please be aware that to be 'legal' the module MUST be approved and have been certified with the transmitter as indicated in the following extract from the BMFA News: -

“Replacement modules need to be individually compliant and correctly CE marked. Additionally the manufacturer or person who first places the module on the market in the EU is responsible for ensuring the compliance of the overall unit.”

So, for example, just because you can buy a module for a Futaba radio does not necessarily guarantee that the two together will be compliant, which could be illegal to use and could have the potential to cause interference with other models. So if you choose to use such a module make sure it has **guaranteed** compatibility with the transmitter model you are using. If it hasn't then **it is not** to be used at a KMAC site.

Flying Field Etiquette

With the new season upon us just a few words of reminder about the etiquette of flying at club sites.

There has always been a requirement that all transmitters clearly display the appropriate coloured pennant and channel number whenever they are in use, this has become even more important with the advent of 2.4GHz equipment. With effect from the 6th April all 27MHz users are to display the appropriate coloured pennant for their channel or a white ribbon (as the 'only one' rule still applies to 27MHz users it is only necessary to be able to tell what band is in use rather than the individual channel). 35MHz users are to display an orange pennant with the appropriate channel number clearly visible. As previously mentioned 2.4GHz users are to display a black pennant. There are no exceptions to this rule, if you are seen flying without the appropriate pennant then you will be told to land and you will not be allowed to fly again until the appropriate pennant is displayed. This rule applies equally to visitors.

We are aware that you may be unable to get the appropriate 35MHz pennant before the required date, so until the end of April you may use an orange ribbon with the frequency number wrote on with a marker pen; however a proper pennant that meets the club rules MUST be used from the 1st May.

- Look after club equipment in the hut, only recently it has been necessary to replace a relatively new fire extinguisher due to damage. If you accidentally damage any club equipment tell a member of the committee so that a replacement or repair can be arranged. This is especially important for safety and medical equipment
- Remember to put your peg on the top of the peg board when your transmitter is in use and always take it off once your transmitter is switched off so someone else can use the channel
- Models in the pits should always point in a safe direction, (i.e. away from spectators) whenever their engines are running or being started
- Only fly when it is safe to do so, only fly in conditions in which you are competent, avoid flying when alone
- Un-rated flyers MUST be supervised until deemed competent to fly solo
- Safety is everyone's responsibility, if you see someone making a dangerous mistake then tell them and if it continues to happen report it to the safety officer
- Comply with club rules at all times

Finally and most importantly enjoy your flying, be safe and have respect for other club members.

Summer Events 2007

If all the predictions are to be believed then this summer should be one of the hottest on record so with that in mind a full calendar of events has been planned with something for everyone throughout the summer. August has been left free to allow for the occasional holiday or a visit to one of the shows. All events, apart from Easter, will have a BBQ and soft drinks bar so you just need to slip on a shirt, slop on the sunblock and slap on a hat then pack up the models and head for the field.

It all kicks off on Easter weekend with a meet and greet, just an informal chance to meet up with friends that you might not have seen over winter and to show off some of the projects that you have been working on in the dim light of a long winter's evening. So here's the full list of what is happening and when.

April, Sunday the 8th 11am - Opening Bash Meet & Greet

A chance to meet up with friends you haven't seen over winter as well as to demonstrate your latest project

May, Sunday the 13th 11am - Fun Flying Day

A day of events including Pylon racing, balloon popping and more. More details nearer the day

June, Sunday the 10th 11am - Set Aerobatics

There will be something for everyone, whatever their ability or experience, so come and get involved as the experts will be handicapped! More details nearer the day

July, Sunday the 22nd 11am - The Day Long Event

Incredibly popular last year and back by request this year will be the limbo, spot landing, timed glide, vintage and scale exhibits. New for this year will be the obstacle course and the toffee bombers.

September, Sunday the 23rd 3pm - Season Finale - Members Only

To mark the end of summer and the Autumn Equinox our final out door event for 2007, with some fun flying and even the rare chance to fly into the night for suitably equipped models (with onboard lighting so you can see where they are). There will also be a pie and peas supper to keep you going if the weather turns cold, there could also be a few extra surprises so make a note in your diary

October, Sunday TBC - Winter Season - Indoor Flying

The start of a host of winter events with indoor flying, more simulator nights, the AGM, Christmas Dinner and more

And Finally - A Plea For Your Help

As has been said in the past, this is a club run by members, for the members and the committee need your input to make sure the events we run are what you are interested in actually doing. So we would like to here your ideas, suggestions, and comments, ideally from you rather than second hand through the 'grape vine'. That having been said every member of the committee has their 'normal' job to do as well as look after the club, which means they can't always be at the club when you are. So if you have an idea, would like to make a comment, want to help with running events, would like to be an instructor or even think we are doing something wrong (provided it's constructive criticism) then please give one of the committee a call, it's a much more effective way to communicate!

The Committee's contact details are

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