



February 2017

SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Kent Strut*



Exciting Fly-outs !

AGM January meeting

17 members attended the AGM including committee members, J Dean, G Smith, N Read, M Negus, F Lissimore, K Marks and S Solley. Kevin has been attending committee meetings but is now officially on the committee. Mark Balding has officially left the committee. Thanks to Mark for his contribution over the years and to Kevin for joining. No other changes.

Gary précised the years meetings, John the accounts & web site and Steve the membership.

This year the Phil Banyard trophy aka the Strut Screw was awarded to Colin Evans who has amassed a vast collection of aircraft photographs over the years and continues to build on his collection.

Steve Solley was awarded a certificate for completing his LAA Silver wings with his long distance flying around the UK last August.

There was a show of hands as to who had 8,33 (3) radios or mode S (5). No one had obtained a self declaration medical on line. Brian has pointed out that the CAA have backtracked on hand held 8,33 radios which can be used in class D airspace.



Nigel Read - Editor

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Strut Meeting 23rd February

Hovecraft Operations by Capt Brian Laverick-Smith

Cobtree Manor Golf Club, 20:00hrs

www.laakentstrut.org.uk

After the formalities, Karl Martin gave us his in-depth analysis on the forces involved in winch launching a glider along with some interesting videos showing just how high and quickly a sailplane can be launched into the air. Karl devised a mathematical model resolving the forces of lift, weight, drag and thrust from the cable with the intention of getting to a maximum height safely and without breaking the cable or its weak link. There are however gentler ways of getting airborne such as aerotow behind a powered aircraft or even elastic bungee.



Colin Evans receiving the Strut Screw from Gary Smith

Future Meetings

February. Brian Laverick-Smith was a captain on the cross Channel hovercraft and has some interesting tales to tell. He has given the same talk to PAFRA in the past and I can confirm it is well worth attending.

March. Mike Negus' niece, Emma-Louise Negus is keen on jumping out of perfectly good aeroplanes and is going to explain all.



Steve Solley receiving his LAA Silver Wings Certificate from Garry Smith

April. Steve Solley bumped into Joe Pasquale in Spain and he has agreed to come and give us a talk, presumably about his own flying experiences but we have to be aware he might get a conflicting proper paying job so keeping fingers crossed.

May. Mike Negus, after his successful talk on the Red Barron is researching James Thomas Byford McCudden VC for a talk on a local hero from Gillingham.

June. Our usual BBQ at Steve Solleys strip at Ripple, with Ice Cream. Fly- or Drive- in.

July. We are planning a fly-n to Rochester on the Sunday possibly inviting other LAA groups to join us.

There is a move to encourage pilots to do a bit more flying this year and to these ends we are proposing a list of “Kent Strut flyouts” on the Saturday following every Strut evening. John has also put a list together to get things started, and has put it on the website.

Proposed fly-outs. Also on our website:-

1st April - Fly out to Goodwood

27th April Strut meeting

29th April Popham Trade Show

13th / 14th May Amiens Fly out.

25th May Strut Meeting

27th May Flyout to White Waltham

1st July Heavingingham Hall

7th / 9th July French RSA

29th July Old Buckingham Air show

30th July Kent Strut Flyout to Rochester

2nd Sept End of Season Fly out to Abbeville.

Further News on the Editors Prop

Actually there isn't much to report as I still await the return of a replacement prop.

However I was told in a phone call to GT it is about a week away and they have offered to supply it in black and white stripes instead of the standard clear lacquer as per the original. Also, possibly of interest to anyone with an Arplast hub, GT are looking at supplying blades to fit although nothing is approved by the LAA yet.

You might remember our Arplast has particularly poor cooling effect on the engine on the ground, the left side, heads 2 and 4 being noticeably hotter than the other side (using my ALDI Infrared Thermometer!). The composite blades taper down to a root diameter too soon to send a blast into the engine. Why one side is much hotter than the other is beyond me but hopefully a wooden prop will keep the temperatures in check.

Drones

Member Ian Park has written to the LAA, copied to me regarding the development of Drones by the Tech Giants Google and Facebook to deliver internet access to remote areas. An article appeared in *The Telegraph* in January (by Ambrose Evans Pritchard) under the heading "Tech giants are now 'corporate states'" but with a sub heading referring to the 'so called Islamic state' - "Isil can now print drones and arm them. The barrier for entry is so low that everybody can have a drone". Ian

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Poster circulated by PAFRA so this could see quite a contingent from Kent

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Articles required for
newsletter please

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suggesting that it was probably the sub heading that should have been the main one!

Ian also copied a letter to me that was sent to the EAA of which Ian is also a member regarding The First Home Builder of All:- that being a reminder to our American cousins, that is of course Sir George Cayley, who back in 1853 found a way to get his coachman to resign... you know the story.

Putting to two stories together, sort of, I'm wondering what parts might we be allowed to 3D print ourselves or by a commercial printer to use in our home built aircraft?

Dates for your Diary

23 Feb Hovercraft Operations

30 Mar Skydiving

27 Apr TV personality /Comedian

13/14 May Amiens flyout

25 May McCudden VC

29 Jun Ripple BBQ

30 Jul Fly-in EGTO (Sunday)

31 Aug TBC

28 Sep TBC

26 Oct TBC

30 Nov TBC