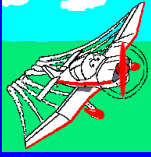


January 2018



SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Kent Strut*



Happy New Year

AGM

As usual January is the Annual General Meeting of the strut which will be followed by a social get together. No changes to subs, which are due this month, still only £20, please send to Steve Solley. Any ideas for talks, fly-outs or helpful suggestions would be welcomed!

2017 Review February

Capt. Brian Laverick-Smith gave a well illustrated talk on his time piloting the Cross Channel hovercraft. (the big one below, now a museum piece)

Editors photo from an earlier visit to Lee on Solent



Nigel Read - Editor

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Geoff Collins
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**25th January Meeting
AGM and Social**

Cobtree Manor Golf Club, ME14 3AZ 20:00hrs

www.laakentstrut.org.uk

March

Emma Louise Negus spoke about adventures in parachuting



April

Derek Levermore gave a talk on a Turbulent he built some years previously and Gary brought his scale model Turb.



May

Mike Negus gave his researched talk on James McCudden VC

June

BBQ at Ripple hosted by Steve Solley

July

BBQ at Rochester Airport

August

A social at Farthing Corner this month with many preparing to visit the Rally

September

We had a review of the years flying so far, on our return to the golf club.

October

John Bramfitt from the SAR helicopter at Lydd gave a talk on their operations and got Gary rigged up for hoisting!

November

Geoff Collins, "the bearded photographer" gave us an interesting talk on aerial photography, with copies of his work in magazines, (next page)

Christmas Dinner

In December there was no meeting but 23 came to the Newnham court Inn for Christmas Dinner, organised by Peter Huxley with Mike Negus' raffle.





Member Advertisements

Hangarage available via Paul Lipman

West Kingsdown /Sevenoaks area

One space available for a modestly sized low wing aircraft to join three others in a spacious hangar with easy access to all aircraft. Fuel is available, facility includes a club room / kitchen.

In common with many grass airfields, the strip can become temporarily unusable following times of prolonged rain. If you would like to discuss the possibility of joining our small group, please call Paul.

01959 523186 07703 343739

Headset - Glen Everett

Bose A20 noise cancelling headsets, one with Bluetooth and one without. Just been totally serviced by Bose at huge expense so like new.

Glen 07801 639489



A Magic Mornings Bimble or " je vais au bimble" - Andrew Pitcher

This Article is due to appear in the BMAA magazine in March

I find reflection after a flight constitutes an important part of its enjoyment, those precious moments airborne, each depositing something to savour immediately afterwards or time delayed but all filed for future withdrawal from the library of pleasant thoughts.

Here is one to share :

I knew that, true to last nights plan, my old friend Steve was already up and about when found the kettle was still warm. 20 minutes later, in the early morning sun, I was pre-flighting the Sherwood Ranger for an early morning bimble.



Little or no wind allowed a take off down sun on Montrichards 630m grass "28", checking for rascal Chevreuril, that moment before the roll , the expectation of flight. Over the hangar and out of the right hand window

is the town of Montrichard and a birds eye view of "Fifi's" bar, its deceptive interior hidden but known.



Ahead down the River Cher we line up on Chateau Chenonceaux stradling the river. How did the designers of these gardens know we would be overhead?



Into Amboise Dierre aerodrome, blind calls and straight in to be met by a cycling Monica, our host, for morning coffee on the clubs terrace with the clubs cat "Jodel". Climbing away along

the Cher, negotiating a pass through one of the huge forests, off to meet the Loire and the yellow Tuffeaux stone town of Amboise with its imposing chateau.

Feline Jodel



Following the sandy barred river Loire, so distinctive in character, goaded on to Chateau Chaumont where we turn right towards home and breakfast, over the Abbey at Pontlevoy, the "old school restaurant" picked out within this delightful village. A peachy landing back on 28 with the Sherwood Ranger's tail refusing to come back to earth until we come to a gentle halt by the hangar.



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www.solleysicecream.co.uk

Andy and Denise Pitcher offer an airfield and gite package, which includes the use of their car. The idea is that a pilot arrives, no deadline to meet, i.e no handover, enters various codes and gains access to the hangar where there are two hangar spaces and a car. The gite is a mile away in Ang . Again codes provide access. As they own the airfield and gite the package offered gives the pilots a unique flying experience in France. This is their first year, the airfield is called "Montrichard " and is found on Skydemon and the French microlight site (FFPLUM) ref LF4125. www.lachaumine.co.uk

Strut meetings for your Diary

22nd February	30? August
29th March	27th September
26th April	25th October
31st May	29th November
28th June	Christmas Dinner
26th July	December TBA