

Skywritings

The Kent Strat Newsletter

August 2022



Light Aircraft Association
Making Dreams Fly

Editors Corner

I start this month with a huge thank you to Stephen Solley and the team for the excellent fly in we had just a few weeks ago. It was great to talk with so many of you and enjoy a burger in the sun. I really hope we can keep up such momentum of sharing our passion of flying with flyouts, meet ups and some shared flying with other members of the strut.

There are people in the strut that cannot fly themselves for various reasons and it would be good to see if we can get as many people airborne in the passenger seats when able. Can you offer a seat to someone?

Another thank you to Steven Hoskins and team for organising the excellent fly-in to Lee on Solent and it was great to see so many people attend. The weather was fantastic, and I was treated to a wonderful flight in Gary Smiths amazing RV9, some pics and a write up below.

Coming up we have the midweek flyout to Barnard Farm on the 4th August which is a beautiful little strip just inside Essex to the north of Thurrock – one not to be missed.

This month features an article from John Luck on a trip Florida talking about space which was an enjoyable read. I look forward to reading the next instalment about the T6 flying John! Also, Mike Negus talks about the beautiful Luscombe's that visited Kent recently on their tour.

I'd love to read more about your flying so if you've done a trip let the strut know.

Have a safe and enjoyable month of flying.



Photo: Adam Parnell – Jodel flying near Newhaven

Chairmans Corner

Blessed with such wonderful weather Lee on Solent was a great day out and I'd like to thank you all for attending. The airport manager tells me 42 LAA members flew in using our booking code and something they would love to do again.

Just around the corner is the flyout to Barnards Farm on the 4th August and the Strut fly-in at Pent Farm with details to follow shortly.

As a committee were open to ideas and suggestions for flyouts or visits so get your thinking caps on and drop us a line.

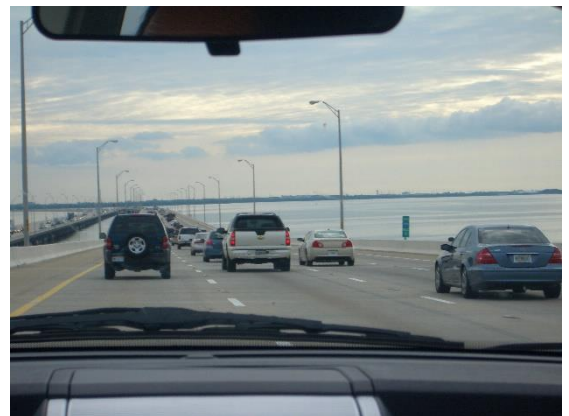


An Opportunity not to be missed

Article by John Luck

In the years since the first Apollo moon landings, I suppose I have always had an interest in space travel, you could say it's the next step from flying ourselves around in the "normal" atmosphere to be able to jet rocket yourself into orbit. So much so that just recently an acquaintance of mine sent me the details of where to look in the sky for the International Space station (ISS) as she passed overhead Maidstone on her 90 minute regular orbits of our planet. After seeing both the ISS and the Space Shuttle on her previous mission it was quite a surprise on a recent visit to Florida to find that the latest shuttle launch (STS128) had been delayed and that the re-scheduled launch was likely while we were visiting. A quick Google around found the NASA TV page and sure enough she was planned to go the very next day, but with only a 50% chance of actually going due to a faulty valve that had previously caused a problem. We listened to the news and were prepared to drive the hour or so to the space coast to watch.

However by 11AM they had scrubbed that evenings launch (Midnight 23m) and were now planning for the day after at around Midnight. We decided to wait till about 9pm and if it was still on to travel out to watch it. Looking round on the internet we found a spot that the locals prefer, to the North of the launch site and as we were too late to actually get a ticket to be at the space centre drove ourselves to Space View Park about 10 miles north of Cape Canaveral launch complex 39. Parking in the Watchovia Bank car park (everyone else was too) we mingled with the locals and some tourists, my daughter inspecting the News 13 mobile TV studio to get a few tips for her chosen career!. The countdown was progressing well with



cheers going up from the assembly of enthusiasts as each stage in the final countdowns passed successfully. Eventually at about a minute to the launch we heard control automate the ignition sequence over the tannoy and then there is no stopping her 10, 9, 8.... bated breath all around, 3, 2, 1 ignition sequence was well away when the night sky lit with the brilliance of a midday sun, illuminating all around in its beautiful yellow arc as STS 128 launched into the infinity of space.



The roar of the engines, even at 10 miles, and the luminescence of the rockets were unbelievable. This yellow oval of brilliance curving skywards to the East. What a fantastic sight. Within minutes they were 34 miles high and 50 miles down range, another 20 minutes and they would be passing over Maidstone in their flight to catch the Space station for docking. Gives me a tingle just to recall it and should you ever have the opportunity is a must see, although you may have to be quick as there are only a few launches left before the end of the program.



Hard to believe that this huge lump of man made excellence has been whizzing round the earth at 1000's of MPH for 10 days before eventually landing back in California. Looks like she could do with a T'cut and polish before the next flight back to Florida's space coast on the back of a 747.

I guess my trip in the Kissimmee Harvard T6 will have to wait for another issue.

Lee on Solent Strut Flyout

Article by Adam Parnell

The sun shone bright and as I arrived at Farthing Corner the team were out getting their aircraft ready to go. It was a lovely flight down expertly flown by Gary and it was great to see so many people there. I had a wonderful lunch at a little restaurant on the seafront – well recommended John! Less words and more photos for you. IF you have any photos send them over and I'll send out a shared link for everyone.



BBQ at Ripple

Article by Adam Parnell

Echoing much of what I've said already, Stephen and the team were amazing hosts and organised a fantastic evening. On top of that Steve and Nic who spent most of the evening at the BBQ ensuring we had some amazing food. I met some members for the first time and caught up for some familiar faces. Pictures paint a better picture than I can so here are a few I took of the evening.



Luscombes on Tour

Article by Mike Negus

The European Luscombe's Forum on Facebook attracts pilots, owners and those with an affection for perhaps the prettiest light aeroplane on the LAA fleet, but then I am rather biased! Occasionally the word goes out to suggest a trip round somewhere, usually lasting up to a week, one such trip last year took in parts of the Midlands and Yorkshire, which we joined for a few days and where Simon and I left to come home which was just as well as the weather broke soon afterwards.

We have the Luscombe gathering at Farway Common on the 22nd and 23rd July which Ron and I hope to attend.

However, back to the subject of this diatribe, some of the group decided on a fly round the South East taking in amongst others Eastchurch and Farthing Corner so we thought it only courteous to make sure they had a good Kentish welcome. Having ppr'd for Eastchurch Ron and I made the 10 minute flight to meet Mike Loxton, a fellow Luscombe owner and awaited the arrival of the four aircraft making up the touring party. First time I had flown in to Eastchurch and what a delightful facility Mike has created.

The four aircraft finally arrived and gave us a photo opportunity to have all six Luscombes lined up which was a first for Eastchurch I suspect. After an hour or so we returned to Farthing Corner to await the arrival of our guests and whilst difficult to get a decent photo of all five Luscombes it was gratifying that for once we outnumbered the resident Jodel population. Tea and biscuits were served and after conversations with a number of FC incumbents they were off to the next stop.

Looking forward to catching up with more of the group at Farway Common.



Skywise Corner

I'll just highlight a few things each month that I think are important, again if anyone needs help setting up Skywise just shout.



SKYWISE

Tailored news, notifications & alerts
from the **CAA**



UK Civil Aviation Authority completes its review into the Cotswold Region's airspace

We have published our [final report on our findings following our review of airspace in the Cotswold Region](#) and have announced which volumes of airspace the process will seek to amend, as well as the other activities put in place to improve UK airspace as a result of our review.

For more information, please see the [Final Report](#) or listen to our latest podcast at <https://podfollow.com/caa-on-general-aviation>.

Birmingham Commonwealth Games Airspace Restrictions

In the interests of public safety and security the UK Government has announced areas of [restricted airspace for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games](#).

Airspace users will not be allowed within these areas without the permission of West Midlands Police.

The main restrictions will be from 28 July to 9 August.

Drone restrictions start on the 22 July and run to 9 August.

More information about the restrictions, flight planning, entry requests and specific procedures for Birmingham Airport and Coventry aerodrome is available on the Airspace & Safety Initiative website: airspace-safety.com/birmingham-2022/

Airspace Change

Article by Steve Hoskins and Adam Parnell

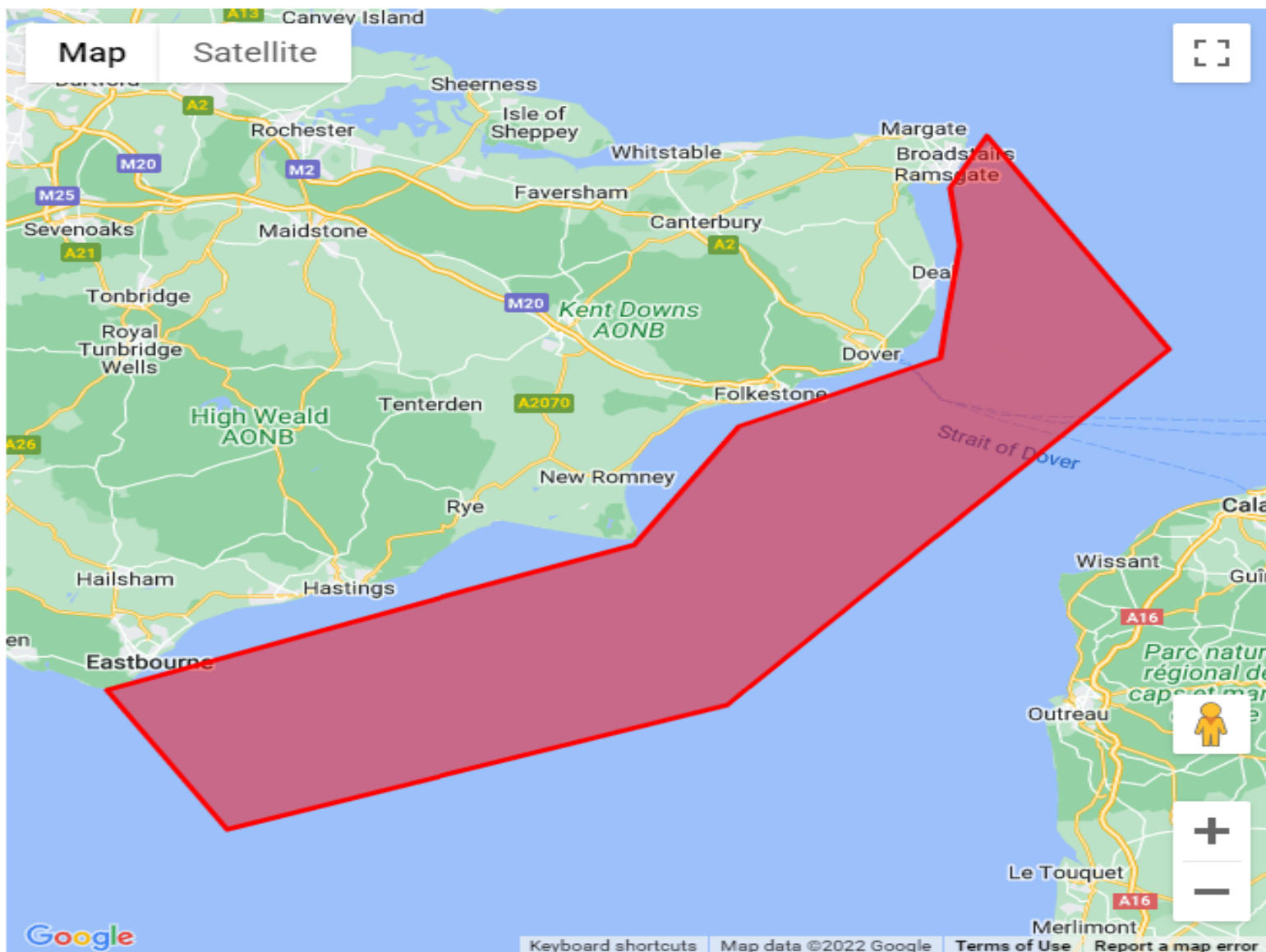
This month the strut sent out some emails about an airspace change proposal, ACP-2021-088 which I hope you have all had time to read. Whilst it was in its early stages the initial proposal raised some alarm amongst the strut.

Thank you for all those who took the time to respond and contribute. Bristow, along with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, who are the ACP sponsor have been extremely responsive to correspondence and have already altered their proposed danger area on the portal map and put in writing that:-

“There is no intention to operate over land. The only over land section will be an access route into Lydd airport”

This is extremely encouraging but it should be noted that this is not the final ACP document and not binding. You can view the Airspace Change Portal and register for updates at the link below.

<https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/PublicProposalArea?pid=418>



LAA Chief Inspector

Article by Adam Parnell

Many of you would have seen the news that the LAA have appointed a new chief inspector, Lucy Wooton, who will take over from Ken Craigie in August who is retiring after more than 30 years.

Taken from the LAA announcement

“Lucy comes to the LAA with a wide experience of engineering and recreational flying. After gaining an Honours Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Loughborough University, she has worked for Rolls-Royce and as an Aircraft Structural Repair Design Engineer. She is also a BGA Glider Inspector, a BGA Board Member, a PPL holder and is a key figure at Edgehill Gliding Centre.”



Flying Gallery

Don't forget to send your pictures for next month's gallery!



Photo: Kent Strut spotted at the Suffolk Strut Flyin at Monewden



Photo: Kent Strut spotted at Heavingham Hall



Photo: G-BSUD At Farthing Corner

Dates for your Diary

Please check with event organisers in advance for any changes. Please let me know of any events you think others might be interested in.

Items in green are Kent Strut events

4 th August	Barnards Farm Fly-out
20 th August	Stoke Medway Airfield Fly-In
27 th August	Wings and Wheels Henstridge 2022
2 nd – 4 th September	Popham LAA Grass Roots Fly-In
10 th September	Bodmin – Cornwall Strut Fly-In
17 th – 18 th September	Rougham – North Weald Marshalling team Vintage fly-in

LAA
Light Aircraft Association

**GRASS
ROOTS
Fly-In**
2nd 3rd 4th
Sept 2022

Popham Airfield
EGHP

www.laa.uk.com

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th September 2022
[The North Weald Marshalling Team](#)

Invites you to our
Vintage Aircraft Fly-in
At **Rougham Airfield**
Hosted by Rougham Estates.

All Other Types & Owner Groups are Very Welcome.
Featuring "Meet the LAA" in 2022

Landing fees:- £10 Fixed Wing £20 Rotary Wing
The Airfield is unlicensed and operates on 123.165 MHz at all times. 900m well-mown grass runway orientated 09/27 with adjacent full-length taxiway. Good airfield signage and runway marker cones. Runway 09 TORA 780m, LDA 910m, Runway 27 TORA 930m, LDA 760m. Runway is 18m wide, elevation 200' AMSL, altimeters to regional QNH. 09/27 are both RH circuits with 1500ft QH join to avoid local MATZ & 1000ft circuit height.
PPR Slot Number Contact :-
The North Weald Marshalling Team on:- 07526 483 492.
Gates Open to Traders 08.00 General Public 09.30.
Food available and trade stalls on site.
Overnight Camping Available. For arrivals by road £5 per Car.
Rougham Tower Avenue, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP32 7QB.

STOKE MEDWAY
AIRFIELD
FLY-IN
Saturday 20th August
BBQ : LIVE MUSIC : CAMPING UNDER WING : FIREPIT

ALL TYPES WELCOME; GA, MICROLIGHT, ROTARY
Arrivals from noon onwards; PPR preferred
Check website for airfield info; or email/call us
stokemedwayairfield.co.uk | info@stokemedwayairfield.co.uk | 01634 270236

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If you are looking for new aircraft radios, transponders, GPS or spares, don't hesitate to contact

Glen Everett 07801 639489
office@flyingadverts.co.uk

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